

Thai Wild Fruits and Their Economic Potentials (Oral Presentation)

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Introduction

During numerous ethnobotanical surveys of various ethnic groups in northern Thailand, many fruit-plant species were found in different villages and study sites. Some fruits look splendid and are very tasty. These wild fruits should be domesticated in the future because many species of economic fruits in Thailand have been domesticated from the wild species.

Objectives

The objective of this work is to identify and record the local (wild?) fruits found during ethnobotanical studies. It is also aimed to suggest some potentially economic species for further development.

Methods

Fruit plants were collected during botanical expeditions in different villages in northern Thailand. Their morphological characters and usages were recorded. The collected fruit plants were then identified to the species level. Some species with economic potentials were selected and suggested for domestication.

Results

Ninety seven species of fruit plants were identified and divided into 2 categories: 21 domesticated and 76 wild species. Thirty two species are delicious and tasty. They are then suggested to be further developed into marketable products.

Conclusion

Some species of fruit plants suggested have been partially domesticated and processed. The others, such as *Rubus* spp., *Myrica esculenta* and *Garcinia pedunculata* are found in highland area. They are the most tasty and should be developed into valuable products.

References

Trisonthi, C. *et al.* 2006 . Plant Diversity and Ethnobotany of Luwa and H'tin on Doi Phukha National Park, Nan Province, Thailand . Report submitted to Biodiversity Research and Training Program.

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