

Botanical studies of some medicated herbs from himalyan region with special reference to upper areas of district Shimla, Himachal Preadesh and their possible utilisation in Agri-Horti crop management

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Himachal Pradesh lies in the western Himalayan region of India . HP is bestowed with diverse climatic conditions which are rich in flora and fauna. In the past several studies and surveys have been made by the researchers to seek the knowledge of our rich flora and fauna comprising of medicinal plants , timber plants, and general utility plants which can be utilized for growth regulating properties in fruits and vegetables (Chauhan *et al.*, 2009) . Most of plants species have already been explored for one and the another uses. Human society and plants hold a specific relationship which is reflected through Ethnobotanical studies. Binu *et al.* (1992) compiled an outline of ethnobotanical work carried out in India. In Himachal Pradesh Arora *et al.* (1980) recorded the little known aromatic plants of Kullu valley. Gupta (1964) recorded medicinal plants of Chamba Forest Division and Kangra Forest Division (Uhal Valley), respectively. Chauhan and Chauhan (1988) surveyed the ethnobotany of Tgrans Giri Area of Sirmour district. Kapathi (1990) collected the ethnobotanical information on 50 herbal medicines, along with parts of plants used and mode of administration of each species. In the past attempts have also been made to utilize plants

having rich medicinal properties to enhance the quality of important fruit and vegetables at post and pre-harvest level for the management of some commercial crops.

The present investigation is aimed at creating awareness about the ethno botanical wealth of upper Shimla valley among the phytochemists and environmentalists for scientific establishment. The importance of gathering information on medicinal plants is to initiate their scientific management and exploitation for the economic development of the area as well as their applicability for enhancing pre and post harvest quality of fruits and vegetable in an era of climate change where excess chemicals use in the field and in lab has contributed a lot to climate change . Documenting the indigenous knowledge through ethno botanical studies is also important for the understanding of biological resources as well as their sustainable utilization. The data presented here may provide interesting material for further studies.

The study was carried out in upper Shimal areas of the district Shimla. It lies between 31°58'00" north latitude and 77°6'04" east longitude. The total area of the district is 5003 km². The altitude varies from 1300 meters to over

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