

Vegetation Ecology of Coastal belt of Khejuri area of Purba Medinipur District with special reference to Hijli coast, West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT: The present article deals with vegetation admixed with populated shoreline elements along with some exotics which broadcast valid and successional change that can develop community as natural kind if managed by local people. The forest department (FD) is engaged with plantation of varied types of elements since two decades ago. The types of vegetation therefore three types as per the present situation either natural or plantation or preliminary natural followed by plantation type. This is due to the potential use of plants for different purposes either for fuel wood production or by other purpose they served. As a coastal line, all the managerial systems always associated with framing or making shelter belt or green belt for multipurpose reasons. The main theme was to sustain species in the present habitats and withstand there against natural calamities like devastating storms, heavy flood or to check the erosion which is annual and reoccurrence type. Therefore, the species planted there as artificial kind is *Casuarina equisetifolia* along with *Acacia auriculiformis* and a few strips of *Eucalyptus* for the sustenance of life. These species used for fuel wood production as well as for protection of the habitats in the upper strand. But the species planted along the shoreline are *Sonneratia apetala*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *A. marina*, *A. alba* and *Prosopis juliflora*. Other species they planted the same site are *Acacia nilotica*, but the species grew there with stunted growth and dynamics of stability was confined. Therefore, the types of special vegetation required here are to check the habitats as well as to develop biodiversity through the growing vegetation and reaching climax formation by halophytes. Though mixed pattern of vegetation found here are mesophytic, xerophytic, hydrophytic, halophytic, halophytic associate type and exotic introduced type. Most of the species grow there as plantation type except a few true halophytes near the High Tide (HT) and Low Tide (LT) area. Ground vegetation of *Aleuopus lagopoide*, *Suaeda maritima* and *Suaeda monoica* cover the disturbed area grazed by cattle which need immediate protection. A general discussion along with vegetation cover of true halophytes both in natural habitat and in plantation stands have been made for critical analysis as preliminary study. A total number of 16 plant species have been critically analyzed along with some potential plants with market demand have been discussed thoroughly. These will generate oxygen for categorically different researchers in the field of biology in near future to manage the ecosystem more usable than the present and will provoke sufficient path to generate income for eco-sustenance of life.

KEYWORDS: Khejuri-Hijli, Coastal area to shore, Ecology of Vegetation, Dynamics of Halophytes, Purba Medinipur, Sustainable Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

East Midnapore or Purba Medinipur is one of the 18 administrative districts of West Bengal with its headquarters located at Tamluk which was previously called Tamralipta (Bandyopadhyay, 2009). The district was carved out of the erstwhile Medinipur district on January 1, 2002. The district has 4 sub-divisions: Tamluk, Contai, Egra and Haldia (Anonymous, Website). Total area of the district is 430140 lakh Hac. The Purba Medinipur District is geographically located between 21° 36' 35" N and 22° 57' 10" N latitude and 86° 33' E' West and 88° 12' 40" E East longitude and is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal and Balasore District of Orissa State in its South, Paschim Medinipur in its West, Howrah district in the North and South 24 Parganas in the East. On the basis of soil type, rainfall, source of irrigation, the entire Purba Medinipur District has been categorized under 3 Agro-Ecological Situations (AES). The Block/ Taluka wise distribution in the AES is given hereunder but interesting point is that the study site if fall under coastal saline soils (Table1, 2). Area studied under the AES is 15.3% which is very much interesting to study further for different researches because, pattern of diversity of soil and irrigation channels are varied with high tide and low tide even flooded by seawater during monsoon.

Hijli coastal area is a part of Contai Sub-division of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal Coast which is fascinating one due to its soil type. Here, degradation both by natural means and manmade cause is lower in compare to the other areas due to boost vegetation cover particularly introduced type along with a small number of patches of natural kind. Coastal stretch of West Bengal with a length of about 350 km comprises the two districts namely Purba Medinipur (Earstwhile Medinipur) and Dakshin Chhabbispargana (South 24 Pgs). It extends over 0.82 million hectare and 220 km of coastal line. Muddy coast account for 350 km, of which 90% are treated as marshy zone having halophytic vegetation and their associated flora and fauna; only around 40 km is considered as sandy belts. It includes two coastal districts namely the South 24 Parganas, supported by Sunderban Mangrove Ecosystem and Midnapore Coast having sand flats and degraded mangrove patch. Indian part of Sunderban comprises Mangrove area (4262 Square Km) slightly more than that (4109 square Km) of highly reclaimed counterpart in Bangladesh. The Coastal belt of Midnapore District represents 27% of West Bengal of coastal tract (60 Km) extending along the West Bank of Hooghly estuary from New Digha and then curving around Junput, Dadanpatrabar, Khejuri and Haldia on the east to the further north east up to Tamluk or even on the bank of Rupnarayan (Mandal *et al.*, 2013). Hijli area is fall under Khejuri-II community development block. In West Bengal, three seasons are very much pronounced (Pre monsoon, monsoon and post monsoon), each with four months duration and are mainly governed by rainfall and temperature (Chakraborty, *et. al.*, 2010). No *Shorea robusta* (Sal) vegetation was noticed here though the opposite southern part of the Contai sub-divisional village Basantia and Saraswatipur under Chalti Gram Panchyat Samiti area having dominant species as Sal (Das, 2013). But here interesting point is that, plantation type is filled with halophyte species which may be a role model to study ecology there with no disturbance and which is not found in sunderban areas of South 24 parganas. In the present study aspects of vegetation along with impact to develop environment better, have been made because no such type of study have been made earlier except a scattered literature found from different field. So, all the types of vegetation along with impact study would encourage the people to conserve the flora and fauna better for their own purpose and also would qualify the environment sustainable and better managed.

All the types of vegetation record would also enhance the knowledge of biology in near future. As for example, Villagers planted different lemons in their own garden in the same site to earn money annually. These are species like *Citrus aurantifolia* (Patilebu), *Citrus jambhiri* (Jamir/Sarbati) and *C. lemon* (Gandha lebu). The market value may vary from season to season and the cost is amounting Rs. 80-100/- as Indian rupees per hundred pieces. Byers carry these by personal lorry and transport the same to the market nearby or directly to the big city like Kolkata, Cuttack etc. Other products are Drumstick, Bittergourd, Luffa, Trichosanthes and Brinjal etc. But every day they face pathogenic attack by serious pathogens on green vegetables. Other diseases they face are non-pathogenic or physiological kind. The extent of parasitism of the plant differs from place (habitat) to place in the crop fields. The intensity of the infection of diseases may also affect their yield (Ghosh and Das, 1997). The vegetables they used or sold locally are Kalmi sak (*Ipomoea aquatica*), Hinche sak (*Enhydra fluctuans*), Susni sak (*Marselia aquatica*), Gime sak (*Glenus oppositifolia*), Giria or Nona sak (*Suaeda maritima*), Kanta note (*Amaranthus spinosa*), Saluk (*Nymphaea alba*), Kachu (*Alocasia/Colocasia* spp.), Sajne (*Moringa pterigosperma*), Dkehi sak (*Diplazium* sp.), Ghoragima (*Mollugo pentaphylla*), Betho sak (*Melilotus alba*), Chikuni sak (*Polygonum plebejum*) and Gandhavaduli (*Paederia foetida*) etc. Weeds of rice field and agricultural fields are species like *Launea sermentosa*, *Tylophora asthmatica*, *Sphaeranthus* sp., *Grangea madraspatna*, *Polygonum plebejum*, *Sessilis indica*, *Chrozophora rottlerii*, *Ammania baccifera*, *Eriocaulon quinquangulare*, *Coenoplexix* sp., *Gisekia pharnaceoides* var. *pharnaceoides*, *Rotalia indica*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Clerodendrum inerme*, *C. infortunatum*, *Cassia alata*, *C. tora*, *Caesalpinia bonduc*, *Sida cordata*, *Croton bonplandianum*, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Phylla nudiflora* and *Oldenlandia affinis*. In social forestry site they planted *Acacia auriculoformis*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Glericidia maculate*, and a few areas where the planted Cashew (*Anacrdium occidentale*) along with teak (*Tectona grandia*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). Amount of leaf litter deposition on ground in plantation stand fur away from coast is higher than coastal mangrove plantation. But the site of second type is important because, this site is nutrient recycling site and managed by nature herself. This is due to huge number of aerial roots on the surface of the floor. This study is important because the litters of the mangroves are important during nutrient recycling. This is also supported by a study of *Avicennia officinalis* L. leaf in laboratory by Dey *et al.* (2010) in experimental conditions. They identified a total 44 species of micro arthropods from coastal area of Midnapore under varied ecosystems in which all are belonging to seven groups and are interacting with the litter decomposition and recycling of nutrients. So more research is essential for the litter recycling of other species under the genus **Sonneretia** (Keora) in the same ecosystem under plantation stand of Coastal Purba Medinipur.

II. AREA UNDER STUDY

The study area is fall under the 2 community development blocks of contain Sub-division of Purba Medinipur District, namely Khejuri-I and II. Grma Panchayats of Khejuri –I community development block (CDB)/Panchyat samiti are Birbandar, Heria, Kalagachia, Kamarda, Lakshi and Tikasi. Head quarter of this community development Block is at Kamarda. Similarly the second one *i.e.* Khejuri-II CDB having 5 Gram Panchayatas (GP) namely, Baratala, Haludbari, Janka, Khejuri and Nijkashba. Geographical area of the first block is 130.52 square kilometer and the second block is 132.77 square kilometer. The area around Khejuri has come up. first century maps project an emerging island in the area which was dumb. Seventeenth century maps show two islands–Khejuri and Hijli. The entire area was submerged under water. Long embankments have been built to keep the saline water away and the land recovered with great effort. In the days of the Nawabs of Bengal, this area had many salt pans. In the early days of the East India Company, the port and the town flourished at Khejuri. As Kolkata grew in importance Khejuri lost its usefulness to the British (Wikipedia: Khejuri-I and II CDBs, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.). Vegetation is admixed, and the pattern is varied from place to place because, the site having dry salty pans to wetland and marshy habitats. To study of source and sink of major vegetation products, different eco-habitats have been taken for consideration. To study at market for vegetation products, wild, horticultural or agricultural type, some villages of Khejuri –I and II CDBs have been selected. Both the sites fall under different Agro-Ecological Situations (Table 1, 2). Villages and different belts of non agricultural sites were also taken for vegetation study with water channeling systems which disseminates propagules round the year. Some coastal areas of Hijli of Khejuri-II area have been taken for the study of Natural vegetation, plantation stand and grazing land along with some canals, ditches and small ponds. These sites having seasonal vegetation cover which influence the eco-habitat round the year and sustain the life style of the said people. So, People of the local villages and in shops were taken for the present study to know the empirical knowledge or indigenous knowledge they are applying till date for protecting the vegetation. The area depicted in Map-1, have been taken for the ecological research for a period of 2 years, it may be more time consuming depending upon the load of the work.

Table 1. Distribution of Blocks in each AES

Sr no	AES I	AES II	AES III
1	Tamluk	Nandigram I	Bhagabanpur I
2	Sahid Matangini	Nandigram II	Bhagabanpur II
3	Panskura I	Nandigram III	Egra I
4	Panskura II	Mahishadal	Egra II
5	Nandakumar	Sutahata	Potashpur I
6	Moyna	Haldia	Potashpur II
7		Kanthi I	
8		Kanthi II	
9		Kanthi III	
10		Ramnagar I	
11		Ramnagar II	
12		Khejuri I (Study site)*	
13		Khejuri II (Study site)**	

*** : Single and double asterisks indicate study site which fall under Vegetation Ecology Study.

Table 2. Soil types of each AES

Sr no	Type of AES	No of Blocks/ Talukas covered	Geographical area(lakh Ha)	No of Gram Panchayats	No of Revenue Villages
1	AES- I Loamy clay soil	6	96990	72	738
2	AES- II Coastal saline soil	13	220800	100	1421
3	AES- III Clay Loamy soil	6	112350	51	876
	Total	25	430140	223	3035

Source: General Description of the District, Purba Medinipur, Chapter-II, from Website.



Map 1. Area of study site under Khejuri blocks (I and II) of Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India: Map taken from Web, Purba Medinipur.

III. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Vegetation plays a significant role in protecting sand dunes, alluvial tracts, banks of river, estuary, muddy bundh, bank of ponds, jhills, canals found in coastal area which are eroded seasonally by flood along with High tide and low Tide (HT/LT). Therefore, according to authors, Untawale (1994) and Banerjee (1994) dune vegetation is an ecological storehouse rich in genetic diversity along with high ecological value. Not only that, the species available there are playing a vital role in protecting the coast from erosion and flooding (Desai, 2000). According to Corre Jean-Jacques (1991) coastal sand dunes are the natural structures which protect the coastal environment by absorbing energy from wind, tide, and wave action. In the present study the area with low dune composition but high level of muddy flat basin that broadcasts richness of ground vegetation protect soil havoc to generate succession to reach the vegetation of plantation stand to reach nearer climax. This formation starts with lichens and alga of green type from bed of basin and adjacent mouth of the river. All the species (both herbs and trees) play here a significant role to stabilize habitat and species both flora and fauna rich to richer. Therefore, study and research is essential to come in to a point of following kinds-

1. To study the vegetation types in Khejuri-I and II Blocks with special reference to Hijli and nearby coast.
2. To study the pattern of Ecosystem dynamics persist in the area.
3. To study the types of vegetation in **natural, degraded and plantation** sites.
4. To study the flow of fuel wood and related materials collected by the local people.
5. Role of forest departments and public sectors enjoying the scenic beauty along the sustenance of economy of the people for the people and by the people.
6. Study of illegal collection pattern of plant and similar products, and their impact on local vegetation.
7. To prepare Parallel guideline to sustain local vegetation more better through better management of resources.
8. To study ecological status and vegetation and role of Institutions to conserve the environment sound and healthy.

IV. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Several ecological surveys were done in the villages of Khejuri-I and II community development blocks under Contai sub-division of Purba Medinipur during last year. In this year some surveys of field have been conducted at the coastal areas of Khejuri-II community development block. Survey was conducted in four ways given below: First Way: Field study: Study of vegetation was made at village boundary, roadside, near institutions, near canal bund, near wetlands, wasteland, and in the garden of public sectors of the study area. Study of vegetation was made in open land and in semi-open land as per quadrat methods followed by final checklist of species after seasonal study.

For coastal line special studies were made for Cashew plantation, casuarinas plantation, Acacias and Prosopis plantation including special studies on halophytes of new and old stand with special reference to canopy cover and ground cover., Market study was done for potentially important products of wild and semi wild kind and knowledge taken from resource persons from field regarding their experience to conserve the species of halophytic and non-halophytic type., Second Way: Study of Vegetation: Vegetation study made on the basis of frequency, density and abundance of the species in different stations of the study sites seasonally., Third way: Specimens Collected and studied at laboratory for identification of species and specimens for further research. Soil of different sites were taken for study but till date not analyzed. Some soil of specific sites along with halophytes and halophytic associates were collected for VA-mycorrhizal study. Leaf litter also collected from field for the study of anatomy and morphology of species of special interest to establish stress in such condition. Fourth Way: Indigenous Knowledge Study: Study of Literature and suggestions taken from field workers and villagers to develop further strategies on research and extension activities. Plants are listed alphabetically along with their ecological status including special attention required or not.

Photographs and soils including roots of special interest were collected seasonally to study more and conserve them for further research. All the materials were preserved as Herbarium specimens and museum specimens in our personal custody. 4-5 % copper sulphate solution and 4% formaldehyde solution were taken for preservation. Field notes including photographs were recorded and preserved for further study. Materials of some plants were also collected from field and preserved in FAA solution. Dry parts of the fruits, seeds, barks and roots were preserved in jars/containers with naphthalene balls. Some photographs were kept in a removable Hard Disk (RHD), and some are under process for publication as recorded one. Some photographs were uploaded in facebook to broadcast the data among the teachers interested in Botany. Underground parts and parts for special interest were kept in the institutional laboratory for future work through the preservatives. Some specimens were under process for the specimens of herbarium section of CAL herb. Identification was done with the help of standard literature (Duthie, 1960; Hooker 1892-1897, Haines, 1921-1925 ; Prain, 1963; Das, 2007, Anonymous, 1997, 2005, 2010, 2012). The names of plants were cross checked and finally placed following Bennet (1987). Previous literature studied for the coastal line research followed by Chakraborty *et al.*, (2012). For the identification of species of wetland, Fresh Water Vegetation of Rimer (1984) was followed. To study species of some salty marshes, museum and herbarium section of CAL Herb was used before presenting the document. Herbarium and museum specimens were prepared as per the methodology of Jain and Rao (1977). Different books of Govt. sections have been used to study the use pattern of medicinal plants but for general consideration the common book used was Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Some scattered literature was used to study the Social aspects of plants (Malhotra *et al.*, 1991, Roy *et al.*, 2000). Herbarium specimens collected as per the manual published by Rao and Sharma (1990). Species of Halophyte kind have been identified by the identification manual Mangroves in India (Banerjee *et al.*, 1986). Other literature made by Blasco (1975), Banerjee (1987), Dwivedi *et al.* (1974), Mukherjee (1978), Naskar *et al.* (1978), Rao *et al.* (1972), Sanyal *et al.* (1984), Sidhu (1960), Thothatri (1981), Waheed Khan (1959), Walson (1928), Gul and Khan (1995), Subhanian *et al.* (2010) , Jha *et al.* (2011), Ahamed *et al.* (2011), have been consulted for the same purpose.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results revealed that 64 plant species are found there as common occurrence in most of the villages under Khejuri-I and II Community Development blocks. Among them,

Terminalia arjuna (Arjun in Bengali), **Spondias pinnata** (Amra), **Syzygium cumuni** (Kalo Jam), **Samania saman** (Khiris), **Diospyros malabarica** (Gab), **Trewia nodiflora**, **Thespesia populnea**, **Casuarina equisetifolia** (Jhau), **Delonix regia** (Gulmohar), **Anthocephalus cadamba** (Cadamb), **Acacia nilotica** (Babla) and **Acacia auriculoformis** (Sonajhuri) are used widely as wood of commerce even for fuel wood purpose. The fruits of commercial kind are obtained from species like **Zizyphus oenoplea** (Kankul), **Z. jujube** (Topa kul), **Moringa oleifera** (Sajne/Sanna), **Psidium guajava** (Piyara), **Pithecellobium dulce** (Kitchmichi), **Mangifera indica** (Aam), **Cocos nucifera** (Narkel), **Borassus flabellifer** (Tal) and **Phoenix sylvestris** (Khejur). Medicinal plants of commercial type are **Urena lobata**, **Vitex negundo**, **Ichnocarpus frutescens**, **Ambroma augusta**, **Enhydra fluctuans**, **Wedelia calandulacea**, **Glycosmis pentaphylla**, **Achyranthes aspera** and **Adhatoda vasica**. Species with ornamental value found there are species like **Bougainvillia spectabilis** (Bagan Bilas), **Spathodia campanulata** (Tree Tulip), **Thevetia peruviana** (Kalke) and **Anthocephalus cadamba** (Kadam) (Table 3).

Table 3. Plant species of Common Occurrence in villages studied under Khejuri-I and II blocks, Contai, Purba Medinipur..

Sl. No.	Name	Family	Ecological Notes	Conservation measures recommended
1.	Acacia auriculoformis A. Cunn. Ex Benth.	Mimosaceae	Plantation type, seed germination rate high.	No need of conservation, only need protection during plantation
2.	Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd. Ex Del. Ssp. indica (Benth.) Brenan	Mimosaceae	Very hardy species	Not required only need protection
3.	Achras sapoda L.	Sapotaceae	Economic plant	Spreading through grafting in nursery
4.	Achyranthes aspera L.	Amaranthaceae	Wild and roots used in ali (A kind of paste with turmeric and Costus rhizome which is anthelmintic)	Need conservation of wasteland and village shrubberies
5.	Adhatoda zeylanica Medic.	Acanthaceae	Propagation through cuttings	Need conservation of waste land.
6.	Albizia lebbek (L.) Willd.	Mimosaceae	Tree of commerce	Need protection
7.	Anthocephalus cadamba (Roxb.) Mig.	Rubiaceae	Need more plantation as avenue tree	Need Protection for first 4 years.
8.	Argemone maxicana (Roth.) Schum.	Papaveraceae	Weeds and seeds are very dangerous if mixed in rape seeds.	Need conservation for biodiversity, but not truly dangerous, it has its positive value
9.	Streblus asper Lour.	Moraceae	Wild in village shrubberies	Need conservation
10.	Bambusa bamboos (L.) Voss	Poaceae	Economic and usable	Need plantation
11.	Bambusa tulda Roxb.	Poaceae	Economic and usable	Need more plantation
12.	Bombax ceiba L.	Malvaceae	Flosses are important	Need potential use in field for its commercial value
13.	Borassus flabellifer Roxb.	Arecaceae	Economic as well as ecologically sound	Need more plantation in village bund and in coastal line
14.	Bougainvillia spectabilis Willd.	Nyctaginaceae	Value added for its ornamental use	Need more cuttings for developing new types.
15.	Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb.	Caesalpinaceae	Nuts are economic	Need protection from illegal cuttings and burning.

16.	Calotropis gigantean R. Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Roots and latex is economic	Need protection
17.	Calotropis procera (Ait.) Ait. f.	Asclepiadaceae	Flosses are used for its filling purpose.	Need protection
18.	Cassia alata L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Fruits are economic	No need of conservation
19.	Casuarina equisetifolia J.R. & G. Forst.	Casuarinaceae	Economically sound	Need conservation from illegal felling and need protection.
20.	Cissus quadrangularis L.	Vitaceae	Stem economic	Need Protection need varied use
21.	Citrullus colocynthis L.	Cucurbitaceae	Not known	Used as species for phytodiversity conservation
22.	Clerodendrum inerme (L.) Gaertn.	Verbenaceae	Conserve soil near bund and in the high land	Need conservation
23.	Cocos nucifera L.	Arecaceae	Economic	Highly valued need protection and need more plantation
24.	Crotalaria pallida Ait.	Fabaceae	Not Known	Need for species conservation
25.	Croton bonplandianum Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	Anti bleeding agent	Need protection form loss
26.	Cuscuta reflexa Roxb.	Cuscutaceae	Febrifuse and used in viral diseases	Need more study for research and extension host diversity study and chemical analysis is required.
27.	Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	Fodder plant and sacred plant for Hindu	Need habitat conservation to protect quadruped in villages
28.	Cyperus rotundus L.	Cyperaceae	Fodder plant	Need protection
29.	Delonix regia (Boj.) Raf.	Caesalpiniaceae	Ornamental value	Need protection from felling
30.	Diospyros malabarica (Desr.) Kostel.	Ebenaceae	Fruits economic	Need protection from felling
31.	Dolichandrone spathacea (L. f.)K.Schum.	Bignoniaceae	Canal side plant and frequency is very low	Need special attention to study.
32.	Ficus benghalensis L.	Moraceae	Common but religious	Need Protection
33.	Ficus religiosa L.	Moraceae	Common but religious	Need Protection
34.	Fimbristylis tetragona R. Br.	Cyperaceae	Frequency low need special attention	Need protection
35.	Glycosmis pentaphylla Corr.	Rutaceae	Common and helps to study community for plant population	Need special attention
36.	Ichnocarpus frutescens (L.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Medicinal and economic	Need special protection because frequency is low.
37.	Ipomoea fistulosa Mart ex Choisy	Convolvulaceae	Widely used for fencing purpose for fuel wood purpose	Need attention to increase population
38.	Jatropha gossypifolia L.	Euphorbiaceae	Seeds are economic and twigs are used as tooth brushes	Need protection
39.	Kyllinga triceps Roth.	Cyperaceae	Economic	Need habitat conservation
40.	Mangifera indica L.	Anacardiaceae	Mostly economic	Need more plantation

41.	Mikania cordata (Burm. f.) Robinson	Asteraceae	Medicinal one	Need habitat conservation
42.	Moringa oleifera L.	Moringiaceae	Economic and highly priced	Need large scale plantation
43.	Oldenlandia stricta L.	Rubiaceae	Species of low population	Need protection
44.	Opuntia monacantha Haw.	Opuntiaceae	Population insufficient	Need population protection
45.	Opuntia stricta (Haw.) Haw.	Opuntiaceae	Population low	Need population protection
46.	Pandanus fascicularis Lam.	Pandanaceae	Frequency moderately low	Need Protection of microclimate
47.	Phoenix sylvestris (L.) Roxb.	Arecaceae	Very low population	Need special attention to develop or increase population
48.	Phylla nudiflora (L.) Greene.	Euphorbiaceae	Fodder plant	Frequency High, ionno need of conservat
49.	Pithecellobium dulce (Roxb.) Benth.	Mimosaceae	Economic	Need protection
37.	Pongamia pinnata Vent.	Fabaceae	Oil yielding plant, economic	Need more plantation
50.	Prosopis juliflora (Sw.) DC.	Mimosaceae	Fuel wood species	Need more plantation
51.	Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae	Economic	Need to develop orchard
52.	Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae	Economic	Need more plantation
53.	Samania saman (Jacq.) Merrill	Mimosaceae	Wood of commerce	Need protection
54.	Spathodia campanulata Beauv.	Bignoniaceae	Ornamental tree	Need more plantation
55.	Spondias pinnata (L.f.) Kurz.	Anacardiaceae	Commercial	Need large scale cultivation
56.	Syzygium cumuni (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	Fruits	Wild
57.	Terminalia arjuna (Roxb.) Wight. & Arn.	Combretaceae	Medicinal	Need conservation
58.	Thespesia populnea (L.) Soland.	Malvaceae	Economic	Need more plantation
59.	Thevetia peruviana (Pers.) Schum.	Apocynaceae	Flowering plants mostly in gardens	Need attention to spread the plats
60.	Tiliacora acuminata Colebr.	Menispermaceae	Wild woody climber	Need species protection
61.	Trewia nudiflora L.	Euphorbiaceae	Wood of commerce used parallel to Gamhar (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>)	Need more plantation in roadside.
62.	Urena lobata L.	Malvaceae	Medicinal	Need habitat conservation
63.	Vitex negundo L.	Vitaceae	Medicinal	Need habitat conservation
64.	Zizyphus oenoplea (L.) Mill.	Rhamnaceae	Economic	Need protection

Plant species of commercial importance in village markets are species like **Alocasia indica**, **Colocasia esculenta**, **Enhydra fluctuans**, **Glinus oppositifolius**, **Ipomoea aquatica**, **Ipomoea batatas**, **Musa paradisiaca**, **Portulaca quadrifoliata**, **Dioscorea alata**, **Enhydra fluctuans**, **Chenopodium album**, **Centella asiatica**, **Marselia quadrifolia** and **Polygonum plebejum**. The availability of the plants in the weekly markets of the said area varies from season to season. During monsoon the frequency of occurrence is very low in comparison to winter (Table 4). During summer the quality of the products is very good in compare to the products of monsoon.

Table 4. Plant species of commercial importance in village markets of Study site.

Sl. No.	Name	Family	Ecological Notes	Conservation measures recommended
1.	Alocasia indica (Roxb.) Schoot.	Araceae	Moderately abundant	Need aquatic and semi-aquatic habitat conservation
2.	Amaranthus spinosus L.	Amaranthaceae	Low abundance	Need Wasteland conservation, as well as conservation of garden habitat.
3.	Amaranthus viridis L.	Amaranthaceae	Low abundance	Need Wasteland conservation
4.	Amorphophalus sylvatica	Araceae	Low abundant	Need more plantation and need more species introduction
5.	Centella asiatica (L.) Urbn.	Apiaceae	Moderately abundant	Need restoration of natural eco-habitat.
6.	Chenopodium album L.	Chenopodiaceae	Cropland species	Need cultivation
7.	Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schoot	Araceae	Highly abundant	Need special attention to cultivate in a large scale.
8.	Dioscorea alata L.	Dioscoreaceae	Low abundant	Need more plantation and need more species introduction
9.	Enhydra fluctuans Lour.	Asteraceae	Ecotone species	Need special attention to develop more in aquatic but fresh water habitats
10.	Glinus oppositifolius (L.) A. Dc.	Aizoaceae	Grown in Moist and semidry habitat	No need of conservation because ecological setting is more.
11.	Ipomoea aquatica Forsk.	Convolvulaceae	Ecotone species	Only need habitat conservation
12.	Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.	Convolvulaceae	Moderately abundant	Need more cultivation
13.	Marselia quadrifolia L.	Marseliaceae	Aquatic habitat	No need of conservation
14.	Moringa oleifera Lamk.	Moringaceae	Moderately abundant	Need more plantation because demand is high
15.	Musa paradisiaca L.	Musaceae	Moderately abundant	Need more plantation
16.	Paederia scandens (Lour.) merr.	Rubiaceae	Shrubs	Need more increase population artificially
17.	Polygonum plebejum R.Br.	Polygonaceae	Rice field flora	Need habitat conservation, successive boro (Dec-March) rice cultivation will diminish rapidly the germination pattern.
18.	Portulaca oleracea L.	Portulacaceae	High land species, population low	need conservation of veg. cultivated
19.	Portulaca quadrifida L.	Portulacaceae		
20.	Spondias pinnata (L. f.) Kurz	Anacardiaceae	Low abundant	Need plantation in high land
21.	Suaeda maritima var. australis (R. Br.) Domin	Amaranthaceae	Population low	Need control grazing and browsing near coast line
22.	Tamarindus indica L.	Tamarindaceae	Low abundant	Need special attention to conserve species
23.	Typhonium trilobatum (L.) Schott.	Araceae	Low abundant	Need conservation

The demand of the local plants of wild kind is high in local markets. Source and sink relation is directly connected via multidirectional ways as the products are community dependant and with a good kith and kin relation among them. Highly priced and demandable species found there is **Moringa oleifera** (Table 5) and species of demandable kind are **Musa paradisiaca**, **Polygonum plebejum**, **Spondias pinnata**, **Tamarindus indica**, **Typhonium trilobatum**, **Marselia quadrifoliata**, **Amorphophalus sylvatica** and **Colocasia esculenta**. The corms of **Typhonium rtrilobatum** is also marketed for its great demand and used in cancer research (Fig 49).

Table 5. Market value of vegetables of wild and semi-wild in occurrence

Sl. No.	Name	Parts Used	Market Price (Rs. - Indian)	Comment
1.	Amorphophalus campanulatus auct. non Blume ex Decne.	Corm	20/- per kg.	Demandable
2.	Averhooea carambola L.	Fruits	12/- Kg.	Low Demand
3.	Centella asiatica (L.) Urban.	Whole plant (Dry)	6-8/- per kg.	Marketed
4.	Chenopodium album L.	Green Veg.	12-13 ./-Kg.	Marketed
5.	Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott	Corm	20-25/- Kg.	Demandable
6.	Dillenia indica L.	Fruits	3-4/-Piece	Highly demandable
7.	Dioscorea alata L.	Tuber	25/- kg.	Demandable
8.	Diplazium sp.	Fronts (Leaves)	5/-per pack	Less demandable
9.	Enhydra fluctuans Lour.	Green twigs	5/-per 250 gm.	Demandable
10.	Glinus oppositifolius (L.) A. DC.	Green twigs	10-15/- per Kg.	Demandable
11.	Ipomoea aquatic Forsk.	Twigs	3/-per pack	Highly demandable
12.	Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.	Tuberous Roots	25/- Kg.	Highly demandable
13.	Marselia quadrifolia L.	Leaves	With twigs, 20/-Kg	Demandable
14.	Moringa oleifera Lamk.	Leaves, Fls., Fruits (Drumsticks)	6/-, 150/-, 200/-Kg. (During Feb.)	Highly priced and demandable
15.	Musa paradisiacal L.	Plantain	2 Pieces-8/-	Demandable
16.	Paederia scandens (Lour.) Merrill	Gadal/Gandhi	Rs. 5/-per ½ Kg.	Low demand
17.	Polygonum plebejum R. Br.	Twigs as Chikuni	20/-Kg.	Demandable
18.	Spondias pinnata (L. f.) Kurz	Fruits	10-15/-Kg.	Demandable
19.	Tamarindus indica L.	Twigs, green raw fruits	15/-, 20/- Kg.	Demandable
20.	Typhonium trilobatum (L.) Schoot	Leaves with petiole	6 Pieces @Rs.3/-	Demandable

Plants of Research Importance in Physiologically dry soil and in sandy beach area are some halophytes. These are **Sonneretia apetala** (Keora), **Salicornia herbacea** (Penisak), **Suaeda monoica** and **S. maritima**. Fern found there as common one is species like **Acrostichum aureum**. Fodder grass found there is **Aleuropus lagopodides**. Sand binder species found there are **Ipomoea pes-capre**, **Salsola kalitenuifolia**, **Porteresia coarctata**, **Launea sermentosa**, **Hydrophylax maritima**, **Gisekia pharnacoides**. **Halophytic associates are species like Excoicaria agallocha** (Geo) and **Acanthus ilicifolius** (Hargoja). Species of rare occurrence is **Acanthus volubilis**. Common cactus found there is **Opuntia monocantha** (Table 6).

Table 6. Plants of Research Importance in connection with Ecology at the habitat of Physiologically dry soil.

Sl. No.	Plants/Name	Family	Ecological note	Important Notes
1.	Acanthus ilicifolius L. (Harkatch/Hargoja)	Acanthaceae	Common in coastal canals	Gregarious aside the ecotone ridge of tidal swamp.
2.	Acanthus volubilis Wall. (Lata Harkatch)	Acanthaceae	Rare in occurrence	Twining shrub now rare species along the sea coast joined with canal.
3.	Acrostichum aureum L.	Pteridaceae	Widely distributed	Need shrubby and tree vegetation
4.	Aleuropus lagopodides (L.) Trin	Poaceae		
5.	Arthrocnemum indicum (Willd.) Moq.	Chenopodiaceae		
6.	Avicennia alba Bl. =A. officinalis var. alba Cl. (Dulia Bain)			Lanceolate-acute leaves and narrow – ellipsoid fruits
7.	Avicennia marina var. marina (Fors.) Vierh. (Boro Baen)		Rare in occurrence, It is apioneer species	Elliptic oblong to elliptic ovate leaves

			towards sea-ward areas subjected to high wave action , high salinity, and silt deposition and stabilizes intertidal land mass.	
8.	Avicennia officinalis L. (Kalo Baen)	Avicenniaceae	Low population	Large sized tree, obovate to ovate-oblong leaves.
9.	Bulbostylis barbata (Rottb.) C.B. Clarke (Phulur)	Cyperaceae	Moderately abundant	Herbs
10.	Excoicaria agallocha L. (Geoan))	Euphorbiaceae	Common	Tree
11.	Gisekia pharnaceoides L. (Salup)	Azoiaceae	Common	Herb
12.	Hydrophylax maritima L. (Comir)	Rubiaceae	Less common	Herb
13.	Ipomoea pes-capre (L.) R.Br.	Convolvulaceae	Common	Climber
15.	Launea sementosa (Willd.) Schult. -Bip.ex O. Kuntze (Halde)	Asteraceae	Common	Herb
14.	Opuntia monocantha Haw. (Fanimansa)	Opuntiaceae	Less abundant	Shrub
15.	Porteresia coarctata (Roxb.) Tateoka (Dhanighas)	Poaceae	Less abundant	Herb
16.	Salicornia herbacea L. (Saltwort)	Chenopodiaceae	Mineral rich plant	Herb
17.	Salsola kaliteneuifolia			Herb
18.	Sonneretia apetala Buch. -Ham. (Keora)	Sonneretiaceae	Previously it was widespread but now it is near threatened	Narrowly elliptic leaves, apetalous flowers.
19.	Suaeda monoica Forsk. Ex Gmel. (Nunia)	Chenopodiaceae	Salinity indicator.	Small herb
20.	Suaedia maritime var. australis (R.Br.) Domin (Nonasak)	Amaranthaceae	Salinity indicator	Herb

There are 27 medicinal plants found which are potentially important in the shrubberies, gardens, bund of Ponds and Canals, even in protected sites of Govt. and semi-Govt. Institutes and in wasteland. Medicinal plants of potential importance are species like *Adhatoda vasica*, *Aloe vera*, *Ambroma augusta*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Bryophyllum calycinum*, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Clerodendrum serratum*, *Costus speciosus*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Enhydra fluctuans*, *Euphorbia nerifolia*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Marselia quadrifolia*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Smilax ovalifolia*, *Stephania japonica*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *S. mahagoni*, *Tylophora tenuis* and *Wedelia calandulacea* (Table 7). These are used locally even are widely used by common people in different forms. These are also marketed outside the area and marketed by stock holders. These products are marketed and channelized to the nodal markets for their company based value. Pharmaceutical companies use the products like dry *Centella asiatica* plant; dry *Ichnocarpus frutescens* plants, *Gloriosa superba* roots and plant materials of *Plumbago zeylanica*.

Table 7. Some medicinal Plants of potential importance from Khejuri area of Purba Medinipur

Sl. No.	Name	Family	Importance	Habitat
1.	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees	Acanthaceae	Leaves	Hedge and Garden
2.	<i>Aloe vera</i> Tourn. ex L.	Liliaceae	Leaves	Garden
3.	<i>Ambroma augusta</i> L.f.	Sterculiaceae	Flowers and seeds	Hedge
4.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Wall ex Nees	Acnthaceae	Leaves	Shrubberies
5.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Fruits, bark and leaves	Pond side
6.	<i>Bryophyllum calycinum</i> Salisb.	Crassulaceae	Leaves	Garden and waste land
7.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don.	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Wasteland
8.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban.	Apiaceae	Leaves	Pond and wetland even in rice field
9.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Stem	Jungle

10.	<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i> Spreng.	Verbenaceae	Roots	Shrubberies
11.	<i>Costus speciosus</i> Koen. Ex Retz.	Costaceae	Rhizome	Shrubberies
12.	<i>Embllica officinalis</i> Gaertn.	Euphorbiaceae	Fruits	Garden
13.	<i>Enhydra fluctuans</i> Lour.	Asteraceae	Twigs	Pond side and in water of wet land
15.	<i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Roots	Shrubberies
14.	<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves	Sacred place of home garden
15.	<i>Gloriosa superb</i> L.	Liliaceae	Tuber, roots, Leaves and Flowers	Shrubberies and road side waste land.
16.	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> R. Br.	Apocynaceae	Roots	Shrubberies
17.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Twigs, stems	Road side
18.	<i>Marselia quadrifolia</i> L.	Marseliaceae	Leaves	Aquatic body
19.	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Home Garden, Burning place
20.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Roots	Jungle
21.	<i>Smilax ovalifolia</i> Roxb.	Smilacaceae	Roots	Shrubberies
22.	<i>Stephania japonica</i> (Thumb.) Miers.	Menispermaceae	Leaves	Jungle and waste land
23.	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King.	Meliaceae	Seed/Fruit	Plantation site
24.	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> L.			Plantation site
25.	<i>Tylophora tenuis</i> Bl.	Asclepiadaceae	Roots	Highland of Coastal strip.
26.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Shrubberies
27.	<i>Wedelia calandulacea</i> Less. Non Rich.	Asteraceae	Leaves	Wetland site

A setting of ecology near the estuary is also placed here. In old plantation stands, Keora (*Sonneratia* sp.) plant is common. But the fact is that, the types of plantation are irregular where number of poles per 10m x10m quadrat varies from 16 to 18 with the variation of one microsite to another. Minimum girth at breast height (GBH) in each quadrat varies from 11 to 12 whereas, highest gbh value varies from 55 to 56cm (Table 8). The canopy is two layered *i.e.* 1st layer canopy for developing plants whereas, 2nd layer canopy is for ill developed plants. Ground is almost free from vegetation except a few newly settled *Acanthus ilicifolius* plantlets. Canopy cover is more than 50 percent, so quality of the vegetation growth in good or better not best (Maity *et al.*, 2011). Some sites having a few numbers of felled poles that indicate management is not so good. Therefore, it indicates illegal felling is going on (See cut pole in figure where the author is observing/monitoring the vegetation).

Table 8 Girth at breast height (GBH) values of Keora trees in 10m x 10m quadrats at old plantation stand of Halophytes.

No. of Pole per 10m x10m quadrat	GBH of Trees in Q1	GBH of Trees in Q2	GBH of Trees in Q3	GBH of Trees in Q4
In Q1=17 Nos.	40, 25, 21, 28, 44, 11 ,	23, 16 , 28, 43, 20, 34,	43, 20, 34, 56, 34, 28,	23, 20, 34, 46, 34, 28,
In Q2=16 Nos.	23, 55, 36, 33, 40, 30,	56, 34, 28, 21, 40, 39,	21, 40, 39, 39, 22, 21,	22, 40, 29, 39, 22, 21,
In Q3=17 Nos.	43, 49, 43, 20, 41=17	39, 22, 21, 27	27, 11 , 21, 24, 26=17	26, 12 , 21, 24, 25,
In Q4=18 Nos.		=16		34=18

Note: Q1=Quadrat 1, Q2=Quadrat 2, so on....., Canopy cover is 60% as per the Graph paper method, GBH in cm., Bold number indicates lowest GBH value in each quadrat.

Floral elements as Mangrove associates found there are tree species like **Thespesia populnea**, **Barringtonia racemosa**, whereas bushy shrubs are **Caesalpinia bonduc** and **Pandanus odoratissimus**. Shrubs as mangrove associates are species like **clerodendrum inerme**, **pluchea alba**. Herbs found in the same site, are species like **Merope angulata**, **Salacia chinensis** etc. (Table 9). A special twiner *i.e.* **Cannavelia rosea** is also found there which is found with **Ipomoea pes-capre** in sea shore.

Table 9 Mangrove associates in Khejuri area of Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, India

Sl. No	Name	Family	Habit	Habitat
1.	Barringtonia racemosa Roxb.	Barringtoniaceae	Small tree	Near bank of river and pond
2.	Cannavelia rosea (Sw.) DC.	Fabaceae	Twiner	Near bank of river
3.	Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb.	Caesalpiniaceae	Bushy shrub	Shrubberies, Coastal bund
4.	Clerodendrum inerme Gaertn.	Verbenaceae	Shrub	Wasteland, Degraded land
5.	Fimbristylis ferruginea (L.) vahl.	Cyperaceae	Small shrub	Coastal canalside.
6.	Ipomoea tuba (Schl.) G. Don	Convolvulaceae	Creepers	Coastal dyke
7.	Merope angulata (Willd.) Swingle	Rutaceae	Herb	Coastal canal side
8.	Pandanus odoratissimus L. f.	Pandanaceae	Bushy Shrub	Coastal area and in rice field.
9.	Pluchea alba Less.	Asteraceae	Shrub	Garden side
10.	Salacia chinensis L.	Hypocrataceae	Herb	Near river bank
11.	Stenochlaena palustre (Burm.) Bedd.	Polypodiaceae	Under shrub	Underneath of Canal shrubberies.
12.	Stictocardia tillifolia (Desr.) Hall.f.	Convolvulaceae	Twiner	Canal shrubberies
13.	Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. Ex Correa	Malvaceae	Tree	Planted as in garden and bank of Pond
14.	Tylophora tenuis Bl.	Asclepiadaceae	Twiner	Coastal dyke and in jungle.

The study revealed that, the present study sites need immediate protection of some key stone species. These are **Tylophora tenuis**, **Stictocardia tillifolia** and **Salacia chinensis**. For the study of microclimate, these species are essential along with nutrients cycling of the species in the same site. Other species of shrubberies habitat, need protection with the special attention of the community as *in-situ* type. Species like **Ichnocarpus frutescens** R. Br. (A species of low occurrence need immediate protection because this species is used in various ways and need local protection), **Phoenix sylvestris** Roxb. (Leaves used in thatching purpose and even to prepare broom need immediate protection as a fruit tree even producing molasses), **Zizyphus oenoplea** Mill. and **Syzygium cumuni** Skeels need immediate and urgent protection to enhance the ecosystem sound due to their all great range of importance. **Typhonium trilobatum** need special attention to conserve the same in the present habitat, because it is now-a-days used in cancer research.

VI. COMMENTS ON THE PRESENT RESEARCH:

The present result also revealed that, the scenario of halophytes, halophytic associates in the basin of river Rasulpur and lower part of Haldi, Runarayan and the main flow Hooghly which have potential importance. It would obviously highlight the pattern and dynamics of vegetation and life style of people. This will encourage the persons for research and study of the students and researchers in the field of geography, Environmental Science, Botany, Zoology, management and natural science in near future. The result is fit with the result of publications made by Das and Ghosh (1999) under the topic Mangroves and other phanerogams growing at Nayachar, Haldia, Midnapore, West Bengal. Here no **Phoenix palludosa** is observed along with **Rhizophora**, **Tamarix**, **Xylocarpus**, **Nipa**, **Heritiera**, **Ceriops**, **Bruguiera** and **Aegiceros**. Therefore, for further research and invention about the interaction of newly introduced species, programme may be made. It will generate the long term process of studies through extension as a second step, which may enhance the knowledge the forest department even nursery men to reach their knowledge. Later on the empiric knowledge will gregariously develop economy for the rural people by applying the scientific knowledge and technique in the field of market in near future to develop society more sustainable than the present.

VII. PHOTOGRAPHS IN PHOTOPLATES (1-4)

PHOTO PLATE-1



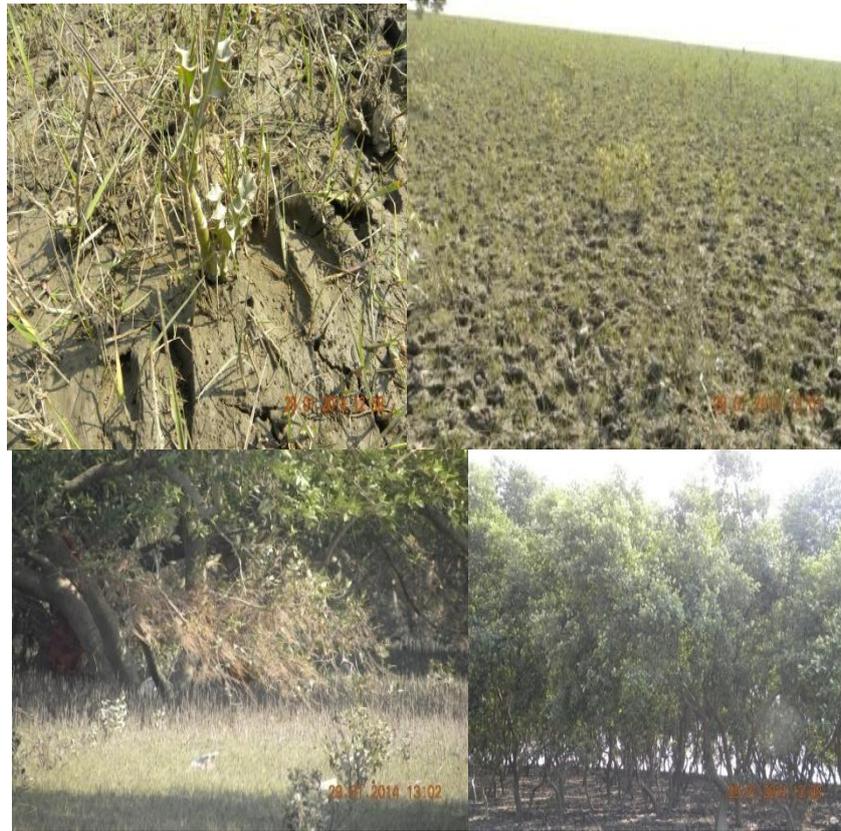


Fig.-1 Community of **Prosopis juliflora** ; Fig. 2 **Sesuvium portulacastrum** ; Fig. 3 Hedge community of **Aleuropus lagopoides** in an open land under low tide (LT) area; Fig. 4 **Suaedia maritima**; Fig. 5 **Salicornia brachiata**; Fig. 6 A few years old stand with halophyte plantation by Forest Department with uncontrolled grazing and browsing; Fig. 7 Small element in a plantation stand with disturbed growth; Fig. 8 Old Plantation stand of Halophytes ; Fig. 9 Open Muddy ground with **Acanthus ilicifolius** (Harkach); Fig. 10 Heavily Grazed land near Shore ; Fig. 11 Halophytic vegetation as Nature's Kidney crabbing huge pollutants ; Fig. 12 canopy of Old plantation stand of halophytes with glossy leaves (Figures from top left to top right and similar in way by numbering as 1, 2, 3, ...4, 5 6, ..7, 8, 9 , ..10, 11, 12. in such a way, all photo snaps were taken during field visit by author and co-author in the field)

PHOTO PLATE-2





Fig. 13 Grazed animals in open low tide (LT) area near plantation stands; Fig. 14 Pneumatophores: One kind of areal roots around the tree trunk of Keora at Hijli plantation stand area; Fig. 15 Asleep of Cowboy in a Local Cradle made by bed sheet during afternoon; Fig. 16 Co-author discussing ecological problems of women villagers in field (All are helping to Graze Cattles); Fig. 17 Co-author engaged during study of Pneumatophores and leaf during data collection in winter; Fig. 18. Shoreline with *Bulbostylis barbata* and sparsely distributed halophyte trees; Fig. 19 Halophytes are grazed by Cow; Fig. 20 Shadow on ground helps to study Canopy cover by graph paper method; 21. Density and abundance of Pneumatophores are more around the basal area of tree in compare to open floor in an old plantation stand ; Fig. 22 Relatively less dispersed area for Pneumatophores, ;

Fig. 23 Canopy diversity at different microclimates and stand distance diversity of Halophytes in old plantation;
Fig. 24 Co-author collecting Green algae from plantation stand.

PHOTO PLATE-3





Fig. 25 Dry fishes after processing; Fig. 26 Sellers and Byers at Hijli Sarif area (Baba Saheb er Gargara); Fig. 27 Large *Casuarina* plantation along the shoreline ; Fig. 28 Stairs to pass across the fencing of Forest Department; Fig. 29 Old *Phoenix sylvestris* tress near Hijli sarif; Fig. 30 Small pond conserving aquatic plants but now facing pollution of plastic by tourists; Fig. 31 *Tillanthera* sp. ; Fig. *Rotalia* sp. 32 ;Fig. 33 *Launea sermentosa* of Asteraceae near the trunk of old *Casuarina* tree; Fig. 34 Local fencing made by live *Jatropha curcus* plants; Fig. 35 Local fencing made by live *Pedilanthus tithymeloides* plants; Fig. 36 Visitors play a significant role to pollute the environment day by day in a large plantation area which is going to pollute estuary. [Photographs/figures are taken from field by authors and co-authors during field visit at Khejuri-I, and II blocks in Purba Medinipur District of West Bengal, India and photograpns taken by Canon and Nikon Camera, Cool pix]

PHOTO PLATE-4



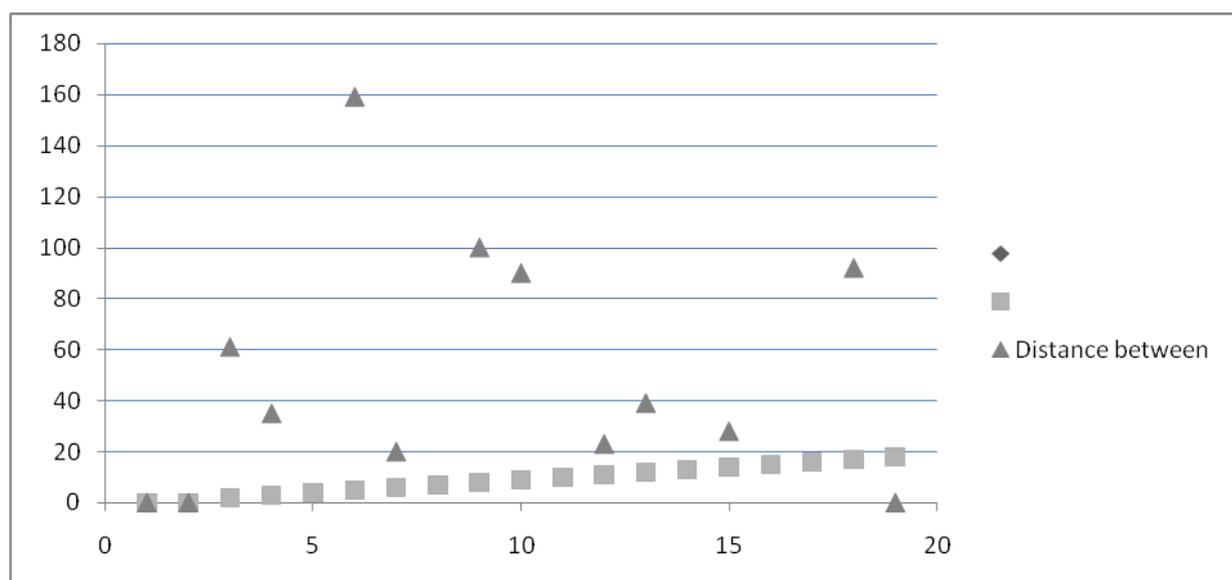


Fig. 37 *Sesuvium portulacastrum*; Fig. 38 *Fimbristylis ferruginea*; Fig. 39 *Poterisia coarctata* (Seedlings of Dhani grass), Fig. 40 Pollution made by Plastic-Thermocol underneath of Halophytic vegetation is a present problem; Fig. 41 Pattern of leaf fall under the canopy of Keora vegetation; Fig. 42 Crab hole surrounded by numerous aerial roots which protect crab habitat from the settlement of heavy sediment during high tide; Fig. 43 Local driver (Darbesh) helping to collect soil from ground of Keora vegetation; Fig. 44 Author monitoring vegetation and standing crop near a cut pole of Keora tree, which is illegally extracted; Fig. 45 Degraded Vegetation; Fig. 46 *Cannavelia rosea* (Sw.) DC.(Dune Bean); Fig. 47 Soil erosion causing plant with skeletal stump of *Casuarina equisetifolia* in Coastal region is a serious problem; Fig. 48 Plant of *Tylophora tenuis*—which is a species of Java and Borneo, also found in Sunderbans and Mahanadi tidal swamps, 49. Corm of *Typhonium trilobatum*-A potent medicinal plant part.

VIII. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

New plantation stand of halophytes are greatly disturbed by locale cattle. The wire fence is greatly damaged by grazers and browsers. So, a few years plantation stand is destroying day by day which need urgent protection to stabilize the bank more vivid. Some patches are so damaged that all the natural floral components are destroyed which loss the local phyto-diversity and afterwards will damage the fauna of the local kind in a great extent.

Therefore, immediate protection of the same land is required to manage it in near future. Government should take initiative to make the land protected type in near future, so that all the natural species will revive soon by the protection of habitats. This will enforce the ongoing natural process by applying the frame of plantation work and tourists should visit the place following some rules and regulations guided by Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOEF) time to time. A board should be placed in the nearby places and should encourage the people more civilized regarding the pollution and their effects on environment. Seminar and symposium should be organized by Institutions and NGOs regular in basis which can cause the people more literate regarding the problem and prospects of Nature and natural processes. Here, old plantation stand of Keora showed good growth though no setting of seedlings are established, which is another problem in plantation stand (Fig. 42). This is a problem, so incorporation of other species is required to make the plantation stands heterogeneous rather than homogenous. It would generate the admixture of species and species interactions will start which ultimately lead to make the more convenient ecosystem as non-fragile one. The present results of GBH of the species in 10m x 10m quadrat showed homogeneity of the species at old plantation stand rather than heterogeneity (Table 8)



Legend of Fig. 50 Distribution of Halophytic species in Old plantation stand of Hijli Coastal area of Purba Medinipur, West Bengal as per the scattered diagram, data taken from field along with canopy cover to assess the ecological stability before studying succession of natural vegetation, the ground is almost species free though some ground area is filled with *Acanthus ilicifolius* with low abundance, the major appearance of aerial root like Pneumatophores are present which boost good features to prevent foreigner even check soil erosion. This is significant to develop climax community. This forest is somehow degrading nearer to banks of the estuary which is always browsed by goats and grazed animals like cows. Another problem is that, some poachers collected wood and woodlots from plantation stand and causing the site degraded. Degradation of soil in ground of forest is discontinuous. It is as because pneumatophores (Aerial roots) are concentrated near the base of the tree and discontinuous in the space in between trees. So, patches of vegetation and pattern of pneumatophores are the characteristic of vegetation which cause gradual net formation and therefore protect soil erosion during high tide even during cyclonic waves along with continuous raining. Another problem is that heavy pollution particularly polythene is gathering the forest floor which can degrade the vegetation. Some visitors unknowingly debarking and cutting the trees and branches thereby so diseases come with the fall of balancing of plants and ultimately destroying by pathogenic attack particularly by fungi of different kinds. So, unwanted entry even frequent entry should be checked by the local people even by forest department to make it a sound and environment friendly. Only permitted research and extension may be made with the aid of knowledge may be imposed to challenge the outcome of vegetation and its impact in a society. Exotic alien species likes *Lantana camara* L. and *Eupatorium odoratum* Linn. (*Chromolaena odorata* (Linn.) King & Robin.) are not found here which are the source of fuel wood so, incorporation of *Casuarina* and *Acacia* should be encouraged which may be the alternate source of the villagers for a varied range of fuel wood collection without any intervention. For overall overview regarding the management for sustenance of life, we must follow the guideline of previous works made by different workers through different projects along the projects allotted for Coastal Zone Management. My research objectives are similar and that is actually linked with the report of

publications made by authors time to time. As for example, a report of Central Pollution Control board (Anonymous, 2002) suggested that the following works are mandatory for eco-development in coastal area. For the coastal zone, two types of linkages are necessary to achieve inter-sectoral cohesion viz. (i) linkages between the *agricultural* sector and the *industrial* sector and (ii) Inter-industry linkages. The planned development of Haldia is apparently considerate to the latter. However, for the vast outlying rural areas including the remotely located places in the Sundarbans region, a linkage relationship is to be established between the agriculture and the industrial sector for a symbiotic growth. Agro-based industry should be set up for reducing the pressure on land and rectifying the increasingly adverse mainland ratio. This could also help in providing the rural population with opportunities for improving their living standards. The said linkage could help provide market for rural skill based products. The frame of work should be made by Scientists, researchers and Government while the force should be impressed by policymakers and politicians to make it a complete and eco-sustainable in near future. So, more and more projects are required to make a comprehensive report of the said area to solve the problem in near future.

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