

'Take up biodiversity studies to save flora'

May 28, 2017

ITANAGAR, May 27: "Arunachal students must come forward to take up various studies related to biodiversity, ethno-botany and environment to save their highly endangered and unique resources, for the next generation", urged Professor M Sabu, an eminent taxonomist at the University of Calicut, Kerala.

"Many plants we studied here would be new to science and would bring to the scientific world, due recognition and acknowledgement to the local tribes and the state government", said Professor Sabu, who conducted a 10 days study-tour of Namsai, Lohit, Roing, Anini, Longding and Tirap districts.

He said that he was amazed to see the rich plant diversity and endemism in Eastern Arunachal.

Pointing to the high chances of extinction of these plant varieties due to major activities, like road widening, deforestation and landslides, Professor Sabu called for immediate measures to protect their entire destruction. He also lauded RIWATCH, Roing for setting up a unique museum in Eastern Arunachal.

Professor Sabu, editor of the website www.gingersofindia.com, along with Senior Research Associate, V S Hareesh was on a survey on ginger and banana varieties of eastern Arunachal, under a Government of India project. His visit was coordinated by the Lohit Youth Library Network in Namsai and Lohit districts and by RIWATCH, Roing in Lower Dibang Valley district.

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