

# 14. ECONOMIC BOTANY

1 VSAQ [2M]

## ROOT POINTS

- Economic Botany** is the branch of botany that deals with the study of useful plants .
- Ten categories of plant products are
  - Major Cereals (Rice),
  - Millets / minor cereals ( Ragi),
  - Pulses ( Red gram),
  - Oil seeds (Sunflower) ,
  - Fibres (Cotton),
  - Phytomedicines /medicinal plants (Neem),
  - Spices (Black pepper),
  - Non-alcoholic Beverages ( Coffee),
  - Timber (Teak),
  - Biodiesel/ Petroplants (Jatropha - Adavi Amudham).
- Cereals belong to **Poaceae (Gramineae)** family.
- Botanical name of finger millet is **Eleusine coracana**.
- Pulses belong to **Fabaceae (Leguminosae)** family. In pulses food is stored in **cotyledons**.
- Botanical name of **Sunflower** is **Helianthus annuus**
- Cotton fibres** are extensively used in the manufacturing of cloth, textiles, tyre fabrics, various forms of threads, gun cotton, twine etc.,
- Pharmacognosy** is the study of medicinal drugs obtained from natural sources.
- Pharmacology** is the study of effects and uses of drugs on living organisms.
- Botanical name of **neem** is **Azadirachta indica**
- Neem Plant** parts are used in traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda and Unani.
- Neem seed oil** is widely used in cosmetic industries for skin care, hair products, tooth paste and soaps.
- Black pepper (Piper nigrum)** is called the King of spices.
- Botanical name of coffee plant is **Coffea arabica**.
- Teak timber** is widely used in furniture making like doors, window frames, cricket bats etc.
- B20 fuel** is a mixture of **20% biodiesel** and **80% petroleum diesel**.
- Two biodiesel-yielding plants:** i) **Jatropha curcas** ii) **Pongamia pinnata**