

Project Update: May 2017

The research project has been supported by two undergraduate and graduate university students whose work would support our project as well as their dissertations. They were involved for the social and ecological investigation of tree fern in Panchase.

Household surveys as well as ecological monitoring of tree fern populations were conducted through purposive sampling in last field visit. Out of 17 households surveyed, 94% of the respondents were found to be familiar with the tree fern, with 82% of them making use of tree fern for food as well as 47% of them for fodder for their livestock. One household was found exploiting tree fern as traditional gate (tagaro). The awareness regarding the significance of tree fern in ecological, ethno-botanical, economical and other indigenous respects was found least in respondents.

We were able to record 62 mature tree ferns with and 53 saplings of tree ferns through ecological monitoring in 11 sampling plots. Plots with significant number of tree fern saplings have been marked as for regeneration plots to monitor the regeneration status as well as threats in upcoming field visits.

Majority of the tree ferns were found in moist, shady and deep ravines in the banks of the streams. Few were found in open and dry places as well. Unsustainable harvesting of fronds of tree fern as fodder was observed as the dominant issue for tree fern conservation.



Household survey for social aspects of tree fern



Tree fern trunk used as Tagaro in Sidhane, Panchase



Team monitoring tree fern population in Sidhane of Panchase