

**Commonly Used Medicinal Plants of India, Thailand & Vietnam.** (Oral Presentation)

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**Introduction**

Nature has bestowed India, Thailand & Viet Nam with an abundance of medicinal plants. A comparative study of the ethnomedicinal plants in these three countries have presented a very enlightening picture. For centuries housewives and traditional healers in these three countries have been able to help the sick and suffering in both the rural and urban areas with the use of herbal medicine. In all three countries that lie in the tropics, medicinal plants constitute a basic component in the traditional system of medicine and pharmacy. They are both a source of medicaments for the country's own requirements and a valuable export commodity. Of late scientists working in the fields of Ethnobotany, Medical Anthropology, Ethnomedicine, Pharmaceutical Botany, Economic Botany and allied fields are working hard to understand the scientific and sometimes not so scientific methods used by the traditional healers and are trying to classify and codify the system that has survived for centuries. This presentation brings to light interesting similarities and differences in the way medicinal plants are used by people in the three countries. It also outlines some of the endangered species in the three countries and presents the greater scope for globalization of medicinal plants.

**Objectives**

To present a comparative study of some medicinal plants being used in India, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Methods**

Field work carried out among the traditional healers, scientific personnel, and the use of scientific journals and books.

**Results**

Several medicinal plants that are used by the traditional healers in India are put to similar use in Thailand and Vietnam. However, there are some common medicinal plants in India that are used for different ailments in Thailand and Vietnam. Thus, there is a greater scope for further research in this field.

**Conclusion**

The scope for research in the dynamic field of ethnomedicine is unbelievable.

**Keywords:** Ethnomedicine, Traditional Healers, Endangered species.

**Selected References**

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