

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF UNIVERSAL
PHARMACY AND BIO SCIENCES****IMPACT FACTOR 4.018*******ICV 6.16*******Pharmaceutical Sciences****Review Article.....!!!****ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS****Dr. S. Senthilkumar****Karur, Tamilnadu, India.****KEYWORDS:**

Drugs, Medicinal Plants,
Agriculture, Forestry,
Natural Products.

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ABSTRACT

Plants serve many functions in our life. The most common is as a reliable provision of food through agriculture. Ethno botany is the study of plant uses by native peoples. Economic botany focuses on cultivated plants in modern era. Plants are used in medicine and provide a number of drugs. This practice is common from the earliest times to the present, and serve as the feedstock for many drugs. Industrial products like timber, wide range of chemicals and paper are some examples. In addition to above economic plants give pleasure through gardening to us.

INTRODUCTION:

Plants are extremely important in the lives of people throughout the world. People depend upon plants to satisfy such basic human needs as food, clothing, shelter, and health care. These needs are growing rapidly because of growing world population, increasing incomes and urbanization.

Plants provide food directly of course and also feed livestock that is then consumed itself. In addition, plants provide the raw materials for many types of pharmaceuticals as well as tobacco, coffee, alcohol and other drugs. The fiber industry depends heavily on the products of cotton, and the lumber products industry relies on wood from a wide variety of trees.

Agriculture plays an important role in providing basic necessities of mankind in three ways-food, clothes and shelter. In addition to agriculture, we draw many essential for our living from nature. Forests play a very important role in providing useful products for non ex. Rubber.

Economic important of Plants:**1. Leguminous Plants:**

All leguminous plants have special modules in their root system and these contain bacteria. These bacterial fix atmospheric nitrogen directly and change it into nitrogen compounds. This process is known as nitrogen-fixation. The nitrogen compounds are used by the plants as natural nitrogen fertilizer.

2. Coniferous Forest:

Trees with needle-like leaves with persistent foliage and cone bearing reproductive organs. Found in cold or temperate cold climates. Ex. Pine, Cedrus, Fibres.

3. Forests Support Wild Life:

The wild animals are nature's great beautifies and even more that they maintain proper balance in their ecosystem through food chain. Many forests in our country have been specially reserved for preserving wild life. These also are a source of knowledge and provide recreation to people all over the World.

4. Drugs obtained from other Plants:

In addition to the above mentioned higher plants, some very important drugs like the antibiotics are obtained from the lower plants like fungi ex. Penicillin, Streptomycin, tetracycline etc. Similarly Ergot which is derived from another fungus *claviceps purpurea*, is used in obstetrics for accelerating childbirth. It is also used extensively to increase blood pressure and for controlling uterine haemorrhage after child birth.

5. Cereal Crops:

Cereals are used as food not only in India but all over the world. They are rich in carbohydrates and grown for food. It includes wheat, rice, maize, bajra, barely, rye oat, sorghum, ragi etc. These are consumed by animals as well as by human.

6. Dairy Products:

Fresh dairy products are ready to eat foods easily contaminated by undesirable microorganisms. Some of them are spoilage microorganisms which may produce unwanted visual appearance and diminish the commercial value of cheese, other ones are pathogens that affect product safety.

Ex: Cinnamon, Cardamom and Clove oils.

7. Pharmaceutical Industry:

The beginning of the pharmaceutical industry dates back to the eighteenth century when developments of chemistry Isolation, Purification and structural elucidation of natural compounds of plant origin started. The development of isolation techniques facilitated the production of compounds of high purity.

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| 1. Capsaicin | - | Blood circulation, Rheumatism |
| 2. Sennoside A and N | - | Laxative |
| 3. Silybin | - | Liver production |
| 4. Silymarin | - | Antioxidant |
| 5. Diosgenin | - | Source of steroids |

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|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 6. Lanatoside C. Digoxin | - | Heart muscle activity |
| 7. Parthenolide | - | Migrence, menstrual disorders |
| 8. Ginkgolides | - | Sedatives, Secretion |
| 9. Hyoscine | - | Hypertension |
| 10. Reserpine | - | Antimalarial |
| 11. Ergo Cristine | - | Migraine |
| 12. Ergocornine | - | Autonomic nervous system |
| 13. Ergocryptine | - | Adrenaline antagonist |
| 14. Vincristine | - | Lymphomas |
| 15. Taxol | - | Ovarian Cancers |
| 16. Baccatin | - | Breast Cancers |
| 17. Deacetyl baccatin | - | Head and neck cancers |
| 18. Rutin | - | Antihaemorrhagic |
| 19. Emetine | - | Expectorant |
| 20. Psychotrine | - | Expectorant |
| 21. Psychotrine | - | Antimmour action. |

CONCLUSION:

Several plants have economic qualities and are used for edible of medicinal purposes. They are being listed since time immemorial and are reported to have side benefits in place of adverse effects generally produced by the synthetic and chemical based harmful products. The plants used in cosmetics do not merely enhance beauty but have definite medicinal value.

These products have side benefits, besides being effective in main problem they tone up whole system thus ensure effective cure. There is a lot of scope for research on natural preservative, colour and herbs for internal use in cardiac nervous and immune system diseases, which are sometimes induced by the

artificial life. Medical practitioners and manufacturers can take the help of mother nature to provide safe and harmless substitute for harmful chemicals and synthetic products.

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