

# Take up biodiversity studies to save 'vanishing' flora: Taxonomist to students



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**TEZU, 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 Gen Next," urged Prof M Sabu, an eminent taxonomist, University of Calicut, Kerala, after a 10-day study tour of Namsai, Lohit, Roing (Lower Dibang Valley), Anini (Dibang Valley), Longding and Tirap districts.

"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 Govt," he complimented while expressing amazement at 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, Prof Sabu called for immediate measures to protect their entire destruction.

He expressed his hearty appreciation for the warm hospitality of the Arunachal people he met during his tour and also lauded RIWATCH, Roing for setting up a unique museum in eastern Arunachal.

Prof Sabu, editor of the website [www.gingersofindia.com](http://www.gingersofindia.com), along with a senior research associate, was on a survey on ginger and banana varieties of eastern Arunachal, under a Govt of India project. His visit was coordinated by the Lohit Youth Library Network in Namsai & Lohit districts and by RIWATCH, Roing in Lower Dibang Valley.