

Genetic Resources of Wild Relative Minor and Medicinal Fruit Trees in BAU-GPC, Bangladesh

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Abstract—Bangladesh, a flood plain delta, is a land of rivers and canals. It is situated in the north-eastern part of Asia. It is mainly an agricultural country and the agriculture sector contributes about 20-24% to the total Gross Domestic Product (GPD) (BBS, 2010). Fruit production scenario of Bangladesh in 2009-2010 is 45.25 lakh tons in the land of 1.46 lakh hectares where demand of 49.64 lakh tons of fruit. Deficit of fruit production was 9.60 lakh tons (BBS, 2010). For physiological balance of human body, the typical Bangladeshis consume 76 g/day/capita (BBS, 2010) which are behind the requirement of 85 g (FAO, 2008). Most of the people of our country cannot afford to buy even average requirements of fruits due to its unavailability and high price. The consequence of this event is, therefore, widespread malnutrition throughout the country. Wild/Indigenous/Underutilized/Ethnic fruits can play vital role to minimize the malnutrition situation of the country. Wild relative fruit trees viz. river ebony (*Diospyros peregrina*), velvet apple (*Diospyros discolor*), cowa (*Garcinia cowa*), sapota, (*Manilkara zapota*), golden apple (*Spondias dulcis*), wax jambu (*Syzygium samarangense*), monkey jack (*Artocarpus lakoocha*), bullock's heart (*Annona reticulata*), elephant apple (*Dillenia indica*), wood apple (*Feronia limonia*), star gooseberry (*Phyllanthus acidus*), aonla (*Phyllanthus emblica*) etc. are widely grown in southern, hilly as well as floodplain areas of the country (Rahim et al., 2011). These indigenous fruit and medicinal germplasm have been conserved at Bangladesh Agricultural University Germplasm Centre (BAU-GPC), Mymensingh as wild relatives' genetic resources.
