

Plants Used in Agricultural Implements By Natives of Eastern Rajasthan

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Abstract

The present paper is an endeavour to bring out the uses of plants in agricultural implements by natives of eastern Rajasthan. The communication embodies an enumeration of 26 plant species belonging to 14 families.

Key Words: Plants, Agricultural, Implements

Introduction

The study area comprises the districts of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur. The main tribe of study area is Meena while traditional communities are Gurjar, Mali, Kumhar, Chamar and Jogi. Meena represents 51.2% population of tribals in the state.

The general climatic condition of the area is dry, except a short duration of rainy season. December to February is cold season, March to June summer, July to September rainy season and October to November is autumn season.

The average annual rainfall of the study area is 686mm. The average max. and min. temperatures remain 41° and 25° respectively. The study area comprises of hill slopes, ridges, valleys, rocky plateau, cliffs gorges ravines as important physical features.

A good number of ethnobotanical studies have been done including Anonymous (60, 80, 83), Dhamija (1970), Jain (1986), Maheshwari and Painuli (1990), Hodson (1910), Joshi (1995a) and Khandelwal (1998).

METHODOLOGY

Regular surveys were carried in the study area during 2013- 2015. Detailed information about plants was gathered through informal oral interview of knowledgeable respondents, comprising both males and females residing within the study area. All the plants and their parts were collected and herbarium specimens were prepared, preserved and identified with help of Flora of Indian Desert, Flora of Rajasthan vol.1-3 and Flora of North-East Rajasthan and BSI (Botanical Survey of India), Jodhpur. Specimens were collected and deposited in the herbaria of University of Rajasthan (RUBL), Jaipur.

ENUMERATION OF PLANTS

Various implements used in agriculture are simple and locally made from woods of 26 plant species tabulated below: -

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TABLE 1 – List of Plant Species Used In Construction of Agricultural Implements

S. No.	Name of Plant	Plough	Yoke	Leveller	Fork	Handle of spade	Handle of sickle	Handle of Khurpi	Handle of mattock	Handle of axe	Hatchet
1	Acacia catechu	✓			✓						
2	Acacia leucophloea		✓								
3	Acacia nilotica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Ailanthus excelsa			✓							
5	Anogeissus pendula	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
6	Azadirachta indica	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
7	Balanites aegyptiaca	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Bauhinia racemosa			✓			✓		✓	✓	
9	Butea monosperma	✓									
10	Capparis decidua	✓					✓				
11	Capparis sepiaria		✓								
12	Dalbergia sissoo	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Dendrocalamus strictus									✓	
14	Dichrostachys cinerea				✓				✓	✓	
15	Diospyros melanoxylon		✓								
16	Ehretia laevis									✓	
17	Eucalyptus spp.	✓		✓			✓				
18	Ficus religiosa	✓									
19	Holoptelia integrifolia	✓	✓				✓				
20	Mangifera indica		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
21	Morus alba										
22	Morus australis				✓						
23	Prosopis cineraria	✓									
24	Syzygium cumini	✓		✓							
25	Tamarindus indica			✓							
26	Ziziphus mauritiana	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Natives of eastern Rajasthan are used 26 plant species belonging to 14 families for the construction of their agricultural implements.

Traditional agricultural implements are still in practice. Choice of plants for construction depends on the quality and availability of species. *Acacia nilotica*, *Anogeissus pendula*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Dalbergia sissoo* are widely used species.

The wood of *Anogeissus pendula* is favourite due to its durability.

For yoke construction, the folk select light weight wood of *Acacia nilotica*.

During study it was found that Mimosaceae family is predominately used followed by Moraceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Capparaidaceae, Fabaceae and Simarubaceae families. The remaining other families represent a small percentage.

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