

MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Department of Applied Botany

BOS507- Economic Botany

Course outcome:

- Deals with various kinds of plant products that are of economic value
- This introduces them to diverse kinds of cereals, millets and vegetable crops from different geographical regions
- They will know the various other plant products which are of economic use
- Use of many of these are becoming limited now owing to their less availability or synthetic products taking their place
- Knowledge of traditional use of plant products is important and has to be passed on to future generations

Chapter on medicinal plants helps them to understand the importance of medicinal plant conservation

Teaching Hours: 10/Unit

Unit I:

Food Plants: Agroclimatic regions, diversity, nutritional and nutraceuticals properties, components of cereals, millets, legumes and nuts; vegetables - root, stem, herbage and fruit vegetables. Fruits - tropical and temperate.

Important spices and condiments of India.

Unit II:

Fibre and fibre yielding plants - textile fibres, uses of cotton; soft or bast fibres, jute industry, coir industry. brush fibres, filling fibres.

Vegetables sponges, artificial fibres.

Unit III:

Wood and Cork:

Diagnostic features of wood, mechanical properties of wood, seasoning of wood; veneers, plywood, lamina boards, cork and uses of cork.

Important timber yielding plants of India.

Unit IV:

Tannis, dyes, gums and resins

Tannis from bark, wood, leaves and fruits - uses of tannis

Dyes - sources uses of dyes.

Classification of Indian gums and resins, important plant sources for gums and resins.

Unit V:

Medicinal plants, Drugs from roots, stems, bark, leaves and flowers. Important medicinal plants of India. Threatened medicinal plants.

Fumitories and masticatories - Tobacco, arecanut, betel, catechu, opium, cocaine, hemp.

Suggested Readings

Anonymous 1952 The Wealth of India Series CSIR New Delhi

Hill A.F. 1952 Economic Botany Tata MacGrawHill Cp Ltd New Delhi

Kocchar, H.L. 1998 Economic Botany of the tropics, 2 Edn. Macmilln India Ltd. India

Pandy, B.P. 2000. Economic Botany, S. Chand and Company Pvt. Ltd., New Celhi

Pandy, S.N. and Chandha, A. 1999. Economic Botany, Vikas Publishing House Lvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

