

Agro-Biodiversity of Kumaun Himalaya, India: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Kumaun Himalaya is one of the unique systems, rich in indigenous traditional knowledge and culturally strong. In the present study, qualitative and quantitative data were collected on agro-biodiversity through field and literature survey. Altogether, 161 plant species belonging to 117 genera and 57 families were recorded. In addition, a large number of land races, varieties and wild relatives are also being used. Cultivation of these crops is mainly of subsistence in nature rather than for commercial purposes. Due to a number of reasons, the area under traditional crops is declining in Kumaun Himalayan region but many of the crop varieties are still conserved because of their socio-cultural and religious values. The human population has increased over time forcing farmers to change their cropping patterns, for example, replacement of mixed cropping to mono-cropping and switching over to cash crops. This has adverse implications on traditional agro-biodiversity of the region. There are both local and global advantages in supporting a dynamic traditional system of agro-biodiversity management. Therefore, promotion and conservation of agro-biodiversity should be done through sustainable use and on- farm and off- farm management.

Keywords: Agro-biodiversity, Crop cultivation, Traditional knowledge, Kumaun Himalaya.

INTRODUCTION

Agro-biodiversity refers to the human-managed or modified biological diversity for general agricultural purposes. It is the synergy and interaction between living things, land, technology and social systems. Agro-biodiversity is regarded as the sub-set of biodiversity that includes the diversity and variability of plants, animals, micro-organisms and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources linked with agriculture¹. In sustaining and strengthening food, nutrition, health and livelihood security all over the world, agriculture biodiversity play a pivotal role. Besides growing a few crops, people frequently collect wild edible and other plants

from natural habitats to meet their subsistence needs². It has been proven that agro-biodiversity can help to increase crop productivity while diseases can be controlled in the agroecosystems³⁻⁷.

There are at least 3000 edible plant species known to man, with merely 30 crops contributing to nearly 95% of the world's calories intake and only 103 crops are economically important at national level⁸. There are many socioeconomic benefits of crop-diversity and their wild relatives such as "Genes from wild wheat in Turkey saved an epidemic of the wheat disease in USA in the 1960's⁹. There are several other instances where the wild relatives have contributed in the improvement of their cultivated

varieties of rice, maize, potato, sugarcane, wheat, tomato etc⁹. Thus, the wild relatives provide the necessary “genetic materials” to boost productivity and biological resistance to counter pests and disease.

With varied types of climate (subtropical to alpine), altitude, topography, soil types, valleys, rivers, watersheds and forest resources, Kumaun Himalayan region of Uttarakhand state is suitable for the growth of all kinds of plants. Floristically and ethno-botanically this area has been studied by number of workers¹⁰⁻¹⁴. However, the agriculture diversity including land races and its wild relatives are not properly documented. In recent years, documentation of traditional knowledge on cultivated crops, landraces and wild relative plants become a prerequisite to preserve traditional knowledge of a region. Therefore, the present study was carried out to collect valuable information on agro-diversity, traditional land races and its related indigenous knowledge of Kumaun Himalayan region. Further this study will also be helpful in: i. Taking appropriate steps for documenting the indigenous knowledge related to genetic resources; ii. Conservation and sustainable utilization of genetics resources; iii. Providing resources to the needy person or technologists; iv. Including them under IPRs; v. Promoting sustainable utilization of resources with fair and equitable sharing of the benefits accruing by their use and vi. Establishing farmer’s rights over their collective knowledge and resources base.

Agricultural practices in Kumaun

Agriculture is one of the major occupation of the hill people because of the various agro-climate zone along the altitudinal gradient viz., (i) lower altitude (up to 1200m) (ii) middle altitude (between 1200-2300 m) and (iii) higher altitudes (above 2300 m). The cultivated land of this region is mainly divided into three categories¹⁵.

- a. Land of forest edges (waste land near crop fields dominated with scrub vegetation)
- b. Upraon- land of hill sites (having no irrigation facilities)
- c. Talaon- land of valley bottom (having irrigation facilities)

Upraon and Talaon are the traditionally accepted categories of this region. Usually three or four crops are taken within twelve months (from November to October). These crops are:

- a. Kharif crop (April to October)
- b. Rabi crop (November to April)
- c. Jayad crop (April to October) Kitchen garden, waste places, side of cultivated lands fields near houses are used for this purpose. The mixed crops are mainly vegetables.
- d. Intermediate crop (May to August) - Irrigated fields are practiced for this purpose. The main crops are Ganiyar or Cheena (*Panicum miliaceum*), and Makka (*Zea mays*). After harvesting the crops, paddy plants are

Table 1: Differences between Traditional and Modern Agriculture^{17,16}

Traditional agriculture	Modern agriculture
Many crops grown	Few crops grown on commercial scale
Mixed cropping of species with complementary requirements	Pure cropping (Mono-cropping)
Highly tolerant to environment stress	Less dependency on climate and soil condition
Crops mostly multipurpose plants	Crops mostly uni-purpose
Low inputs of fertilizer, water requirements	High inputs of fertilizer and irrigation
Harvested seeds- source for next sowing	Hybrid seeds and improved cultivars used
Resistant/tolerant to pests and disease.	Low resistance to disease and high inputs pests; pesticides, etc. needed as

transplanted in these fields. Demographic records show that majority of the population in Kumaun hills dwell in villages scattered over valleys and slopes. Valleys are surrounded by characteristic vegetational composition. The agricultural lands are often terraced on various degrees of slopes.

There is a striking difference between traditional and modern agriculture (Table 1). It is evident from the comparison that the traditional land races are well adapted to local conditions of moisture stress, disease/pests risk, etc., while the modern crops/cultivars have a narrow genetic base suited specialized conditions of high inputs and high environment risk¹⁶

Indigenous farming system of this region is quite scientific. Traditional practice involves the sowing of mixture of multiple crop seeds into a single terraced field which helps the farmers to supply different kinds of foods, maintaining crop biodiversity, restore soil fertility (by the use of leguminous plants), reduces the infection of pests and pathogen (traditional crop posses the inherent qualities to withstand the sudden outbreak of disease, pests and natural hazards, which protects the traditional farmers from absolute crop failure since millennial), locally well adopted, sometimes it is predicted that

Table 1a: Crop rotation in Kumaun Himalaya

Alsi	Paddy	Wheat
Alu	Wheat	Alu (in rainy season) wheat
Alu	Mirch	Tamatar
Cheena	Paddy	Wheat
Cheena (in winter season)	Paddy	Alu (in winter season) Paddy
Lahsun	Desi Kaddu	Makka
Makka	Dhan (Paddy)	Gahoo (Wheat)
Masoor	Paddy	Wheat
Maduwa	Hawsir- Masoor	Paddy- Wheat
Muli	Dun/Dhun	Lal mirch
Ugal	Haldi	Methi

the multiple cropping helps in increasing production per unit area and per unit time which needs scientific validation. Crop rotation and crop composition (mixed cropping) prevailing in Kumaun Himalaya is given below:

Shifting cultivation

There are many evidence of shifting cultivation in Kumaun felling of trees and clearing of forests was usually practised by Kumaunies to increase the crop farming. Crops like Potato, Kuuni, Chaulai, Muli, Gahat, Maduwa etc were cultivated by our ancestors during shifting cultivation. In recent year shifting cultivation is not seen anywhere in Kumaun Himalaya.

Crop Rotations

The traditional method of rotation of Kumaun Himalaya are as follows (Table 1a):

Mixed cropping

The farmers of Kumaun Himalaya still practicing of sowing a mixture of many traditional crops into a single plot of land. The following mixtures of seeds are commonly used by farmers into a single plot of land in Kumaun Himalaya (Table 1b).

Ugal- Cultivated extensively in Darma and Vyans valleys of Kumaun Himalaya and is widely cultivated in kitchen garden in low altitude in the study area.

Table 1b: Mixed cropping in Kumaun Himalaya

1. Paddy + Kauni + Madir + Bajur + Til + Urd + Kakari + Muli + Ugal.
2. Paddy + Til + Kauni + Kumil
3. Paddy + Til + Kauni + Makka + Raiyas + Bhindi + Muli
4. Paddy + Soyabean + Urd + Kakari + Kauni + Muli + Oogal
5. Wheat + Matar + Sarsoo + Chana + Jau
6. Jau + Matar + Sarsoo + Chana + Masoor
7. Makka + Bhindi + Muli + Lobia
8. Maduwa + Bajur + Bhatt + Urd + Lobia + Chua
9. Madir + Maduwa + Bhatt + Bajur, etc.

Table 2: Agro-diversity* of the Kamaun Himalaya

Latin name of plant	Common/ vernacular name of plant** Agricultural crops	Altitude ranges (m asl)	Family
Cereals			
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oat, Jai	Up to 1200 m	Poaceae
<i>Hordeum himalayense</i>	Nacked barley, Owa jau	Up to 1000 m	Poaceae
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Barley, Jau, Va, Chama	Up to 1000 m	Poaceae
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Dhan, Paddy, Sathi	Up to 2300 m	Poaceae
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Wheat, Gegun, Dapati, Gehoo, Nephal	Up to 3400 m	Poaceae
<i>Zea mays</i>	Maiz, Makka, Mungari, Bhutta, Tantoo, Junala, Indian corn, Ghwag, Kakuni	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
Milletts			
<i>Echinochloa frumentacea</i>	Baryyard millets, Jhangora, Maidira	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
<i>Eleusine coracana</i>	Finger millet, Koda	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Buckwheat, Ugal, Oggal, Kottu, Palthi,	Cultivated	Polygonaceae
<i>Fagopyrum tataricum</i>	Buckwheat, Phapar***, Kotu, Tarter, Bhe	2000-2400 m	Polygonaceae
<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	Hog millet, Bhangna, China	Up to 1000 m	Poaceae
<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i>	Bajra, Pearl Millet	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
<i>Setaria italica</i>	Foxtail millet, Kauni, Koni	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
Pulses			
<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	Arhar, Thohar, Tor, Pigeon-pea, Cajan pea, Red pea	Up to 1200 m	Fabaceae
<i>Canavalia gladiata</i>	Sema, Makhan sem, Sword Sem	Up to 1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	Chana, Chick pea, Gram	Up to 1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Glycine max</i>	Soyabean	500-1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Glycine soja</i>	Kalabhath	500-1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Masur	Up to 1500	Fabaceae
<i>Phaseolus lunatus</i>	Vilaiti Sem, Lima bean	Up to 1600 m	Fabaceae
<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> *****	Cheemi, Kidney bean, French bean, Faraz bean, Razma	Up to 3000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vigna faba</i>	Bakla, Broad bean, Kalamatar, Windsor bean	Up to 1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vigna aconitifolium</i>	Mat bean, Bhiringa, Moth bean	Up to 2000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vigna angularis</i>	Adjuki beans, Rains, Guruns	Up to 2000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vigna mungo</i>	Black gram, Urd	Up to 3000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vigna radiata</i>	Green gram, Mung, Pessana	Up to 1200 m	
<i>Vigna umbellata</i>	Guruns, Rayans, Bhitia dal,		
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	Cow pea, Sonta, Lobia	Up to 2500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> (Climber fruit)	Angoor, Grape	Up to 2000 m	Vitaceae
Spices			
<i>Amomum subulatum</i>	Bari elachi, Greater cardamomum,	Up to 1000 m	Zingiberaceae

<i>Benincasa hispida</i>	Nepal cardamomum Bhunya, Chet- Kumbra, Petha, White gourd, Wax gourd	Up to 600 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Kali rai	Up to 2200 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	Jakhia, Hurhur	Between 1000-2500 m	Capparaceae
<i>Corandrum sativum</i>	Dhaniya, Coriander	Up to 2200 m	Apiaceae
<i>Curcuma domestica</i>	Haldi, Turmeric	Up to 2000 m	Zingiberaceae
Vegetables			
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	Ladies finger, Okra, Bhindi	Up to 2000 m	Malvaceae
<i>Allium carolinianum</i>	Dhun, Ladam	Up to 2500 m	Amaryllidaceae
<i>Allium cepa</i>	Onion, Pyaz	Up to 2000 m	Amaryllidaceae
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Lahsun, Lasun, Garlic	Up to 2500 m	Amaryllidaceae
<i>Amaranthus frumentaceus</i>	Chuewa, Chua, Anaardana, Princes feather, Marcha, Ramdana, Amaranth	Up to 2800 m	Amaranthaceae
<i>Amaranthus oleracea</i>	Amaranth, Chaulai	Up to 2000 m	Amaranthaceae
<i>Amorphophallus campanulatus</i>	Zimikand, Elephant foot, Yam, Telgu Potato	Up to 1000 m	Araceae
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Chukunder	Up to 1000 m	Amaranthaceae
<i>Brassica oleracea var. botrytis</i>	Cauliflower, Phoolgobhi	Up to 1500 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Brassica oleracea var. capitata</i>	Bandgobhi, Pattagobi, Cabbage	Up to 2500 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Brassica oleracea var. gongylodes</i>	Knol- knoll, Ganthgobhi	Up to 1000 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Shaljam, Turnip	Up to 1000 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Capsicum annum</i>	Khursani, Mirch, Chilly	Up to 2200 m	Solanaceae
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Pig weed, Bethuwa, Jau Sag, Chaurai, Gossefoot	Up to 1500-3500 m	Amaranthaceae
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Ghuiya, Elephant ear, Pinalu, Gaderi	Up to 1500 m	Araceae
<i>Colocasia himalensis</i>	Taro, Pinalu, Kurchain	Between 500-2000 m	Araceae
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	Gaddu, Kaddoo, Sitaphal, Squash gourd,	Up to 1500 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Kheera	Up to 2200 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Cyclanthera pedata</i>	Kundroo, Meeta-karela, Konkra	Up to 1500 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Cyphomandra betacea</i>	Tree tomato	Cultivated	Solanaceae
<i>Daucus carota var. sativa</i>	Gajar, Carrot	Up to 600 m	Apiaceae
<i>Ipomoea batata</i>	Shakarkand, Meetha Alu, Sweet Potato	Up to 1000 m	Convolvulaceae
<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Lauki, Tumari, Tumara, Bottle ground, White flowered gourd, Calabash Cucumber	Up to 2200 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Luffa acutangula</i>	Torai, Rigid gourd, V egetable sponge	Up to 2000 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Luffa aegyptiaca</i>	Ghiya Torai, sponge,	Up to 2000 m	Cucurbitaceae

<i>Lycopersicum esculentum</i>	Tamater, Tomato	Up to 3500 m	Solanaceae
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	Karela, Bitter gourd	Up to 2500 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Pisum arvense</i>	Kong, Goli	Up to 1800 m	Fabaceae
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Matar, Pea, Vegetables	Up to 2000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Raphanus sativum</i>	Muli, Radish	Up to 3000 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Solanum melongena</i>	Baigan, Bhaddu, Brinjal, Egg plant	Up to 2200 m	Solanaceae
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	Alu, Potato, Aol	1500-3500	Solanaceae
<i>Spinacea oleracea</i>	Palak, Palinga, Spinach	Up to 1500 m	Amaranthaceae
<i>Trichosanthes anguina</i>	Chichinda, Serpent gourd, Snake gourd	Up to 2000 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Tricosanthes dioica</i>	Parval, Patol, Pointed gourd	Up to 500 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i>	Methi, Fenugreek	Up to 2000 m	Fabaceae
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Adu, Adrekha, Ginger	Up to 1500 m	Zingiberaceae
Multipurpose plants			
<i>Arundinaria falcate</i>	Tham, Naktur	Up to 2000 m	Poaceae
<i>Brassica compestris</i> var. <i>toria</i>	Yellow sarsoon, Rare, Indian colza, Pili sarsoon	Up to 2200 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Brassica juncea</i> subsp. <i>Juncea</i>	Indian mustard, Rai	Up to 2200 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Brassica napus</i>	Mustard, Sarsoon, Toria, Indian rape, Brown sarson	Up to 2200 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Camellia sinensis</i>	Cha, Chay, Tea	Up to 2000 m	Theaceae
<i>Papavar somniferum</i>	Popy, Post, Opium	Cultivated	Papaveraceae
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Hemp, Bhang	Up to 2200 m	Cannabaceae
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	Watermelon, Tarbuj	Up to 600 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Cucumis melo</i> var. <i>melo</i>	Kharbooj, Musk melon	Up to 2000 m	Cucurbitaceae
<i>Dioscorea glabra</i>	Tarur, Tair	500-2000 m	Dioscoreaceae
<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>	Patson, Mesta, Ambari	Up to 1500 m	Malvaceae
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	Salad, Kahu, Lettuce	Up to 1500 m	Asteraceae
<i>Lepidium sativum</i>	Garden Cress, Haling, Halim	Up to 1500 m	Brassicaceae
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Jangli Pudina	Up to 1200 m	Lamiaceae
<i>Mentha piperita</i>	Vilayati pudina, Peppermint	Up to 1500 m	Lamiaceae
<i>Mentha viridis</i>	Pahari pudina	Up to 1500 m	Lamiaceae
<i>Nicotiana rustica</i>	Pahari Tamakhu, East Indian Tamaku, Tabacco	Up to 1000 m	Solanaceae
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Perilla, Bhangjeera, Bhangjeera	Between 500-1800 m	Lamiaceae
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Ganna, Ikh, Riklu, Sugar cane, Noble cane	Up to 1500 m	Poaceae
<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Sesame, Til	Up to 1500 m	Pedaliaceae
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Giloe, Gurcha	Up to 1500 m	Menispermaceae
Tree crop			
Fruit trees			
<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Bel, Bilva	Up to 2000 m	Rutaceae
<i>Achras sapota</i>	Chiku	500 m	Sapotaceae
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Kathal, Jackfruit	Up to 800 m	Annonaceae
<i>Annona reticulate</i>	Sitaphal	250-500m	Moraceae
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Papita, Papit	Up to 1000 m	Caricaceae
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	European Chestnut, Khan Pangar	Up to 1200 m	Fagaceae

<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Kaghzi-nimbu, Lime	Up to 2000 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus decumana</i>	Maha Nimbu, Sadaphal	Up to 2000 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Narangi	Up to 1500 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus hystrix</i>	Zamir	Up to 1500 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Nimbu, Pahari Nimbu	Up to 1500 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Santara	Up to 2200 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Musambi, Malta	Up to 2000 m	Rutaceae
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	Chakotara	Up to 1500 m	Rutaceae
<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i>	Tejpat	250-500 m	Lauraceae
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	Kaku	Up to 1500 m	Ebenaceae
<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Amla, Aonla, Indian gooseberry, Myrobalan emblic	Up to 12000 m	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Lokat, Lukat	Cultivated	Rosaceae
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Akhoo, Akhrot, Kagzi Akhrot, Walnut	Up to 2500 m	Juglandaceae
<i>Litchi chinensis</i>	Litchi	Up to 1500 m	Sapindaceae
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Am, Aam, Mango	Up to 1000 m	Anacardiaceae
<i>Morus serrata</i>	Kimu, Shahtoot	Between 1800-2000 m	Moraceae
<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Kaddipatta	500-1000 m	Rutaceae
<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Kela, Kewa, Banana	Up to 1500 m	Musaceae
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Plum	Up to 1500 m	Rosaceae
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	Khubni, Zardalu, Apricot	Up to 2000 m	Rosaceae
<i>Prunus persica</i>	Aru, Peach	Up to 2000 m	Rosaceae
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Amrood, Guava	Up to 1500 m	Myrtaceae
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Anar, Darim, Pomegranate	Up to 2000 m	Punicaceae
<i>Pyrus malus****</i>	Seb, Seo, Apple	Between 1500-2500 m	Rosaceae
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Jamun, Phalenda, Jambolan	Up to 1000 m	Myrtaceae
Multipurpose trees			
<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Khair	Up to 1300 m	Mimosaceae
<i>Adina cordifolia</i>	Haldu	Up to 1000 m	Rubiaceae
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem	Up to 1000 m	Meliaceae
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Kachnar	Between 300-1900 m	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Bombax ceiba</i>	Semal	200-1400 m	Urticaceae
<i>Biota orientalis</i>	Morpankhi	250- 500 m	Cupressaceae
<i>Bohermaria olerosa</i>	Gethi	Up to 1500 m	Urticaceae
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Khirak	Up to 500 m	Ulmaceae
<i>Cordia myxa</i>	-	1200 m	Boraginaceae
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Shisham	Up to 1500 m	Fabaceae
<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>	Bans	Up to 1500 m	Poaceae
<i>Dioscorea glabra</i>	Genthi	500-2000 m	Dioscoreaceae
<i>Diploknema butyracea</i>	Cheura, Indian butter tree	Up to 1000 m	Sapotaceae
<i>Elaeocarpus sphaericus</i>	Rudraksh	250-300 m	Elaeocarpaceae
<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	Bergad	Up to 1500 m	Moraceae
<i>Ficus glomerata</i>	Timala	800 m	Moraceae
<i>Ficus palmata</i>	Timul, Anjiri	Between 800-200 m	Moraceae
<i>Ficus clavata</i>	Khasuri	Up to 1500 m	Moraceae
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Pipal	Up to 1600 m	Moraceae
<i>Grewia optiva</i>	Bhimal, Bhiku, Binl	Up to 1500 m	Tiliaceae
<i>Litsea polyantha</i>	Katmara	Up to 500 m	Lauraceae
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Roli	1000 m	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Melia azadarach</i>	Dekan	250-500 m	Meliaceae

<i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>	Ayar	Between 700-3500m	Ericaceae
<i>Populus deltoids</i>	Poplar	250-500 m	Salicaceae
<i>Prunus ceresoides</i>	Padam	Between 600-2500 m	Rosaceae
<i>Phytolacca acinosa</i>	Jagroo, Jarg, Indian Pokeweed	Up to 2000 m	Phytolaccaceae
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	Ashoka	250-500 m	Annonaceae
<i>Quercus leucotrichophora</i>	Banj	1800 m	Fagaceae
<i>Ougeinia oojeinensis</i>	Sanar	Up to 1200 m	Fabaceae
<i>Sapindus mukorossi</i>	Ritha, Reetta, Soanut tree	Up to 1500 m	Sapindaceae
<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Sal	Up to 800 m	Dipterocarpaceae
<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Sagwan	Up to 800 m	Lamiaceae
<i>Trachycarpus takil</i>	Thakal	800-2000 m	Arecaceae
<i>Viburnum cotinifolium</i>	Bhatnai,	Up to 1800 m	Adoxaceae

*The above list of agro-diversity is based on personal observation coupled with^{15,18-22}

** These crops are grouped into different categories such cereals, pseudo cereals, major millets, minor millets, oil seeds, vegetables, spices and condiments, pulses, aromatic and medicinal plants, economic and useful plants, cash crops, horticultural crops, miscellaneous uses etc.

*** Phapar extensively in Munsyari and Johar valley of Kumaun Himalaya

****Seb It is said that the Bauna seb of Munsyari are highly delicious

*****Rajma Extensively cultivar at interior area of Munsyari

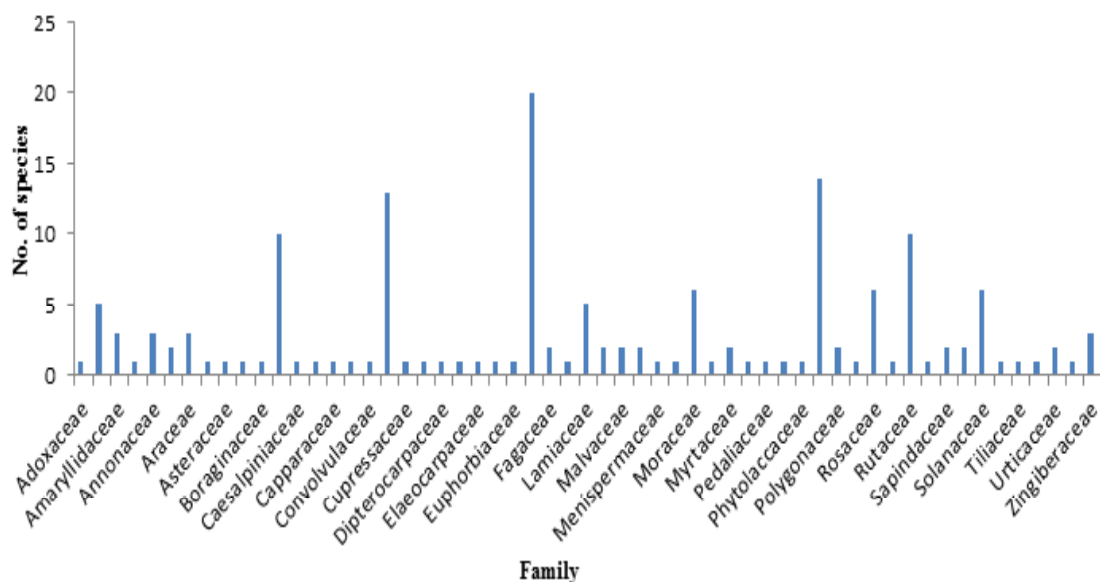


Fig. 1: Number of plant species belonging to different families

Agro-diversity

In the present study, 161 plants belonging to 117 genera and 57 families were listed (Table 2). Based on the species diversity, Fabaceae (20 species) formed the most diverse family followed by Poaceae (14 species), however 32 were mono-specific (Fig. 1). Based on their uses vegetables

(23.12%) formed the most frequent mode of uses followed by multipurpose trees (21.87), fruit trees (20%), multipurpose crops (13.12%), pulses (10%), millets (4.37%), cereals (3.75%) and spices (3.75%) (Fig. 2). The plant species were categorized into their form of habit *i.e.* herbs, shrubs, trees and climbers (Fig. 3). The diversity on the basis of the plant revealed that herb formed the most dominant habit (50%) followed by tree (37.50%).

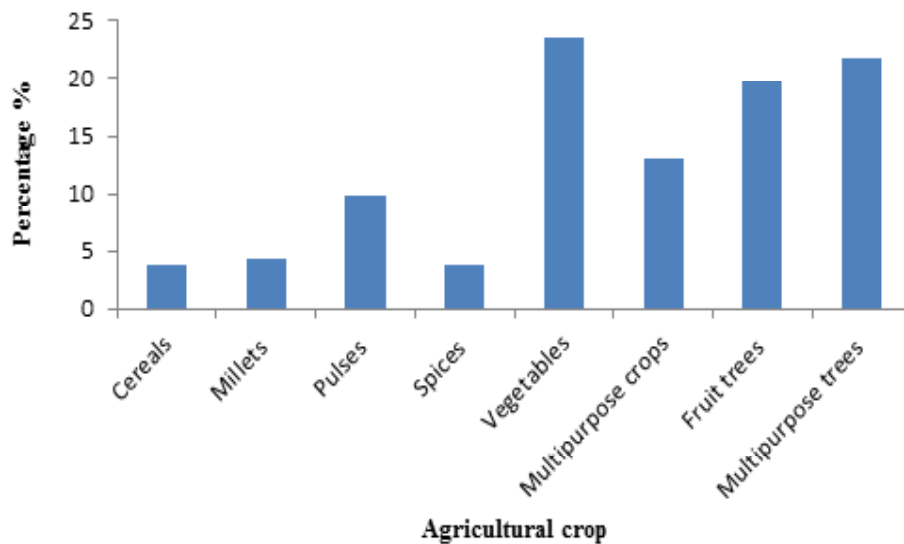


Fig. 2: Utilization of plant species

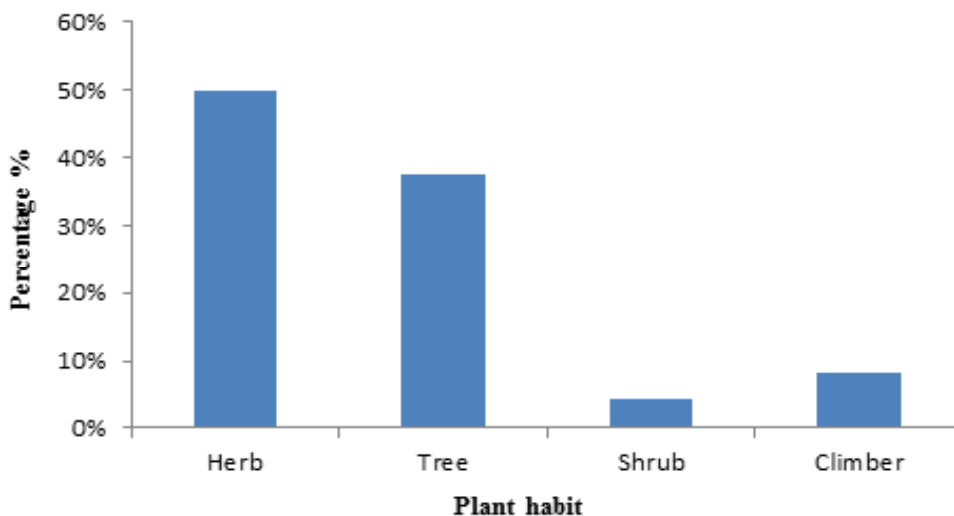


Fig. 3: The diversity on the basis of the plant habit

Table 3: Land races/ varieties of different crops as described by various authors

Crop	Land races/ varieties	References
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Adrat, Akari, Amarasi, Badatiya, Bakuwa, Basmati, Banpasa, Batasuva, Chinabhuri, Chunkuli, Dhan, Dhani, Dhaniya, Dhesuva, Duda, Gajaliya, Gajlo, Geruwa, Halduwa, Haltuniya, Hansraj, Jamol, Jauliya, Joggana, Katyuri, Kirmuli, Maisuwa, Makani, Makarat, Mandkuri, Motiya, Muthamuth, Nauliya, Paliya, Parayai, Ratuwa, Rajbhathi, Rakasuwa, Rasiya, Sathiya, Rupsawa, Sal, Salam, Sathiya, Sishala, Tmiliya, Uya	Atkinson ²³
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Anchan, Anjana, Baigane, Bagari Pinglee, Baguadhan, Bakulee, Banpasa, Bareekbagariya, Barhatiya, Basantee, Basmatee, Bawakua, Beganee, Bhadaree, Bhatya, Champa, Champha, Chawaniya, Chhoti, Chhoti Dhan, Chhotia, Chinbhuree, Chwar, Congraisee, Dafautee, Dalbadal, Danbasmatee, Dandinula, Dangya, Dhulloo, Dndhia, Dudh, Dumaree, Dusee, Gadailu, Gadyaoo , Garoo, Garurhiya, Geeja, Ghanyasoo, Gorakhpuree, Gunji, Gyapulee, Gyarasu, Hansraj, Jaintuwa, Jaitoli, Jamalee, Jangali Dhan, Japanee, Jarhkhyia, Jautee, Jhapulee, Jhakha, Jhandwa, Jimmee, Jirulee, Jaulee, , Joliya, Jukhan, Kaladhan, Kalainun, Kaleejeeree, Kaleematalee, Kaltoonla, Kanjuree, Karpar, Katyuria, Kharia, Khaijija, Khar, Kiramaree, Kumaldee, Kumaon, Lalbasmatee, Lalsathee, Lathmar, Lukaree, Madguri, Madhuree, Maheen Dhan, Maisuree Dhan, Dhan, Motabagarhiya, Motiya, Naj, Nakka, Nandane, Nandhani, Nauliya, Pakistani Dhan, Parvat, Patyuli, Pinglee, Pingoondtjaja, Prasad Dhan, Punjabee, Rajamee, Ramjawan, Ratanya, Rijula, Rotiya, Sabari Dhan, Sadhwee, Safedsyal, Sal, Sawa, Shakhool, Shakuntala, Sheree, Simanjaree, Sonasyuria, Sondhoo, Sukhanaraja, Sukhila, Swanpatee, Thapacheenee, Timlee, Thula, Tilakbasmatee, Ukharh, Ukheree	Pant and Negi ²⁴
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Ashotiya, Bageshwaree, Baraun, Bamnee, Baraun, Barhkatyuree, Barhpaso, Barmee, Bauna Dhan, Bauranee, Bhatiya-Syaw, Bheemtal, Bindulee, Bumaka, Basantee, Chamariya, Chamyarh, ,Cheenachar (Chianafor), Chyuradhan, Daultiya, Dharidhan, Dhurbasmatee, Diranni, Dotiyalidhan, Gajae, Gajayya, Govind, Jaithanee, Jhusyan, Jirulee, Kala Chhotuwa, Kaljarhiya, Kalounthee, Kantoliya, Kapkoti, Kashmeera, (Kashmeeree), Kebaes, Laldhan, Lalnaul, Lambeesa, Lamed, Makran, Matiyae, Maldhan, Moteewala, Nalwadhan, Nanmaisawa, Neelbarhi, Ooant, Parhdudh, Pelya, Raiman, Raimuni, Shela, Shyangiri, Sunkharchi, Sunkhoja, Sunkharchi, Thapalee, Suntola.	Bhatt and Chauhan ²⁵
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Bhallon, Bangoi, Baunda, Champa, Dhari Dhan, Darnsaalu, Dev Lal, Govind, Gajaiya, Ghesuwa, Jhumkia, Jhusia, Kathliya, Kumaldi, Kavnauli, Lal Santhi, Lal Basmati, Lathmar, Makaranl, Nageen, Parvati, Shamgiri, Sukhnanadi, Sunder, Saukiyan, Oont etc.	Prasoon ²⁸
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Ara-22, Arkotiya, Bak/Bakuwa/Bawakuwa, Bakul Dhan, Bamnee Dhan , Barh-Katyuri Dhan, Barhpak, Basantee, Basmatee, Bauna Dhan, Bauranee, Bilash Dhan, Binduli, Chamarhi Dhan, Chamyarh, Chibhurhi Dhan, Chinafor (Cheenafor), Chotidhan (Chhotia Dhan), Dafauti Dhan, Dalbadal, Dan Basmatee, Daulti, Dhaniyan, Dhurbasmati, Duddhan, Gajae Dhan, Gauridyaree Dhan, Govind Gopal, Haldoo (Masirh Haldoo), Hansraj, Jamae Djhan (Jamal Dhan), Lal Jamae, Kae/Kalo, Jamee, Safed Jamae, Jau Dhan, Jauliya Dhan,	

	Jhamuri Dhan, Jhapuli Dhan, Jharu Dhan, Jiruli Dhan, Jogyan Dhan, Joli Dhan, Jumaee Dhan, Jyoli Dhan, Kaljarhiya, Kalyaw (Katyari), Kapkotee, Kastureedhan, Katyuree, Kawthuni, Khaji Dhan, Kirmue (Kirmaedhan), Lal Jarhi, Lamb Haldoo, Machhalee, Madguri, Maldhani, Masirh Vikas, Mot Vikas, Mota Haldoo, Motia (Moti), Murgee Dhan, Nachani Dhan, Nan-Dhani, Nauli, Neelvaree, Paktoli, Pashdudh, Raat, Rajmati (Rajmatee), Ramautiya (Ramaut), Ryoorhiya, Sambesaree Dhan, Sathi (Sathiya), Saunpi, Sawadhan, Shakuntala, Simajir Dhan, Sunkhae Dhan, Syaulyia, Thapa Chini, Ti-Bakhul, Tilak Dhan, Timuli Dhan	Pande and Pande ²⁹
Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	Gehun safed or white wheat, Dawa (a white awnless variety), Daulat Khani, Lal gehun, Tanga or jusher (The bearded varieties)	Atkinson ²³
Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	Thang Gehun, Lal Gehun, Safed Gehun, Jhushi Gehun, Uda, Pissoo Gegun, Kathu Gehun, Dhani Gehun, Daulat Khani	Bhatt and Chauhan ²⁵
Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	Awned ana awnless	Negi and Pant ¹⁵
Wheat (<i>Triticum²⁵ aestivum</i>)	Kalyan, Malasia, Roksona, Mongaria, Dabti, Jhusi, Geruwa, Sonhara	Samant ²⁶
Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	1. Vikasak Gehun- (a) Chhota Gehun, (b) Mota Gehun 2. Santhniya Gehun or Grahak Gehun- (a) Mungaria or Munariya Gehun, (b) Dudhi Gehun	From Kumaon
Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	Rena (a short awned variety), Gojai, Bijra	Atkinson ²³
Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	Thang Jau (awnless varieties), Jhusi Jau (awned varieties)	Bhatt and Chauhan ²⁵
Makka (<i>Zea mays</i> L.)	Timasa, Chaumasa, Chhaimasa Ghwag	Bhatt and Chauhan ²⁵
Makka (<i>Zea mays</i> L.)	Mungari (Cob more than 12" long), Murla (Cob long and thick), Nani Kakuni (grains small, maturing in July), Thuli Kakuni (grains big, maturation time September), Asaujia kakuni: (a) Asaujia lal (grains red, big and small both type), (b) Asaujia safed (grains small, white and densely arranged)	Present investigation
Maduwa (<i>Elusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.)	Nangchuniya, Tokaria, Putkya, Garhwalo, Jhankaria, Bhuwakheta (round head inflorescence variety), Lumariyaw, Dhuniyaw, Lal madu (red grains), Safed Madu (whitish grain)	Bhatt and Chauhan ²⁵
Madu (<i>Elusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.)	Garau, Putki, Dwit, Ganoli	Tewari and Das ²⁷
Madu (<i>Elusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn.)	Gol Madu (fingers closed): (a) Timasi (matured in three months), (b) Chhaimari (matured in six months), (c) Chaumasi (fingers smaller as matured during rainy season), Chhitalu (fingers open and drooping), Nangchuni (The ears can be removed with the help of nail after maturation), Katuriya Mandua (big. Or long fingers and closed).	Present investigation
Madira (<i>Echinochloa frumetacea</i> (Roxb.) Link.)	Thul Madira (The ears long, thick and red), Nan Madira (The ears small, ash coloured, and taste), Jharu Madira (Wild relatives of Madira), Bhatkkahti	

	Madira (Grains easily removed from the ears after maturation)	From Kumaon
Ganiyar (<i>Panicum miliaceum</i> L.)	The grains yellow, The grains light yellow	Present investigation
Joar or Bajur (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i> L.)	Chhitali Bajur or Lal Bajur or Gol Bajur, Syuti Bajur or Safed Bajur (Inflorescence drooping), Kuchia Bajur (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i> var. <i>technicum</i>)	Present investigation
Kauni (<i>Setaria italic</i> (L.) P. Beauv.)	Peeli Kauni (grains yellow colour), Kali Kauni (grains blackish colour)	Present investigation
Ganna (<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> (L.) Cutt.):	Paunthi rich (Stem thick, reddish colour), Pataw rich (Stem thin, long, red colour), Rikhu- (i) Paunthi rikhu: Sugarcane with thick culm, (ii) Patwa rikhu: Sugarcane with thin culm, (iii) Dhauri rikhu : Culm of sugarcane with pinkish flower.	Present investigation
Pulses		
Gahat (<i>Dolichos uniflorus</i> Lam.)	Rat Gahat, Garua Gahat, Kaw Gahat, Bhangrail Gahat (based on seed colour)	Present investigation
Guruns (<i>Vigna umbellata</i>)	White, Green, Black, Pale yellow (Thunb.) Ohwi and Ohashi	Present investigation (based on seed colour)
Chana (<i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.)	Chhota chana, Bara chana (Based on seed size)	Present investigation
Bhatt (<i>Glycine max</i> (L.) Merr.)	Soyabean, Bhatt (Stem creeping, seeds red, white and mottled), Safed Bhatt (Seeds with black streak), Soriya Bhatt (Creeper (trailer), seed largest), Bhangrail Bhatt (Seeds slightly reddish colour), Kaw/Black Bhatt (Seed black, compressed (<i>Glycine soja</i>), Thangri Bhatt(Plant erect)	Present investigation
Matar (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	Thuli matar (seeds larger), Kanyu matar (seeds round small: <i>Pisum sativum</i> var. <i>arvense</i>)	Present investigation
Masur (<i>Lens culinaries</i> Medik)	Kali Masur (Hawsiw masur) seeds small, Rati Masur (Khyasuri Masur)	Present investigation
Urd (<i>Vigna mung</i> (L.) Hepper)	Kukuriyans (cultivated up to 2000 m), Mans (cultivated above 2500 m .	Present investigation
Razama (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.)	Thumari Razama (dwarf plant), Lagili Razama (climber plant)	Present investigation
Sonth (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) Walp.)	Thul Sunth (larger seeds), Nani Sunth (Smaller seeds)	Present investigation
Pseudocereals		
Chaulai (<i>Amaranthus</i> spp.)	Lal Chaulai (Inflorescence red), Hari chaulai (Inflorescence green), Kaw Chu (Seeds black), Safed Chu (Seeds white) Lundra (drooping inflorescence), Mondim (compact inflorescence), Lapra (scattered inflorescence)	Present investigation Negi and Pant ¹⁵
Ogal (<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> Moench)	Ogal with red flowers, Ogal with whitish pink flower.	Present investigation
Vegetable/spices/condiments, oil yielding seeds		
Alu (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.)	Safed Alu, Lal Alu, Kufri Alu	Present investigation
Karela	Til karela (<i>Monordica charantia</i> L.),	

	Mith Karela (<i>Cyclanthera pedata</i> L.) Schrad	Present investigation
Kaddo (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch ex Lamk.)	Jatari kaddoo, Lamb kaddoo, Deshi kaddoo	Present investigation
Gaderi and Pinalu (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schoot.)	Lal Gaderi (Corm red coloured), Safed Gaderi (Corm white coloured with reddish streaks), Lal Pindalu (Also known as "Kuraise"), Safed Pindalu (Also known as "Ranu"), Kochiya (Corm much longer than its width)	Present investigation
Toria (<i>Momordica charantia</i> L.)	Tittoria (bitter taste), Mith Toria (edible) with ridges and furrows (<i>Luffa acutangula</i> (L.) Roxb.), Mith Toria edible) without ridges and furrows (<i>Luffa aegyptica</i> Mill)	Present investigation
Saroon (<i>Brassica</i> spp.)	Brown Sarson, Pilli Sarson, Kali Sarson	Present investigation
Lahi (<i>Brassica</i> spp.)	Kali Lahi, Hari Lahiz	Present investigation
Rai or Piri Rai	Kali rai, Brown rai	Present investigation
Tamatar (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> L.)	Kanthi tamatar (small fruit), Thul tamatar (fruit larger and round), Lamb tamatar (fruit longer with less seeds)	Present investigation
Tarur (<i>Dioscorea belophylla</i> Voigt ex Haines)	Chakae tarur (Root flat), Lamb Tarur (Root deep rooted and long)	Present investigation
Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i> L.)	Ranikhet Pyaz (outer skin reddish), Safed Pyaz (outer skin white or pink)	Present investigation
Palak (<i>Spinacea oleracea</i> L.)	Chapar panoo (leaves spreading on the ground), Thar panoo (leaves not spreading in ground)	Present investigation
Bhindi (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench)	Jhusiyaw bhindi, Chhoti bhindi	Present investigation
Muli (<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.)	Dudhi muli or Thar muli, Gol muli or Chapti muli	Present investigation
Lal mirch (<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.)	Shimla mirch, Achari mirch, Patli mirch, Muni mirch	Present investigation
Lauki (<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Mol) Standley)	Tumari (fruit round its fruits also show variability), Lauki (variable in fruit shape and size)	Present investigation
Til (<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.)	Saf til (seeds white), Rat til (seeds brown), Kaw til (seeds black)	Present investigation
Haldi (<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.)	Haldi (corn matured in one year), Haldi (corn matured in three years)	
Horicultural/fruit yielding plants		
Anar/Darium (<i>Punica granatum</i> Linn.)	Kalmi Darim (fruit matured in the month of August), Jhungari Darium (fruit matured in the month of September), Kalmi Anar (seeds larger, than Darim seeds), Murbbi Anar (seeds larger than Kalmi Anar)	Present investigation
Akhrot (<i>Juglans regia</i> L.)	Kanthi akhrot (cotyledons not easily removed), Danthi akhrot (cotyledons can be removed easily), Kalmi akhrot (cotyledons thin, easily cracked and cotyledons easily removed)	Present investigation
Aru (<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Batsch.)	Kusami aru (fruit matured between 14 April to 15 May), Bhadoe aru (fruit matured between 15 May to 15 June), Ashari aru (fruit matured between 15 June to 15 July), Vilayati aru (fruit matured between 15 May to 15 June)	Present investigation
Amrud (<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.)	Lal Amrud (fruit pulp red), Safed Amrud (fruit pulp white), Kanthi Amrod (Different to eat), Timul Amrud (Pulp white)	Present investigation
Aonla (<i>Embllica officinalis</i> Gaertn.)	Nan Aonla (fruit small, wild), Thul Aonla (fruit large, cultivated)	Present investigation
Am (<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.)	Danti Am, Kanthi Am, Jangli Am, Chussu Am, Chukul Am, Gautari Am, Bombai Am	Present investigation

Kimu (<i>Morus serrata</i> Roxob.)	Jangali Kimu (ripe fruit green), Gharalu Kimu (ripe fruit red or scarlet red)	Present investigation
Kela (<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.):	Hanjari kela (fruit small cup to 3", ripe fruit scented), Dudhi kela (fruit 4" to 6 long, ripe fruit creamy or badami, very sweet), Mungari kela (fruit up to 8" long, also known as "Kachuw kela" not too taste.)	Present investigation
Khubani (<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> L.)	Kusami Khubani (cotyledons bitter in taste), Kalmi, Khubani (Cotyledons bitter in taste but fruit large in size), Badami Khubani (Cotyledons edible, fruit large)	Present investigation
Jamun (<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels.)	Jamun (fruit small, dark violet, tree small), Fawanu or Thul Jamun (Tree larger, fruit larger, ripe fruit black)	Present investigation
Timul (<i>Ficus roxburghii</i>) Wall	Pankar Timul (Syconus edible, not infected with insects), Achkar Timul (Syconus not edible because of insects infection)	Present investigation
Citrus spp.	Nimbu (<i>Citrus limon</i> (L.) Burm.f.), Mahanimbu (<i>Citrus decumana</i>), Amrit Phal (<i>Citrus medica</i> L.), Kagji Nimbu (<i>Citrus auratifolia</i> L.), Matkakri (<i>Citrus</i> sp.), Jamir (<i>Citrus hystrix</i>), Mausmi/Malta (<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (L.) osbeck.), Narangi(<i>Citrus reticulata</i>)- (a)Hara Narangi (fruit sweet, small fruit), (b) Kathu Narangi (fruit small, rind orange, taste sour), (c) Kalmi Narangi (fruit big, vind orange, tasty)	Present investigation
Naspati (<i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i> (Burn.f.) Nakai)	Naunia Naspati (fruit large, tasty, fruit with red streaks), Gol Naspati (fruit ball shaped, sour-sweet), Tumari Naspari (fruit bell shaped, sweet), Ghyu naspati (fruit pulp: laslasa)	Present investigation
Pulm (<i>Prunus</i> spp.)	Nan Pulam (ripe fruit sweet, yellow in colour), Noan Pulam (ripe fruit sweet, black in colour), Thul Pulam (fruit larger, tasty, ripe fruit black), Kalmi Pulam (fruit larger, tasty, also known as "Jatwa Pulam)	Present investigation
Flowers		
Kailunchi (<i>Cannas</i> pp.)	Plant with light yellow flowers, pseudostem green, Plant with scarlet, small; pseudostem brown, Plant stem (pseudostem) green with larger yellow flowers, Pseudostem brown colour with large scarlet flower.	Present investigation
Hanjari (<i>Tagetus</i> spp.)	Variability in flower colour, shape and arrangements of ray and disc florets. Plant height is also variable.	Present investigation

Cultivated crops

The crop diversity in Kumaun Himalaya is very high, which is maintained through mixed cropping or crop rotations and planting multipurpose trees or traditional agroforestry species along the border and waste lands of cultivated fields. Horticultural crops are also cultivated by farmers, which further enhance the

biodiversity. The following inventory of the different cultivars, their characteristics wild relatives, diversity, cultural practices, uses pattern was collected from the farmers, through direct interventions as well as the work of Atkinson²³, Duthie¹⁰, Negi and Pant¹⁵, etc. Recently introduced species/germ plasms of crop plants are also recorded.

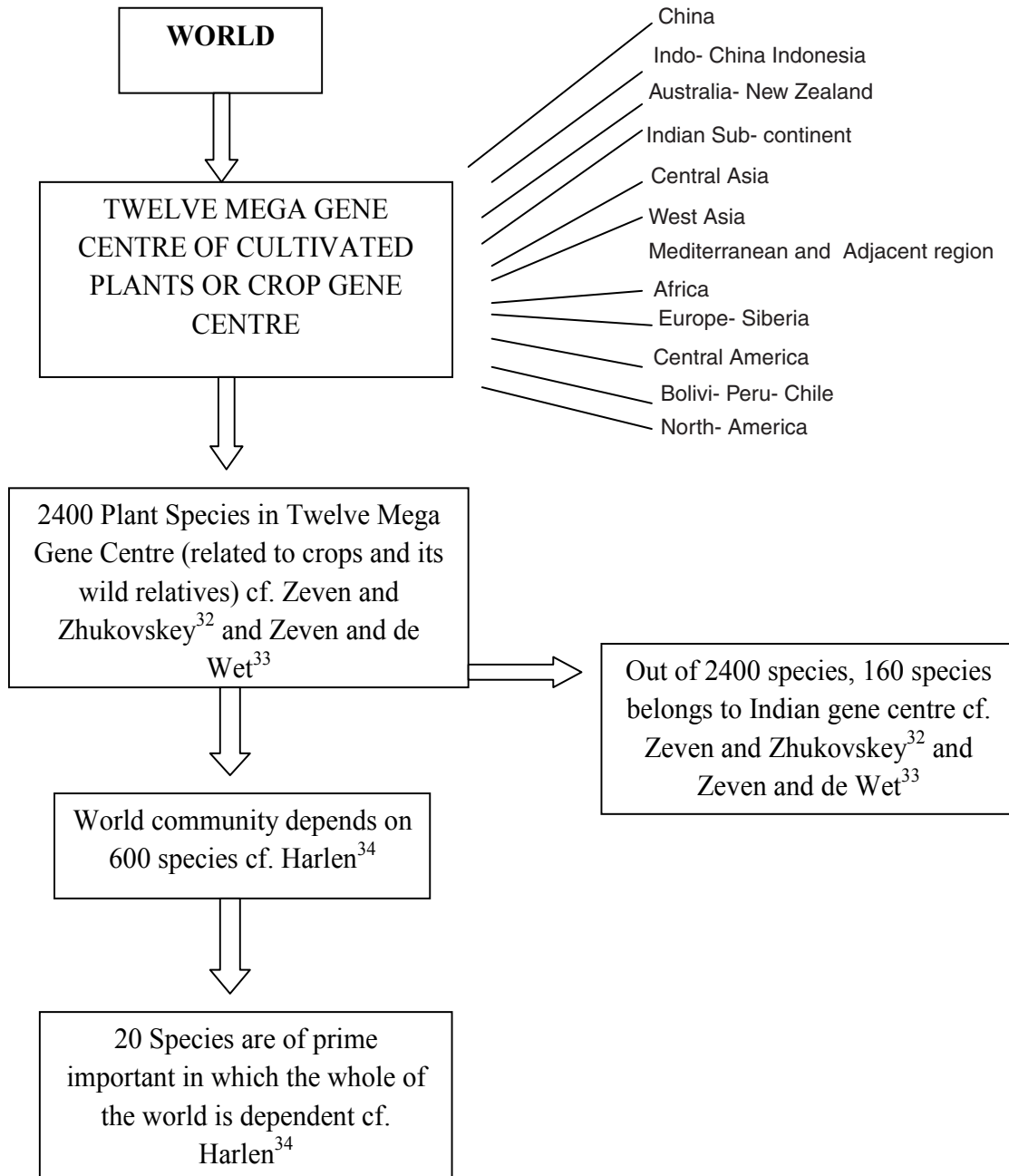


Fig. 4: Mega Gene Centre of Cultivated plants and some other related details. (Box No. 1 and 2 and 3 based on Zeaven and Zhukovsky³² and Zevaen and de Wet³³. Box. No. 4 and 5 based on Harlen³⁴. Vide³⁵).

Table 4: List of wild relatives of cultivated crops

Common name	Botanical name
Am	<i>Spondias pinnata</i>
Amarantha	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> , <i>A. viridis</i> , <i>A. cruentus</i>
Aru	<i>Prunus cerasoides</i> (Payan), <i>P. Cornuta</i> , <i>P. Jacquemontii</i> (Kursang)
Bhindi	<i>Abelmoschus radiates</i> , <i>A. pungens</i> , <i>A. crinitus</i> , <i>A. ficulneus</i>
Chana	<i>Cicer microphyllum</i> (found in Niti valley, Chamoli Garhwal)
Dhuwar	<i>Allium stracheyi</i> , <i>Allium humile</i> , <i>A. victorialis</i> , <i>A. wallichii</i>
Haling	<i>Lepidium apetalum</i> , <i>L. capitatum</i> (found in Chamoli district)
Kauni	<i>Setaria viridis</i> (found in Mana, Chamoli Garhwal)
Madira	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>
Maduwa	<i>Eleusine indica</i>
Maize	<i>Coix lacryma-jobi</i>
Moth	<i>Vinga vexillata</i> and <i>V. trilobatas</i>
Pinalu/ Gaderi	<i>Gonatanthus pumilus</i> (Ban-pindalu), <i>Remusatia vivipara</i> (Bagh-pindalu)
Seb	<i>Pyracantha crenulata</i>
Tarur/Genthi	<i>Dioscorea alata</i> , <i>D. penthaphylla</i> , <i>D. kumaonensis</i> , <i>D. hispida</i> etc.
Wheat	<i>Triticum secalinus</i>

Traditional land races

Landraces are essential to preserve the agricultural genetic pool. These races are usually based on the morphological variation of plants, their parts and other characteristics qualities of plants such as: colour of roots, stem, flowers, fruits and seed, taste of fruits, ridges and furrows of fruits; erect, compact and drooping habit of inflorescence; branching pattern and habit of plants; period of crop maturation; spike arrangement, husk colour, awnless husk, finger length, etc of cereals. Landraces differed in their popularity and in some cases traditional races of cereals are named after place and person (who brought that land race).

Rice (*Oryza sativa* Linn): It is a widely cultivated crop plant of Kumaun Himalaya. There are number of land races or varieties of this plant (Table 3). The land races (germplasm) of this crop grown

in this region have been discussed by Atkinson²³, Pant and Negi²⁴, Bhatt and Chauhan²⁵. Beside these, Samant²⁶ and Tewari and Das²⁷ also reported 17 and 04 varieties of this plant (Paddy) from Askot and Dhaula Devi area of Kumaun Himalaya (Table 3).

Wild Relatives of cultivated land races

There are large numbers of wild relatives of crop plants growing in Kumaun Himalaya. Some of the wild relatives of cultivated crops¹⁵ are given in Table 4 which could be conserved through the Mega Gene Centre of Cultivated plants as shown in the Fig.4.

Causes of Agrodiversity Erosion in Kumaun Himalaya

Traditional agriculture systems are cost effective; rely on local resources ecofriendly to the

environment and are more sustainable than modern farming system^{36,37}. These systems are gradually abandoned to meet the demand for agricultural products with the population growth^{38,39,40}. Because of changes in landuse systems, deforestation, population pressure, urbanization, degradation of land races, and over-harvesting of non-timber forest products, agrobiodiversity is now declining very quickly from the ecosystems at species, variety and management system levels. So instead of diversified crop fields, farmers are now concentrated on few commercially demanded crops. If serious view of existing situation is not taken into account, the region will lose traditional knowledge of cultivation and uses of these crops forever and would also lose the possibility of being a diverse and nutritive food producing region.

In recent past, the crop diversity has declined to an alarming rate except few isolated pockets of remote areas. Some of the important reasons are:(a) Monoculture cropping system (b) Unplanned change in cropping systems (c) Change in food habits of local people (d) Accidental or deliberate introduction of exotic species (e) Construction of multipurpose dams and road (f) Replacement of traditional crops by high yielding varieties or cultivation of cash crops.

Suggested strategies for agrobiodiversity conservation in Kumaun Himalaya

Traditional crops and land races should be conserved in the research centers and gene banks. Farmers should be motivated for *in-situ* conservation of their traditional crops and land races. *In-situ* conservation of traditional crops and land races could succeed when these crops are strongly linked with the economic development of farmers.

Awareness and capacity building programmes should be conducted to enable the local people to use highly diversified crop plants, to increase agricultural productivity, to conserve the diversified crops as *in-situ* germplasm for future use and to understand their services to mankind not only as a source of food, fuel, fodder, fibre etc. but also for ecological services.

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