



Editorial

It's MarchMercury is slowly rising....winter garments are stacked back....a sudden glance offers a sweet shock-... our green neighbors surprisingly shed off all the leaves just to show their pride possession of blood red flowers.... The prodigal *Bombax ceiba*, commonly known as red silk cotton (English), *Semal* (Hindi), and adored in many other regional names. Likewise, this is the time for *Butea monosperma* (flame of the forest), *Spathodia campanulata* (African tulip tree) all with red and orange flowers vibrate our rural and urban landscape with energy and spontaneity. Imbued with this vivacity, CEiBa Newsletter is bringing the colorful vibration to all our readers through its collage of articles, snippets and other newbie.

Resonating with the bright flowering trees, our article section starts with ancient trees. They are the mighty giants of the past, speechless witness of historical events, shelters for many lives, support for daily activities and are helpless in front of ever-growing demands of human society. The article depicts this multi-spectrum existence of old trees and seeks our attention and sensitivity towards them. Our next article introduces us with wetland based nutritional food “*Makhana*”. Starting from Jammu and Kashmir, this plant is now widely distributed across northern and north-eastern states of India. The high calorific value of its edible seed promoted steady increment of its market value. This article explores the status of *Makhana* cultivation and the possibilities to improve the village economy with this wetland crop. A more general and global topic on climate has been discussed in our third article with an aim to introduce our readers with the climatic history of the earth and its seminal role in shaping biodiversity. A reading will reveal, the understanding of global warming and its impact on the earth is incomplete without knowing the climatic history.

We introduce a new section on ‘wild uncultivated edible plants of India’ from this issue. A plethora of uncultivated species fills up our stomach and infuses support to our food system. We invite our readers to browse the lesser-known food plants and their different usage among the distant communities. We anticipate that this series will sensitize our readers about the diversity of food types and food resources assimilated in our socio-cultural fabric.

Lastly, but like garnishing the dish, we have nice snippets. There are *Cannabis* the heritage keeper, honeypot and weaver ants, and fish as an emblem for royal practices. So, it's time for happy reading hours.

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