

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

The majestic Himalaya is a treasurer of floral, faunal and bioresource diversity. Among all the Himalayan states of India, Uttarakhand is well known for its floral and faunal diversity including traditional knowledge of medicinal plants due to its distinct geography and ecological marginal conditions. Communities of the region have familiar with the healing properties of available plant species as a natural resource. They have a small scale traditional agriculture system and have other strong traditions of protecting the biodiversity of the region. Medicinal and aromatic plants are integral parts of rural communities. Rural people have indigenous knowledge for curing diseases by utilizing these various natural resources from generations. Medicinal plants tolerance to harvest varies with climatic conditions as the temperate herbs become highly vulnerable to the harvest of individuals. The residents of the area have a vital role in environmental management and propagation of medicinal plants due to traditional knowledge and their use as medicine. It is a valuable and sustainable knowledge system developed over generations by local communities of the area. The local healers have their traditional system for curing various diseases with undocumented knowledge. It has been observed as one of the best options of sustainable livelihoods for the residents of the area. Studies on the use of traditional knowledge of medicinal plants in different areas of Garhwal have been conducted and observed the continuous exploitation of several medicinal plant species from the wild and substantial loss of their habitats and decline of many high-value medicinal plant species over the years. The use of harvesting technology of medicinal plants would be valuable to recover the traditional knowledge and generate sustainable livelihoods for the community. Inhabitants including local healers and rural women have well developed indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants with strong healing capacities.