



Plants in Folk Songs and Proverbs Baran District (Raj.)

Dr. K.M. Meena

Lecturer-Dept. of Botany, Govt. College, Baran

Abstract: Amongst Saharia most of the songs are sung in groups and express various themes. Songs may be sung daily at various times singly or in groups while working or at leisure. Some of the themes on which they are sung are nature, seasons, famine, agriculture marriage, child birth, car piercing etc. Several songs are on gods and goddesses. Some of them are on exploitation by the various agencies and famine, lullabies etc. are really touching. Some of the songs sung on plants or songs with mention of plants e.g. *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Madhuca indica*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Emblia officinalis*, *Azadirachta indica* etc.

Keywords: Saharia, Songs, Nature, Plants, Baran.

Though most of the workers on the tribes have tried to give sample songs, exclusive literature on tribal songs (Sharma, 1954, 1956, 1957) is rather scanty, Agarwal (1981) has enumerated some of the common plants in folk songs.

Songs mainly on plants

1. Bajra ki roti khal

Gawar phalli ko saag.... Tribal telling in this song says that he eat the bread of *Pennisetum americanum* (bajara) with cooked vegetable of *Cynamopsis tetragonoloba* pods.

2. Chirmi aala dala chyaar

wari jau chirmi par.... Tribal parents compare their daughter with seeds of Chirmi (*Abrus precatorius*). She is innocent and beautiful like the seeds of Chirmi.

3. Jeero jeev ko bairee re

Mat bay mahara parnya jeero.... In this song wife advised her husband for not sowing the seeds for *Cuminum cyminum* (jeero), because not getting the return even after the diligent hard work done from sowing to harvesting.

4. Mangadyo so bhanwar

Mnane hariyo matiro..... In this song a Meena lady requests her husband to bring the fruits of *Citrullus lanatus* (Matira).

5. Aama tharo meta ghanoped ur gahari gudali chhavali

Ji tall suta re sasunji rajot.... A young lady is telling addressing to *Mangifera indica* tree that its shade is dense and dispersed and her mother-in-law's son (her husband) is sleeping under it.

6. Banwlya bayo re tharo beej

Koi koon lagayo tharo ped.... A passenger lady after sitting under the shade of *Acacia nilotica* tree says to it that who sowed your seed and who planted your plant.

7. Dholo maharo khave aadhi roti..

Batave chutney re batave chutney..... In this song a wife tells about her husband that he eats half bread and chutney of Red Chilli (*Capsicum annuum*).

8. Kalyon gayo balyo mela me

Lyayo kali lakadi, Lyayo kali lakadi.... In this song a wife is saying about her dark complexioned husband that he went to a fair and brought a black wooden stick of *Acacia nilotica*.



9. Mahari swa lakh ri loom,

gaam gal endunee.....In this song a wife say's to her husband that she has lost her endunee (a pot resting device to be put on head made by the culms of *Saccharum bengalense*) which was very costly (Sawa lakh).

10. *Pardeshi mama neemoli khoova de re,*

Pardeshi mama neemoli khoova de re.....In this song child say to his uncle, "you give me neemoli (fruit of *Azadirachta indica*) to eat".

The Proverbs

Traditional folk sayings or proverbs are simple formulations of wisdom acquired over long periods most of the proverbs are on plants themselves. The causing account of plant based proverbs has been categorized into general proverbs involving no species in particular, proverbs involving a single plant species; two plants species proverbs involving, there or more species general proverbs.

S.No.	Name of Plant	Proverbs
1	<i>Allium cepa</i>	'Kanda ka chuntara utarbo theek koni hai'
2	<i>Azadirachia indica</i>	'Jyna ka paddya sabhav, ka jasi jeevsnu, Neem meetha hay, ka seencho snu'
3	<i>Azadirachia indica</i>	'Neemda ko keedo neemda ma raji'
4	<i>Balanites aegytiaca</i>	'Hingoto hi meetho hoto to gwafya hi nahi chhodata'
5	<i>Brassica juncea</i>	'Rai ka bhav ratou hi gya'
6	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	'Dhak ka teenpatta'
7	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	'Bhang pibo sora lerna lebo doro'
8	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	'Ekla channa snu bhad koni fute'
9	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	'Chahe Kharbooja na chaakku par palko aur chahe chakku na kharbaaja par katsi to kharbaoja hi'
10	<i>Cyamopsis tetragonoloba</i>	'Kheti gari gwar ki, dhanni dholi gay'

References

1. Jain, Nemichand, 1964. Bhil Bhasha, Sahitra and Sanskriti (in hindi). Heera Bhiya Prakashan, Indore.
2. Jain, S.K. (ed.) 1981. Glimpses of Indian Ethnobotany. Oxford an IBH publishing co. New Delhi.
3. Jain, S.K. (ed.) 1987b. A manual of Ethnobotany Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
4. Jain, S.K. (ed.) 1987b. A manual of ethnobotany. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
5. Jain, S.K. 1963. Magico-religious beliefs about plants among the Adivasi of Bastar. Quart. Jour. Myth. Soc. 54: 73-64.
6. Jain, S.K. 1963. Studies in Indian ethnobotany II- plants used in medicine by the tribals of Madhya Pradesh. Bull. of Regional Research Lab, Jammu, 1(1and2): 126-128.
7. Jain, S.K. 1964. Plant resources in tribal areas of Bastar Khadi Gramodyog. 10:557-561 also in vanyajati 12: 147-173. Jain, S.K. 1964. Plant resources in tribal areas of Bastar Khadi Gramodyog, 10: 557-561.
8. Jain, S.K. 1964. Wild plant foods of the tribal areas of Bastar (Madhya Pradesh). Pro. Nat. Inst. Sci. India. 30B: 56-80 Jain, S.K. 1964. Wild plant foods of the tribal areas of Bastar (Madhya Pradesh). Proc. Nat. Inst. Sci. India. 30B: 56-80 Jain, S.K. 1965. Medicinal plant lore of the tribals of Bastar. Econ. Bot. 19:236-250.
9. Jain, S.K. 1965. Wooden musical instruments of the Grounds of central India. Ethnomusicology. 9(1): 39-42.
10. Jain, S.K. 1967. Ethnobotany - its scope and study. Indian Mus. Bull. 2:39-43.
11. Jain, S.K. 1984. Methods and Approaches in ethnobotany. Oxford and IBH publishing Co. New Delhi.
12. Jain, S.K. 1987a. Methods and Approaches in Ethnobotany. Deep Publications, New Delhi.



13. Jain, S.K. 1989. Ethnobotany. *Ethnobotany*. 1: 1-5.
14. Jain, S.K. 1991. *Contribution to Indian Ethnobotany*. Scientific publishers, Jodhpur.
15. Jain, S.K. 1991. *Dictionary of Indian folk medicine and ethnobotany*. Deep Publications, New Delhi.
16. Jain, S.K. 1991a. *Dictionary of Indian folk medicine and ethnobotany*. Deep Publications, New Delhi.
17. S.K. 1995. *A manual of ethnobotany* (2 ed.). Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
18. Jain, S.K. 1997. *Contributions of Indian Ethnobotany*. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
19. Jain, S.K. and Mudgal, V. 1999. *Hand book of ethnobotany*. Bishan Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun.
20. Jain, S.K. and Tarafdar, C.R. 1970. Medicinal plant lore of the sandals (A revival of Boddings Work). *Econ. Bot.* 24: 241 - 278.