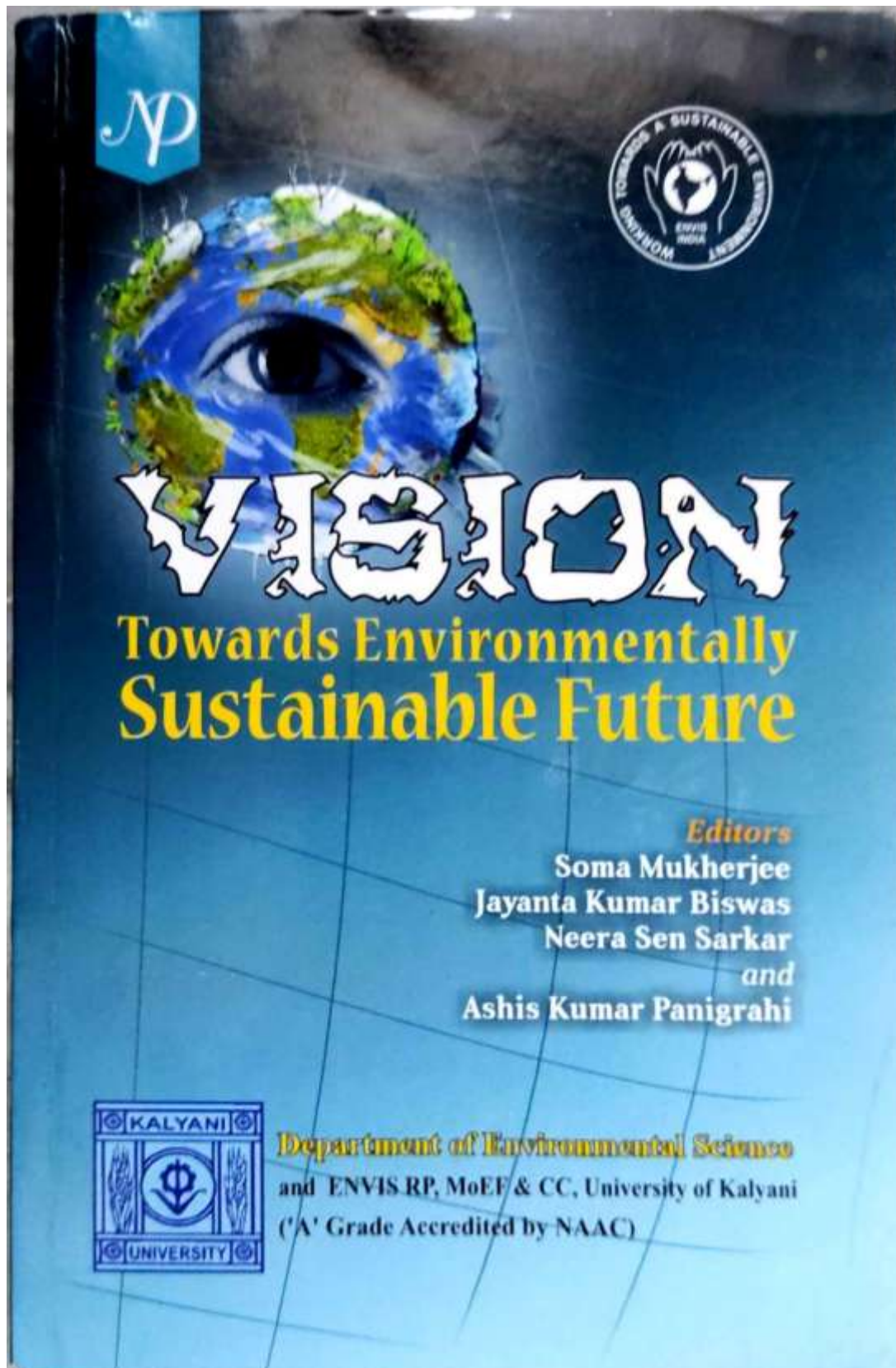


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Some of the Non-conventional Food and Medicinal Plants used by the Indigenous People:

A Case Study from Arunachal Pradesh

Goutam Ghosh

Abstract

Aboriginal People's knowledge is precious for biotic resource managing and its sustainable consumption. The ethnobiology of the tribes mainly the *Adis*, and the *Idus* in Arunachal Pradesh under Dehang-Debang Biosphere Reserve in north-eastern India was investigated. Some of the plants are of food sources as leafy vegetables, staple food; others are stem pith, tubers, root and seeds. Some of them produce local drinks. Finally a large number of plants used for the treatment of different ailments like malaria, cut, wounds, skin diseases, gastrointestinal disorders, snake bite, constipation and even cancer traditionally. An attempt has been taken in this paper to record such precious plants and their supervision and saving by these indigenous people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Biodiversity; Resource management; Indigenous people; Arunachal Pradesh

Introduction

Indigenous people have a unique appreciation of forest ecology and resources because their culture has grown with the jungles. Further, tribals are the depository of immense knowledge on the use of plant resources, which is often kept secret and is passed on by verbal tradition. These customary experience, which is now confined to the seniors like wise men, medicine men and certain groups of people like well known hunters and old folks are transmitted to the next generation through folk songs, folk lore, individual contact, and inheritance or individual gift. Arunachal Pradesh, which has been identified as one of the ecological "Hot spot" areas in the world (Myers, 1988), falls within this belt. Having a geographical area of 83,743 km² and population of the state has been the traditional habitat of tribal