

Role of Plant bioresources in Traditional Health care system: A case study from the Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Plant bioresources occupy a central position in tribal culture and economy. The ethnic group as Adis in Upper Siang of Arunachal Pradesh, whose dependency is more or less cent percent in the surrounding forests for their sustained livelihood. Through the years of co-existence, people have in depth knowledge of their forests, forests plants, their utilization, management and conservation through their own indigenous ways. Due to their close association with forests, people are well familiar with medicinal plants and have their own means and ways to use them. An effort has been made in this study to explore the composition of indigenous medicines and methods of their uses.

Bioresources include all products and services coming from natural environment that satisfies the needs and wants of human. The survival of mankind depends upon the availability of bioresources and their proper management⁶. The bio-resources which forms a major component of the natural resource, occupy a central position in tribal culture and economy. Since tribal communities live in close proximity with biodiversity rich landscapes, they have evolved local specific and novel livelihood strategies based on their indigenous knowledge. Ethnic groups across the globe possess tremendous amounts of traditional knowledge (TK), most of which are poorly

documented and hence are largely unknown. This knowledge was passed on through generations and it played an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity⁴. Traditional resource management systems are considered as unbiased system and often ensure equitable sharing of benefits from forests and other natural resources^{1,5,6}. Bio-resources and ethno-medicinal practices Ethnomedicine is the belief and practice relating to health and diseases that are products of indigenous cultural knowledge of the particular communities. Plants have been used in healthcare since time immemorial. Studies have been carried out globally to verify their