

**A preliminary Survey of Economically Important Plants of North Sikkim.** (Oral Presentation)

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**Introduction**

The state of Sikkim in India is administratively divided into four districts namely East Sikkim, West Sikkim, North Sikkim and South Sikkim. Of these North Sikkim is the biggest district occupying almost 60% of the entire state, and is least populated also. Sikkim itself has remained an exotic land till recently with very little information about its fauna and flora. Further, whatever has been known about it is mainly on the South, East and the west district. The north district has remained an enigma a proverbial Shangri-La. Most of it is uninhabited with no roads or civil structures. It has a tough terrain. Since it is a militarily sensitive zone, there are several restrictions for the visitors. Very little information exists about its floral wealth.

**Objectives**

To identify the economically important plants of north Sikkim.

**Methods**

The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. For Primary data a survey of North Sikkim was conducted in 2004 to study its flora. The plants were identified with the help of Botanical Survey of India, Sikkim Office.

**Results**

Economically important plants identified were medicinal plants (56), Edible Plants (10), and Aromatic Plants (6).

**Conclusion**

North Sikkim is one of the least explored areas of India. It is a storehouse of biological wealth. More extensive surveys need to be conducted to get a full picture. Future areas of research may include strategy to transform these economical plants for socio-economic upliftment of local people.

**Keywords:** Medicinal plants, Edible Plants and Aromatic Plants

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