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Timber yielding plants and their utilities in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Trees are important to humankind not only economically, environmentally and industrially but also spiritually, historically and aesthetically, for they support human life through various means by providing a wide range of products for survival and prosperity. Trees are mostly used for timber purposes. The present ethno-botanical explorations conducted in forest areas of Nizamabad resulted in the information on the timber yielding plants used for different purposes. Information gathered from Nizamabad district indicates that the tribals and other village people of this region possess good knowledge of plants used for different purposes, but their continuous and progressive exposure to modernization may result in extinction of such rich heritage of knowledge in the course of time. Besides medicine, food, fiber plants which yield timber are extensively used in the region for various purposes. The Present communication deals with 49 species of timber yielding plants which belong to 27 families.

Keywords: Timber resources, Timber utility, Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh

INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial human beings are depending on the plants for food, shelter and medicine. Besides this wood had considerable importance in the livelihood of ancient people, use of wood in making several things such as agricultural implements, boat building, handicrafts, packing cages, toys, construction, furniture, musical instruments, turnery, carving, etc [1-3]. The wood is considered as most important forest product till date and has contributed a lot to advancement of civilization. Though the forests are vanishing at alarming rates the requirement of the wood has not declined and even today wood is the most widely used commodity other than food and clothing [4-6]. The most commonly used wood in India is from following plants viz., *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del.; *Bombax ceiba* L.; *Albizia lebbeck* (L.) Bth.; *Toona ciliate* Roem.; *Juglans regia* L. *Salix alba* L. *Morus alba* L.; *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb. Ex Lamb) G. Don,; *Picea smithiana* (Wall.) Boiss.; *Pinus roxburghii* Sarg; *Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb.; *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb,; *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb.; *Pterocarpus santalinus* L.f.; *Diospyros ebenum* Koenig,; *Adina cordifolia* (Roxb) Hook. f.; *Tectona grandis* L.f.; *Shorea robusta* Roxb. ex Gaertn. F.etc.

Nizamabad district is situated in the Northern part of the Andhra Pradesh and is one of the 10 districts of Telangana region in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The District is bounded on the north by Adilabad District, east by Karimnagar District, south by Medak district and west by Bidar District of Karnataka and Nanded district of Maharashtra. The geographical area is 7956 Sq. kms i.e. 19, 80,586 acres spread over 923 villages in 36 mandals. Major rivers such as, Godavari and Manjeera cross Nizamabad district with some other streams like Kalyani, Kaulas and Peddavagu also exist in the district.

Forests

The forest is covering area of 1.67 lakhs hectares (4, 18,450 acres) forming 22% of the total geographical area of the district. The forests fall under the category of southern tropical dry deciduous type. Thick forest belt produces major population of *Dalbergia, Tectona, Terminalia, Rhynchosia* species. The forest- produce which includes timber, fuel, bamboo and *Diospyros* leaves yield good revenue. Mangoes and Custard apples grow well in the district.

Forest Dwellers

As per 2001 census the total population of the district is 23.55 lakhs. Of these tribal population is 1.65 Lakhs, Lambada, Naikpod and Yerukalas are major tribal groups in the area. Of these, Lambada is found most abundant through out the area. Besides these tribal groups, several other communities are residing as forest dwellers.

METHODS OF SURVEY

For documentation of information and collection of plant material, several tours were undertaken during the period 2007 - 2009. Data presented here is based on personal observations and interviews with local inhabitants and methodology used is based on the methods [7-9, 12]. Ethnobotanical information gathered was documented in datasheets prepared. For collection of plant material, a local informer accompanied the authors. Plant identification was done by using regional flora and flora of adjoining districts according to Cooke [4] and Pullaih and Rao [11]. Herbarium specimens were deposited in the Department of Botany, Deogiri College, Aurangabad.

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Enumeration

The present ethno-botanical explorations conducted in forest areas of Nizamabad is a first hand collection of timber resources from 49 plants species belonging to 27 families. The data includes the botanical name of species, vernacular name, family and its utility.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

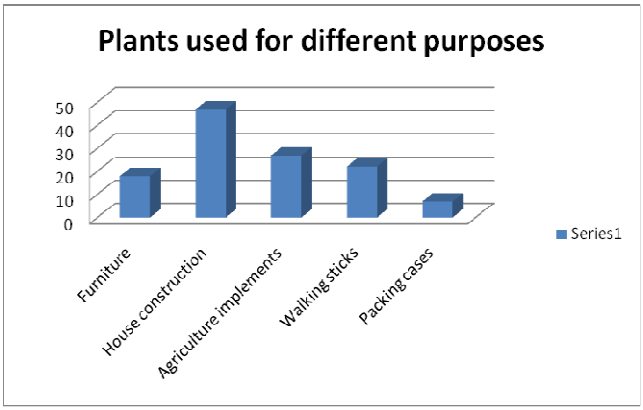
Information gathered from Nizamabad district indicates that the tribals and other village people of this region utilize wood resources for various purposes (Table 1. and Fig. 1), but their continuous and progressive exposure to modernization may result in extinction of the rich heritage of their knowledge of making of different articles by using wood, in the course of time.

The present survey confirms about the effective and efficient use of various tree species like Acacia *chundra, Alangium salvifolia, Azadirachta indica, Bauhinia racemosa, Chloroxylom swietenia, Gmelia arborea, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Melia azadirachta, Tectona grandis and Terminalia elliptica* belonging to families of Mimosaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Anacardiaceae and Fabacae. Most of the trees are used for house construction (47 species), manufacturing of agricultural implements (27 species) for furniture making (18 species).

Table 1. Timber Resources and their utility of trees found in Nizamabad district.

Sr. No	Botanical Name and Family	Local name	Agricultural Implements	Furniture	House Construction	Walking sticks	Packing Cages
1	*Acacia chundra* (Roxb. Ex Rottler) Willd Mimosaceae	Sundra	+	+	+	+	-
2	*Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd., Mimosaceae	Tella-tumma	+	+	+	-	-
3	*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Willd. ex Del. Mimosaceae	Nalla-tumma	+	+	+	-	-
4	*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. Rutaceae	Maredu	-	-	+	+	-
5	*Alangium salvifolium* (L.f.)Wangerin Alangiaceae	Ooduga	+	+	+	+	-
6	*Albizia amara* (Roxb.) Boir. Mimosaceae	Narlangi	-	-	+	+	-
7	*Albizia lebbeck* (L.) Bth. Mimosaceae	Dirisana	-	-	+	-	+
8	*Anogelssus latifolia* (Roxb.ex DC.) Combretaceae	Tiruman	+	+	+	-	-
9	*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. Meliaceae	Vepa	+	+	+	-	+
10	*Bauhinia purpurea* L. Caesalpiniaceae	Devacanchanam/ pedda ari	-	+	+	+	-
11	*Bauhinia racemosa* Lam. Caesalpiniaceae	Ari	+	+	+	+	-
12	*Bombax ceiba* L. Bombacaceae	Buruga	-	-	+	-	+
13	*Borassus flabelliber* L. Arecaceae	Thati	-	-	+	-	-
14	*Buchanania cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Almeida. Anacardiaceae	Morli	-	-	+	+	-
15	*Butea monosperma* (Lam) Taub. Fabaceae	Moduga	-	-	+	-	-
16	*Cassia fistula* L. Caesalpinaceae	Rela	+	-	+	-	-
17	*Casuarina equisetifolia* L. Casuarinaceae	Sarugudu	-	-	+	-	-
18	*Chloroxylon swietenia* DC. Rutaceae	Tella bitlu	+	+	+	+	-
19	*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. Fabaceae	Sissam	-	-	+	-	-
20	*Diospyrous chloroxylon* Roxb. Ebenaceae	Ullinda	+	-	+	-	-
21	*Eucalyptus globulus* Labill. Myrtaceae	Neelagiri	-	-	+	-	-
22	*Ficus benghalensis* L. Moraceae	Marri	-	-	+	-	-
23	*Ficus religiosa* L. Moraceae	Ravi	-	-	+	-	+
24	*Flacourtia indica* (Burm.f.) Merr. Flacourtiaceae	Mulielka	+	-	+	-	-
25	*Gmelina arborea* Roxb Verbenaceae	Gummudu-teku	+	+	+	+	-
26	*Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Ulmaceae	Namalinara	+	-	+	+	-
27	*Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb. Lythraceae	Chennangi	+	+	+	+	-

28	*Lannea coromandelica* (Houtt.) Merr. Anacardiaceae	Dumpidi	+	-	+	+	-
29	*Limonia acidissima* L. Rutaceae	Velga	+	-	+	-	-
30	*Madhuca langifolia* (Koen) Mac Bride. Sapotaceae	Ippa	-	-	+	-	-
31	*Mangifera indica* L Anacardiaceae	Mamidi	-	-	+	-	+
32	*Melia azedarach* L. Meliaceae	Turka Vepa	+	+	+	+	-
33	*Millingtonia hortensis* L. F. Bignoniaceae	Sadakamalli	-	-	+	+	-
34	*Moringa oleifera* Lam. Moringaceae	Munaga	-	-	+	-	+
35	*Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre. Fabaceae	Kanugu	+	-	-	-	-
36	*Psidium guajava* L Myrtaceae	Jama	+	-	+	+	-
37	*Santalum album* L. Santalaceae	Chandan	-	+	+	-	-
38	*Sapindus emarginatus* Vahl Sapindaceae	Kunkudu	+	-	+	+	-
39	*Semecarpus anacardium* L.f. Anacardiaceae	Jidi	-	-	+	+	-
40	*Sesbania grandiflora* (L.) Poir. Fabaceae	Avisa	-	-	+	+	-
41	*Sterculia urens* Roxb. Sterculiaceae	Tapsy	+	-	+	+	-
42	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels. Myrtaceae	Naredu, Allanaradu	+	-	+	-	-
43	*Tamarindus indica* L. Caesalpinaceae	Chinta	-	+	-	-	-
44	*Tectona grandis* L.f. Verbenaceae.	Teku	+	+	+	+	-
45	*Terminalia cuneata* Roth. Combretaceae	Tella maddi	+	+	+	-	-
46	*Terminalia elliptica* Willd. Combretaceae	Nalla maddi	+	+	+	+	-
47	*Thespesia populnea* (L.) Soland. ex Corr. Malvaceae	Gangaravi	-	-	+	+	-
48	*Wrightia tinctoria* R. Br. Apocynaceae	Palakodisa	+	+	+	-	-
49	*Zizyphus jujube* Mill. Rhamnaceae	Rani, Nara	+	-	+	-	+



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