

## **Azadirachta Indica(Neem)- A Promising Tree for Pollution Control**

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### **Introduction:**

Neem is currently one of the world's most researched tree. Neem or Margosa is a botanical cousin of mahogany. It belongs to the family meliaceae. The Latinized name of Neem-Azadirachta Indica – is derived from the Persian.

Azad= Free

Dirakht=Tree

i-Hind= of Indian origin

which literally means 'The free tree of India'. Neem is an attractive broad leaved , evergreen tree which can grow up to 30m tall and 2.5m in girth .It's trunk usually straight is 30-80 cm in diameter. It's spreading branches from a rounded crown of deep- green leaves and honey-scented flowers as much as 20m across.

The neem tree normally starts fruiting after 3-5years. In about 10 year it becomes fully productive. It can produce up to 50kg of fruits annually, after attaining tenth years and onwards(Kumar and Gupta,2002) .

In India, Neem has been a very popular tree for nearly thousands of years. In olden day everyone was aware of the usage and utility of neem in day to day life. It is time that we should know how important the neem is to our life. Neem is a wonder tree for solving global problem ie, natural, ecofriendly, economical and a miracle.

Neem is tolerant to most soil types including dry, stony, shallow soils, lateritic crusts, highly leached sands and clays. With an extensive and deep root system , the hardy neem can grow and flourish even in marginal and leached soils. It is one of the very few shade-giving trees that thrive in the drought prone area. The trees are not at all delicate about the water quality and thrive on the merest trickle of water.

For the women, neem is the mainstay of herbal beauty tradition. It was also a source of medicine to treat more than a 100 health problems.

Due to various medicinal value in neem tree, the central government plants to grow more than 20 million neem trees across the country especially at the proposed smart cities in day to come,said sudershan kumar, senior principal scientist at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

In the proposed smart city concept in 100 cities, neem saplings will be planted on roadsides. UP will have at least a lakh of them, followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. For the past 3 years China has been showing greater interest in neem plantation.

**Aims and Objectives-** To know the role of neem tree for pollution control.

**Material and methods-** The whole study is based on the literary material collected from books, magazine and internet sources.

**Neem and Environment-** The role of neem tree in controlling water, air and land pollution is wonderful. Neem is a natural resource to keep the environment clean and healthy. It exhales out  $O_2$  and keeps the  $O_2$  level in the atmosphere balanced.

Burning neem leaves in the compound prevents insects, mosquitoes, germs etc. This is the only tree which can be used for resting during night-time as the tree gives out  $O_2$  during night – time also. Extract of neem is used along with DDT as it helps to purify the polluted air.

Neem is also useful in case of water pollution. Roots of neem tree go deep inside the soil and purify the water sources and if these trees are present along the side of a river, lake or well, they prevent water pollution.

#### **Greening India with Neem Programming-**

In India, greening India with neem is a long term environmental programme aimed at providing one neem tree for every 10 Indians, so that Indians can use it freely for health and hygiene as well as for organic agriculture and all other known uses.

**Conclusion-** The neem tree is the de-facto national tree of India. It is one of the most promising of all plants and the fact is that it may eventually benefit every person on this planet. It is the grand old tree of the Indian countryside and can make a cleaner, greener and more fertile India a reality considering the fertile nature, uses and growing global importance of neem. The United Nations declared it as the “**Tree of the twenty first century.**”

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