

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 5: Plant Resources and Economic Botany

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Plant Resources and Economic Botany	04	2	0	2	10+2 from any recognized Board with Biology	Nil

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To familiarize students with the economic importance of diverse plant species and train them in identifying plants of economic importance through field visit/s, live plant specimens, herbarium specimens and digital resources.
- To make students understand the importance of various plant parts and derived products used as food, fibers, medicines, oils and other economically important products.
- To acquaint students with the processing of various economically important plant resources and train them to identify and analyses nutrients using simple microchemical tests.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- This course would provide students with information about the economic importance and products derived from plants and their roles in our daily lives.
- Students will learn to perform micro-chemical tests to study presence of various components.
- Students will explore the regional diversity in food crops and other plants and their ethnobotanical importance.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-5

Unit 1: Introduction and Origin of Cultivated Plants

02 Hours

Importance of Plant Resources; Vavilov's concept for the Origin of cultivated plants; Centres of Origin (Primary and Secondary); Centres of diversity, Harlan's concept of gene pools. Plant Genetic Resources and their conservation.

Unit 2: Cereals

04 Hours

Wheats (Origin, Evolution of Wheats (tetra- & hexaploid), Morphology, Production, and Economic Importance of Hexaploid Wheat); Rice (Origin-Monophyletic and Polyphyletic, Production, Morphology, Comparison between *indica* and *japonica* Rice, Parboiling,

Economic Importance); Other cereals: Maize, Barley, Oats, Millets (jowar, bajra, ragi) and Pseudocereals.

Unit 3: Legumes

03 Hours

General account (Nutritive Value of Pulses, Protein Malnutrition, Lathyrism, Favism, Ecological Importance); chick pea and pigeon pea (Production, Morphology and Economic Importance). Other Legumes: Lentil, Cluster Bean, Lathyrus, Beans, Pea, Cowpea, Fodder legumes and Green manure crops.

Unit 4: Sugars and Starches

03 Hours

Sugarcane (Morphology, Ratoonings, Nobilization, Products and By-products); Potato (Morphology, Tuber Anatomy, Seed Tubers vs True Potato Seeds and Economic uses).

Unit 5: Spices, Condiments & Flavourings

03 Hours

General Account (Spices, Condiments, Culinary Herbs and Essences, with examples), Importance of Spices, Clove (Morphology, Anatomy of part used and Economic Importance) and Black Pepper (Morphology, Anatomy of part used and Economic Importance). Other examples: Ginger, Turmeric, Cinnamon, Saffron, Cardamom, Chillies & Pepper, Fennel, Coriander, Cumin, Vanilla, Nutmeg.

Unit 6: Beverages

02 Hours

Types of Beverages (Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic) with examples, Tea and coffee (Morphology, Chemistry, Processing and Economic Importance)

Unit 7: Fibres and Fibre-yielding plants

03 Hours

Classification of Fibres based upon their Origin (surface fibres, bast fibres, and leaf fibres, with examples); Jute (morphology, extraction and economic importance), Cotton (*Gossypium* species, morphology, processing and economic importance) Comparison between Jute and Cotton fibers. Other examples: Flax, Hemp and Coconut.

Unit 8: Oil-Yielding Plants

03 Hours

Fatty Oils and Essential Oils, Comparison between Fatty Oils and Essential Oils; Fatty Oils (Classification with examples, keeping quality), Groundnut (Morphology and Economic Importance); Essential Oils (General characteristics, Methods of Extraction and Economic Importance, with examples). Other examples: Rapeseed & Mustard (canola), Coconut, Olive, Castor, Cottonseed, Sesame, Soybean, Linseed.

Unit 9: Medicinal and Drug-Yielding Plants

02 Hours

Brief Account of Therapeutic Drugs with Examples; Morphology, Chemical Constituents, Economic Importance of *Cinchona*, *Rauwolfia*, *Digitalis*.

Unit 10: Fumigatory & Masticatory

02 Hours

Tobacco (Morphology, species - *Nicotiana tabacum* & *N. rustica*), Processing, Products, Economic Importance and Health Hazards), *Cannabis*, *Papaver* (Morphology, Chemical Constituents, Economic Importance)

Unit 11: Rubber

01 Hour

Para Rubber - *Hevea brasiliensis* (Morphology, Tapping of latex, Processing, Products and Economic Importance)

Unit 12: Fruits & Nuts**01 Hour**

Tropical & Temperate; *Citrus*, Mango, Banana, Apple, Pineapple, Papaya; Nuts: Cashew, Walnut, Almond & Pistachio.

Unit 13: Vegetables**01 Hour**

Common examples of root crops, leafy vegetables (herbage), fruit seed vegetables;

Practicals:

1. **Cereals:** Wheat (Habit Sketch, L.S./T.S. grain, W.M. starch grains, Micro-chemical tests), Rice (Habit Sketch, study of paddy and grain, W.M. starch grains, Micro-chemical tests). Millets - Pearl Millet, Finger Millet and Pseudocereals - Amaranth Grain, Quinoa (specimens/digital resources and grains) **08 Hours**
2. **Legumes:** Chickpea, pigeonpea (Habit, fruit, seed structure, Micro-chemical tests). **04 Hours**
3. **Sugars and Starches:** Sugarcane (Habit Sketch, Products and By-products, Cane Juice-Micro - chemical tests); Potato (Habit Sketch, Tuber morphology, T.S. tuber to show localization of starch grains, W.M. starch grains, Micro-chemical tests). **08 Hours**
4. **Spices:** Clove, Blackpepper (Habit and sections L.S./T.S.), Saffron, fennel (specimen/digital resources) **04 Hours**
5. **Beverages:** Tea (plant specimen, tea leaves), Coffee (plant specimen, beans) **04 Hours**
6. **Fibres:** Jute (specimens/digital resources of *Corchorus capsularis* and *C. olitorius*, T.S. stem, test for cellulose and lignin on section of stem and fibre). Cotton (specimen, W.M. seed to show lint and fuzz; W.M. fibre and test for cellulose) **08 Hours**
7. **Oil-Yielding Plants:** Fatty Oils: Groundnut (Habit-specimen, Fruit, seeds, Microchemical Tests) Coconut-Habit (photograph), Fruit, T.S. nut, Mustard - (Habit- specimen, Fruit, seeds); Essential Oils: Habit Sketch of Rose, Jasmine, Vetiver, Sandalwood and *Eucalyptus* (specimens/photographs) **08 Hours**
8. **Drug-Yielding plants:** Habit - Fever Bark Tree, Poppy, Foxglove and Cannabis (Specimens/ Photographs) **08 Hours**
9. **Tobacco:** *Nicotiana tabacum* and *N. rustica* (specimens/photographs), Tobacco Products
10. **Rubber:** Para Rubber-Habit, Tapping of latex (Specimen/photograph), Rubber Products **04 Hours**
11. **Petro-crops:** *Saccharum officinarum* , *Jatropha* sp. **04 Hours**

Suggested Readings:

1. Kochhar, S.L. (2012). Economic Botany in Tropics. New Delhi, India: MacMillan & Co.
2. Kochhar, S.L. (2016). Economic Botany – A Comprehensive Study, 5th Edition. New Delhi, India: Cambridge University Press.
3. Wickens, G.E. (2001). Economic Botany: Principles & Practices. The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
4. Chrispeels, M.J., Sadava, D.E. (1994). Plants. Genes and Agriculture. Jones & Bartlett-Publishers.
5. Berg L, (2008). Introductory Botany: Plants, People, And The Environment, Thomson Brooks/Cole.
6. Cook F.E.M. (1995). Economic Botany: Data Collection Standard Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Richmond.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.