

COMPOSITION AND CONDITION OF FOREST CROP FOREST

Undoubtedly biotic and edaphic factors have an important role in governing and determining the growth of different species in this area. Constant biotic interference and over-grazing have badly affected the forests crop in accessible areas of Chainpur, Ranka East and Ranka West range. A good forest crop still exists in Kutku and Bhandaria ranges. Excessive hot climate combined with constant denudation of the forests have aggravated the moisture retaining capacity of the soil affecting the crop quality. Soil became impoverished. As a result, xerophytic plants like-Salai, Bamboo, Khair, Gulgul Koka, Harisnagar etc. Out step the other species. Sal crop is localized along nala banks and narrow valleys. Khair interning with other miscellaneous species occur almost every wher in the area. Bamboo is also found morged with miscellaneous species in localised areas. According the Champain and seth's classification of Forests types of India, the forests of Garhwa South Division comes under the following types and sub-types :-

Type II	:	Northern dry tropical forests.
Group-5	:	Tropical dry deciduous forests.
Sub-Group-5	:	B-Northern tropical dry deciduous forests sub-type.
(i) 5B/C1-	:	Dry Sal bearing forests.
(ii) 5B/C2-	:	Northern dry mixed deciduous forests.
(iii) 5/DS1-	:	Dry deciduous scrub.

From general out look of the forests the following district types are noticeable.

- (i) Sal Forests.
- (ii) Miscellaneous Forests.
- (iii) Thorny scrub Forests.

SAL FORESTS: - (Shorea Robusta) Comes under 5B/C1 of champions classification. It mostly found on deep soil and in the shaded nala banks and narrow valley. Under dry condition, it prefers northern and eastern aspect. It is grown best on well drained Sandy loams and on allvrial soils. In this division Sal is found in Tehir, Hesatu, Madrari, Kutku etc. of kutku range and in Southern parts of Bhandaria range. it is also found in Kari, Siroi Kalan, Bhauri, Katra, chapakali etc. in southern and South Western parts of Ranka range. The principal associates of Sal are-Asan, Ginjan, Karom Dhaura, Sidha, kekar, Sandhen, Kend, Kajai, Mahua etc.

The commonest climbers are *Butea superba*, *Bauhinia Vahli*, *Milletia auriculata*, *Zizyphus oenoph oenophlia*, *Combretum decandrum* *Ventilago mMadraspatana* etc.

Useful grasses are chorant (*Hetropogan contortus*) and Sabai (*Eulaliopsis binata*) . The later is found scattered in the area.

MISCELLANEOUS FORESTS :- It comes under 5B/C2 of champion and Seth's classification. This type of forests occurs mostly in Ranka East, Ranka West, Chainpur and upper ridges of Bhandaria Range. This type generally contains Salai (*Boswellia Serrata*) as the characteristic species. Salai is found on hill tops.

The miscellaneous forests are by and large composed of the following species:- Dhaura, Bel, Asan, Karam, Piar, Bija, Gamhar, Chilbil, Belsain, Harsingar, Kend and Khair.

The preponderance of Bel, Belasian and Dhaura in patches particularly in chainpur Range are noticeable feature. This is perhaps due to the dry condition of the area.

Palas is offer found localised in abandoned cultivation and amidst forests, it is found generally in lopped condition on account of Lac cultivation.

THORNY SCRUB FORESTS :- This type of forest comes under 5D/S1 of champion and Seth's classification. This type is noticeable in part of Ranka East, Ranka West and chainpur Ranges. This is all due to constant maltreatment and over grazing of the forests. The particular areas which can be mentioned in this type of forests are Rabia, Itke, Barhibir, Kudega Khurd, Lali, Barakata etc. in chainpur Range and Daudag, Khardih, Tele Dale etc. in Ranka Range Principal species which occur in this type of forests are :-

KHAIR:- Khair has great potentiality though at present it occurs in very poor condition. Groth of Khair is stunted, mostly lopped, rarely straight and heart-wood is some times cracked and exposed. Excessive felling, pollarding, lopping of Khair take place fro cattle feeding. Khair trees have repeatedly been cut for kath manufacture even when in immature state. Bamboo also have been indiscriminately cut for Basket marking and other domestic purposes, resulting in congested clumps.

BAMBOO(DENDROCALAMUS STRICTUS) :- Bamboo is also found as associate of Sal where sal merges with miscellaneous crop. Bamboo occurs in varying density. The conditions of bamboo are far from satisfactory. Many forests such as Temeria, Karma, Kulhi, Berma etc. Which contained good quality bamboo are now almost free from bamboo. whatever occurs is in non-workable conditions. Good Bamboo Forests are now almost confined to Bhandaria Range as in Totaki, Sangali and in Ranka West Range as in June, Kata.

KEND :- It forms as important species of this Division which is found all over in abundance. It is found gregariously on heavily grazed area and along fringes of hill slopes where it merges with plain land.

SALAI (BOSWALLIA SERRATA) :- Salai is not omnipresent like Khair in the area in recent past Salai was of not much commercial value. Consequently destruction of Salai was much less. Now, Salai has become an important species of the Division. With this the destruction Salai tree has increased and Salai forests are in no better condition than the khair forests.

PLANTATION :- With a view to improve the productivity of hitherto productive forest raising of plantation started in 1962 and since then and for the past few years now it is done under various schemes almost on sustained basis. The area planned upto 1990 is 17,512.53 hectare (net). The main species are eucalyptus, Acacia, Khair, Sissoo and Bamboo. The success of all these species has not however been uniform.