

## Famine fodder of Porbandar district, Gujarat

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### SUMMARY

This article describes the indigenous knowledge of local communities on the plants used as fodder in famine condition in district Porbandar. A total of 24 plants species of 18 families are used. Main leaves are used as fodder.

Key words : Famine fodder.

India is basically an agricultural country and about 70 percent of its people live in villages . Their livelihood is dependent mainly on agriculture and animal husbandry. Though India has a huge live stock population of over 345 millions, besides poultry, the production of milk and other livestock products is the lowest in the world. We have about one fourth of the total cattle populations of the world.

Porbandar district occupies the western part of Gujarat lying between 21°15' and 21°50' north latitude and 69°55' and 70°25' east longitude .geographical area of this district is about 2272 sqkm.Rain is irregular in monsoon. From socio-cultural point of view, porbandar district exhibits great ethnic and cultural diversity. Most of the time people feel extreme drought condition during summer and winter .Even people don't get sufficient amount of drinking water at that time survival of their live stock is very difficult. They use variety of plant or plant parts to feed their cattle's large section of the people involved in the animal husbandry sector, locally known as *Maldharies*, still practice seasonal migration .Especially during droughts, a common phenomenon in the region, they need to migrate in search of fodder to long distances with in the district and some time outside the district also.

Ethnobotanical work of this region is known through Thakar (1910), Jain (1991), Bhatt et al (2001).The present paper attempts to address the plant used as fodder in extreme condition of famine. It is important to mention here that in the Porbandar district past record of such documentation are completely absent.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present article is an outcome of an ongoing study on the documentation of traditional knowledge of local communities on the ethnobotany in district Porbandar. Structured questionnaire survey method was employed to document the traditional ethnobotany knowledge of local community in district Porbandar. During field studies, a total of 42 villages were survived from different parts of district Porbandar. The villages and nesses were selected based on the broad socio-economic setup, topographical variation and cultural diversity .In each of the selected

villages, 8% house holds were randomly interviewed to document the ethnobotany knowledges. However, care was taken to represent all the communities and occupation group within the selected village. In such a manner a total of 399 respondents were interviewed using structured questionnaires. The interviews were conducted individually as well as in groups with the respondents .However, while interviewing in the groups, participants observation method was also employed to observe the respondents and recording the knowledge in terms of number of plant known to them for veterinary purpose, methods of medication and other related information .The respondents consisted of all age groups, ranging from 15 years to above 90 years. Besides documentation of traditional knowledge, other major of objective serve of to known whether the practice of traditional healing still exist in the region and whether traditional

Ethnobotany knowledge is being transferred to the younger generation.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

24 plants species belong to 18 families are used as fodder in famine condition in Porbandar district.*Avicennia officinalis* grows in sea crick and easily available in drought condition for fodder stem of *Carica papaya* cut into smaller pieces and given to cattle in famine condition, *Cressa cretica* grows in saline soil and moisture is available. Very useful as fodder in drought .*Echinops echinatus* is spiny plants and largely available in drought entire plants is crushed with 'Modari' and fed to live stock. *Fimbristylis bisumbellata* largely occurs in Bardasagar dam rizome dig out by 'Kodari' and burn it root is removed and given to cattle *Mimosa juliflora* largely available in adverse condition and pods of it very useful as cattle fodder . *Zizyphus nummularia* grows vegetative in summer, twig is cut with axe in to small pieces and spines are removed and cattle can feed easily.

In extreme condign *Manilkara hexandra* and *Sterculia urens* survive an its leaves are chopped and feed to cattle in Barda hills by *Maldhari* leaves of several other large trees are chopped and feed to live stock

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