

MEDICINAL PLANTS AND *EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS* BASED AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM TO ENHANCE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO COMBAT THE GLOBAL WARMING

Panneer Selvam K¹, Ezhumalai², R., Rjasugunasekar.D³, Vennila, S⁴, Vijayaraghavan, A⁵ & Sivaprakash, P⁶

^{1,3,5} Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

⁴ Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

² Forest Research Institute, Kaulagarh Road Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

⁶ Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants based agro forestry systems can play an important role through which we can cultivate tree crops as well as medicinal plants on same piece of land and it's an additional income to farmers. It can also reduce pressure on natural forests. The growth parameters of tree species and medicinal plants were recorded in Cuddalore, Jayankondam, Sendurai and Sivagangai. The medicinal plants of *D. hamiltonii*, *H. indicus* and *G. superba* had the suitability under *E.camaldulensis*. The trees and medicinal plants species in Agro - ecosystems have more significance owing to various tangible and in tangible benefit. Thus agroforestry is an important tool for balancing biodiversity conservation, enhance the productivity and mitigate the global warming.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal Plants, *E.camaldulensis*, Agroforestry, Global Warming

INTRODUCTION

Agro forestry systems can play an important role through which we can cultivate tree crops as well as medicinal plants on same piece of land and it's a additional income to farmers. Different kinds of agroforestry practices have been recognized in India. India is the second largest exporter of medicinal plants after China. However, our share is lesser than one per cent in the \$62 billion market, having greater scope. At present 90-95 % of medicinal plants is being extracted from the natural forest (Ved *et al*, 1998). The continuous and over-exploitation of medicinal plants wealth from forests may diminish the supply of medicinal plants to industries and in the immediate future it will deplete the genetic stock of these plants (Nandal, 2002). Mixing up tree species and medicinal plants will bring potential use of land as well as help to reduce the pressure on forest. *Eucalyptus Camaldulensis* are important tree species in industrial sector, which are grown in large area, including farm lands by the farmers (Parthiban and Govinda Rao, 2008). In farm lands, farmers intercrop tree species with many agricultural crops like cotton, soyabeans, maize, ground nut etc. While agroforestry models have been developed for these agricultural crops by many researchers, no adequate research has been done to develop agroforestry system with medicinal plants. In the context of growing interests among the farmers for cultivating tree species in farm lands, in particular *E. camaldulensis* and existing potential market for medicinal plants, the present study is proposed to develop suitable agroforestry systems with medicinal plants.

Tree outside forests play a vital role in adding to the existing pool of biological diversity and also the carbon stock. In this regard, the trees in Agro-ecosystems have much more significance owing the various tangible and in tangible benefits as appropriately under should in the agroforestry systems. Agroforestry has been the traditional practice of several indigenous communities and therefore tremendous socio-economic bearing. Thus agroforestry and farm forestry in the Country can be an important tool for balancing biodiversity conservation with climate reliance (Arunachala and Arunachalam 2010).

METHODOLOGY

Species Selected for the Study

The following tree species and medicinal plants were selected for raising agroforestry trial with the medicinal plants (Table-1).

Table: 1

S. No.	Medicinal Plants Studied		S.No.	Tree Species Selected	
	Species	Spacing		Species	Spacing
1.	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	1m x 1m	1.	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	3 x 1.5m
2.	<i>Cassia senna</i>	30cm x30cm			
3.	<i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i>	60cm x60cm			
4.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	30cm x30cm			
5.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	30cm x30cm			
6.	<i>Plectranthusbarbatus</i>	45cm x45cm			

Experimental Design

Agroforestry model proposed with one tree species and six medicinal plants in four locations were established in a randomized block design (RBD) in three replications. *E.camaldulensis* were planted in an appropriate spacing along with 6 medicinal plants species in the field.

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

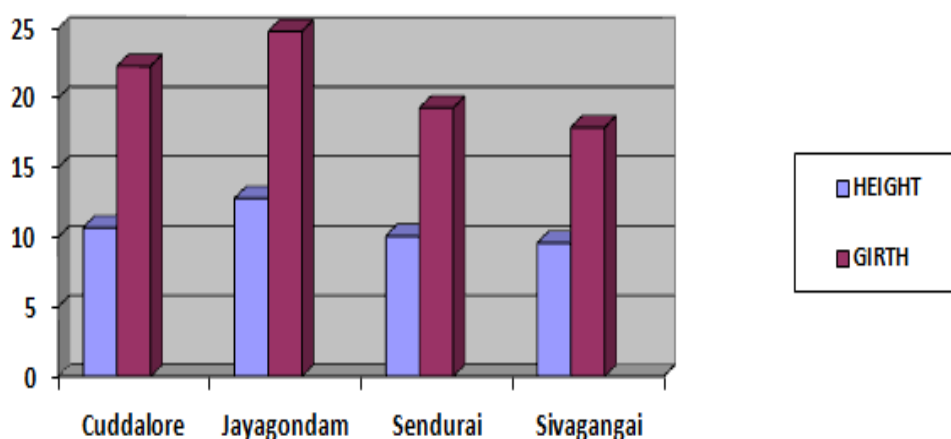
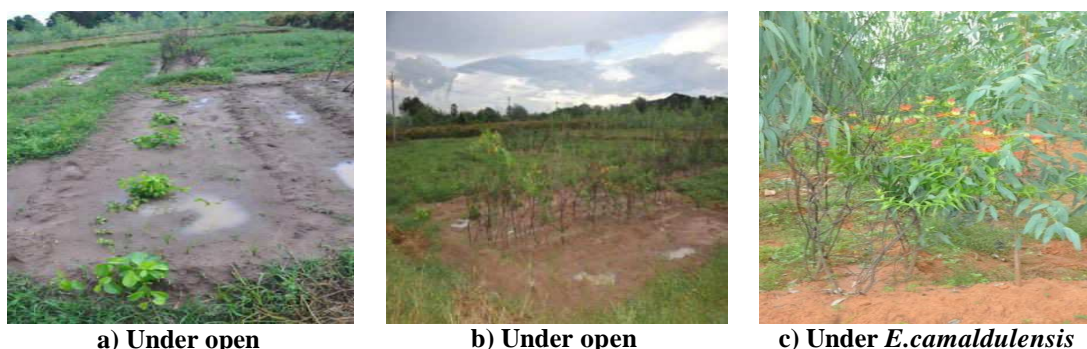


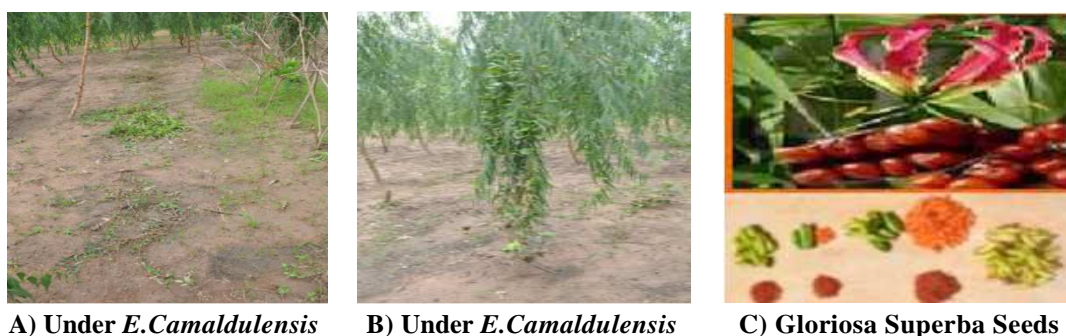
Figure 1: Height and Girth Measurement of *E. Camaldulensis* in Different Location.

The *E.camaldulensis* planted in all four locations, where the Jayankondam had the highest height and girth value compared to Sendurai, Sivangai and Cuddalore.



a) Under open b) Under open c) Under *E.camaldulensis*

Figure 2: *Gloriosa Superba*, *D.hamiltonii*, *Gloriosa Superba*



A) Under *E.Camaldulensis* B) Under *E.Camaldulensis* C) *Gloriosa Superba* Seeds

Figure 3: *Hemidesmus Indicus* *D.Hamiltonii*.

The significant difference was found among the root length, shoot length and girth of *D. hamiltonii* and *H. indicus* under different agroforestry. Maximum root length, shoot length and girth were recorded at Cuddalore under the *E.camaldulensis* (Table-2).

Table 2: Shoot length, Root Length and Girth Measurement of *D.Hamiltonii* and *H. Indicus* under *E.Camaldulensis*

Name of the location	Open Field <i>H.indicus</i>			Open Field <i>D.hamiltonii</i>			Under <i>E.camaldulensis</i> and <i>H.indicus</i>			Under <i>E.camaldulensis</i> and <i>D.hamiltonii</i>		
	Shoot Length (m)	Root Length (c.m)	Girth (mm)	Shoot Length (m)	Root Length (c.m)	Girth (mm)	Shoot Length (m)	Root Length (c.m)	Girth (mm)	Shoot Length (m)	Root Length (c.m)	Girth (mm)
Cuddalore	1.83	26.8	2.87	1.92	68.3	10.38	2.36	32.6	3.48	4.36	89.7	16.94
Jayankondam	1.76	23.4	2.36	1.76	63.2	9.63	2.13	30.3	3.35	3.63	80.6	14.38
Sendurai	1.63	22.6	2.28	1.48	60.3	8.36	2.06	28.6	3.26	3.56	79.8	14.25
Sivagangai	1.48	19.8	2.02	1.26	57.2	8.03	2.02	26.7	3.18	3.18	75.67	12.83

The *E.camaldulensis* planted in all four locations, where the Jayankondam had the highest height and girth value compared to Sendurai, Sivagangai and Cuddalore.

CONCLUSIONS

Agro forestry systems can play an important role through which we can cultivate tree crops as well as medicinal plants on same piece of land and it's a additional income to farmers. Since, it allows for combined cultivation of trees and medicinal plants/annuals as well. The highest growth parameters of tree species and medicinal plants recorded at Jayankondam followed by Sendurai, Sivagangai and Cuddalore. The soil fertility was found to be improved under agroforestry plantations condition. The highest macro and micronutrient was observed in the soil analysis of *E. camaldulensis*

plantation compared to open field. The highest shoot length and root length of medicinal plants were produced from the plantation compared to open field. The medicinal plants of *Decalepis hamiltonii*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, had the suitability under the *E. camaldulensis*. The above mentioned medicinal plants based agroforestry project may help to increase the soil fertility and the perennial medicinal plants may recover from the endangered one, so such a research programme are needed to conserve the valuable medicinal plants. All these medicinal plants had the better suitability under the industrial tree species. The practice of agroforestry will also reduce the pressure on the natural forest ecosystem and help conserve the medicinal plants in the wild and enhance the productivity and combat the global warming.

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