

ABSTRACT

An ethnofloristic study of the plants of District Nankana Sahib, Pakistan was carried out by gathering information on traditional uses of plants by the inhabitants of the area from Sep., 2009 to Oct., 2010. The area has great biodiversity and rich in ethnobotanical utilization.

253 plant species belonging to 81 families, including 1 Pteridophyte, 1 gymnosperm, 67 dicots and 12 monocot families were recorded. The inhabitants of the study area used 25 plants as fruit species, 21 as pot herb and vegetables, 44 as food, fodder and forage plant species, 4 as oil yielding plant species, 4 as smoked plant species, 2 as fumigant species, 9 are defined as timber wood species, 4 species are pickled, 5 species used as condiments and species, 4 species used as miswak, 5 species used as salad, 24 fuelwood species, 6 species used as fences and hedges, 4 species used in roofing and thatching, 25 plants as ornamental, 2 plant species as ethnoveterinary medicines, 162 ethnomedicinal plant species, 81 multipurpose plant species, 18 as honey bee plants and 6 plant species had no local use. The local people are using medicinal plants because they are poor, can't afford synthetic drugs and they have knowledge of medicinal plants.

These investigations led to the conclusion that local authorities and other funding agencies should promote the cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants. Markets and industries should be promoted in the area to alleviate poverty.