Foreword

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As stated in Atharvaveda (12.1.62):

O Mother Earth
Let Thy bosom be free
From sickness and decay
May we through long life
Be active and vigilant
And serve Thee with devotion

Biodiversity conservation, protection, development and utilization are some of the key issues integral to the requirements of human kind. Scientific and technological interventions ensure the sustainability and sanctity of bioresources which constitute the backbone of human survival on the planet earth. Food, nutrition, health, environment and livelihood security of the large part of population depends on the richness and enormity of biodiversity. In the 21st century this issue is not just local; it is of national, regional and global concern. The symposium organized by The National Academy of Sciences during its 81st Annual Session on “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity using Science & Technology” held in the University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, discussed the issues relating to

national and global perspective of biodiversity, bioresources (plants, animals and microbes), fragile ecosystems, capacity building and government initiatives towards biodiversity. Many eminent scientists participated. Prof. A. K. Sharma, M. G. K. Menon, Dr. K. Kasturirangan and Dr M. S. Swaminathan gave special addresses including the Presidential and Inaugural address.

Globally the developing countries are facing the biggest challenge of sustaining the economic growth without destroying the environment and biodiversity. With the overwhelming population pressure, there is need to double the food production, combating malnutrition, curing the dreadful diseases and creating employment opportunities. Biodiversity is increasingly being recognized as a vital parameter to access global and environmental change and sustainability of developmental activities. It is understood by one and all that loss of biodiversity has serious economic and social consequences. The Academy has submitted the recommendations of this conference to the concerned ministries and departments for further action. We are grateful to all the eminent experts for their valuable contributions.

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