



Anti Diabetic Medicinal Plants of North East India – Future Prospective

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Editorial

Since time immemorial, plant based drug has been used for amelioration of various ailments ranging from common cold to cancer. In developing countries like India, where natural resources are abundant, the role of medicinal plant in disease management is evident. The Indian ayurveda reported various herbs that are used for treatment of several human diseases including type 2 diabetes mellitus.

A few Indian origin plants are reported to have high hypoglycaemic activity such as *Momordica charantia* (bitter grout), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Indian Kinoo tree), *Trigonelle forenum greacum*, (Fenugreek), *Acacia Arabica* (Whistling throne), *Aegle marmelos* (Golden apple), *Allium sativum*, (Onion), *Aleo vera*, *Ficus bengalensis* (Indian banyan tree), *Swertia chirayita* (Swertia), *Zinnigiber officinale* (Ginger), *Azadirachta indica*, (Neem), *Catharanthus roseus* (Madagascar Periwinkle), *Dillenia indica* (Elephant apple), *Clerodendrum infortunatum* (Glowery blower), *Mangifera indica* (Mango),

Cinnamamum tamala (Indian Bay leaf), *Withanai somnifera* (Ashwagandha), *Emblica officinalis* (Indian gooseberry), *Terminalia arjuna* (Arjun) etc.

In countries Like India, China and Nepal medicinal plants and their products are important revenue generating resources and hence provide income to economically marginalised and indigenous people. Medicinal plants have high prospective since they offer a wide range of subsistence, culture and monetary benefits. Plant based drug formulations are principal health care source for majority of tribal communities and herbalist of India. The plant derived drugs have a stable market due to growing interest of pharmaceutical companies and domestic manufacturers. Proper documentation of ethno medicinal plants is very important for its conservation and sustainable use. Uncovering the hidden treasure of nature with scientific screening is a major challenge to present day biologists, since the future prospect of our health care system lies in medicinal plants.