

**Manual of**

# Ethnobotany

**2nd Revised Edition**



**S.K. Jain**





# **MANUAL OF ETHNOBOTANY**

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*Editor*

**S.K. JAIN**



(Largely based on the lectures delivered during 1<sup>st</sup> Training Course and Workshop on Ethnobotany, held at Lucknow in 1986).

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## PREFACE

Man has depended on plants from time immemorial. Our knowledge of the intimate relationship between early man and plants has come to us mainly through surviving tradition. This relationship which now forms the core of the interdisciplinary science *Ethnobotany* has attracted much attention, not only due to its great academic or historical importance, but also due to many economic applications.

The subject has attracted many students and researchers particularly in botany, agriculture, anthropology, archaeology, sculpture, medicine and linguistics, and in plant-based industries. However, the subject is comparatively new to our country. Few people have clear concepts about its scope, subdisciplines, interdisciplinary implications, literature or its method of study and practical applications.

We, in the Society of Ethnobotanists, therefore, thought it useful to organize a short Training Course on this subject in early 1986 (A brief report on the Training Course is provided at the end as an Appendix). The present volume forms the proceedings of this Training Course. It comprises of two sections, A and B. Section A has the text of the lectures during the Training Course in Ethnobotany, and the section B has some of the material and exercises handled by the trainees during the Workshop and in practical classes.

Lectures are being reproduced almost as supplied by the lecturers. Their sequence has been so arranged as to gradually and step by step introduce the scope, methodology, and applications of the subject.

Being an interdisciplinary science, Ethnobotany has been variously defined and elaborated. Deliberately, no effort has been made to change them to coincide with the concept of the Editor. At this young age of this subject, we should like the readers to have different view points. Particularly, the various methods adopted by different workers for research on this subject or in their field

work have been given, as modifications in methodology are necessary to suit different approaches, situations and objectives.

In addition to instructions on scope and methods of Ethnobotany, some lectures and instructions were arranged on the subject of preparation of scientific papers and research projects. Much of the scientific work does need to be reported in the form of research papers, technical articles or reports. Many scientific funding bodies now a days provide financial support for research projects. In order to promote ethnobotanical research by as many people as possible, hints have been given on preparation of scientific projects and evaluation of scientific projects.

Field work in Ethnobotany requires proformas of various kinds, depending on the enquiry and the research objectives. Several kinds of elaborate and brief proformas have, therefore, been provided in section B.

The Training Course had been possible due to the efforts and help of large number of people. The Editor and the Society of Ethnobotanists are particularly grateful to the following :

- 1 The Director and staff members of National Botanical Research Institute for several facilities, particularly to Dr. P.V. Sane for also presiding over the concluding session.
- 2 Dr. S.N. Jha, then Vice-Chancellor, Lucknow University for kindly inaugurating the Course.
- 3 The Directors of the CDRI, CIMAP, ITRC, Kukrail Crocodile farm and R.R.I. Ayurveda for facility to visit their institutions, etc.
- 4 Authorities of the Motilal Memorial Society, particularly late Dr. Radha Krishanji, and Dr. S.K. Gaur, Provost of the Hostel for facility of accommodation and catering etc.
- 5 All the lecturers, particularly outstation scientists for sparing their valuable time and submission of the text of their lectures.
- 6 The sponsoring institutes for nominating trainees.
- 7 M/s N.C. Shah, Ved Prakash, Anil Goel, Prakash Chandra, K.K. Singh, R.P.S. Tomar, Abdul Rauf, Brij Lal, N.K. Sharma, D.C. Saini and S.C. Srivastava for assist-



ance in all preparations and Kumari Suruchi Saxena for secretarial assistance.

- 8 Dr. Vinay Ranjan for help in reading proofs of the 2nd edition.

Finally, the Editor earnestly hopes that this book will not only popularize the important subject of ethnobotany but will also provide basic instructions for persons freshly interested or inducted into this discipline.

**S.K. JAIN**



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*SECTION - A*  
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