

# **Economically Useful Plants and Entrepreneurial Botany Summary**

- ❖ Early civilization in different parts of the world has domesticated different species of plants for various purposes.
- ❖ Based on their utility, the economically useful plants are classified into food plants, fibre plants, timber plants, medicinal plants, and plants used in paper industries, dyes and cosmetics.
- ❖ However, food base of majority of the population depends on very few Cereals, Millets, Pulses, Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts, Sugars, Oil seeds, Beverages, Spices and Condiments.
- ❖ Oils can be classified into two types namely, essential oils and vegetable oils. Fatty acids in oil may be saturated or unsaturated. The oil yielding plants are groundnut and sesame.
- ❖ The oils are used in cooking, making soaps and other purposes. Beverages contain alkaloids that stimulate central nervous system.
- ❖ Spices were used throughout the world for several years. Cardamom is 'Queen of Spices' used for flavouring confectionaries and beverages. Black pepper is King of Spices.

- ❖ Botanically a fibre is a long, narrow, thick walled cell. Cotton and Jute are fibre yielding plants.
- ❖ Teak is wood used for making furniture.
- ❖ Rubber is produced from the latex of *Hevea brasiliensis*.
- ❖ Paper production is a Chinese invention. Dyes have been used since ancient times.
- ❖ The orange dye henna is from the leaves of *Lawsonia*.
- ❖ Perfumes are volatile and aromatic in nature, manufactured from essential oils which are found at different parts of the plant.
- ❖ Medicinal plants serve as therapeutic agents. Medicinally useful molecules obtained from these plants are marketed as drugs are called Biomedicines.
- ❖ Whereas phytochemicals from some of the plants which alter an individual's perceptions of mind by producing hallucination are known as psychoactive drugs.
- ❖ Entrepreneurial Botany is the study of how new businesses are created using plant resources as well as the actual process of starting a new business