

A RECENT PLANT BIODIVERSITY STATUS OF MADHUPUR SAL FOREST

Dr. Ferzana Islam*

Executive Summary

Plant resources are one of the most important elements of biodiversity which support life system on earth. Plant diversity is a natural resource and it expresses the number of species of plants occurring in a given habitat. Bangladesh is well known to have wide variety of plant species with enormous genetic diversity that are scattered in natural forests, villages, gardens, and jungles. In Bangladesh, the Sal forests are one of the three major forest resources (other types are tropical evergreen and coastal forests) covering about 32% of the total forestland and 10% forest coverage. The total area of Sal forests is 110 thousand hectares in Bangladesh, out of which 86% is in the central region and 14% in northern region. The Sal forest in the central region is known as 'Madhupur Garh', which is comprised of two National Parks: Madhupur and Bhawal National Park. Sal forests are scattered in the central and northern parts of Bangladesh, and the major forest lies in the districts of Gazipur, Mymensingh and Tangail. These forests have a high economic and ecological significance in Bangladesh. Here, a combined dynamic study as well as a survey was carried out to assess the recent diversity of plant and demographic status of community in Madhupur national Sal forest during the period of January to June 2018. Quadrat method was used for observation the plant biodiversity. A total of 30 plant species were recorded of which 23 were tree species, 17 were herbs, 5 were shrubs and rests 5 were climbers. In Bangladesh, due to population pressure, deforestation and changes of land use pattern, many species of both flora and fauna have become extinct and many more species are categorized as threatened or endangered considering their existence in wild or cultivated form. In addition, Bangladesh will face serious consequences of biodiversity loss from the global climate change

* Professor, Dept. of Agroforestry and Environmental Science, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207