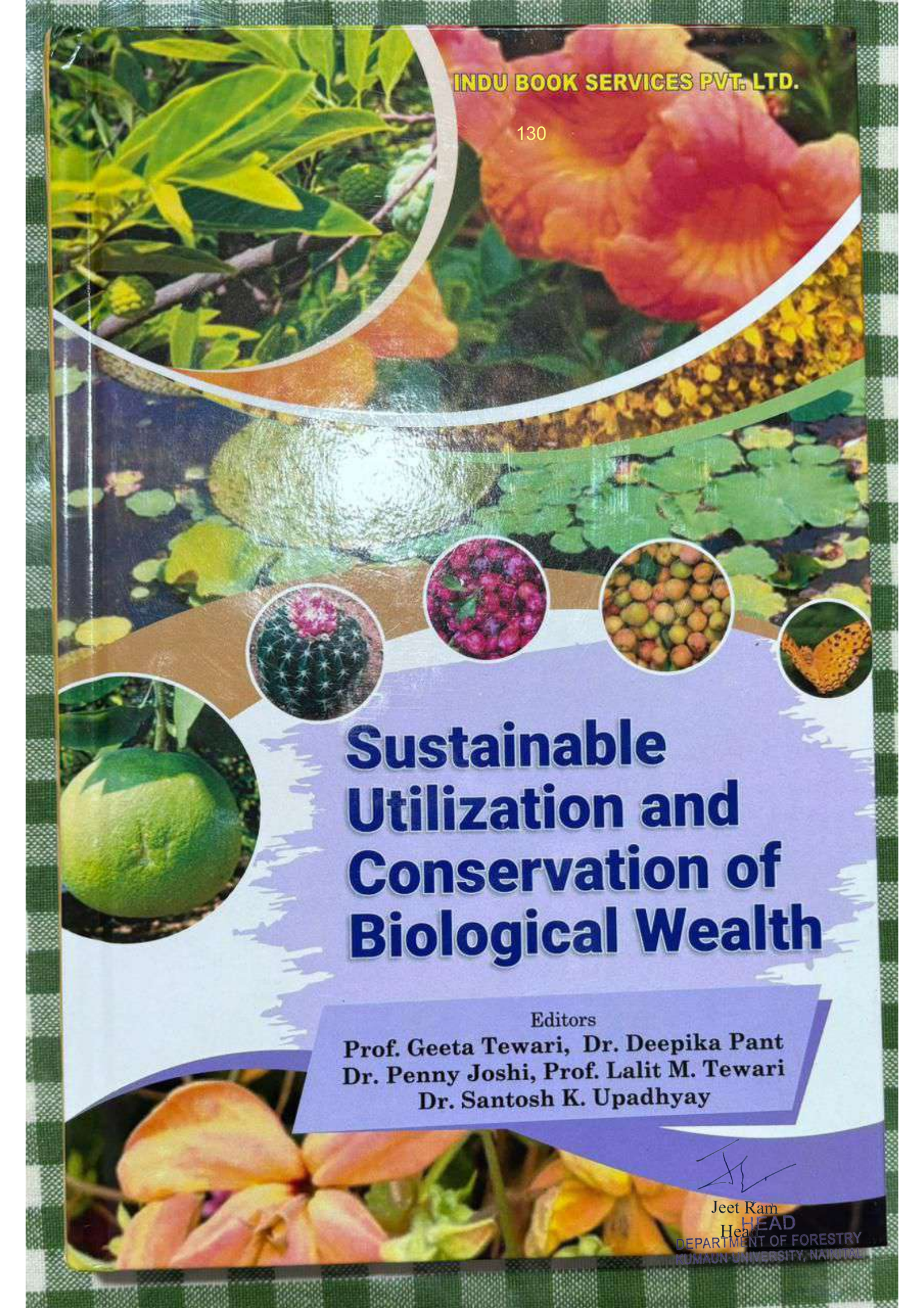


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Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Biological Wealth

Editors

Prof. Geeta Tewari, Dr. Deepika Pant
Dr. Penny Joshi, Prof. Lalit M. Tewari
Dr. Santosh K. Upadhyay



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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, NAINITAL

Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Biological Wealth
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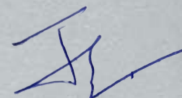
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Chapter 3

Regeneration Issues and Fruit/Seed Maturation Timing of Some Edible Wild Tree Species With Medicinal Properties in Kumaun Himalaya

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ABSTRACT

Among Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), wild medicinal trees play an important role for the communities residing near the forest areas. Misconception prevails among the local population that forest trees will yield medicine forever without considering the relentless anthropogenic pressure they face without any respite in the Himalayan region. Several species are failing to regenerate and only old and mature trees remain. Most of the wild medicinal and edible fruit species in forests are being over exploited which ultimately affects their regeneration. The present study deals with evaluating the regeneration status and determining the time of fruit/ seed maturation and germination of four important wild edible species, *Myrica esculenta* Buch-Ham, *Prunus cerasoides* D. Don, *Diploknema butyrcea* (Roxb.) Lamb., and *Ficus auriculata* Laur, which have several medicinal uses. The study area was located between 29°18' and 29°24' N and 79°19' and 79°30' E at an altitudinal transect of 900 and 2100m in the Nainital district of Kumaun Himalaya. Among all the selected wild edible species the maximum seedling density was in *P. cerasoides* (690.0 seedlings/ha) followed by *M. esculenta* (371.6 seedlings/ha) and *D. butyrcea* (47.50 seedling/ha). In all the selected species the seedling density was high but the conversion of seedlings into saplings was relatively poor. On the other hand, in *F. auriculata* both saplings and seedlings were completely absent. In *M. esculenta* colour change of fruit from green to dark red, in *P. cerasoides* from green to pale red, in *D.*

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