



Traditional Methods of Collection and Processing of 'Tendu' Leaves in Ramgarh Vishdhari Wild Life Sanctuary, Bundi (Rajasthan)

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The present paper communicates traditional methods of collection and processing of 'Tendu' Leaves in Ramgarh Vishdhari Wild Life Sanctuary, Bundi district. Bidi leaves are obtained from *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb tree. The studies have been conducted by extensive survey of the area during March 2014 to December 2016.

Keywords : Indigenous, Plateau, Tendu, Traditional.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional knowledge is imperative for sustainability of natural resources. *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb belong to family Ebenaceae. It is deciduous tree and commonly known as 'Tendu'. Traditional methods of collection and processing of 'Tendu' leaves in Ramgarh vishdhari wild life sanctuary is presented in this paper.

Ramgarh vishdhari wild life sanctuary of Bundi district is situated in 24°59'11" to 25°53'11"N latitude and 75°19'30" to 76°49'30"E longitudes. It is a single compact and large forest ecosystem in Haroti region. The main indigenous communities residing in sanctuary area are Meena, Kanjar, Rabaris, Kalbelias and Mogiyas. The climate of the area favours the growth of dry deciduous forest.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study is based on field survey of entire Ramgarh vishdhari wild life sanctuary area of Bundi district, a part of Haroti plateau (South-East Rajasthan). To record the relevant information area were visited during 2014-16. A considerable amount of the work on the floristics in different region of India has appeared (Jayaraman and Singh, 1987; Pascal and Pellissier, 1996; Baruah, Mitali and Saikia, 2000; Sharma, 2010 and Ghelot, 2013).

The climate of the area is characteristic of adjoining south-eastern Rajasthan with a long and intensely hot summer, medium rainfall and a short mild winter. The present paper deals with utilization of this non timber forest product through the traditional knowledge in study area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb (Tendu) tree occurs naturally in the forests of Ramgarh vishdhari wild life sanctuary. The leaves obtained from this tree are commonly called as

Bidi leaves. It pollards extremely well, pruning the tree is therefore, one of the accepted management.

The collections of Tendu leaves (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb) initiate in the end of April and continue till first week of June, when leaves colour changes from red to bright green. Tendu leaves are available also after it but they become dry. So the work of collection has to be stopped. Then the work of separation of leaves is started.

One roll is made of fifty leaves. Roll of leaves spread under sun to dry. After three days the leaves are turned to other side to dry. Leaves of Tendu become dry completely within 6 to 10 days. Dry leaves are filled in the bags of Jute. Water is sprinkled on leaves in the evening to prevent them from dryness, so that their pliability can be preserved. The leaves are filled in the bags before sun rise. According to the marketing standard one bag of rolls consists one thousand roll of leaves, which weight is about 40kg.

Traditional knowledge of primitive societies is more scientific and natural. The present communication is aimed to promote the indigenous techniques of collection and utilization of forest produce in cost effective manner.

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