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Village Ethnobotany of Jamboni Block with Special Reference to Resource Use Pattern and Tribal People of Jhargram District in Lateritic Southwest Bengal, India

Pampi Ghosh*

ABSTRACT

The present study revealed the explored diversity of usable plant resources and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) pertaining to conservation of plants by the tribal people of Jhargram District in West Bengal. A total of 185 plant species from different sites in the same district have been enumerated which have been used by tribal people potentially for their valued purposes. The economically important medicinal plants belonging to 32 families were recorded which were variable in number and composition in the plant community with the alternation of seasons. Similarly, 24 kinds of fuel wood species, 23 kinds of edible fruit yielding species, 16 kinds of climbing shrubs, 12 species of weeds, 11 species of root yielding plants, 26 species of barks yielding plants, 5 varieties of rice, 16 species of flowers, 5 species of yams, 7 species of corns and 13 species of fiber yielding plant species were used by them traditionally. The most dominant plant species found was dry deciduous sal (*Shorea robusta*), which was almost used as varied species due to versatile importance. Fruit, flowers, leaves, barks and resins of sal are usable plant parts though introduced species like *Acacia*, *Gmelina* and *Eucalyptus* are found and frequently used in the area. Almost all plant materials were used day by day to solve the local problems since time immemorial using ethnic knowledge. Medicinal plants available in the forest but they use a little bit of medicinal plants for the remedy of ailments though they use the medicinal plants for their use to cure ailments for cattle. Some are used as gastrointestinal purpose of the cattle in the same community. As the long term use of plants differs so that the community

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