

Wild vegetables used by tai-shyam people of Sivasagar district and their present stats

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Field surveys were conducted during two seasons of the year spring and autumn each year (2007-09) and information about wild vegetables were gathered through the interaction with old age Tai-Shyam man and women. Data were collected regarding their food habit and utility of wild vegetables in different seasons of the year. 38 plant species were identified. For each species botanical name, vernacular name, family and parts used were recorded. Some of which are threatened and endangered. ONGCL drilling operation and extension activities of small tea growers are major threat to the biodiversity of Sola and other reserve forests of the district.

Biodiversity which is defined as the variety and variability amongst the living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur. The role of biodiversity is the survival and continence of human race on this planet which is now well understood and better appreciated but the realization of alarming situation has come rather too late as large number of species of animals and plants have already been wiped off mainly due to human civilization leading to the habitat and environmental degradation and serious imbalance in nature.

Sivasagar district comprised with three subdivision viz., Sivasagar, Nazira and Charaideo with total area of 2668 square km. It lies between 94°8' and 95°4' East longitude and 26°7' and 27°2' North latitude. Seven reserve forests and more than 25 grazing land with elevated topography receives the highest rainfall of the area, which average rainfall 400 mm and altitude 105 m-130 m above sea level. Eco-friendly adaptation and geographical significance are unique feature of the district

Most of the tract of the area alluvial formation with a great depth of alluvium put down in comparatively recent geological times over what was originally a floor of gneiss.

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The Naga hills from of the Patkai Range which raised due to earth movement and have been covered subsequently with deposited strata. Configuration of the ground is average terrain of Sivasagar division in flat. it is gradually hilly towards the south of the division Sola reserve forest lies on the foot hills of the Naga hills tract. The terrain is flat on the northern ends and gradually rising south wards.

Number of ethnic people inhabits in the transitional zone of such forest area viz., Tai-Khamiyang, Tai-Shyam, Tai-Phaka, Borahi, Motok, Sonowal Kachari, Mishing Naga, Tea garden and ex tea garden including Indian Nepalties, where wild vegetable are available. These tribal people of the area used different type of plant species in different aspects of their day today life such as food, fodder, medicine, wild vegetables, fibre and domestic purposes

Most of the Tai-Khamiyang inhabited near Sola and Sapekhati reserved forests which are rich in phytodiversity. But major area of these forest covered by ONGCL and extension activity of the small tea garden. The aim of the present investigation is to study the wild vegetables used by Tai people of this area. The Tai Ahom communities' one of the oldest ethnic component of Assam which has a rich heritage of culture and written records.

Floristic studies of Assam have been carried out time to time by several workers as Kankjilal (1930-40), Sharma (1978), Gogoi and Islam (2008), Gogoi (2008), Jain (1991).

Survey work carried out from March 2007 – March 2009 among surrounding inhabitant of Sola and Sapekhati Reserve forest area of the district. Personal interaction with old age person who regularly used wild vegetables from the areas and their present status. Moreover, contact and interview with the Tai-woman those are regularly collect wild vegetables. Collected specimens were preserved in the form of herbarium and deposited in the Gargaon College botany department Laboratory.

38 plant specimens were collected identified and compared with original herbarium sheets and enumerated below with scientific name, local name, family and parts