UTTAR PRADESH STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD



BIODIV News

Jan-Mar, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 2

A Quarterly e-Newsletter



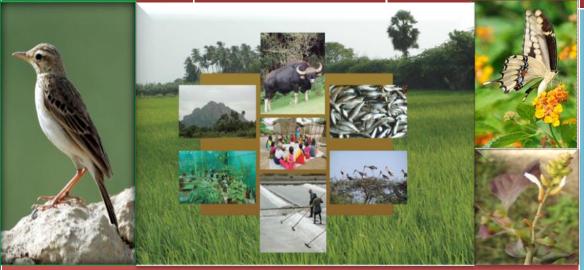














East Wing IIIrd Floor 'A' Block, Picup Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

A Quarterly e-Newsletter of U.P. State Biodiversity Board

Editorial

Esteemed Readers,

This year 2010 has been declared as International year of Biodiversity by the United Nations. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. In our continuing efforts to bring the issues related to promotion of biodiversity. we are handing over the Issue 2, Volume 1 of the BIODIV News- the e-quarterly e-Newsletter of the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board to the entire world to get benefit out of the foot print of knowledge embedded in it.

This issue has incorporated the list of biological resources treated as commodities (which are exempted from the Provision of Biological Diversity Act, 2002) declared by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority, besides, the forest cover of U.P. State as per the report of Forest Survey of India 2009.

A book entitled "Biodiversity and Aquatic of Semi-Aquatic Plants of U.P." has just been released by the U.P. State Biodiversity Board which is the first of its type in colored flora which will be highly useful for the persons engaged in identifying the flora around them.

This year we are going to celebrate International Biodiversity Day on 22nd May 2010 with a theme on "Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation". Readers are requested to send their contribution related to the theme. An appeal in this regard is also available in this e-Newsletter.

Hope, you will enjoy reading it. The valuable comments/suggestions by the readers are solicited in view of improving the quality of e-Newsletter.

Editors

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The Gazette of India

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[111.1	n- G*6,	, अप्राप्त प्रमाणपत्र । ज	MAICT	<u> </u>

(1)	(2)	_	(1)	(2)
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 $(Gloriosa\ superba)$

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY

[PARTII- Sec, 3(jj)]

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159.

160. 161.

162.

कोकोस न्यूसीफेरा अरेका कैटेकू थियोब्रोमा कैकू

ऐनाकारडियम आक्सीडेंटेल

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 26 th October, 2009

S.O.2726(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (18 of 2003), the Central Government, in consulation with the National Biodiversity Authority, hereby declares that the provisions of the Act shall not apply to the following biological resources specified in column (2) of the Table below provided they are trated as commodities.

SI.No.	Biological Resources
(1)	(2)
I.	Medicinal Plants
1.	Abelmoschus moschatus
2.	Acorus calamus
3.	Adhatoda zeylanica
4.	Aloe barbadensis
5.	Alpinia calcarata
6.	Azadirachta indiaca
7.	Caesalpinia sappan
8.	Cassia angustifolia
9.	Catharanthus roseus
10.	Cichorium intybus
11.	Croton tiglium
12.	Curcuma angustifolia
13.	Curcuma zerumbet
14.	Ficus benghalensis
15.	Ficus religiosa
16.	Gloriosa superba
17.	Indigofera tinctoria
18.	Inula racemosa
19.	Jatropha curcas
20.	Kaempferia galanga
21.	Lawsonia inermis
22.	Lepidium sativum
23.	Ocimum basilicum
24.	Ocimum tenuiflorum
25.	Piper longum
26.	Plantago ovata
27.	Plectranthus barbatus
28.	Pongamia pinnata
29.	Prunus armeniaca

30. Silybum marianum

31. simmondsia chinensis

(2)

32. Trachyspermum ammi

33. Vitex negundo

34. Withania somnifera

35. Ziziphus jujuba

II. Spices

(1)

36. Alpinia galangal

37. Amomum subulatum

38. Capsicum annuum

39. Capsicum frutescens

40. Cinnamomum aromaticum

41. Cinnamomum tamala

42. Cinnamomum zelaynicum

43. Curcuma longa

44. Elettaria cardamomum

45. Garcinia cambogia

46. Garcinia indica

47. Murraya koenigii

48. Myristica fragrans

49. Pimenta dioica

50. Piper nigrum

51. Syzygium aromaticum

52. Tramarindus indica

53. Vanilla planifolia syn. Vanilla fragrans

54. Zingiber officinale

55. Coriandrum sativum

56. Cuminum cyminum L.Syn. Cuminum odorum

57. Foeniculum vulgare

58. Trigonella foenum-graecum

59. Carum copticum

60. Anethum graveolens

61. Nigella sativa

62. Pimpinella anisum

63. Apium graveolens

III. Horticultural crops

A. Fruits

64. Mangifera indica

65. Carica papaya

66. Vitis vinifera

67. Punica granatum

68. Psidium guajava

69. Citrus limon

70. Citrus aurantifolia

71. Citrus latifolia

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भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण

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(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
72.	Manikara zapota syn. Achras sapota	115.	Cucumis melo L. var utilissimus
73.	Persea Americana	116.	Trichosanthes dioica
74.	Passiflora edulis	117.	Coccinia indica
75.	Litchi chinensis	118.	Luffa acutangula
76.	Annona reticulate	119.	Luffa cylindrical
77.	Artocarpus heterophyllus	120.	Praecitrullus fistulosus
78.	Ziziphus mauritiana	121.	Trichosanthes cucumerina
79.	Emblica officinalis	122.	Cucumis melo var. momordica
80.	Ficus carica	123.	Cucumis callosus
81.	Carissa carandas	B.2	Crucifers and Temperate Vegetables
82.	Tamarindus indica	124.	Brassica oleracea subsp. Capitata
83.	Aegle marmelos	125.	Brassica oleracea L. var. botrytis
84.	Artocarpus incisa	126.	Brassica oleracea var. Italica
85.	Averrhoa carambola	127.	Brassica oleracea var. gongylodes
86.	Prunus avium	128.	Daucus carota
87.	Phoenix dactylifera	129.	Beta vulgaris
88.	Syzygium cuminii	130.	Raphanus sativus
89.	Eriobotrya japonica	131.	Brassica oleracea var. gemmifera
90.	Bassia latifolia	132.	Lactuca sativa
91.	Garcinia mangostana	133.	Beta vulgaris var. bengalensis
92.	Grewia subinequalis	134.	Petroselinum hortense
93.	Nephelium lappaceum	135.	Spinaceae oleracea
94.	Ananas comosus	B.3	Leguminous and Leafy Vegetables
95.	Syzygium jambos	136.	Phaseolus vugarsis
96.	Feronia limonia	137.	Vigna unguiculata
97.	Malus domestica	138.	Dolichos lablab
98.	Pyrus communis	139.	Pisum sativum
99.	Prunus persica	140.	Cyamopsis tetragonolobus
	Prunus amygdalus	141.	Moringa oleifera
	Prunus armeniaca	142.	Sesbania grandiflora
	Juglans regia	С.	Root, Tuber and Bulbous Crops
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В.	Vegetables	144.	
104.	•	145.	1
105.	O Company of the Comp	146.	
	Abelmoschus esculentus		Dioscorea esculenta
B.1	Cucurbits	148.	Dioscorea rotundata
	Momordica charantia	149.	Amorphophallus paeoniifolius
	Cucurbita moschata	150.	Solenostmon rotundifolius
109.	1 1	151.	Pachyrrhizus erosus
110.	o contract of the contract of	152.	Allium cepa
111.		153.	Allium sativum
112.		154.	Maranta arundinaceae
	Benincasa hispida	D.	Flower Crops
114.	Cucumis sativus	155.	Polianthes tuberose

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(1)	(2)
156.	Dianthus caryophyllus
157.	Callistephus chinensis
158.	Cymbidium and Dendrobium
E.	Plantation Crops
159.	Cocos nucifera
160.	Areca catechu
161.	Theobroma cacao
162.	Anacardium occidentale
163.	Camelia sinensis
164.	Coffea Arabica
165.	Coffea robusta
166.	Hevia brasiliensis
167.	Elacis guineensis
168.	Borassus flabellifer
F.	Medicinal Crops
169.	Papaver somniferum
170.	Chlorophytum borivilianum
171.	Dioscoria floribunda
172.	Digitalis lanata
173.	Glaucium flavum
174.	Glycyrrhiza glabra
175.	Rauvolfia serpentina
176.	Solanum lacinatum
177.	Solanum viarum
178.	Piper betle
179.	Hyoscyamus muticus
180.	Thymus vulgaris
G.	Aromatic Crops
181.	Cymbologon flexuosus
182.	Cymbopogon martini var. motia
183.	Mentha spicata
184.	Valeriana jatamansi
185.	Pelargonium graveolens
186.	*
187.	2 1 1 0
188.	
189.	
190.	Vetiveria zizanioides

[F.No.28-13/2008-CS-III] A.K.GOYAL, Jt. Secy.

Source: State of Forest Report 2009 (India)

UTTAR PRADESH

1 Introduction

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State of the country, is situated between 23°52' and 30°24' N latitude and 77°05' and 84°38' E longitude. The State shares international border with Nepal and is bounded by the States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Geographical area of the State is 240,928 km2 which constitutes 7.3% of the total area of the country. The State can be divided into two physiographic zones namely; the vast Gangetic plains having highly fertile alluvial soil and the smaller Southern Hill Plateau having predominantly rocky strata. The major rivers flowing through the State are Ganga, Yamuna, Ramganga, Gomti and Ghaghra.

The climate of Uttar Pradesh is characterized by temperatures ranging from 5°C during winter to 45°C in summer. Annual rainfall varies from 1,000 mm to 1,200 mm of which about 90% occurs during June to September by the southwest monsoon.

Population of the State is 166.05 million (Census 2001) constituting 16.2% of country's population. Rural and Urban population is 79.22% and 20.78% respectively. Population density is 689 persons per km2• The projected population of the State by the Office of RGI, for the year 2009 is 193.76 million. Population of the Scheduled Tribes in the State is negligible and is confined to a few districts. The livestock population of the State is 58.53 million (Livestock Census 20031, which is the largest in the country and constitutes nearly 12% of the country's total livestock.

Land use pattern of the State is given in Table

2 Recorded Forests Area

The recorded forest area of the State is 16,583 km²which is 6.88 % of its geographical area. Reserved Forests constitute 70.31%, Protected Forests 8.56% and U classed Forests 21.12% of the total forest area.

3 Protected Areas

Uttar Pradesh has one National Park and 23 Wildlife Sanctuaries covering an area of 5,712 km2 which constitutes 2.37% of the State's geographical area. The oldest Wildlife Sanctuary of the country, the Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh has 1 Tiger Reserve namely, Dudhwa Katerniaghat (extension) which is also famous for swamp deer and rhinoceros.

4 Joint Forest Management

Joint Forest Management started in the State in 1992. There are 1,892 JFM Committees managing about 80,000 ha of forest area. More than 0.8 million families are involved in this programme, of which around 83,000 families belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

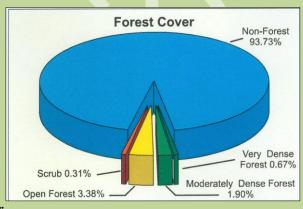
Source: MoEF, 2005.

Table 1 Land use pattern

Land Use	Area in '000ha	Percentage
Total geographical area	24,093	
Reporting area for land utilization	24,201	100.00
Forests	1,654	6.83
Not available for cultivation	3,215	13.28
Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	65	0.27
Land under misc. tree crops & groves	376	1.55
Culturable wasteland	439	1.81
Fallow lands other than current fallows	550	2.27
Current fallows	1,270	5.25
Net area sown	16,633	68.73

Source: Land Use Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2006

5 Forest Cover



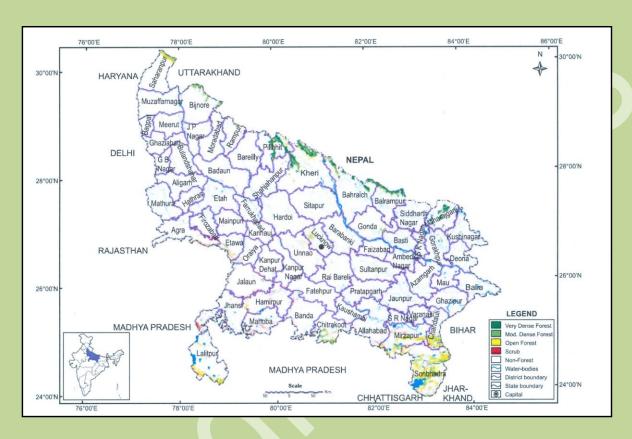
The forest cover in the State, based on interpretation of satellite data of Oct - Dec 2006, is 14,341 km2, which is 5.95% of the State's geographical area. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the State has 1,626 km2 very dense forest, 4,563 km2moderately dense forest and 8,152 km2 open forest. The distribution of forest cover of the State is shown in the adjoining

figure.

Comparison of the current forest cover (satellite data of Oct - Dec 2006) with the previous assessment (satellite data of Oct - Dec 2004) shows that there is decrease of 5 km² in forest cover.

The change matrix, given in Table 2 reveals that there has been a decrease of 6 km² in the moderately dense forest and increase of 1 km2 in open forest.

District wise forest cover in different canopy density classes and scrub is given in the Table 3



Forest cover map of Uttar Pradesh

Table 2 Forest cover change matrix					(are	a in Km ²)
2005 Assessment	2	2007(Data of	Oct-Dec 20	06)		Total of
(Data of Oct-Dec 2004)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	2005
Very Dense Forest	1626	0	0	0	0	1,626
Moderately Dense Forest	0	4,563	2	0	4	4,569
Open Forest	0	0	8,149	0	2	8151
Scrub	0	0	0	745	5	750
Non-Forest	0	0	1	0	225,831	225,832
Total of 2007	1626	4,563	8,152	745	225,842	240,928
Net Charge	0	-6	1	-5	10	,

Table 3 District-wise forest cover in 2007 Number of districts: 70

Distict	Geographical area	Very dense forest	Mod. dense forest	Open forest	Total	% of G.A.	Change*	Scrub
Agra	4,027	0	67	209	276	6.85	1	74
Aligarh	3,650	0	7	59	66	1.81	0	2
Allahabad	5,137	0	27	68	95	1.85	-1	23
Ambedkar Nagar	2,337	0	2	32	34	1.45	0	0
Azamgarh	4,234	0	1	26	27	0.64	-2	0
Bagpat	1,321	0	5	12	17	1.29	1	0
Bahraich & Shravasti	6,878	290	315	243	848	12.33	0	4
Ballia	3,349	0	0	25	25	0.75	0	0
Balrampur	2,981	225	188	116	529	17.75	-2	3
Banda	4,532	0	26	77	103	2.27	-1	29
Baranbanki	4,402	0	4	79	83	1.89	-2	2
Bareilly	4,120	0	7	37	44	1.07	1	0
Basti	2,688	0	5	13	18	0.67	0	0
Bijnor	4,561	45	238	140	423	9.27	0	3
Budaun	5,168	0	12	30	42	0.81	1	8
Bulandshahr	2,910	0	33	82	115	3.95	-1	0
Chandauli	2,549	6	194	365	565	22.17	0	11
Chitrakoot	3,092	0	358	203	561	18.14	0	15
Deoria	2,538	0	1	14	15	0.59	0	0
Etah	4,446	0	9	90	99	2.23	-1	0
Etawah	2,311	0	44	142	186	8.05	0	42
Faizabad	2,174	0	5	50	55	2.53	0	0
Farrukhabad	2,181	0	13	33	46	2.11	0	0
Fatehpur	4,152	0	7	38	45	1.08	1	14
Firozabad	2,361	0	4	43	47	1.99	3	26
Gautam Budh Nagar	1,442	0	12	23	35	2.43	0	0
Ghaziabad	2,590	0	18	31	49	1.89	1	0
Ghazipur	3,377	0	1	30	31	0.92	0	0
Distict	Geographical	Very	Mod.	Open	Total	% of	Change*	Scrub
	area	dense	dense	forest		G.A.		
		forest	forest					
Gonda	4,003	0	60	47	107	2.67	0	0
Gorakhpur	3,321	0	40	24	64	1.93	0	0
Hamirpur	4,282	0	66	108	174	4.06	-2	39
Hardoi	5,986	0	7	114	121	2.02	1	0
Hathras	1,840	0	1	22	23	1.25	-2	0
Jyotiba Phule Nagar	2,249	0	24	61	85	3.78	2	0
Jalaun	4,565	0	65	179	244	5.35	1	48
Jaunpur	4,038	0	11	40	51	1.26	-1	0
Jhansi	5,024	0	33	167	200	3.98	0	121

Kannauj	2,093	0	0	28	28	1.34	0	0
Kanpur Nagar & Dehat	6,176	0	12	97	109	1.76	-1	37
Kaushambi	2,124	0	7	20	27	1.27	-1	0
Kheri	7,680	409	475	436	1,320	17.19	-1	1
Kushinagar	2,906	0	3	32	35	1.20	0	0
Lalitpur	5,039	0	128	442	570	11.31	0	41
Lucknow	2,528	0	116	185	301	11.91	-1	0
MaharajganJ	2,952	239	113	109	461	15.62	0	2
Mahoba	2,884	0	22	73	95	3.29	1	96
Mainpuri	2,760	0	1	13	14	0.51	-1	0
Mathura	3,340	0	5	55	60	1.80	-2	6
Mau	1,713	0	0	7	7	0.41	0	0
Meerut	2,590	0	34	32	66	2.55	1	0
Mirzapur	4,521	0	323	543	866	19.16	-1	44
Moradabad	3,718	0	5	21	26	0.70	0	0
Muzaffarnagar	4,008	0	14	27	41	1.02	0	0
Oraiya	2,015	0	8	61	69	3.42	0	11
Pilibhit	3,499	340	158	200	698	19.95	0	0
Pratapgarh	3,717	0	25	68	93	2.50		2
Rae Bareli	4,609	0	5	93	98	2.13	-1	1
Rampur	2,367	0	26	47	77	3.25	1	0
Saharanpur	3,689	0	175	200	375	10.17	2	0
Sant Kabir Nagar	1,646	0	0	2	2	0.12	2	0
Sand Ravidas Nagar	1,015	0	0	1	1	0.10	0	0
Shahjahanpur	4,575	23	63	36	122	2.67	0	0
Siddharth Nagar	2,895	0	9	30	39	1.35	1	0
Sitapur	5,743	0	14	199	213	3.71	-2	2
Sonbhadra	6,788	45	870	1,626	2541	37.43	1	38
Sultanpur	4,436	0	15	162	177	3.99	-1	0
Unnao	4,558	0	26	224	250	5.48	-1	0
Varanasi	1,528	0	1	11	12	0.79	0	0
Total	240,928	1,626	4,563	8,152	14,341	5.95	-5	745

^{*}Change compared to 2005 assessment (revised)

4 Altitude Zone wise Forest Cover

Forest cover of the State in different altitude zones is given in Table 1.4

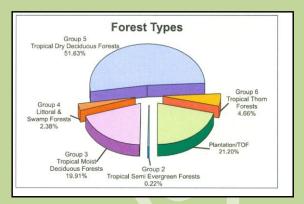
Table 4 Altitude Zone wise Forest Cover

Altitude Zone	VDF	MDF	OF	Total
0-500m	1,625	4,355	7,948	13,928
500-1000m	1	208	204	413
Total	1,626	4,563	8,152	14,341

(based on SRTM Digital Elevation Model)

6 Forest Cover in different Forest Types

As per Champion & Seth Classification System (1968), the State has 27 forest types which belong to 5 forest type groups viz Tropical Semi Evergreen, Tropical Moist Deciduous, Littoral & Swamp, Tropical Dry Deciduous and Tropical Thorn Forests.



Distribution of forest cover in different forest type groups found in the State is given in the pie diagram.

7 Tree Cover

Tree cover of the State has been estimated using sample data of TOF inventory collected over a period of six years i.e. 2002-08. The estimated tree cover in the State is 7,381 km² which is 3.06% of the geographical area of the State. Seventeen districts IAgra, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Balia, Bijnore, Etah, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kheri, Maharajganj, Mirzapur, Rai Bareli, Rampur, Shahjahanpur and Unnaol of the State have been inventoried. The forest and tree cover of the State is presented in the Table 5.

1.5 Forest & Tree cover	Area	(area in km²) % of Geographical area
Category		.
Tree Cover	7,381	3.06
Forest Cover	14,341	5.95
Forest & Tree Cover	21,722	9.01

FLORISTIC DIVERSITY OF UTTAR PRADESH

D.C.SAINI

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, 53, University Road, Lucknow - 226007, INDIA.

INTRODUCTION

The flora of India is more varied than that of any other country of equal area in Eastern hemisphere, if not the globe. This is due to its geographical extension, embracing so many degree of latitude, temperate and tropical; to its surface rising from the level from the sea to height above the limits of the vegetation; to its climates varying from torrid to arctic and from almost aridity to a maximum of humidity to the immigration of plants from widely different bordering countries, notably Chinese and Malayan on the east and south, of Oriental, European and African on the west and the Tibetan on the north. Later on after critical analysis of flora by different phytogeographers it has been convincingly concluded that India has a flora of its own and in fact as many as 5,000 species are endemic to this region. Due to the unique, rich and diverse floristic composition on various habitats, India is considered as twelve mega centers of origin and diversity of several plant species in the world. It is estimated that out of total 46,214 plant species of all groups of plant kingdom, more than 17,500 flowering plants, gymnosperm and pteridophytes are accounted for in this region.

It was the dawn of Indian botanical studies, when plants of India were scientifically studied and identified by ancient people during 4,000 B.C., mainly for their medicinal, agricultural witan horticultural purpose. Linnaean nomenclature was introduced into India during the eighteenth century, setting the stage for more floristic studies. In 1787 the Indian Botanical Garden was established, and the first half of the nineteenth century was a ferment of floristic exploration, collection and publication by Europeans. The publication of Flora of British India (1872-1897), gave impetus to taxonomic studies in our country and several floras pertaining to different regions were published within sort span of time.

Unfortunately the taxonomic studies sharply declined after the first quarter of the present century and a clear gap in the knowledge of systematic studies can be marked till the revival of interest in the late fifties after the re-establishment of Botanical Survey of India. This was perhaps due to tendency of botanists who were unduly influenced by modern branches of Biology and considered taxonomy to be of little significance and a dead subject. Negligence of interest in taxonomy gradually led to the development of taxophobic symptoms among the students. However, the forest departments of various states and some workers in Universities kept alive their interest in taxonomy and published a few floristic accounts. All such contributions have no doubt enriched our knowledge of the floristics of our country but the quantum of work with reference to the area of our sub-continent is rather meager as to be helpful in preparation of modern flora of India.

Reduction of forests and scrub land due to indiscriminate felling of forest tree to fulfill the requirement of mounting population, it is necessary that each Universities should establish a Herbarium in their Botany department and take up the intensive exploration of respective town and neighboring areas in order to have thorough knowledge of plants with reference to their occurrence, distribution, ecological associations and pheological notes. The local herbaria maintaining the collections of wild plants with their fruits and seeds, medicinal plants, economic crop and ornamental plants will be of immense value not only for the collection of data and preparation of useful monograph on respective group of vegetables wealth pertaining to various areas but also for the dissemination of knowledge of plants among the people. Herbarium specimens provide a valuable record of the previously occurred flora of a specific area that has

been devastated during developmental activities in the past. Thus, developing herbaria in various Universities, colleges and Research Institutes all over India is an utmost need. It is unfortunate that our Universities did not pay attention to this. However, few works on floras of University town were compiled during recent past. Delhi University took a lead in and produced a Flora of Delhi.

In order to assess the actual status of floristic diversity of any specific area, the revision of local, regional and state flora and other monographs based on modern collections is very essential, each after ten years. The modern collections here mean collection with all possible field data, photographs depicting type of vegetation, ecological features, and variations of species under different habitats; special collection of delicate plant parts and carpological collection. Hence, it has become essential to workout the existing flora of Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh state is situated in north central part of India. The northwestern section of the state was carved in 2000 by creation of a new state of Uttaranchal. The climate of the state is tropical monsoon. The moderate rainfall is supplemented by an extensive system of canal irrigation. Forests constitute about 12.8% of the total geographical area of the state. The northern part of the state, formed by the Yamuna, Ganges, and Ghaghara rivers is known as Gangetic Plain. This region has highly fertile alluvial soils and flat topography broken by numerous ponds, lakes and rivers. The tarai and bhabhar areas in the Gangetic Plain have rich forests of moist deciduous type. The Vindhyan Hill and plateau in the southern region bears hard rock strata; varied topography of hills and plains; valleys and plateau and limited water availability. The Vindhyan forests consist mostly of scrub. Having unique geographical position, topography, sufficient rain and moisture the state harbours a very rich and diverse flora.

Recently due to decline in forest cover and unsustainable exploitation of plant resources for meeting the multifarious requirement of explosive human population, the natural vegetation of the state has been continuously and increasingly under threat. This is fuelling an unprecedented decline in plant species. Keeping these points in view, an attempt has been made to document the detailed account of floristic diversity exist in Uttar Pradesh. Duthie may be regarded as pioneer plant collector of this area and his work "Flora of Upper Gangetic Plain and of the adjacent Siwalik and Sub-Himalayan tract" (1903-1929) is an important reference book for the floristics of entire province. In this flora he has not referred to the district even ones and only casual reference to the plants of the neighboring areas have been mentioned.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The region enjoys monsoon type of climate. The climate is markedly periodic and is divided into three seasons i.e. rainy season, winter season and summer season. The monsoon rains commence during June (3rd week) and come to an end in September but may persist till October. From October to May there is the usually long dry weather with only scanty winter rains. The hot weather commences in March and lasts till the rains set in. The minimum temperature goes down to 3°C in month of January and maximum rises up to 43°C in the month of June.

The vegetation of any area comprises tree, shrubs and herbs along with fruit orchards. The trees, shrubs and woody climbers have long life. They survive for many years. Therefore, they may be called the permanent vegetation. The general vegetation, other than forests in the area is mainly characterized by large number of herbaceous plants growing on variety of habitats with scattered occurrence of many indigenous and exotic species of tree and shrubs in open areas or cultivated in public and private gardens and along road sides. Almost all the herbaceous plants are seasonal. Their life is for three or four months. They germinate in the beginning of season as at the end of outgoing season died after completing their life cycle at the end of season. Every season has their own herbaceous vegetation along with some intermixing of plants of preceding season which are biennials. Therefore, this vegetation may be described as seasonal vegetation.

Thus the vegetation of the district may be divided in two categories.

- 1. Permanent Vegetation.
- 2. Seasonal Vegetation.

PERMANENT VEGETATION

The general vegetation of the area is **Sub-tropical deciduous type**. However, some of the trees are evergreen and semi evergreen. The area is under the influence of human and their domestic animals. Thus, the vegetation of this area is being damaged by, cutting down of plants for fodder, fuel, grazing, fire and various developmental projects. The vegetation of these areas is mainly characterized by large number of herbaceous plants growing on variety of habitats along with scattered occurrence of many indigenous and exotic species of trees and shrubs in open areas or cultivated in gardens and along road sides. Orchards of mango and guava are common in the area.

The vegetation under this category is mainly represented by trees, shrubs and woody climbers. Though members of permanent vegetation are scattered on variety of habitats in the area, but to study the vegetation of this category, forests of the district have been taken into consideration, because forest are, such a place where we can find all members of permanent vegetation in their natural habitats along with their characteristic associates.

FOREST TYPES AND VEGETATION

The temperature and rainfall data given above indicate that vegetation of the district cames under Sub-tropical deciduous type by mixture of trees particularly all of which are deciduous during the dry season, usually for several months. Sal and miscellaneous forests are found in almost entire area. The Sal forests are in the climax stage of the plant succession. The miscellaneous forest is of preclimax stage. The medium quality bamboo forests are also found at several places. According to Champion and Seth (1968) the forests of the area can be classified as under:

SUB-TROPICAL DECIDUOUS FORESTS

A. CLIMATIC TYPE:

- 1. Moist Sub-tropical (Peninsular) Low level Sal forests
- 2. Dry Sub-tropical (Peninsular) Sal forests
- 3. West Gangetic Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests
- 4. Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Foresrs
- 5. Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Foresrs
- 6. Riverain or Reparian Fringing Forests

B. GENERAL EDAPHIC TYPE:

- 7. Salai (Boswelia) Foresrs
- 8. Butea forests
- 9. Khair (Acacia categhu) Forests
- 10. Bamboo forests

A. CLIMATIC TYPE

1. MOIST SUB-TROPICAL (PENINSULAR) LOW LEVEL SAL FORESTS

The better quality sal occur on well drained and sandy loam soil along water courses and plain areas with moisture and deep soil and along lower hill slopes. The forests occur in these areas asre of two types, one with sal as dominant species and other with many dominant species intemately mixed with each other. Thus this type of forest is further subdivided into two types.

A large tract of the area having plains topography, where the moisture and soil conditions are fevourable, carry pure sal forest with profuse bamboo. Sal forests have dense top canopy. The chief associates of Shorea robusta forming top story are: Lagerstroemia parviflora, Terminalia bellerica, Terminalia chebula, Diospros melanoxylon, Adina cordifolia, Sterospermum suavelolens, Pterocarpus marsupium, Schleichera oleosa, Ficus racemosa. The middle storys have less canopy. A shrubby undergrowth is usual and mostly semievergreen, Mallotus philippensis, Miliusa velutina, Pogostemon benghalensis, Murraya koenigii, Glycosmis mauritiana, Desmodium pulchellum may occur gregariously. Heavey grass like Themeda sp., Sacharum benghalensis, and Saccharum spontanaeum are also seen in open areas on very stiff soils. Few large and common species of climbers are: Bauhinia vahlii, Tiliacora acuminata.

Mixed forests are also found in the area having medium and good height trees with many dominant species intimately mixed with many trees of middle story, forming upper canopy. No single species is dominant in this mixed type of forests. The chief associates forming top canopy are: *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Terminalia chibula*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Terminalia bellerica*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Madhuca indica*, *Schleichera oleosa (Kusum)*, *Lannea coromendelica (Gurja)*, *Dalbergia paniculata (Dhobain)*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Buchanania lanzan*, *Butea monosperma*, *Albizia procera*, *Semicarpus anacardium*, *Ficus racemosa*, *Mitragyna Parvifolia*, *Terminalia alata* etc.

Other trees, shrubs and woody climbes forming middle story are: Kydia Calycina, Buchanauia lanzan, Careya arborea, Syzigium cerasoidium (Badam), Casearia graveolens, Milusa tomentosa, Eugenia heyneana, Cochlospermum religiosum, Bauchinia retusa, Holorrhena antidysenterica, Hymenodictyon excelsa, Aacacia catechu, Xeromphis spinosa, Embelica tsjaram-cottom, Woodfordia fruticosa, Dlabergia lanceolaria, Butea Manosperma, Soymida febrifuga, Semicarpus anacardium, Bauhinia racemosa, Mimosa himalayana, Millettia auriculata, Ziziphus mauritiana, Zizphus oenoplea, Carissa opaca, Indigofera cassioides, Phoenix acaulis, Moghania chappar, Helicters isara, Wendlandia heynei, Celastrus paniculatus, Vallaris solanacea.

The third story forming ground vegetation, composed of shrubs, herbs, grasses and climbers. The common species are:

Desmodium gangelicum, Asparagus racemosa, Calotropis gigantea, Flemingia chappar, Grewia hirsuta, Indigofera pulchella, Phyllanthus fraternus, Triumfetta pentandra, Caryretia trifolia, Woodfordia fruticosa, Carissa carandas, Tephrosia purpurea, Bidens biternata, Ampelocissus tomentosa, Indigofera echinata, Zizphus xylopyrus, Cassia tora, Tribulus terrestris, Euphorbia thymiflia, dioscorea bulbifera, Urena lobata, Adinalum lepulatum, Achyranthes aspera, Saccharum bengalensis, Rungea pectinata, Calotropis procera, Hekiotropium strigosum, Vernonia cinerea, Hetropogon contortus, Themeda triandra, Eragrostis tenella, Tridax promcubens, Dipteracanthus Sp., Sacharyn spontaneum, Imperata cyindriea, Bauhinia vahlli, Smilex zeylanica, Butea parviflora, Ziziphusoenoplea, Ventilago calyculata. The epiphytic plant and tesellata and dendrophthoea falcata are commonly seen on several tees and shrubs.

2. DRY SUB-TROPICAL (PENISULAR) SAL FOREST

The southern and western dry hill slopes are occupied by dry deciduous Sal, dry mixed forests and scrubby vegetation. The main components of vegetation forming top canopy present on dry hill slopes are: Dillenia aurea, Cochlospermum religiosum, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, Stereculia urens, Boswella serrata, Diospyros melanoxylon, Caryuga pinnata, Terminalia bellerica, Ficus tomentosa, Ougeinia ougeinensis, Wrightia tinctoria, Euphorbia nivulea, Gardenia latifolia, Zizyphus xylopyros, Lannea coromendelica, Emblica officinalis, Anogeissus latifolia, Lagerstroemia parviflora, along with some frequent species like Helicteres isora, Pavetta tomentosa, Bauhinia racemosa, Dndroealanus strictus, Flacourtia indica, Carissa opaca, Holarrhena antidysenterica, Phoenix acaulis. The commonly occurring herbaceous and climbing plants are: Heteropogon controtus, Capilipedium assimile, Rungea pectinata, Oldenlandia offinis, Crotalaria Imedicagenia, Crotaria mysorensis, Micromeria biflora, Calotropis procera, Ruellia tuberosa, Blumea oxyodonta, Crepis japonica, Vernonia cineria, Indigofera trifoliata, Phyllanthus maderaspatana, Phyllanthus debilis, Cleome monophylla, Indigofera hirsuta, Milletia auriculata, Vallaris solanacea, Ampelocissus latifolia, Cissus adnata, Smilex zeylanica, Vigna trilobata, vigna aconitifolia, teramnus labialis, Dioscorea pentaphylla, Dioscorea belophylla, Dioscorea bulbifera, Asparagus racemosus, Alylosia scaraboeoides, Hemidesmus indicus, Ichnocarpus frutescens, Abrus precatorious. Some epiphytic plants such as Vanda tesellata and Dendrophthoea falcata are also seen on varieties of trees and shrubs.

3. WEST GANGETIC MOIST MIXED DECIDUOUS FOREST

A large tract of the area in having plains topography, where the moisture and soil conditions are fevourable, carry pure sal forest with profuse bamboo. Sal forests have dense top canopy. The chief associates of Shorea robusta forming top story are: Lagerstroemia parviflora, Terminalia bellerica, Terminalia chebula, Diospros melanoxylon, Adina cordifolia, Sterospermum suavelolens, Pterocarpus marsupium, Schleichera oleosa, Ficus racemosa. The middle storys have less canopy. A shrubby undergrowth is usual and mostly semievergreen, Mallotus philippensis, Miliusa velutina, Pogostemon benghalensis, Murraya koenigii, Glycosmis mauritiana, Desmodium pulchellum may occur gregariously. Heavey grass like Themeda sp., Sacharum benghalensis, and Saccharum spontanaeum are also seen in open areas on very stiff soils. Few large and common species of climbers are: Bauhinia vahlii, Tiliacora acuminata.

This forest has also medium and good height trees with many dominant species intimately mixed with many trees of middle story, forming upper canopy. No single species is dominant in this mixed type of forests. The chief associates forming top canopy are: *Diospyros melanoxylon, Terminalia chibula, Pterocarpus marsupium, Terminalia bellerica, Terminalia tomentosa, Boswellia serrata, Madhuca indica, Schleichera oleosa (Kusum), Lannea coromendelica (Gurja), Dalbergia paniculata (Dhobain), Adina cordifolia, Anogeissus latifolia, Emblica officinalis, Buchanania lanzan, Butea monosperma, Albizia procera, Semicarpus anacardium, Ficus racemosa, Mitragyna Parvifolia, Terminalia alata etc.*

Other trees, shrubs and woody climbes forming middle story are: *Kydia Calycina, Buchanauia lanzan, Careya arborea, Syzigium cerasoidium (Badam), Casearia graveolens, Milusa tomentosa, Eugenia heyneana, Cochlospermum religiosum, Bauchinia retusa, Holorrhena antidysenterica, Hymenodictyon excelsa,*

Aacacia catechu, Xeromphis spinosa, Embelica tsjaram-cottom, Woodfordia fruticosa, Dlabergia lanceolaria, Butea Manosperma, Soymida febrifuga, Semicarpus anacardium, Bauhinia racemosa, Mimosa himalayana, Millettia auriculata, Ziziphus mauritiana, Zizphus oenoplea, Carissa opaca, Indigofera cassioides, Phoenix acaulis, Moghania chappar, Helicters isara, Wendlandia heynei, Celastrus paniculatus, Vallaris solanacea.

The third story forming ground vegetation composed of shrubs, herbs, grasses and climbers. The common species are:

Desmodium gangelicum, Asparagus racemosa, Calotropis gigantea, Flemingia chappar, Grewia hirsuta, Indigofera pulchella, Phyllanthus fraternus, Triumfetta pentandra, Caryretia trifolia, Woodfordia fruticosa, Carissa carandas, Tephrosia purpurea, Bidens biternata, Ampelocissus tomentosa, Indigofera echinata, Zizphus xylopyrus, Cassia tora, Tribulus terrestris, Euphorbia thymiflia, dioscorea bulbifera, Urena lobata, Adinalum lepulatum, Achyranthes aspera, Saccharum bengalensis, Rungea pectinata, Calotropis procera, Hekiotropium strigosum, Vernonia cinerea, Hetropogon contortus, Themeda triandra, Eragrostis tenella, Tridax promcubens, Dipteracanthus Sp., Sacharyn spontaneum, Imperata cyindriea, Bauhinia vahlli, Smilex zeylanica, Butea parviflora, Ziziphusoenoplea, Ventilago calyculata. The epiphytic plant and tesellata and dendrophthoea falcata are commonly seen on several tees and shrubs.

4. SOUTHERN DRY MIXED DECIDUOUS FOREST

This subgroup is differing from dry teak forest Mainly by presence of Boswellia serrata and increased proportion of theorny species. Bamboos are occasionally seen. Very few, woody climbers are present. This subgroup is prevalent in drier localisties and sites.

The most charecteristic tree is Anogeissus latifolia, whitst Terminalia tomentosa is very typical associate. Diospyros tomentosa is also very common. Chloroxylon swietenia, Hardwickia binata, Boswellia serrata and Soymida febrifuga are very widespread and useful indicators as they are absent from moist deciduous forests, but their occurence is rather sporadic. Acacia catechu is often present in thorn forest. The undergrowth is usually thin with fairly dense growth of grass during monsoon.

5. NORTHERN TROPICAL DRY MIXED DECIDUOUS FOREST

Sal is the most important and common species in the area. The pure crop of Sal occurs over extensive areas. Profuse and better type of sal forest occur on the Gondwana system and basal bed type of geological formation. Lower Vindhyan type of geological formation also contain Sal forest which are confined mostly to cool valley and along lower slopes of northern aspects. These are commonly met in churhat, Sidhi, Behara and part of Madwas ranges.

The physical condition of the soil, its drainage capacity to hold moisture, along with the lunder lying rock formation excercise marked effect with regard to the distribution and growth of sal. Sal generally favoure acidic soil. The proportion of the sal in the area varies from 20 to 90%. Better quality sal is found along water courses and plain areas. Bamboo is generally absent in better quality areas. Regeneration of Sal is quite inadequate and nearly absent. The water courses normally have more percentage of natural sal trees. Sal favourers a sandstone, gneiss and lateritic soil in stages of decomposition. In schistic and calcareous soil on higher slopes. Sal crops is open, stunted and unhealthy with heavy infestation of Bandha (*Dendrophthoe falcata*) and heart rot. Sal generally avoids hard lateritic soil. Better quality sal occur in Mahadeva series of Gondawana system on well drained and sandy loam soil along water courses and plain areas with moisture and deep soil and along lower hill slopes. It progressively generates in quality and grow as it ascends the hills. Sal avoids the southern dry aspects in Lower Vindhyan system and is altogether absent in Upper Vindhyan system.

The quality is generally poor but along water courses, better quality stands are also met within. Regeneration of *Diospyros melanoxylon, Pterocarpus marsapium, Terminelia tomentosa* is satisfactory. Regeneration of *Ougeinia ougeinensis* and *Woodfordia fruticosa* is profuse.

The top canopy consist of Anogeissus latifolia, <u>Pterocarpus marsupium</u>, <u>Dalbergia latifolia</u>, <u>Dalbergia paniculata</u>, <u>Diospyros melanoxylon</u>, <u>Boswellia serrata</u>, <u>Garuga pinnata</u>, <u>Bauhinia variegata</u>, <u>Lagerstroemia parviflora</u>, <u>Lannea coromendalica</u>, <u>Schleichera oleosa</u>, <u>Adina crordifolia</u>, <u>Madhuca indica</u>, <u>Terminalea tomentosa</u>, <u>Shorea robusta</u>, <u>Millusa tomentosa</u>, <u>Terminalia bellirica</u>, <u>Mitragyna parvifolia</u>, <u>Kydia ealycina</u>.

The middle story comprises *Emblica officinalis, Acacia catechu, Careya arborea, Casearia tomentosa, Semicarpus anacardium, Terminalia chibula, Flacaurtia indica, Eugenia heyniana, Butea monsoperma, Aegle marmelos, Bauhinia retusa, Cassia fistula.*

The shruby undergrowth are: Woodfordia fruticosa, Nyctanthus arbor-tristis, Carissa opaca, Ziziphus xylopyrus, Helicteres isora.

The ground vegetation is characterized by herbaceous and grossy plants, growing in different seasons. on varieties of habitats. Some common representatives are mentioned here such as: Cassia tora, Cassia occidentalis, Indigofera tinctoria, Indigofera hirsuta, Tephorsia purpurea, Blumea membranacea, Blumia oxyodonta, Sida cordata, Sida acuta, Sida rhomboidea, Sida cordifolia, Rungia pectinata, Tridax procumbens, Indigofera echinata, Leucas mollisima, Leucas aspera, Leucas cephalotes, Cleome gynandra, C. viscosa, Cleome monophilla, Tribulus terrestris, Adinatum lepulatum, Crotalaria medicagenia, Crotalaria mysoreusis, Crotalaria pallida, Crotalaria sericia, Crotalaria prostrata, Heteropogon contortus, Themeda triandra, Eragrostis tenella, Imperata cylindrica, Bothriocloa pertusa, Dichanthium annulatum, Chloris barbata, Cenchrus ciliaris, Sorghum halepans. The epiphytic plant, Dendrophthoe falcata is commonly seen on Madhuca indica, Shorea robusta, Mangifera indica, and albizia procera. Thickets of Dendroealamus strictus are also seen scattered in the area. Chloroxylon sweitenia is found in patches on gravelled soil in Mahwas, Pahai and doari blocks and on Mara-Jir road in mixed forests. Some of the plains in Jhurhi on the Sarai road near Karwahi and Tansar along Mahan river comprise open scrabby or low forests. The soil in these region are hard and lateritic. Due to sparse ground vegetation, the erosion caused by rain and wind can be easily seen, especially in tansar area.

The area is mainly abound by Acacia catechu in association with Ziziphus sylopyrus, Soymida febrifuga, Aegle marmelos, Streblus asper, Butea monosperma, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Flacourtia indica, Bridelia retusa, Mallotus philippensis, Alangium salvifolium, Randia uliginosa. The Son river basin near Jogdaha bride was previously good forested area but now a days it is cleared up and patches of Lagerstroemia with Vitex negundo, Grewia hirsuta, Ziziphus xylopyrus are seen here and these. Zizyphus xyloprus are seen here and there. Zizphus nummularia, Zizphus rugosus in association with Woodfordia fruticosa, Ficus glomerata, Butea monosperma_ are seen around Karwahi. The Ziziphus oenoplea, Smilax zeylanica, Ichnocarpus frutescens, Ampelocissus latifolia, Dioscorea pentaphylla, Hemidesmus indica are eommonoy seen climbing over trees and shrubs in these areas.

6. RIVERAIN OR REPARIAN FRINGING FORESTS

The prevailing moist conditions in valley, ravines, riverain tracts and depressions scattered in the area very much responsible for grow of moist Sal forest. The water courses nromally have more percentage of natural sal trees.

The lower slopes in valleys, ravines and along rivers are inhabited by Shorea robusta, Diospyros melanoxylon, Trena orientalis, Syzigium heyneanum, S. cumini, Emblica officinalis, Mallotus philippensis, Terminalia arjuna, Tamarix ericoides, Ixora arborea, Meliosma simplicifolia, Shorea robusta, Dendrocalamus strictus, Ficus semicordata, Bombax ceiba. The shady habitats in the forests of Jir and Bhadaura are occupied by Baliospermum montanum, Indigofera cassioides, Boehmeria platyphylla, Grewia rothii, Casearia graveolens, Perilepta auriculata, Colebrookia oppositifolia, Woodfordia fruticosa, Thyanolaena maxima, Saccharum spontaneum, Phragmitis Karka, Adenostema lavenia var. rugosa, Desmodium gangetieum, Reinwardtia indica, Chlorophytum tuberosum, Perilepta auriculata, Leucas biflora, Piper longum, Companula colorata, Cythocline purpurea, Glochidion lanceolarium, Gloechidion zeylanica, Apluda mutica. The common twiners and climbers growing at Mara are: Ampelocissus latifolia, Cryptostegia grandiflora, Dragea voluvilis, Ventilago madersapatana. Cissus adnata, Smilex zeylanica,

Dioscorea puber, Dioscorea glabra, Dioscorea bulfifera, Combretum roxburghii, and Schefflera stellata is recorded at Jir.

B. GENERAL EDAPHIC TYPE

The forest types associated with definite site factors. Many of the tree species of the jmixed deciduous forests are capable of forming more or less pure consociations. Due to harsh environmental conditions, greater demands are made on the specific adaptability of constituent dlements leading to pure group and local dominance. The following edaphic types of forests are recognised in the area.

7. SALAI FOREST (Boswellia serrata)

The forest of Boswellia serrata are found overlapping in Sal and Mixed forests. They cover 2% of total forest area. `Salai' forest generally tend to occupy high elevation on plateaus, ridged tops and slopes particularly on southern and south-western aspects of kaimur hills, where shallow and drier soils with lot of skeletal material is in existence as derived from porcellanite and Upper and Lower Vindhyan formations. These forests are generally open. Its common associates are Diospyros melanoxylon, Anogeissus latifolia, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Sterculia urens, Lannea coromendalica, Emblica officinalis, Zizphus xyloprus, Acacia catechu, Holarrhena antidysenterica, Hardwickia binata occurs on higher elevation in Jethula, Rani Satti, Harbaro and Tatpahar blocks of Sidhi ranges and in Kushanhiya. Scrubby vegetation comprises Ziziphus xylopyrus, Carissa opaca, Flacourtia indica, Rosa involucrata, Mimosa himalayana, Woodfordia fruticosa, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis are seen scattered here and these in hanumangarh block on Kaimur hills and near Churhat. Lagerstroemia parviflora and Madhuca indica are found with stunted growth. Cassia tora, Occinum americanum, Themeda trianda, Heteropogon controtus, Imperata cytindrica are the common herbaceus and grasses occur in this areas. Ziziphus oenoplea, Vallaris heynii, Ventilago maderaspatana are the climbers of the area.

8. **BUTEA FOREST** (Dhak forest).

On flat ground this type presents a savannah appearance with scattered stunted and very malformed trees are thickets standing over short grass or bare ground. On lower hill slopes almost pure consociations. The other associates occur along with Butea are: Butea monosperma, Acacia leucophloea, Ziziphus mauritiana, Ziziphus numularia, Tephrosia purpurea, Mimosa rubicaulis, Indigofera cordifolia, Apluda mutica, Heteropogon contortus, Bolhriochloa pertusa.

9. BAMBOO FOREST

Bamboos do not form pure forest but occur as understory in the Sal and Mixed forests. They cover 0.97% of lthe total forest area. *Dendrocalamus strictus* is the only species occurring as representative of bamboo. Bamboo has been rendered to a depleted condition during the last decade. What remains now are the scattered stunted, malformed and congested bamboo clumpos, occupying occasionally here and there. Illicite fellings, unsystematic and over exploitation recurring annual feres and heavy looping of bamboo clumps by grazing have caused a great damage to these forests.

Several other plants found scattered in the area an waste lands, road sides, railway tracks, along river banks, in and around the village sides in shrubberies, orchards and boardess hedges around crop fields are: Mangifera indica, Azadirachta indica, Madhuca longiffolia, Ficus benghalensis, Tamarindus indica, Aegle marmelos, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Acacia nilotica ssp. indica, Diospyros melanosylon, Syzigium cumini, Morus alaba, Moringa oleifera, Lawsonia inermis, cordia dichotoma, Ficus lucescens, Holoptelia integrifolia, Albizia procera, Anogeissus pendula, Erythrina indica, Melia azedarach, Butea monosperma, Procopis juliflora, Acacia leucophloea, Bombax ceiba, Pterospermum acerifolium, Toona ciliata, Terma orientalis, Streblus asper, etc. Among shrubs Euphorbia nivulia, Euphorbia nerifolia, Euphorbia tirucalli,

Nopalia codhinelliformis, cereus hexagonus, Cercus triangularis, Lawsonia inermis, Vitex negundo, Jatropha curcas, Jatropha gossypifolia, Adhatoda geylanica, Ipomoea fistulosa, Ricinus communis, Caesalpinia globulorum, Woodfordia fruticosa, comiphora mukul, Ziziphus mauritiana, Pandanus fruticosus are commonly seen.

ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE VEGETATION

Plants have a significant contribution towards the wealth of a country. During recent years exploration of our plant wealth and its economic utilization have rightly been given due importance. The contributions on the economic aspects of our plants are scattered over numerous literature. Under the present study the information regarding the economic use of plants has been mostly gathered from the local inhabitants as well as from the available literatures. For the sake of convenience the economic aspects of the vegetation of the area have been treated under the following categories.

1. **Food plants**: Besides cultivated plants, many wild plants are largely exploited for food in various forms by the local inhabitants. They may either be eaten raw or as vegetables after cooking or in the form of pickles:

VEGETABLES: Different parts of a number of plants used after cooking as vegetables are given below:

- (i) Root tuber: Dioscorea oppositifolia, Dioscorea bulbifera, Potamogeton nodosus
- (ii) **Rhizomes:** Nelumbo nucifera, Nymphaea nouchal, Scirpus grossus, Scirpus tuberosus.
- (iii) Stem bulbils: Dioscorea bulbifera.
- (iv) **Tender shoots and leaves**: Amaranthus viridis, Basella alba, Cassia tora, Chenopodium album, Ipomoea aquatica, Portulaca oleraceae, Rumex dentatus.
- (v) **Vegetative and floral buds**: Bauhinia purpurea, Ficus virens, Moringa oleifera.
- (vi) **Fruits**: Coccinia grandis, Ficus racemosa, Ficus virens, Ipomoea alba, Luffa echinata, Nelumbo nucifer, Xeromphis uliginosa.

EATEN RAW: Number of fruits, are collected and sold in the local markets. Although the fruits are inferior in quality, they are said to be rich in vitamins and minerals and form an important diet of local inhabitants. The common ones are:

Aegle marmelos, Artocarpus lakoocha, Carissa opaca, Ficus hispida, Ficus racemosa, Grewia elastica, syzygium heyneanum, Zizyphus mauritiana.

PICKLES AND PRESERVES: Aegle marmelos, Carissa carandas, Cordia dichotoma, Spondias pinata, Terminalia chebula.

- 2. **Fodder plants**: The common fodder plants are: *Bothriochloa pertusa, Cynodon dactylon, Desmodium triflorum, Echinochloa colonum, Ficus religiosa, Ficus racemosa, Flacourtia indica, Paspalidium flavidum, Phaseolus aconitifolius*.
- 3. **Timber, fuel and charcoal plants**: The area has a number of plants which provide valuable timber for building, furniture and other constructional work. Some of the important ones are:
- (i) **Timber :** Adina cordifolia, Albizia procera, Elaeodendron roxburghii. Mitragyna parvifolia.

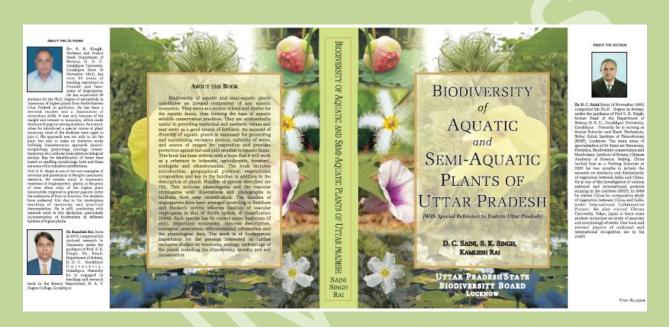
- (ii) **Fuel and charcoal**: Acacia nilotica, Emblica officinalis, Kydia calycina, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Tamarindus indica.
- 4. **Fiber plants**: Fibers obtained from the different parts of the plants are used for making ropes, cordages, stuffing pillows and mattresses. Some of the common species yielding various types of fibers are:
- (i) Fibers obtained from bark: *Corchorus capsularis, Crotalaria pallida, Crotalaria retusa, Crota-laria spectabilis, Trema orientalis, Ventilago maderaspatana.*
- (ii) Fibre obtained from fruits: Bombax ceiba, Calotropis gigantea, Calotro-pis procera, Gossypium herbaceum.

5. Dye, tannin, gum and resin bearing plants:

- (i) Dye: Various plants part used as colouring agent by local inhabitants for various purposes are given as under:
 - (a) Flowers: Butea monosperma, Nyctanthes arbortristis, Toona ciliata, Woodfordia fruticosa.
 - (b) Fruits: Mallotus philippensis.(c) Leaves: Lawsonia inermis.
- (iii) **Tannin**: Bark of certain plants are collected and sent to various leather refineries for taning. Some important plants are: *Acacia nilotica* subsp. *indica*, *Dendrophthoe falcata*, *Oroyxylum indicum*.
- (iv) Gums and resins: These are produced when the surface of the trunk is incised or wounded and used for various purposes. Some of the common plants producing gums and resins are: Acacia spp., Azadirachta indica, Bombax ceiba, Butea monosperma, Cannabis sativa, Feronia limonia, Moringa oleifera, Semecarpus anacardium, Shorea robusta, Tamarindus indica.
- 6. Oil plants: Locally various plant parts are exploited for their oils:
 - (a) Roots and rhizomes: Vetiveria zizanioides.
 - (b) **Flowers**: Acacia farnesiana, Michelia champaca, Jasminum grandiflorum.
 - (c) **Seeds**: Argemone mexicana, Carthamus tinctorius, Madhuca indica, Pongamia pinnata, Prunus persica, Ricinus communis, Sapindus emarginatus, Sesamum indicum, Shorea robusta.
- 7. **Medicinal plants**: A variety of medicinal plants occur in the area which are used as native medicine by local inhabitants. Different parts of common plants used in medicine are given below.
- (a) **Bark**: Ailanthus excelsa, Alstonia scholaris, Azadirachta indica, Barringtonia acutangula, Holarrhena antidysenterica, Lannea coromandelica, Litsea glutinosa, Toona ciliata.
- (b) **Roots**: Abrus precatorius, Alangium salvifolium subsp. decapetalum, Aristolochia indica, Boerhavia diffusa, Cissampelos pariera, Curculigo orchioides, Hemidesmus indicus, Hygrophila auriculata, Rauvolfia serpentina, Withania somnifera.

- (c) **Leaves**: Abrus precatorius, Adhatoda vasica, Andrographis paniculata, Bacopa monnieri, Celastrus paniculatus, Centella asiatica, Paederia scandens, Pogostemon benghalensis, Sida cordata, Tinospora cordifolia, Vitex negundo.
- (d) **Flowers**: Butea monosperma, Toona ciliata.
- (e) **Fruits and seeds**: Butea monosperma, Caesalpinia bonduc, Cassia fistula, Emblica officinalis, Piper longum, Pongamia pinnata, Psoralia corylifolia, Semecarpus anacardium, Terminalia chebula, Tribulus terrestris, Xeromphis spinosa.
- 8. **Ornamental plants**: There are a number of wild plants which possess beautiful flowers and can be introduced in garden for ornamental purposes. Some important one are: *Callicarpa macrophylla*, *Clitoria ternatea*, *Costus speciosus*, *Cyathocline purpurea*, *Eranthemum purpurascens*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Merremia dissecta*, *Nymphaea stellata*, *Oxystelma secamone*, *Porana paniculata*, *Tamarix dioica*, *Uraria picta*, *Woodfordia fruticosa*.
- 9. Miscellaneous: Besides, plants of the area exploited for various other minor resources are as follows:
- (a) **Dish & plates**: Butea monsoperma, Nelumbo nucifera, Shorea robusta.
- (b) **Brooms**: Phoenix sylvestris, Thysanolaena maxima.
- (c) **Mats and ropes**: Borassus flabellifer, Phoenix sylvestris, Saccharum benghalense, Scirpus grossus, Sparganium ramosum, Typha angustata.
- (d) **Baskets, suit-cases and chairs**: Bambusa arundinacea, Calamus tenuis, Celastrus paniculatus, Saccharum spontaneum, Tiliacora acuminata, Ventilago maderaspatana.
- (e) **Huts**: Bambusa arundinacea, Saccharum bengalense, Saccharum spontaneum.

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Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

East Wing IIIrd Floor 'A' Block Picup Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow Ph: 0522-4006746,2306491 Fax: 4006746

E-mail: <u>upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com</u>

web-site: http://www.upsbdb.org