

ANNEXURE – I

Questionnaire for Collecting Information on Plants Used by *Mech* Tribe Duars of West Bengal and Assam (Jain & Mudgal 1999)

Place (State, Dist., Block, Village):

Date:

Tribe:

Informer's Name:

Age (Years):

Sex: Male / Female

I. **TIMBER**

1. **Tools**

(i) Tools for agriculture

- a. Ploughing
- b. Harvesting
- c. Sieves
- d. Winnowing
- e. Storing

(ii) Tools for hunting

- a. Arrows
- b. Bow
- c. Traps

(iii) Tools for weaving

(iv) Tools for spinning

(v) Tools for fishing

2. **House Building**

(i) Walls

(ii) Windows

(iii) Roof

(iv) Doors

(v) Thatching

(vi) Fencing

3. **Utensils used for cooking and eating**

(i) Boiling

(ii) Frying

(iii) Storing cooked food

(iv) Serving

(v) Dishes

(vi) Utensil for water

4. **Furnitures**

- (i) Any stool
- (ii) Any rack
- (iii) Cots

5. **Other minor articles**

- (i) Combs
- (ii) Tobacco pipes
- (iii) Musical instruments

II. **FOOD**

Botanical Name

Vernacular Name

How Consumed

Source (cultivated/wild)

1. **Normal diet**

- (i) Cereals
- (ii) Pulses
- (iii) Vegetables
- (iv) Oils & Fats
- (v) Fruits
- (vi) Condiments
- (vii) Milk
- (viii) Egg, Fish etc.

2. **Special diet**

- (i) For sick
- (ii) For expectant mothers
- (iii) For nursing mothers
- (iv) For guests
- (v) On festivals and ceremonies

3. **Any foods offered to deities**

- (i) On festivals
- (ii) Distributed as Prasad of Gods

III. **PLANTS USED IN MEDICINE**

Botanical Name

Vernacular Name

Parts Used

Formulations

1. **Diseases**

- (i) Abortifacients
- (ii) Anthelmintic
- (iii) Antiasthmatic
- (iv) Antibilious
- (v) Antidiabetic
- (vi) Antidysenteric
- (vii) Antilithic
- (viii) Antiperiodic
- (ix) Antiseptic
- (x) Antispasmodic
- (xi) Aphrodisiac
- (xii) Astringent
- (xiii) Carminative
- (xiv) Demulcent
- (xv) Diuretic
- (xvi) Emetic
- (xvii) Eye drops
- (xviii) Febrifuge
- (xix) Galactagogue
- (xx) Gargles
- (xxi) Hairdye
- (xxii) Purgative
- (xxiii) Sedative
- (xxiv) Skin diseases
- (xxv) Stomachic (digestive, appetising)
- (xxvi) Tonic
- (xxvii) Veneral diseases

IV. **DYES & TANS**

1. Dyes for cloths
2. Dyes for timber articles
3. Tans for any articles
4. Misc. uses

V. **LIGHTENING & FUEL**

1. Firewood
2. Oils

VI. **DETERGENTS**

VII. AROMATICS

1. For foods
2. For body
3. For worship
4. As incense

VIII. GUMS & RESINS

1. For paints
2. As gum
3. As incense
4. In food
5. In medicine

IX. BEVERAGES

- (i) As narcotic and drug
- (ii) As diet
- (iii) How prepared
- (iv) Connection with any ritual

X. FIBRES

- (i) For dresses
- (ii) For mattresses
- (iii) For cordage

XI. PLANTS USED AS POISON

XII. ORNAMENTALS

XIII. ANY OTHER UTILIZATION OF PLANTS

ANNEXURE – II

Questionnaire for Ethnobotanical Investigation of Traditional Medicine Used by Tribe *Mech* in Duars of West Bengal and Assam (Jain & Mudgal 1999)

Name of Village (Block):
Name of Herbal Practitioners/Occupation:
Age (Years):
Sex (Male/Female):

Date:

1. BOTANICAL INVESTIGATION

- (i) Source of plant
- (ii) Numbering
- (iii) Vernacular name
- (iv) Plant collected from cultivated or wild state
- (v) Preliminary classification (Order, Family)
- (vi) Specimen for herbarium

2. PHARMACOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

(i) How did the *Mech* acquired the ethnomedicinal knowledge?

- a. By read the scripture
- b. Learn through traditional folklores
- c. Through self training/intuitive perception:
- d. Any other methods they told

(ii) Gathering of the plant

- a. Season (time of year & time of day)
- b. Conditions
- c. Parts used
- d. Storage

(iii) Drug

- a. Treatment of the plant for preparing drug
- b. Appearance of the drug

(iv) Dosage (preparation technique)

- a. Natural drug
- b. Crushed drug

- c. Extract (infusion/decoction)
- d. Powder
- e. Juice
- f. Filtrates
- g. Pastes
- h. Pills
- i. Other preparations

(v) Method of use

- a. Internal (Chewing, Inhalation, Other routes)
- b. External (Poultice, Ointment, Baths, Touch therapy)

3. ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR OBSERVATIONS

4. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLANT (Order, Family, Genus, Species, Variety)

ANNEXURE – III

***Mech* Terminology Used in the Present Work**

Quite a good number of *Mech* terminologies have been used throughout the present work. It is now an attempt to translate these terminologies as realized from discussion with different people including the *Mech* students now pursuing different courses of studies at the University of North Bengal. These terminologies and the English equivalents are presented below:

<i>Akhtam Ganhani</i>	Engagement for marriage
<i>Alari Batti</i>	A sacred earthen lamp
<i>Ankham Jahanai</i>	Eight day's ceremony after marriage
<i>Arnai</i>	Scarf used by men
<i>Bairathis</i>	A group of people from both bride's and groom's house are entrusted marriage rituals
<i>Ban-dingdong</i>	Two earthen pitchers containing rice beer and sun dried rice hung on two sides bamboo-rod
<i>Ban Hanai</i>	Engagement for marriage
<i>Bandia</i>	Coat with a row of buttons
<i>Bangkon Hanai</i>	Marriage proposal
<i>Banzar</i>	Torch
<i>Banzar-shauno</i>	Apply fire to the mouth of a corpse at the time cremation
<i>Bari-khitao</i>	Matchmaker
<i>Bathi</i>	Projecting bamboo polls that rest on the shoulders of the poll bearers
<i>Bathou</i>	Great God
<i>Bi-ni-mi-kham</i>	Evening meal
<i>Bla</i>	Arrow
<i>Bodo-bushta</i>	A sort of coat with two small threads
<i>Burai-buraikhau</i>	Felicitation the old lady who is present during the childbirth
<i>Burung</i>	Bamboo made fishing trap
<i>Bushta-bhoto</i>	A sort of coat with two small threads
<i>Bwrai Bathou</i>	God
<i>Chanchhali</i>	Traditional handloom

<i>Changra</i>	Bedstead with a layer of jute-stick
<i>Chemper</i>	A bamboo made instrument, used to knit fishing net
<i>Chirin</i>	Bamboo made scaffold
<i>Dau Bidor</i>	Flesh of fowls
<i>Daujurun Khutnay</i>	Rice distribution ceremony
<i>Deusi</i>	Priest
<i>Dhiki</i>	Wooden manual husking instrument
<i>Doi-gothar-satno</i>	One of the customs during pregnancy
<i>Doi Hachung</i>	Bamboo cylinders, used for carrying and storing water
<i>Doi-khur</i>	Watering place or well
<i>Dokhna</i>	Traditional dress of women
<i>Dokhna-thinthai</i>	Traditional dress of women when plain
<i>Dokhna-ashar</i>	Traditional dress of women when it is ornamented
<i>Duar</i>	Door
<i>Finlu</i>	Puzzle
<i>Gamcha</i>	Cloth for men
<i>Gandu</i>	Pillow
<i>Gaon-burha</i>	Village head-man
<i>Gay-thao</i>	A small bundle containing five betel leaves and five areca nuts, used in marriage ceremony
<i>Ghum</i>	Headgear made with bamboo strips and leaves of <i>Phrynium pubinerve</i>
<i>Gothai-dugarna</i>	After burning clean and wash the cremation place
<i>Haba</i>	Marriage ceremony
<i>Hadang</i>	<i>Jhum</i> cultivation
<i>Hakhor</i>	Small pond
<i>Hal-wai-nai</i>	Agriculture
<i>Hangsha Bidor</i>	Flesh of ducks
<i>Hasib</i>	Broom
<i>Hauwala</i>	A kind of vaginal disease
<i>Hisha-lu</i>	White sheet
<i>Iyem</i>	Bedding
<i>Iyem-hi</i>	Cotton bed-sheet
<i>Iyem-shi-phung</i>	Pillow is made with cotton pressed jute or cotton bag, it is called <i>Iyem-shi-phung</i>
<i>Janala</i>	Window

<i>Jakhoi</i>	Fishing trap
<i>Kangkila</i>	A bamboo made instrument, used to knit fishing net
<i>Khamflai</i>	Flat wooden stool
<i>Kham-go-zang</i>	Early morning meal
<i>Khardoil Bedai</i>	Alkaline salt
<i>Khira Fornai</i>	Taking oath
<i>Khitab</i>	Quilt made of piecemeal cloth
<i>Khobai</i>	For keeping fish it is used
<i>Khogan-oat</i>	Pyre for burning dead bodies
<i>Khumshi</i>	Woolen or cotton blanket
<i>Koka</i>	Bamboo made fishing trap
<i>Mainou</i>	The goddess of wealth
<i>Mosanai</i>	Dance
<i>Modomni Gamscha</i>	Wrapper to cover the body during winter
<i>Modon-jum-nai-ni-hi</i>	A sort of blanket, used in winter
<i>Na</i>	A house
<i>Nak-thung</i>	Wooden foot wear
<i>Na-ma</i>	House for the mother
<i>Na-ma-no</i>	Northern hut for God
<i>Nangti</i>	A small piece of cloth worn by children
<i>Na-sangou-thamang-gou</i>	Fishing
<i>No</i>	A house
<i>No-a-ghar</i>	Cooking hut; Kitchen
<i>No-nay-nay</i>	Observing the groom's house
<i>Obanlaoree</i>	The God
<i>Ojha</i>	Priest or medicine-man
<i>Oma Bidor</i>	Flesh of pigs
<i>Ondla</i>	A type of curry basically made from powdered rice
<i>Ooa</i>	Bamboo
<i>Ooal</i>	Wooden mortar
<i>Ooani Siphung</i>	Bamboo-flute
<i>Ooa-shothing</i>	Slip of green bamboo skin
<i>Phanic</i>	Bowstring

<i>Pharau Bidor</i>	Flesh of pigeons
<i>Phatusla</i>	Jute mat
<i>Phun-dung</i>	Thread
<i>Rupa-hase-nai</i>	One of the marriage customs
<i>Ruya</i>	Axe
<i>Sailon</i>	Bamboo wicker-worked tray
<i>Sanja-phu</i>	Midday meal
<i>Singi-muri</i>	Arrow-head
<i>Swrjigiri</i>	Creator
<i>Takuri</i>	Spindle used in spinning
<i>Tepai</i>	Bamboo made trap for catching small fishes
<i>Thansali</i>	Temple
<i>Thir</i>	Arrow
<i>Thursi</i>	Earthen or metal or wooden plate
<i>Ukhum</i>	Thatched roof
<i>Uta Nadi</i>	When the child is born from the feet
<i>Wat-shauno</i>	Before the burning of dead body son moves round the pyre thrice
<i>Zang</i>	Spear
<i>Zang-ni-danthe</i>	Wooden handle of spear
<i>Ze-ma</i>	Fishing net
<i>Zilit</i>	Bow