

Home Gardens: Traditional Systems for Maintenance of Biodiversity

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Introduction

Home Gardens (HG) consist of traditional farms, homesteads and urban gardens, which are rich in biodiversity. They are found in all parts of the world and are one of the most important traditional systems for maintaining biodiversity. Home Gardens are important for the maintenance of biodiversity and for the conservation of traditional knowledge and skills. They are also important for the maintenance of biodiversity and for the conservation of traditional knowledge and skills.



Traditional Home Garden Systems

The importance of Home Gardens has been detailed for regions such as South East Asia (Gadgil and Gadgil 1992, Gadgil 1997) and Central America (Gadgil 1998). However, such studies have hardly been replicated in the rest of the world, especially in the temperate zone. Most of the Indian home gardens systems have been studied in the Western Ghats, Western and Central India, and have shown a tradition of maintaining Home Gardens, and thereby preserving the rural biodiversity of the region. Our recent study in the Western Ghats (Gadgil et al. 2000) revealed that more than 100 plant species are found in large, open, home gardens. Gadgil (1998) in the Western Ghats reported that home gardens are rich in biodiversity and produce a large number of vegetables and fruits. Gadgil and Gadgil (1992) also reported that a market survey of 100 plant species showed that out of a total of 50 plant species recorded, 40 are influenced from Home Gardens. This clearly indicates the role of Home Gardens in the maintenance of rural biodiversity.

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