

## Oral presentation

### Some ethno-medicinal trees of Jhansi District

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**Introduction.** India has rich natural resources, diverse ecological conditions and a long practice of traditional farming systems consistent with ethnic diversity and ancient civilization. It has rich medicinal plant flora of over 2000 documented species having medicinal value. Out of these, 600-700 species are much in use in the country, mostly by local people living in village as a household remedy in several diseases (Jain, S.K. 1987; Pandey & Bisaria, 1998; Shankar et al. 2001)

**Objectives.** 1. To identify richness of medicinally important trees. 2. To know about the medicinal importance of the trees. 3. To determine the methods used to prepare these remedies.

**Methods.** Covering all seasons, field trips were conducted to different villages of Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh during 2003-2004. During the survey some interesting folk uses of plants have come to light, which are used in day to day life by the people of village. The information was primarily gathered from the village medicine man or the elderly people of village communities, who knew about the surrounding plants, their local names parts used and their uses in different ailments and diseases, and also about the preparation of herbal medicines, mode of administration and the doses.

**Results.** The paper presents detailed information on 24 plant species belonging to different families used as herbal remedies in primary health care by the village folk of Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh, India. The data indicate that there is still valid and active knowledge of the therapeutic uses of wild plant species growing in the region. The plants used are found growing spontaneously and available in the vicinity, and in many cases are the immediately available therapeutic resources.

**Conclusion.** The tribal societies and cultures are themselves disappearing and with them goes their traditional plant lore. With the changing ecosystem, the tribals are in a state of acculturation or total disintegration the habitat and the environment where the tribals experienced and learned useful lore, and are also fast disappearing on account of deforestation and intensive farming. Much of our present knowledge on plant resources has its origin in primitive cultures. The rich plant lore has been passed on by word of mouth and by traditions from generation to generation in different parts of the world. Today, we still have the aboriginal tribals living in the forests; their knowledge of the uses of plants is often kept secret and passed on by verbal traditions only. Ethnobotany has thus become increasingly important because the information which is being gathered would otherwise be lost at a rapid rate. In this century alone, hundreds of groups of native peoples have become extinct or completely acculturated as their living areas are encroached upon by development. The ethnobotanical information needs to be utilized and integrated with the process of development.

Keywords: traditional farming, ethnic diversity, medicine man, ailments, herbal remedies.

#### Selected References

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