

# Enumeration and economical uses of cultivars of Valsad and Navsari district in South Gujarat

T.G. GOHIL AND A.B. THAKOR

Accepted : June, 2009

**Key words :** Bhinda, Dungri, Kaligai

**T**his paper presents 64 Cultivars and its economical uses from the study area.

***Abelmoschus esculentus* Medic. (Malvaceae):**

Locally called as “Bhinda”. Rainy season courtyard crop. Tender pods are used as vegetable. Ripe seeds are roasted. Immature fruits are diuretic, demulscient. Seeds are stimulant, antispasmodic.

***Allium cepa* Linn. (Liliaceae):**

Locally called as “Dungri”. It is a winter crop. Onion bulbs are used as vegetables and for flavouring and pickling. Stimulant, diuretic and expectorant. Used against flatulence and dysentery. Roasted onions are used as poultice.

***Amaranthus hybridus* Linn. (Amaranthaceae):**

Locally called as “Rajgaro”. It is a winter crop. Grains are used as a staple food by the tribals. Also used on pills and as a blood purifier.

***Amaranthus spinosus* Linn. (Amaranthaceae):**

Locally called as “Tandeljo”. The leaves are used as vegetables.

***Amaranthus viridis* Linn. (Amaranthaceae):**

Locally called as “Tandeljo”. The young shoots are used as vegetables, also as a cattle feed.

***Bauhinia purpurea* Linn. (Caesalpiniaceae):**

Locally called as “Rato Kanchnar”. Planted as an ornamental.

***Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Tuvar”. Major pulse crop in the area. Cultivated during monsoon and winter. The seeds are rich in proteins contains two globulins *Cajanum* and *Conjanine*. Green pods are used as vegetable and as

fodder. Dry plants are used as fire wood and broom.

***Capsicum annum* Linn. (Solanaceae):**

Locally called as “Marcha”. Fruits are carminative, extensively used as spice. Used in Lumbago and rheumatism.

***Carrisa conjesta* Wt. (Apocynaceae):**

Locally called as “Karamda”. The fruits are edible.

***Catharanthus roseus* (Murr.) G Don. (Apocynaceae):**

Locally called as “Barmasi”. Frequently cultivated as a garden ornamental. The entire plant is used in high blood pressure, leukemia and diabetes.

***Cicer arietinum* Linn. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Chana”. The seeds are rich in protein. Consumed as food.

***Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Schrad. (Cucurbitaceae):**

Locally called as “Karingda”. Fruits are warmed and the juice is applied on rheumatic swellings. The oil from the fruit has a commercial significance.

***Clitorea biflora* Dalz. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Kaligai”. The whole plant is used as fodder. Plant is considered is sacred.

***Clitorea ternatea* Linn. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Kaligai”. Seeds are used as laxatives. Root is a powerful cathartic like Jalap.

***Corchorus capsularis* Linn. (Tiliaceae):**

Locally called as “Chhunch”. Jute fibers obtained from the plant are used in making ropes and cordages.

***Corchorus olitorius* Linn. (Tiliaceae):**

Locally called as “Nani Chhunch”. The fibers obtained from the plant are used in making ropes, cordages and mates.

***Corchorus trilocularis* Linn (Tiliaceae):**

Locally called as “Moti Chhunch”. The plant yields

**Correspondence to:**

T.G. GOHIL, Department of Biology, B.K.M. Science College VALSAD (GUJARAT) INDIA

**Authors' affiliations:**

A.B. THAKOR, Department of Biology, B.K.M. Science College VALSAD (GUJARAT) INDIA

fibers used in ropes, cordages and mates.

***Crotalaria juncea* Linn. (Tiliaceae):**

Locally called as “Shan”. Fibers obtained from the plant is used in making cordage, ropes etc. Also grown as green manure. Leaves are used in skin diseases. The plant possesses root nodules, which helps in increasing soil fertility by nitrogen fixation.

***Crotalaria retusa* Linn. (Tiliaceae):**

Locally called as “Shan”. Fiber yielding plant. The seeds are rich in protein. Used as cattle feed.

***Cucumis melo* Linn. (Cucurbitaceae):**

Locally called as “Sakarteti”. Cultivated in riverbeds for its edible fruits.

***Curcuma longa* Roxb. (Scitamineae):**

Locally called as “Hardar”. The plant is used as flavouring agent and as spice. Yields dye used as coloring material. Dried rhizome is used in culinary purposes.

***Dioscorea bulbifera* Linn. (Dioscoreaceae):**

Locally called as “Dukarkand”. Tubers acrid, eaten as vegetable during scarcity. The powder is used in curing ulcers, piles and dysentery. Natives also use the bulbils as food.

***Eluesine indica* (Linn.) Gaertn. (Poaceae):**

Locally called as “Ragi”. Major millet crop of the area. It is a staple food of the local tribal inhabitants. Also used as an alcoholic beverage. The plant is tonic, astringent, used in biliousness and diabetes. Straw is used as fodder.

***Hibiscus cannabinus* L. (Malvaceae):**

Locally called as “Ambadi”. Fibers obtained from the stem are used to prepare ropes. The tender leaves are used as vegetable and purgative. Young flower buds and seeds ground into paste and administered orally for abortion.

***Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. (Malvaceae):**

Locally called as “Khati Ambadi”. It is cultivated in the dooryards. Fleshy calyx used for jellies, souring beverages and sauce. Fruits anti-scorbutic. Leaves, seeds and ripe calyx diuretic. Tender leaves used as vegetables. Seed cake used as cattle feed. Stem yield a fiber used in making cordages.

***Luffa acutangula* (L.) Roxb. var. *acutangula* (Cucurbitaceae):**

Locally called as “Turiya”. Tender fruits are used as vegetable. Leaves are used as poultice in haemorrhoids, leprosy and spleinitis. Leaf juice is useful in conjunctivitis and ammenorrhoea. Ripe seeds purgative and emetic. Seed cake used as manure.

***Luffa acutangula* (L.) Roxb. var. *amara*. (Cucurbitaceae):**

Locally called as “Kadva Turiya”. Fruits are bitter and useful in curing piles.

***Manilkara hexandra* (Roxb.) Dub. (Sapotaceae):**

Locally called as “Rayan”. The stem bark crushed with black pepper, the extract mixed with sugar and milk is administered for piles and stomachache. Fruits are edible. The branches used in religious ceremonies.

***Medicago polymorpha* L. (Fabaceae):**

Oil extracted from the seeds is used externally in rheumatism.

***Medicago sativa* L. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Ghoda ghash”. Cultivated as a fodder plant.

***Mimusops elengi* L. (Sapotaceae):**

Locally called as “Borsallii”. Flowers used for religious purposes. The seed oil is useful in piles. Roots are used in manufacturing local tooth powders.

***Momordica charantia* L. (Cucurbitaceae):**

Locally called as “Karela”. Tender fruits are used as vegetable. Root decoction administered orally for peptic ulcers. Leaf juice mixed with cereals given for poultry diseases.

***Momordica dioica* Roxb. (Cucurbitaceae):**

Fruits are bitter and are consumed as vegetable. Roots crushed with tamarind juice and the decoction given orally to relieve muscular pains. Root paste is applied on head to remove dandruff. Leaf juice is applied externally on burns.

***Moringa concanensis* Nimmo. (Moringaceae):**

Locally called as “Saragvo”. Stem bark, paste applied on foot sores. Gum applied on cuts and wounds. Tender leaves and fruits are used as vegetable.

***Morus alba* L. (Moraceae):**

Locally called as “Satur”. Fruits edible. Rich source

of vitamin 'C'. Leaves are used in sericulture.

***Murraya koenigii (L.) Spreng. (Rutaceae):***

Locally called as "Kadhilimbdi". Root bark or leaves ground with jaggery and the paste administered in dysentery. Leaves are used for culinary purposes.

***Murraya paniculata (L.) Jacq. (Rutaceae):***

Locally called as "Kamini". Flowers fragrant, used in perfumery. Branches used in decoration and worship.

***Musa paradisiacal Linn. (Musaceae):***

Locally called as "Kela". Fruit is edible, tonic and laxative. Stem is used in leprosy and hysteria. Young leaves are used as dressing in burns and blisters.

***Nicotiana tabacum L. (Solanaceae):***

Locally called as "Tamaku". Effective in constipation. Used as a psychoactive remedy against hypertension.

***Oryza sativa L. (Poaceae)***

Locally called as "Chokha". Major cereal consumed by local tribal inhabitant. Good source of carbohydrate. Dried straw are used as fodder.

***Pennisetum americanum (Burm.) Stapf & C. E. Hubb. (Poaceae):***

Locally called as "Bajri". One of the staple food of the local inhabitants. Grains edible.

***Phoenix sylvestris (L.) Roxb. (Palmae):***

Locally called as "Khajuri". The leaves are used as thatching material. Fruits edible. Local drink made out of the plant juice is called as "Niro" and is consumed lavishly by the tribals early in the morning. Leaflets used for making mats and brooms.

***Physalis minima L. (Solanaceae):***

Locally called as "Popti". Ripe fruits are edible. Leaves consumed as vegetables.

***Pisum sativum L. (Fabaceae):***

Locally called as "Vatana". Cultivated for its edible seeds.

***Portulaca oleracea L. (Portulacaceae):***

Locally called as "Khati Bhaji". Tender branches and leaves used as vegetable.

***Saccharum officinarum L. (Poaceae):***

Locally called as "Sherdi". Cultivated for its stem. The juice from the stem is used in manufacturing sugar and jaggery. Fermented as a source of alcoholic beverage. The dried by product is used as firewood.

***Saccharum spontaneum L. (Poaceae):***

Wild relative of *S. officinarum*. Used as fodder plant and as a substitute for the same.

***Sesamum indicum L. (Pedaliaceae):***

Locally called as "Tal". Oil seed plant utilized by the tribals mainly for culinary purposes. Applied as local massage and hair oil. The leaf juice is applied on burns and inflammations.

***Solanum melongena L. (Solanaceae):***

Locally called as "Ringan". Cultivated for its edible fruits. Roots are antiasthmatic and stimulant. Contraindicated for rheumatic patients. Fruit possesses antihepatic properties.

***Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench. (Poaceae):***

Locally called as "Jowar". Cultivated for its edible fruits. The plant is used as fodder.

***Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers. (Poaceae):***

Locally called as "Baru". The plant is used as fodder. Dried stem is used in making brooms and roof thatching.

***Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels. (Myrtaceae):***

Locally called as "Kala Jambu". Ripe fruits edible and potential remedy for diabetes. Leaves are used as fodder. Seeds used as livestock feed. Also used as a green manure.

***Syzygium heyneanum Wall. (Myrtaceae):***

Locally called as "Pani Jambu". It is a wild relative of *S. cumini*. Ripe fruits edible.

***Trachyspermum ammi (L.) Sprague. (Apiaceae):***

Locally called as "Ajmo". Used for culinary purposes.

***Trichosanthes cucumerina L. (Cucurbitaceae):***

Locally called as "Jangli Parwar". Cultivated for its edible fruits, which are consumed as vegetable.

***Trigonella foenum-graecum L. (Fabaceae):***

Locally called as "Methi". The ripe fruits and seeds are used in culinary purposes. The plant powder is useful

in rheumatism, taken orally.

***Vigna aconitifolia* (Jacq.) Marechal. (Fabaceae)**

Locally called as “Math”. Cultivated for its seeds, which are used as vegetable. Also used as fodder.

***Vigna trilobata* (L.) Verdcourt. (Fabaceae):**

Locally called as “Vagdau Math”. Leaves used as fodder and as a livestock feed. Tender pods are used as vegetables.

***Zea mays* L. (Poaceae):**

Locally called as “Makai”. Grains or corn is extensively used as food and as forage and as a livestock feed. Oil obtained from the seeds is used in cooking. Maize silk is astringent, diuretic and chlorotic.

***Zingiber officinalis* (Scitamineae):**

Locally called as “Adu”. Used as spice in culinary purposes. Dye obtained is used as coloring material. Juice is useful in stomachache and in digestion.

***Zizyphus mauritiana* Lam. (Rhamnaceae):**

Locally called as “Bor”. Tender fruits crushed and useful in diarrhoea. Fruits edible. Fruit paste considered cooling. Wood used for house construction.

***Zizyphus oenoplia* (L.) Mill. (Rhamnaceae):**

Stem bark decoction is used in dysentery. Dried stem bark powder applied on cuts and wounds. Leaves crushed with that of *Acacia chundra* is taken orally for bone-fracture.

***Zizyphus rugosa* Lam. (Rhamnaceae):**

Stem bark ground with seed oil of *Schleichera oleosa*, warmed and massaged over rheumatic pains. Fruits edible.

***Zizyphus xylopyrus* (Retz.) Willd. (Rhamnaceae):**

Stem bark paste made into pills and taken orally to cure cholera. Fruits edible

## REFERENCES

- Desai, M.J. (1976). A contribution to the flora of Bansda forests.
- Cooke, T.H. (1908). The flora of Presidency of Bombay. Vol. I-III (Reprinted ed. In 1958), Calcutta.
- Inamdar, J.A. (1968). A preliminary survey of Flora of Dharampur forests.
- Patel, R.M. (1971). The flora of Bulsar and its environs.
- Reddy A.S. (1987) Flora of Dharampur forests.
- Shah G.L. (1978) Flora of Gujarat state.
- Sharma B. D. and Singh, N.P. (2001) flora of Maharashtra state.
- Singh, V. (2001). Monograph of Indian subtribe Cassiinae (Caesalpiniaceae). Scientific Publishers. Jodhpur.
- Vora, H.M. (1987) Floristic survey of Dharampur forest.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*