

# THE FREE TREE OF INDIA: TOWARDS INCREASING GLOBAL INTEREST

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**Abstract:** *Azadirachta indica* is a tree in the family Meliaceae and is native to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh growing in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Neem is called The Free Tree of India and also known as the Village Pharmacy because of its healing versatility. One of the best promising of all plants and the reason is that it may gradually benefit every person on this planet. Probably no other plant yields as many strange and diverse products. With the banning of broad-spectrum, toxic insecticides, such as DDT, the use of neem in crop protection has been increasing. It has lot of importance in social forestry, agro-forestry and rehabilitating waste and degraded lands. On the contrary, India has a very high resources of neem wealth with millions of trees scattered throughout the country but we are yet to start neem research systematically except some sporadic research is being carried out in several laboratories.

**Keywords:** Neem, Medicinal products, Pesticides, Fertilizers

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