REVIEW

A HAND BOOK OF ETHNOBOTANY

The major contribution that the book – A Hand Book of Ethnobotany' is in understanding the natural sciences – The Ethnobotany. Then Ethnobotany syllabus carricula in Graduate and Post-Graduate courses in ten chapters, for all the Univesities of India makes it a good publication.

In this publication title refers to the knowledge systems of various ethnic groups about plant wealth in their surroundings. In India, there is abundance of unwritten information on uses of plants specially on medicinal values of plants; information to ascertain the origion of cultivated plants etc. The values of Ethnobotany in various aspects have been globally well understood and very much recognised in recent times. The Ethnobotany has got its importance as newer branch of science in different Universities, Research bodies like Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environment and Forests, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research etc.

Since the subject is interdisciplinary and unique in nature, the publication has been provided with many examples from published literature in box form along with numerous titles of books and published papers which lead for advanced teaching and research work.

During the last one decade a few books have been published to serve as text books of guides for concept, scope, methodology and practical utility of the subject Ethnobotany. But all of them are written by authors who lived in developed countries having different languages, tradition and culture. In this perspective by writing this Handbook, the two well experienced authors in the subject have fulfilled the present demand of many teachers and students.

This book is perhaps only one of its kind published from India and must be useful to the students, teachers and researchers.

D. C. PAL
Botanical Survey of India.
Howrah