

Futuristic Trends in

**AGRICULTURE
ENGINEERING &
FOOD SCIENCES**

Volume 3, Book 9, 2024, IIP Series



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HORNILLS: ALLIES OF FARMERS

Abstract

The 62 species of hornbills around the world are extravagant birds with over-sized beaks that are found in tropical Asia, Africa, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. They are icons of their forest habitat. Because they spread the seeds of several tropical trees, they are frequently referred to as the "farmers of the forest" because of the way they spread forest tree seeds over the area they fly over. Hornbills regurgitate or vomit the seeds after eating as they typically occupy a home range of at least 10 km, they may disperse seeds across a far larger area with far greater efficiency than other smaller frugivores. They are a sign of a balanced and prosperous forest. For this reason, hornbills are regarded as an indicator species. The tale of how the bond between these birds and the long-standing custom of protecting forests in the name of a deity has helped to preserve both the unprotected forests and sacred groves throughout wide-ranging terrain. In recognition of the significance of these birds, and to ensure the continuity of this unique alliance, conservation initiatives have gained a greater spotlight. Conservation organizations, farmers, and local communities are working together to protect hornbill habitats and spread awareness among the local communities for safeguarding the agricultural landscapes inhabited by them by fostering a greater appreciation of the ecological and cultural worth of hornbills.

Keywords: Hornbills, 'Farmers of the Forest', Wide Ranging Terrain, Agricultural Landscapes, Conservation Organizations.

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