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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PLANTS USED AS A FAMINE FOOD BY MONGIYA TRIBE IN DISTRICT SAWAI MADHOPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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Abstract

This research paper deals with the plants used as famine food by people of Mongiya tribe in district sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan. During investigation 30 angiosperms plants belonging to 15 families have been documented. These plants are tabulated alphabetically with their botanical name and uses.

Introduction:-

Food, fodder, and water are the fundamental necessities that must be met in order to ensure the health and development of any creature, including human people. Rainfall is the primary contributor to both the quantity and quality of water available for drinking and agricultural use. In the event that there is below-average rainfall, the water level in the ground will decline, which will result in a shortage of water. Due to the lack of consistent rainfall during the course of the rainy season, the state of Rajasthan has, on several 17 occasions, been forced to endure a severe famine. The historical record shows that there was a terrible famine in the years 1868–1870 and 1899–1901, which were respectively referred to as "Trikal" and "ChappaniaAkkal." About one million people and animals perished as a result of starvation and exposure to the elements since there was no food, no fodder, and insufficient water for drinking. There are reports that during the period of VikramSamvat, almost every single village, tehsil in the state of Rajasthan were severely affected by the scarcity of food, fodder, and drinking water. As a consequence of this, there was a very significant migration of people from one location to another in search of their fundamental needs. The wild plants in the region that was impacted by the famine were also severely harmed, and the inhabitants in that region continued to only rely on the wild plants that had been used during the time of the famine.

Study Area

Rajasthan state's SawaiMadhopur district is located in northwest India. The district of SawaiMadhopur covers 10527 km^2. It is bordered on the north by the Dausa district, on the east by the Karauli district, on the northeast by the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, on the south by the Bundi and Kota districts, and on the west by the Tonk district. The renowned Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is located in this district, which also contains the Aravalli Hills. The district's southeast corner is defined by the Chambal River.The largest state in India,

Rajasthan is situated in the north-western region of the nation. Geographically, it is located between $23^0 3'$ and $30^0 12'$ longitude and 69^0 30' and $78^0 17'$ latitude. Rajasthan's vegetation is very diverse because the state's various

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ecosystems may be found throughout the state. There are grasslands, scrub jungles, wetlands, and deciduous woods in addition to the predominately desert habitat, each of which supports a distinctive combination of plant species. Although there are numerous tribes spread throughout Rajasthan, many of them call the southern region of the state home and have developed distinct identities.

Material and Method:-

The Mongiya people of the district sawaimadhopur Rajasthan mainly depend on forest for food, fodder and other basic necessities. An intensive survey was made to characterize the different wildly growing plants used by mongiya people during famine conditions. For this purpose collection and documentation of famine food plants has been done during Febuary 2020 to December 2022 by several field visit. To collect information about the famine food plants used by the Mongiyatribals a questionnaire was prepared and conducted personal interviews with the village head, knowledgeable tribal people. Voucher specimen was collected for preparation of herbarium. The plant specimens were identified with the help of flora (Jain, 1991 andjain 2012) and taxonomic literature. The collected information was checked by available literature (Katewa and Guira, 1992).

Result and Discussion:-

Total 30 plant species are found to be used by Mongiyatribals of district sawaimadhopur Rajasthan. The Mongiya people still lives with minimal requirements and with the dependency of plant product for food, shelter and medicine. This study shows that how these plants are useful for civilization in food crisis in respect of nutritional value. Salvi and katewa (2016) study shows that 46 famine food plants from 27 families are used in Southern Rajasthan and this study claims 30 famine food plants from 15 families with their different plants part use in sawaimadhopur district Rajasthan. Vadilal and pugalenthi describe the nutritional value of *Tamarindusindica*, *Cassia tora* and *Ficus spp*. Onweluzoet.al,(1995) studied on isolation and characterization of protein of some legume plants. Senaet.al, (1998) proved that *Mucunapruriensis* good source of nutrient which use as famine food.Sankhlaet.al. (2005) describe the stored food which used in famine period in ancient time. Many plants recoded in this area used better famine food.

Table 1:- The plant species used in famine period.

S.No	BotanicalName	Uses
1.	*Acacianilotica*	Pod is consumed as vegetables
2.	*AcaciaSenegal*	Both the seeds and the pods may be consumed as vegetables.
3.	*Achyranthesaspera*	The seeds are ground into a powder and then combined with flour.
4.	*Asphodelustenuifolius*	Leavesusedasvegetable
5.	*Bauhiniaracemosa*	Direct consumption of pods
6.	*Buteamonosperma*	Young leaves are harvested for their edible qualities.
7.	*Cassiatora*	Young leaves are harvested for their edible qualities.
8.	*Ceropegiabulbosa*	Both the leaves and the tuberous roots are consumed.
9.	*Cyperusrotundus*	Rhizome are combined with flour
10.	*Dendrocalamusstrictus*	Seeds directly utilised as food during the famine
11.	*Diospyrosmelanoxylon*	Uncooked fruits and vegetables
12.	*Euphorbiahirta*	Shoot for consumption as a vegetable.
13.	*Ficusbenghalensis*	Fruits are consumed whole, but in times of severe deprivation, dried fruits are ground up and combined with flour.
14.	*Ficuscarica*	Fruits are consumed whole, but in times of severe deprivation, dried fruits are ground up and combined with flour.
15.	*Ficushispida*	Fruits are consumed whole, but in times of severe deprivation, dried 16fruits are ground up and combined with flour.
16.	*Ficusmollis*	Fruits are consumed whole, but in times of severe deprivation, dried fruits are ground up and combined with flour.
17.	*Grewiahirsuta*	Dried fruits that were saved for a time of famine and consumed then
18.	*Grewiateliifolia*	Dried fruits that were saved for a time of famine and consumed then

19.	*Grewiavillosa*	Fruits that have been dried out and are in a state of hunger
20.	*Madhucaindica*	Usage of the corolla directly, as well as use of seed oil
21.	*Manilkarahexandra*	The dried fruit is kept in storage.
22.	*Momordicabalsamina*	Vegetables made from the leaves and fruits of the plant.
23.	*Mucunapruriens*	Consumption of roasted seeds
24.	*Physalisminima*	Fruit that has been dried out and is consumed.
25.	*Sesbaniaseban*	Flowers and immature pods are harvested for their edible qualities.
26.	*Tamarindusindica*	The roasted seeds are ground up and combined with the floral powder.
27.	*Terminaliabellirica*	Consumption of roasted seeds takes place.
28.	*Wrightiatinctoria*	Juvenileleavesusedasvegetable
29.	*Ziziphusmauritiana*	The powdered dried fruit that's used to produce the sauce.
30.	*Ziziphusnummularia*	Fruit pericarp that has been dried and used to create sauce.

Conclusion:-

The study showed that total 30 plants belonging to 15 families of angiosperm are being used for lives during famine period of food crisis by Mongiyatribals of district Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan. Most of plants are belonging to Fabaceae, Moraceae and Malvaceae family. These 30 plants are used in the form of leaves, Rhizome, pods, seeds, flowers and fruits by the Mongiyas in study area. They utilize seven plants for their leaves and eighteen plants for their fruits. Five plants are consumed in various ways by tribal people for their stems.

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