The terms Indigenous knowledge and Traditional knowledge are frequently used in the same context to distinguish the knowledge of traditional and indigenous communities from other types of knowledge, such as the knowledge of scientific and industrial communities. Traditional knowledge is a broader category that includes indigenous knowledge as a type of traditional knowledge held by indigenous communities (Mugabe 1999). While “traditional knowledge” and “indigenous knowledge” are not synonymous, they share many attributes, such as being unwritten, customary, pragmatic, experiential, and holistic. Here also both the terms have been used interchangeably.

Traditional farmers in India developed agricultural practices to successfully grow crops and raise animals in the highly diversified agro-ecological conditions with the help of locally available raw materials. The resource poor farmers with the help of highly efficient techniques that depend on locally available, low cost inputs get their lively hood.

The role of Traditional knowledge in healthcare is indisputable. Because of better cultural acceptability, better compatibility with the human body and lesser side effects the recognition of traditional medicine is now a days getting popularity.

The contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is indisputable. The growing interest in the potential contribution of indigenous knowledge to sustainable development is becoming manifest.

Inspite of the growing awareness among the intellectuals about the value of traditional knowledge regarding agriculture, health care, handicrafts etc, a little effort has been made to identify, document, validate and protect this knowledge. There is a great threat that this knowledge will be completely lost or be misappropriated by the time we really understand the worth of this valuable knowledge system.

It is anticipated that indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge may be important sources of new technology for the future.
Traditional agriculture, is a sustainable indigenous farming practice, that results out of the coevolution of local social and environmental systems and that exhibit a high level of ecological rationale expressed through the intensive use of local knowledge and natural resources, including the management of agrobiodiversity in the form of diversified agricultural systems.

Having a varied favourable agro-climatic condition India is a major producer of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, root tuber, ornamental aromatic plants medicinal herbs, spices and plantation crops like coconut, arecanut, cashew and cocoa. Its loudable achievements can be termed as more than 30.5% GDP of agriculture has been contributed by Horticulture.

The technological modernization in Agriculture is highly successful at meeting its primary objective of increasing crop yields and augmenting aggregate food supplies, in order to answer the problem of feeding the increasing world’s population, yet, despite its success at increasing aggregate food supply, as a development approach it has not necessarily translated into benefits for the lower strata of the rural poor in terms of greater food security or greater economic opportunity and well-being.

Studies of impact have shown that the better-off strata of rural society have gained access to better incomes generated by the introduction of technology whereas the poorest strata have tended to lose access to income that was available before its introduction. However, most farmers have not willingly adopted this, rather it has been forced on them by a package of government policies, subsidies and selective price incentives.

Medicine is the field where Indigenous Knowledge is taught both in informal as well as formal subject in educational institutions. India has many Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy medical colleges and several university departments. All herbal drug based systems come under the control of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H).

The study aims at exploring the potentials and finding the means and ways of promoting the traditional knowledge by developing effective policy
recommendations for the achievement of benefit sharing of the traditional knowledge holders of India in particular and the world population in general.

Covering the whole area being enriched with the contribution of traditional knowledge was not possible in the study due to time and cost constraints. The study has been divided in two parts.

As a result of the analysis it has been found that unanimously irrespective of age, profession and location the respondents acknowledged the use of traditional knowledge, though their preference in the level of use varied. Most of the respondents went in favour of three areas where the use of traditional knowledge is very high. These are Agriculture, Herbal Medicine and Handicraft. When asked about the enrichment of these areas their result went to Agriculture the most.

As the whole world is being considered as a global village i.e., the borders of the countries are about to deplete and knowledge is easily transferred into a marketable commodity; there is a growing realization that the traditional wisdom representing our cultural identities is being lost. Easy accessibility of ITK leads it to be susceptible to misappropriation. In recent past a lot of cases of bio-piracy has been noticed.

The Researcher has finally suggested some suggestions for the adoption of a new technology which would be environment friendly economically viable, and socially acceptable.

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