

✓ Value Addition of Himalayan Nettle Plants for Income Generation

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ABSTRACT

Himalayan nettle plants (*Girardinia diversifolia*) Family Urticaceae commonly known as the khujalli patta or tatsa in Digaru and Chuam in Mizo language is an herb or undershrub, robust, with stinging hairs found in the Himalayan region. The stingy leaves of Himalayan Giant Nettle are used as a fodder for the cattle and fibre

ed from the bark are used for weaving different items and earning income tribal population of Anjaw Digaru and Mizu Mishmi. The fibre from the plant is an eco-friendly and sustainable. As such products made from it fetches a higher rate at local market.

Anjaw district the plant is found abundantly in open forest land, river sides, roadside and moist habitat, streams, disturbed places, near villages; between 500-2600 m altitudes.. It is collected in the summer months of July to September for easy extraction of the fibre. The demand of the products is met through locally and from neighbouring district Lohit. Income from the weaving of nettle plants usually fetch from 100 to 25,000/- per annum. The price of muffler fetches about Rs 3000/-per coat in the local market. Small marginal farmers can also harvest the abundantly available Himalayan nettle plants for improving the economic and sustainability of their livelihood through weaving of nettle plants and value addition into mufflers, coat and bag. The fibre and the products can be further promoted to increase market base for attaining higher income level. The study was conducted KVK Anjaw in Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh. In a sample of 40 male and female respondents by using a self-structured questionnaire of age group (20-50 years). Information were collected regarding aboriginal knowledge of the processing, uses of fibre and its different products