



RESEARCH ARTICLE

DOI: 10.15740/HAS/IJFCI/9.2/44-47

***Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmel: A multipurpose tree of traditional agroforestry systems of Bundelkhand**

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ABSTRACT : *Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmel. (mahua) tree is also known as tree of poor because it fulfills many requirements of poor people of rural landscape. It is also known as reward of nature to poor/tribal communities because the survival of tribal communities still depends on different non-timber forest products (NTFP) obtained from Mahua. It is a multipurpose tree of traditional agroforestry systems of Bundelkhand. It has been one of the major sources of food for poor communities living in rural areas. The Mahua tree produce a variety of NTFP namely flower, seed, seed oil, seed cake, leaves, stem bark etc. The present study was carried out to explore multiple uses of mahua products and its role in rural life of the poor communities of the Mawai Bujurg, Banda Uttar Pradesh. We conducted survey of Mawai Bujurg and collected information related to different products of mahua other than wood. We recorded that the dried flowers are used in preparation of mahuasharvat a local drink for some special occasion. The dried flowers also used after boiling with sattv in rheumatism, to get relieve from the pain; whereas some people also prepare “Mahudi” a local wine by fermenting the dried flowers. The green leaves are also used during worship on festivals and marriage ceremony. The bark is a rich source of protein, therefore, the dried bark is boiled with tea and consumed. Other than providing protein the bark is also cures some diseases viz., diarrhea, tonsillitis, leprosy etc. Seeds are also eaten and edible seed oil called Butter or *Ghee* and used for cooking purposes.

KEY WORDS : Multipurpose tree, Traditional agroforestry system, NTFP, Mahua flower

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE : Singh, Kaushal (2018). *Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmel: A multipurpose tree of traditional agroforestry systems of Bundelkhand. *Internat. J. Forestry & Crop Improv.*, 9 (2) : 44-47, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/IJFCI/9.2/44-47. Copyright @ 2018: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

ARTICLE CHRONICAL : Received : 31.08.2018; Revised : 06.11.2018; Accepted : 21.11.2018

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