CHAPTER VIII

ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT PLANTS

Various crop plants are being cultivated as cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, fruits, fibres etc. Elusine coracana, Oryza sativa, Panicum miliaceum, Sorghum bicolor etc. are the main cereals and millets cultivated throughout the area.

Cajanus cajan, Cicer arietinum, Vigna radiatus, V. unguiculata ssp. cylindrica, Pisum sativum etc. are cultivated as pulses.

Guisotia abyssinica is the main crop grown for oil seeds. Arachis hypogea, Sesamum orientale are also cultivated at some places.

Abelmoschus esculentus, Allium cepa, Luffa acutangula, L. cylindrica, Lycopersicon lycopersicum, Momordica charantia, Moringa oleifera, Solanum melongena etc. are the main vegetable species grown in the area. Carica papaya, Mangifera indica, Manilkara zapota, Musa paradisiaca, Psidium guajava
are some of the plants cultivated for fruits. *Gossypium arboreum* and *Hibiscus cannabinus* are cultivated for fibres. *Saccharum officinarum* and *Nicotiana tabacum* are cultivated as cash crops.

*Tectona grandis* is the main timber species planted by forest department. Besides, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *A. chundra*, *Bamboo arundinacea*, *Dendrocalamus strictus* are also grown for timber/firewood. *Anacardium occidentale* is grown at some places for valuable seeds. *Agave ingens* is grown in the famine and for strong fibres.

In addition to the above, several useful wild species are scattered throughout the area. The ethnobotanical data gathered during the course of botanical explorations are presented in Chapters.