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STUDY OF NATURALLY GROWING TREES IN THE PERIPHERY OF SRI GANGANAGAR CITY

Dr. Sunil Kumar

Associate Professor, Botany

Govt. Girls College, Sri Ganganagar, India

ABSTRACT

Trees are the important part of flora of a place. Trees are important to us as they provide food, fodder, fuel, medicines etc. Beside this they manage the ecosystem for our survival. A survey is conducting for listing the naturally growing trees in the periphery of Sri Ganganagar city. The survey revealed that most of dominant trees species are belonging to legume family. *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia lebbek*, *Azardirecta indica*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Eucalyptus lanceolatus* are dominant tree species in the study area.

KEY WORDS: Tree, Leaves, Flower, Fruit.

INTRODUCTION

Sriganganagar district is situated in the north – western part of India between 28.40 to 30.30 N latitude and 72.30 to 75.30E longitude and at 175.6 meters height above mean sea level. As per the agroclimatic zones of Rajasthan it has been designated as Irrigated North Western Plain Zone- 1b. Geographical Zone- 1b forms North West part of 'Thar' desert and comprised of arid and semi arid areas but agroclimatic conditions are quite different from the neighboring areas of Haryana and Punjab. Sri Ganganagar district has four micro-farming situations (i) Plain irrigated sandy loam soils, (ii) Ghaggar Flood & Clay soils, (iii) Rainfed & Sandy soils, (iv) Salt affected soils. The zone has extreme climatic conditions with scorching summer, cold winter and mild rainy season. Dust storm during summer, frosty winter night and ground fog are some of the typical features of weather and rainfall is relatively low in western part as compared to eastern part of the zone. The mean rainfall in zone is 32.6 cm of which 75 per cent is received in the month of July to September. The temperature of this zone fluctuates from as low as 0.00C to as high as 49.00 C. January is the coldest and June is the hottest month of the year. This survey has the objective to list the naturally growing trees in the periphery of Sri Ganganagar city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field area included for this survey is 8-10 km. Periphery of Sri Ganganagar city. Several field trips were conducted to collect information. Information also collected from local people, farmers and students.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Sixteen trees are described here with botanical name, common name, family and some description.

1. *Acacia nilotica*

Common Name - Babul, Desi Babul

Family – Mimosaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – September - March

It is a medium sized branched ever green tree. Stem has black to dark brown longitudinally fissured bark. Leaves bipinnate with whitish straight stipular spines. Flower golden yellow in globose head. Pods compressed, moniliform and constricted between seeds. Seeds black brown, smooth, compressed and suborbicular.

2. *Albizia lebbek*

Common name - Sares

Family - Mimosaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – August - February

A large, unarmed, deciduous tree. Leaves are bipinnate. Flower fragrant, pale green in umbellate heads. Pods flat, straw - coloured and shining. Seed smooth shining pale brown and compressed.

3. *Azadirachta indica*

Common Name - Neem

Family - Meliaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – December - May

A large evergreen tree with spreading branches. Leaves imparipinnate and crowded near the end of branches. Flower fragrant in panicles. Fruit smooth drupe yellow when ripe and one seeded.

4. *Dalbergia sissoo*

Common Name - Sisham, Talli

Family - Fabaceae

Flowering and fruiting – March - August

A medium sized deciduous tree with spreading leaves imparipinnate. Pale yellow flowers in axillary panicle. Pods thin, strap shaped and 1-4 seeded.

5. *Cassia fistula*

Common name - Amaltas

Family- Fabaceae

Flowering and Fruiting - April - June

Medium sized tree with dark green, shining leaflets. Bright yellow flowers are in large axillary racemes. Pods cylindrical, long, blackish - brown when ripe. Small flat seed are embedded in black pulp.

6. *Prosopis Juliflora*

Common Name - Bilayati – babul

Family - Mimosaceae

Flowering and Fruiting - Most part of the year.

Small evergreen tree armed with axillary spines. Leaves 2 pinnate and leaflets 15-25 pairs. Flowers pale – yellow in axillary spikes. Pods linear, compressed, straight and 10-15 seeded.

7. *Prosopis Cineraria*

Common name - Khejri

Family - Mimosaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – March - June

A small tree with slender branches armed with some what compressed, straight scattered prickles. Leaves 2 pinnate and leaflet 7-12 pairs. Small yellow flowers in axillary spike pods 10-20 cm. long, rigid, straight, cylindrical and 10-15 seeded. Seeds embedded in brown pulp.

8. *Melia azedarach*

Common Name - Bakain

Family - Meliaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – March - may

Medium sized deciduous tree with spreading branches. Leaves 1-3 pinnate and leaflet 3-7. Flowers in axillary panicles. Drupes 5-loculate, each locule 1-seeded.

9. *Tamarindus indica*

Common Name - Imli

Family - Caesalpinaceae

Flowering and fruiting – November - April

A large ever green tree with thick trunk and dense spreading crown of green foliage. Leaves paripinnate, have 10-20 pairs of glabrous leaflets. Flower small yellow with purple streaks. Pods are irregularly constricted between seeds, curved, compressed and pale brown in colour. Seed dark brown and smooth.

10. *Morianga oleifera*

Common Name - Sahjan

Family - Moringaceae

Flowering and fruiting – Throughout the year

A medium sized tree with 3 pinnate leaves. Flowers white or yellowish in spreading panicles. Fruit capsular, pendulous and 9-ribbed.

11. *Cordia dichotoma*

Common Name - Gunda, Lesuwa

Family - Ehretiaceae

Flowering and fruiting – February – June

A medium sized deciduous tree. Leaves longer than broad. Flower white in dichotomous cyme. Fruit globose, yellow to red when ripe with an edible pulp.

12. Bauhinia variegata

Common Name – Kachnar

Family- Fabaceae

Flowering and fruiting – April - June

Medium sized deciduous tree with dark park. Leaves boarder than long and divided into two lobes. White to pink flowers in racemes. Pods flat glabrous and brown.

13. Eucalyptus lanceolatus

Common Name - Safeda

Family - Myrtaceac

Flowering and Fruiting - December - May

A tall evergreen tree. The bark is usually smooth, white to cream coloured. Leaves lance - shaped and glossy to dark green. The flower buds are arranged singly or group in leaf axils. Mature buds are top shaped, green and with operculum. Fruit is a woody conical capsule.

14. Ficus religiosa

Common Name - Pipal

Family - Moraceae

Flowering and Fruiting - April - June

Large deciduous tree with spreading branches and grayish white bark. Leaves entire broadly elliptic obovate, shining, leathery with rounded base and narrow long apex. Fruits paired receptacles smooth, globose, black to purple when ripe.

15. Ficus bengalensis

Common Name – Bargad, Bar

Family - Moraceae

Flowering and Fruiting June – September

A large ever green tree with spreading branches sending down aerial roots, which afterward become the trunk. Leaves entire, elliptic obovate with cordate base. Receptacles axillary globose, red when ripe.

16. Ziziphus mauritiana

Common Name - Bordi

Family - Rhamnaceae

Flowering and Fruiting – September – February

A small, evergreen much branched tree. Branches drooping armed with prickles. Leaves ovate elliptic rounded at both ends. Flowers greenish - yellow in axillary clusters. Fruit a drupe, globose, fleshy yellowish orange to red when ripe.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey revealed that most of dominant trees species are belonging to legume family. Acacia nilotica, Albizia lebbeck, Azardiracta indica, Dalbergia sissoo, Prosopis juliflora, Eucalyptus lanceolatus are dominant tree species in the study area.

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