



AGROFORESTRY THREAT TO FROGS: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Study flags agroforestry threat to frogs

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

A study by NCF-India and BEAG highlights that agroforestry practices, like orchards and paddy fields, reduce amphibian diversity and harm endemic frog species in Maharashtra's Western Ghats. Researchers recommend frog-friendly agroforestry, retaining water bodies, and incentivizing landowners for conservation.

Impact of Agroforestry on Endemic Frogs in Maharashtra's Western Ghats

Study Details:

- Conducted by NCF-India and BEAG during the monsoon of 2022.
- Covered four plateaus: Devi Hasol, Devache Gothane, Gaonkhadi, and Bakale in the northern Western Ghats.

Findings:

- Amphibian diversity was lowest in paddy fields, and abundance was least in orchards compared to undisturbed plateaus.
- Endemic species like *Minervarya cepfi* and *Minervarya gomantaki* were less abundant in modified habitats.
- Generalist species like *Minervarya sahyadrensis* were more common in paddy fields.



Threats to Habitats:

- Conversion of plateaus into mango and cashew orchards reduces critical freshwater habitats for frogs.



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Recommendations:

- Implement frog-friendly agroforestry practices.
- Retain water bodies within agricultural landscapes.
- Provide financial incentives to landowners for habitat conservation.

Funding and Support:

- Funded by On the Edge Conservation, BEAG, The Habitat Trust, and NCF-India.

Source: https://epaper.thehindu.com/ccidist-ws/th/th_delhi/issues/110304/OPS/GU6DM4HM5.1+G36DM4I8K.1.html

