

Ethnobotany of Rajasthan (India)

V. Singh • R.P. Pandey



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V. SINGH • R.P. PANDEY

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Dedicated
to
The people of Rajasthan
Who
revealed their secrets
for the welfare of mankind

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FOREWORD

Ethnobotany is the study of past and present interrelationship of human societies and the surrounding plant wealth. The term Ethnobotany was first coined by Harshberger in 1895. But it was Robbins (1916) who broadly defined this term. According to him, Ethnobotany is the "study and evaluation of all phases of plant life amongst primitive societies and of the effect of vegetal environment upon the life".

With the rapid advancement of human civilization, the indigenous knowledge of utilisation of various plants and plant parts was on the verge of extinction when several conscientious workers all over the world began active work to ensure its protection and further advancement. In India, the work on Ethnobotany was initiated by Dr. S.K. Jain, former Director, Botanical Survey of India who is aptly known as the Father of Ethnobotany in India.

Dr. V. Singh and Dr. R.P. Pandey are eminent scientists working in Botanical Survey of India. They have done commendable work in the field of Ethnobotany and their intensive research work on the Ethnobotany of Rajasthan has been put into this book. Publication of this work will be useful for the present and future generations and will also help to extract potential medicinal and other uses of plants for the welfare of human beings and would create enthusiastic interest towards the conservation, sustainable utilisation and management.

I congratulate the authors for bringing out such a commendable work that is relevant to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of plant resources. This book is a useful treatise in the field of Ethnobotany which will unfold before the readers, bit by bit, the man-plant relationship of the tribals of the State of Rajasthan.

Calcutta

Date : 9-1-1998

(P.K. HAJRA)

Director

Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

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V. Singh
R.P. Pandey

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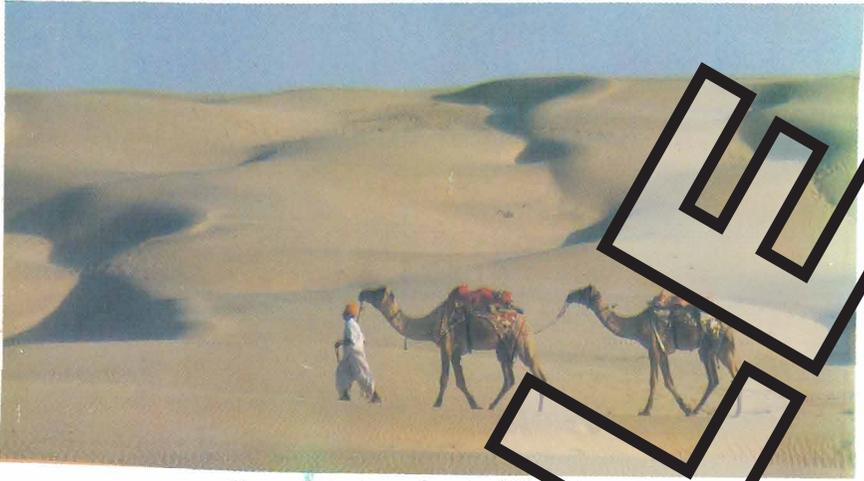


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Photo 3. A view of mixed-dry deciduous forest on Aravalli hill



Photo 4. Bhil women-folk enjoying the local weekly market (Hat), (Top)



Photo 5. A Garasian family and hut in the background. (Middle)

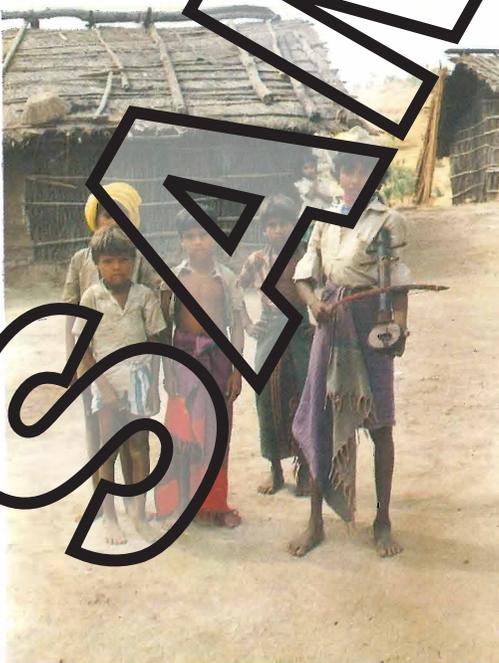


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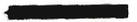


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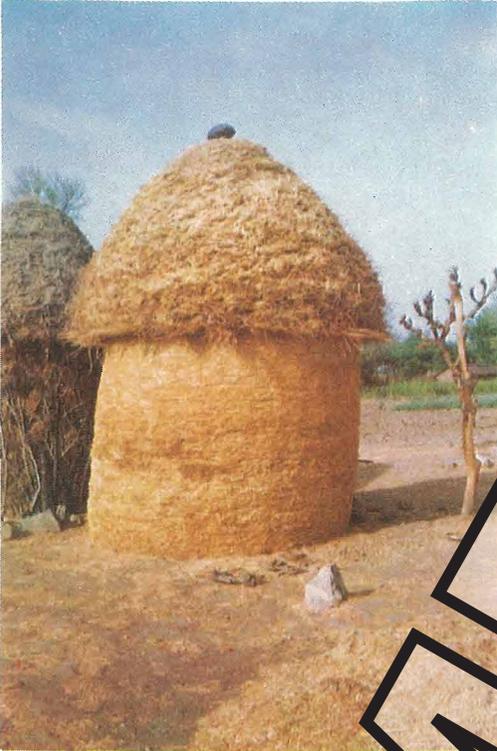


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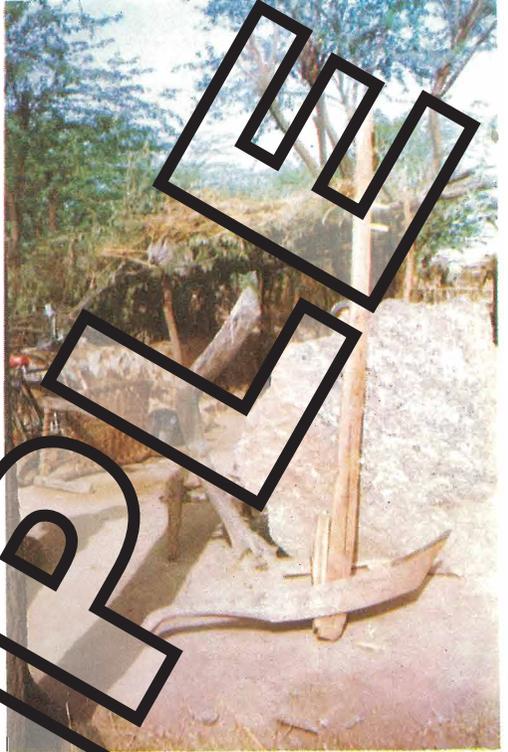


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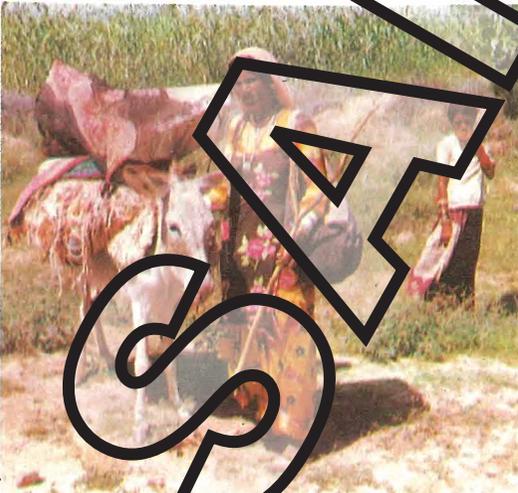


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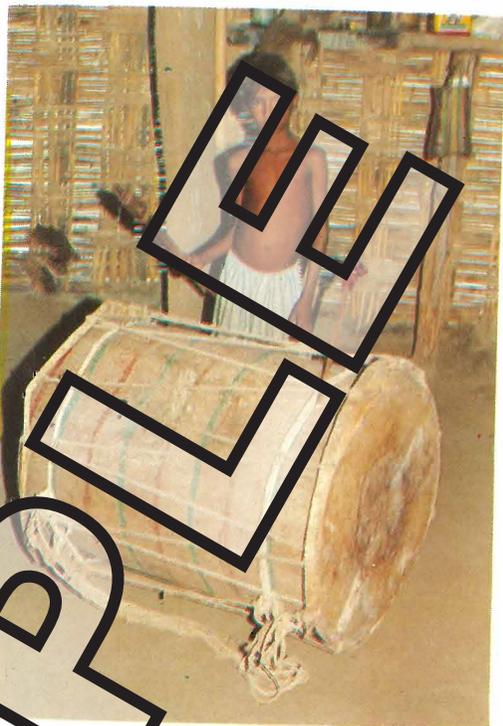


Photo 15. 'Dholak' - a common musical instrument.



Photo 16. Bhil tribals marching to suitable place during famine in the desert.