INTRODUCTION

A garden is described as a place of growing flowers, fruits or vegetables. A Botanic Garden, however, is not merely a place for growing flowers, fruits or vegetables, but is an educational institute for scientific workers and general public or laymen to awake interest in plant life. If the history of the development of the Botanical Gardens of the World is traced, it will revealed that these gardens appeared with the growth of human culture and functional as the center of human progress. They reflected the growth of human culture of the region in which they were situated. Botanic Garden, in the sense of collection of living plants grown for some educational, economic, medicinal or scientific purpose, have played a significant role in many civilizations and cultures over the ages. However, there is no University accepted or entirely satisfactory definition of a botanic garden (Heywood, 1987; IUCN, BGCS 1989), and this complicated the making of assessments as to their overall adequacy on contributions. Most Botanic Gardens are broadly based botanical resources centers that undertake work in variety of botanical disciplines of which conservation is an important part. Heywood, (1987), classified the botanical gardens related to their origin and functions, for example, European Medicinal, European classical, Colonial tropical and Civic and Municiple, however, they all shared by the following characteristics.

(i) They maintain documented living plant collections
(ii) They are open to the public and provide educational information on their collection for visitors.
(iii) They undertake scientific and horticultural research
(iv) Their plant collections are labelled.
(v) Their collections are amassed for purpose, other than decoration, well documented for conservation purposes.

The lack of a very clear definition as to what constitutes a “Botanic Garden” has blurred the edges between what are public parks or private collections and what are true scientifically based botanic gardens. An early definition of a botanic garden given by the
International Association of Botanic Garden (IABG) was: a botanic garden or arboretum is one open to the public and in which the plants are labeled. "However the Botanic Gardens Conservation Strategy (IUCN- BGCS, 1989) contains a more comprehensive list of characteristics defining a modern botanic garden with "A biological facility that serves as a center for research data storage, documentation and reference, as well as for educational, interpretive conservation and public service activities."

A Botanic Garden can broadly be called a living repository of plants and maintained on some scientific basis where the collections are usually marked for identification. Earlier Botanic Gardens established in Sixteenth Century were probably built up with the object of growing plants of the neighboring places and also those which have procured through collection or exchange from distant lands. The aim was to bring together as many plants as possible and the ranking or status of the garden depended largely on the number of novelties it contained. This may be the start of Botanic Gardens with certain specific objectives and functions. The next phase in the evolution of Botanic Garden was the study of systematic botany or taxonomy. Plants in Botanic Gardens were arranged on the basis of their diagnostic characters and plants of a particular group were grown together. Gradually Botanic Gardens become places of study of the diversities and curiosity of plant kingdom and of taxonomic studies and education awareness.

The history of development of the botanic gardens is very old and it is well documented notably by Kraus (1894), Hill (1915), Stafleu (1969), Stern (1971) and Moore (1974). Although gardens existed in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia for the growing of herbs, food plants and ornamental or for pleasure and/or as status symbol. But these gardens were not designed as botanic garden in which plants are collected and maintained for scientific purposes. The first such botanic garden with the primary function of science and education may have been that of Theophrastas the "Father of Botany". This garden attached to his school (the Lyceum ner Athens, Greece had been bequeathed to him by his teacher Aristotle).

Later on Roman borrowed this idea and they started developing ornamental gardens. Amongst the best known of the Roman ornamental gardens were those of Locullus and Pliny's. Romans maintained small gardens as sources of medicine and as aids to medical studies. The "medieval monastue gardens" appeared in the late 18th
century during the **reign of Charlemagne**, who assigned the task of medical training to the monasteries. Some of the typical monastic garden included the hortus for vegetable and fruit and the **herbularis** for various herbs the latter was the precursor of the physic garden that were established in affiliation with the medical facilities of Universities during 16th & 17th the centuries.

The credit for the establishment of the first modern botanic garden belongs to the Italian Luca Ghini, first Director & Professor of botany called from Bologna to Pisa in 1543. This was the garden associated with University. Anderea Caesalpinio was the second director of the garden. Pisa garden was the oldest Botanical Garden. This garden was one of the earliest garden devoted to the public study of Botany. Though the Pisa Botanic Garden does not exist today, records of its design demonstrate the geometric patterns of planting originating with monastic gardens that are characteristic of many continental garden even today. Two other University Botanic Gardens were begun at Podua and Florence in 1542. The establishment of other important gardens followed in succession: They are: Bologna; Italy (1967), Leyden, Netherland (1587), Oxford, England (1621), Paris, France (1653), Berlin; Germany (1646), Uppassala, Sweden (1655), Edinburgh; Scotland (1670), Amsterdam; Netherland (1682), Vienna; Austria (1754), Kew; (1760) Cambridge; England (1762) Coimbra; Portugal (1773). Howrah, India (1787) Bangalore; India (1983).

During the last half of the sixteenth century, Clusius became a dominant figure in botany and as a director of the botanic gardens at Vienna and Leiden. He greatly influenced the development of such gardens in Europe by the end of the near east period. The century of plant activity had shifted from Italy to Austria, Germany and the Netherland. In 17th century, France become the new country of botanical activity with the decline of Spanish sea power du Roi or Jardin des Plantes was founded in Paris. It was independent educational and scientific institution and established with a view to promote the teaching of pharmaceutical botany. Its collection in the paleontological department are among the worlds best. It is the oldest and most important non-university botanic garden still in existence. The Cape period (1687-1772) was considered to be golden age of Holland. Due to establishment of glass houses and conservatories, numerous plants like *Geranium* and succulents were introduced. Paul Hermann, a Professor of Botany at Leidon, has traveled in South Africa and India and created a great interest in plant
collection in the botanic garden. In Amsterdam, at the same time Jan Commelin (1682) was appointed to establish a botanic garden. The efforts of these two botanists, stimulated a strong interest in plant among the Dutch sea merchants resulting in vigorous and enthusiastic plant collection.

Linnaeus (Father of Taxonomy) after completed his botanical training in Holland was then employed by George Clifford, a wealthy Dutch banker, between 1735 to 1737 in his private botanic garden. Linnaeus in 1741 has described all plants of Clifford’s own private botanic garden. He became director of Botanic Garden at Uppasala. Swedan. Under Linnaeus supervision, plant collection in the garden had increased enormously i.e. up to 3000 species from 300 species. During this period under Clifford, Linnaeus was able to complete and publish the followings: *Systema Naturae* (1735), *Bibliotheca and Fundamenta Botanica* (1736), *Genera Plantarum* (1737), *Hortus Cliffortianus* (1737).

The botanic gardens of England were preceded by the establishment of several private gardens devoted to the cultivation of medicinal plants of other interest some are: In 1621, Botanic Garden at Oxford was established specially for the purpose of cultivating ‘physic’ plants. The basic principles in the study of botany were taught with the help of plants growing in botanic gardens. In 1673, the ‘Chelsea Physic’ garden was founded in London, which acted as a gardens of the Society of Apothecaries Sir Hans Sloane. In 1760, due to interest of Princess Augusta Princess Dowager of Wales, set aside a portion of the Royal Garden at Kew house, as a physic garden. William Aiton (the first curator and a pupil of Miller) was in charge of this garden for 34 years. After the death of the Princess in 1772, botanical property of Kew garden, was united with Richmond Botanist Garden and garden with an extensive area, now known as Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) Kew. This RBG differs from other botanic gardens in that, it was not associated with any University of educational organization.

In India, Kolkatta (Calcutta) Botanic Garden was initially mainly established for cultivation of economically important plants i.e., potato and introduction of tea, mahogany, jute, sugarcane and cinchona. The tropical botanic gardens were developed during the Australian period. Gardens in great Britain, West Indies (1764), Calcutta (India, 1786) and in later tropical gardens were established in Malaya & Ceylon during this period. Due to the great scientific and economic expansion of the period, the earlier
physic gardens were replaced by more recent botanic gardens not only in Europe but also in the tropics.

During the 19th century, due to improved means of transport the massive exchange of plant material, the development of glass houses for the cultivation of tropical plants and other technical developments, led to the kind of botanic garden with large collection of ornamental species often a collection of economic plants for display or teaching, flower beds for instruction in systematic botany etc. Botanic gardens lost the restrictive character of physic gardens and became more extensive in size and function. True botanic gardens began to appear in North America. Some of the major Botanic Gardens established in America are the: (a) The Elgin Botanic garden (1801) New York. Later on became the Botanic Garden of the state of N.Y. (b) The Missoouri Botanical Garden (Shaw's Garden) (1859) in St. Louis. (c) The Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University (1859) in St. Louis. (d) The New York Botanical Garden (1891). New York in New York city.

THE DECLINE PHASE OF BOTANIC GARDEN:

Although Darwinism has not affected botanic gardens much, but one consequence of Darwinism on plant systematic was to stimulate research in the origin of angiosperms and to construct systems of classification of the flowering plants, as the natural ones. In the latter of the 19th century, botanic gardens generally went through a phase of decline and lack of purpose in the present century. This was partly due to the development of independent agriculture or forestry departments and research institutions and much of the work on introduction and testing of crops and other plants of economic importance was taken over by them, leaving the botanic gardens without one of their major roles. The subjects of economic botany also went into decline. Only recently it is showing sign of reveal as we academic discipline. Historically the botanic garden of the past were the gardens of medicinal plants. The role of such gardens was the provide lining specimens for the instruction of medicinal students and also for supply of actual drug for medicine. As Stearn (1961) notes, there were no firm distinctions in these days between medicine, herbalism, pharmacy and botany. Medicinal properties of the plants growing various gardens were recorded in a classic work of Dioscorides De Materia
Medica in the first century. Botanic gardens of today are institutions established with the following multipurpose objectives.

(i) To supply living plant resources for basic and applied researches in systematics, genetics, ecology horticulture or other associated discipline of pharmacy and chemistry.

(ii) To serve as a professional training and public instructional facility.

(iii) To develop/start conservation activities i.e. the protection of endangered and threatened species.

(iv) To the propagation of rare species.

(v) Education awareness to school level students.

Thus, the botanic gardens of today those are associated with University, are in real sense botanic garden with multipurpose facility that serves as a center for research, education, conservation and public service.

The types of Botanic Gardens.

The major types of botanic gardens in the world are outlined below, although many have multi-purpose roles and so do not fit neatly into any well-defined category (BGCI, 2000).

1. Classic multi-purpose gardens- They are generally state supported gardens. These are often the largest with a broad activities in horticulture and horticultural training; research particularly in taxonomy with associated herbaria and laboratories; public education and amenity.

2. Ornamental gardens- Many municipal gardens fall into this category. These often very beautiful establishments with diverse plant collections but currently with little or no research, education or conservation role; their plants are often not labelled.

3. Historical gardens- Many of the earliest gardens established as physic gardens for the teaching of medicine come under the category. Some were developed for religious reasons and many were laid out in elaborate geometric patterns. Some of these are still active in medicinal plant collection and cultivation of medicinal plants and the spreading of information about them to the public. Some have associated laboratory and research facilities.
4. Combined botanical and Zoological gardens- Which have collection of plants and animals.

5. Agro-botanical and germplasm collection gardens- these gardens function as an ex-situ collection of plants of economic value or potential for conservation, research, plant breeding and agriculture. Several are experimental stations associated with agricultural or forest institutions. Many are not open to the public. Many contain associated laboratory, plant breeding and seed testing facilities.

6. Alpine of mountain gardens- are specifically designed for the cultivation of mountain and alpine flora, or in the case of tropical countries, for the cultivation of subtropical of temperate flora. Some are satellite gardens of large lowland botanic gardens.

7. Conservation gardens- They have associated areas of natural vegetation in addition to their cultivated collections. They play role in public education.

8. University gardens- Universities have traditionally maintained botanic gardens which have a multipurpose function in teaching and research & conservation. Many are open to the public.

9. Natural of wild gardens- Most are established to play conservation and public education roles and include natural areas where native plant are grown and area in protected and managed.

10. Horticultural gardens- Maintained by horticultural societies for promoting the training of professional gardeners breeding. Registration and conservation of garden plant varieties and act as garden for use pleasure and service of members. Most are also open to the general public.

11. Thematic gardens- These specialize in growing a limited range of related or morphological similar plants or plants grown to illustrate a particular theme. These include orchid, rose, Rhododendron, bamboo and succulent gardens or gardens established on such themes as Ethnobotany, medicine, bonsai, topiary, butterfly gardens, carnivores plants, aquatics.

12. Community gardens- These generally small gardens with limited resources, developed for and by a local community to fulfil its particular needs, such as for recreation, education, conservation, horticultural training, medicinal and other economic plants, etc. A huge number of new community botanic gardens have been established over the last decade in many parts of the world.
Requirement of Botanic Gardens:

On the basis of suggestion of BGCI (1998), following will be the requirement of Botanic Garden.

- The area of a good Botanic Garden should be between 100 and 175 hectares, but the larger are better in all respects.
- The soil condition of the area should be carefully examined so that the introduced plants are not subjected to any deficiency conditions (e.g. mineral, both micro and macro elements, water-stress, sub-soil water level etc.)
- At least 10 percent of the area should constitute water surface, so that aquatic species could be grown and humidity inside the garden is maintained more or less at the desired level. This may also sometime serve as temporary source of water for irrigation purposes.
- There should preferably be perennial source of water for nurturing the plants.
- The Botanic Garden can be planned in such manner as to provide for developing the following aspects or areas.
  a) **Taxonomy Garden**: The representative species of classification should be grown familywise according to some conventional system of plant classification. There should be sufficient provision for space to represent each and every family of the flowering plants: ca 0.25-0.40 ha. for each family.
  b) **Medicinal Plants Garden**: Important medicinal and aromatic plant wealth of the country should be put together in a demarcated area.
  c) **Germplasm Collection**: Each and every Botanic Garden should have germplasm collection of particular genera or species suited to that climate.
  d) **arboretum**: Adequate space should be kept for this purpose.

- There should be architecturally attractive glass houses, conservatories, phytotrons and plant houses to grow the rare and endangered species and the species of ornamental and horticultural importance including house plants, cacti and succulents, orchids etc.
- The Botanic Garden should be developed into recreational and aesthetic spots with delightful monuments, plant houses, fountains, ornamental gardens etc. and with some public amenities.
• The Botanic Garden should not be very far from the town and should have means of transport and conveyance for visitors.

• The Botanic Garden should have well equipped laboratory with provision for further expansion to undertaken horticultural researches and herbarium representing the local flora and garden specimens.

• The residential accommodation of the Garden Management Staff and Officers should be adjacent to the garden but should always be outside the campus of the garden.

Distribution of gardens is not in uniform manner. In areas were there are exceptional concentrations of species with high levels of endemism, such as south America, South East Asia, and Africa, there are still relatively few botanic gardens.

However, there is cause for optimism as a large number of new botanic gardens are being created in these high biodiversity regions. Most are relatively poorly resource but nevertheless are aimed at contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of native plants. About 60% of the World’s botanic gardens are situated in temperate regions, in North America, Europe and the countries of the former soviet Union.

The fastest growing sector in the botanic garden world is the creation of community botanic gardens- Gardens designed to serve specific needs in their local communities and often managed by those same communities. In some tropical countries, botanic gardens have been created along side national parks, designed to play roles in integrated conservation, sustainable development and public education. Region wise number of Botanic Gardens are given below in the table. (BGCI 2000).

Distribution and number of Botanic Gardens:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Number of Botanic Gardens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa and Indian Ocean</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribbean Islands</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Soviet Union</td>
<td>155</td>
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<td>Middle East</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Asia</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,846</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF BOTANIC GARDENS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY**

There are approximately 1846 Botanic Gardens in 148 countries. (UNEP – BGCI-2000) The earth’s Botanic Gardens are distributed inversely to the natural phyto-diversity (BGCI, 1989). The Federal Republic of Germany alone is host to roughly 100 such gardens frequently associated with well known research institutions which together presumably harbor more than 50000 taxa. They constitute immeasurable wealth and a tremendous responsibility at the same time. Germany’s Botanic Gardens alone at least roughly 14 millions the plant diversity of individual gardens (alpha diversity) visitors a year in relation to the area available for cultivation is extremely high. Botanic Garden of Bonn with almost 9,000 species, cultivates more than three times the number of species occurring naturally in Germany on an area of just 6.5 ha. (BGCI 1989).

The first European Botanic Gardens Conference held at Edinburg in April 1997, results that representatives of Botanic Gardens from all European countries now gather on the regular basis to develop a joint plant of action for the gardens. Soon after this, in June, 1997, European parliament passed a Botanic Gardens Resolution and recognized the existence, tradition and achievement of 350 gardens in Europe.
In the course of European history, Botanic Gardens have frequently played and important role in mediators in the introduction of economically usable plants. Botanic Gardens in a modern sense of the world can be traced back to the European middle age. The oldest gardens are known to us from, Italy. They originally served mainly as herbs gardens for monasteries. The medicinal orientation of these gardens later resulted in close association with the University that were being founded at that time, particularly with the medicinal facilities. The Botanic in Europe have a long tradition of teaching and research and also a role in a public relations and environmental education as well as in nature conservation. Europe’s Botanic Gardens boast more than 20 million visitors a year. They, therefore play an important social and cultural role in society, which by undertaking numerous different activities. The Botanic Gardens in Germany were established in the 16th century.

Today, major gardens cultivates thousands of species from all over the world on comparatively small areas. Amongst the world largest gardens with number of species found them are; Royal Botanic Garden Kew (34,000 species), Botanic Garden Berlin – Dahlem (20,000 species), Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (17,000 species), New York Botanic Garden (15,000 species), Frankfurt Palm Garden (13,000 species) Kolkata. However, the the average gardens house considerably less than 10,000 species, as a rule, the number of species in cultivation in any one garden lies between 3,000 and 8,000. Current information on a great number of the plants in cultivation enables us to give a fairly reliable account of the distribution of flowering plants in the gardens on different taxonomic levels. A preliminary evaluation of several sources, (Heywood & Watson 1995, Huxley et.al. 1992; UNEP-1996) reveals the following results on different taxonomic levels of the 454 families of flowering plants accepted by (Brummitt,d 1992) at-least 380 are cultivated (i.e. at least 88%) in gardens of the 13,700 genera a much smaller proportion of approximately 5,500 (only 40% are represented in gardens of the 270,000) species around 80000 species of higher plants (30%) are in cultivation, meaning that botanic gardens worldwide cultivate almost one third of all described species of flowering plants.

An evaluation of several plant families in gardens shows a highly unequal representation. Very well representation of families, is that Bromeliaceae (60-70%), representation Cactaceae (more than 90% of cacti are in cultivation). A attractive family
like the Didiereaceae represent a special case where all are in ex-situ cultivation in many
gardens. In contrast to these families the other families like Asteraceae, Rubiaceae,
Euphorbiaceae show representation of the less than 10% of plants in cultivation. A case
of Orchidaceae is different where only 25% of the 30,000 species of this family are being
cultivated. This probably may be due to a group of highly attractive plants which
generate great interest to common people.

An evaluation of specific life forms and plants of different geographic origin yield
similar results. Probably more than 90% of temperate trees are in cultivation. In contrast
to the tropical plants which are being cultivated less than 10% of the total. Botanic
gardens endeavored to a mass a wealth of species from all regions of the earth long
before concepts of conservation policy hand ever been developed International
Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG) has taken a lead role for clearly interpreting the
need for action arising from the Biodiversity convention and integrating the results into
the national and international works of the associations.

Some may still adhere to the idea that a Botanic Garden is and institution that
generates exorbitant personnel cost, which is intended for the recreation of the elderly for
the instruction of a few students in an antiquated subject and for scientists sitting in a
ivory tower and counting the anthers of rare flowers. This picture, however, does not
reflect reality. The earth summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992 made the term biological
diversity apolitical catch phrase. Singh then, it has become clear to a wide public. By
ratifying the convention an biological diversity. Botanic Gardens are playing a important
role and committed themselves under international law to themselves international law to
making the conservation study sustainable use of global biological diversity a priority.

The Botanic garden in Germany alone cultivate close to 50,000 species and attract
more than 14 million visitors every year. This they thereby contributed greatly to the
conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and raise widespread awareness
of these task among the general public.

In the course of European history, the Botanic Gardens have a long tradition of
teaching, research and environment education. European’s Botanic Gardens boast more
than 20 million visitors a year. The first European Botanic Garden Conference, which
took place in April 1997 in Edinburgh, deserve special mention in this meeting representatives of Botanic Gardens from all European countries now to gather on the regular basis to develop a joint plan of action for the gardens and to make steps towards its realization. As a result of such activities European Parliaments was compelled to pass a Botanic Gardens Resolution in June 1997 which recognise the existence, tradition and achievement of the European Union’s approximately 350 gardens. This resolution many turn out to be a valuable means of attractively more attention in the Botanic Gardens on a national and of course of European level.

Botanic Gardens are places with an extremely high concentration of plant diversity that is entrusted and accessible to her ex-situ, i.e. species far away from the natural habitats. Botanic Gardens are also important institutions for the research, conservation, and use of Biological Diversity combined with task of teaching and raising awareness among the general public. These tasks are in conjunction with the implementation of the Convention of Biodiversity, relevant excerpts of which will be discussed and presented in detail here, with specific reference to botanic gardens and their research institutions associated with them. Conventions are contracts of International law which are intended to enforce certain policies or standards of behavior or an International level. In the history of conventions. So far only a few have aimed at the conservation or protection of biological diversity. Although the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora (CITES) has been in existence since 1973 and regulates and controls international trades in endangered animal and plant species, but it does not require contracting state to protect biological diversity within their jurisdiction.

This text is intended to give the reader and opportunity to become acquainted with the Biodiversity Convention in a clearly structural manner and to understood its relevance to Botanic Gardens at global level and the relevance of Biodiversity Convention of Botanic gardens and its significance to the implementation of the convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention).

CHARACTERS OF BOTANIC GARDEN:
None of the botanic gardens was associated with any University in the period. Well as for educational, interpretive-conservation and public service activities’ important characteristics of botanic garden includes the followings:-.

• Long-term commitment to and responsibility for the maintenance of plant collections.
• An underlying scientific basic for the collections.
• Proper documentation of the collections, including wild origin.
• Monitoring of the plants in the collection.
• Adequate labeling of the plants.
• Open to the public.
• Storage and dissemination of botanical and horticultural information to other Gardens, institutions, organizations and the public.
• Exchange of seeds or other materials with other botanic gardens, or arboreta.
• Training in organized biology.
• Workshop and short training courses for professional and general public.
• Undertaking scientific or technical research on plants in the collections.
• Research in organized biology by the undergraduate, & post graduate students.
• Maintenance of research programmes in plant taxonomy in associated herbaria.

There are many botanic gardens which are clearly ‘botanic’ gardens but which do not meet one or more of these criteria. Within the definition of a botanic garden given above, there may be included a great diversity of institutions ranging from large gardens with several hundred staff and a diverse range of activities to small institutions with limited resources and activities. Nevertheless, as suggested by the International Agenda for Botanic Garden by BGCI. (Jackson & Sutherland.2000), all can play a role in botanic resource management in botany, horticulture, conservation and education. Recently, Jackson (1999), has given a concise and scientific definition of botanic garden. According to him “Botanic Gardens are institutions, holding documented collection of living plants for the purpose of scientific research, conservation, display and education.”

When BGCI was established in 1987, a computer database was started listing every known botanic garden in the world, as well as details of their resources, staff and activities. The aim of the database was to support the development and subsequently the
implementation of the Botanic Garden Conservation Strategy (IUCN-BGCS, 1989). An extensive survey of institutions maintaining living collection was undertaken, and when an international directory of botanical gardens was prepared in 1990, it contained 1,400 institutions. This was a considerable increase from the 708 included in the previous edition in 1983. Today, the total of botanic gardens listed by BGCI has risen to 1,846 worldwide, in 148 countries. Including India (as per recent publication of Botanic Garden diversity by BGCI, 2001-02). Out of eight Botanic Gardens, those who are member of BGCI in India, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Botanic Garden is one of them.