

Forest Dept forms Biodiversity Register for Bareilly Village

Priyangi Agarwal, TNN | Jun 6, 2015, 09.51PM IST



BAREILLY: For years, residents of Mudia Ahmednagar village have known about the medicinal and other benefits of the local plants that grow in the area. There were very few besides them who had the knowledge.

However, the forest department along with other biodiversity experts recently decided to catalogue all plants in the area and filed a report titled the 'People Biodiversity Register'. The report has been sent to the state biodiversity board for registration of the plants species found in the area.

"We have prepared a report detailing the local species of flora and have also mentioned special properties of the plant, if any, and how villagers have been using them for their wellbeing," said Dharam Singh, divisional forest officer. He added that 175 species of flora was found in this village which included nearly 35 medicinal herbs like *achyranthes aspera*, *adhatoda vasica* and *latjira*.

"Our ancestors used many plants for healing purposes but such knowledge became extinct with their demise. A retired teacher, Rukum singh (68), has been using some of the herbs

found in the village to cure diseases like gout, piles, leucorrhoea and blood pressure. We have discussed such things in detail in the report so that the knowledge can be passed on to others," said Singh.

Once the state biodiversity board registers the report, it will become a legal document.

"Companies across the world have been fighting to get patents on flora and fauna of a particular region. For instance, our ancestors for centuries have been using turmeric for healing purpose but in 90s, Germany had claimed its patent right for discovering the healing effect of turmeric. However, the claim of Germany was rejected when India had shown few research papers on the same topic which were conducted in 60s," said Alok Khare, head of the technical support group (TSG) of this project and a faculty member with the botany department in Bareilly College.

The national biodiversity board had initially directed that such a biodiversity report be carried out in every village of the district. However, later the orders were changed and it was conducted only in one village due to shortage of funds.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/Forest-dept-forms-biodiversity-register-for-Bareilly-village/articleshow/47568391.cms>