PLANT FACT SHEET

Diploknema butyracea (Roxb.) H. J. Lam

GENUS *Diploknema* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian butter tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: seeds, Fruit, Flowers, Nuts, Seeds - oil

The juice of the inner flower parts is boiled into a syrup. This is used as a sugar.
The juicy pulp of the ripe fruit is eaten raw. It has a scent and is sweet. It can be used for jam or pickles.
The butter extracted from the seeds is used for cooking and lighting. It is used for cocoa butter in chocolate and in margarine.
The seeds are also fermented. The seeds are roasted or fried and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows to about 20 m high. The leaves are 14-30 cm long by 7.5-16 cm wide. They are crowded near the ends of branches. They are oval and taper towards the end. They are hairy underneath. The flowers are crowded at the ends of branches. They are yellow. The fruit is a berry. It is pear shaped with one or two seeds. The fruit shape varies.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In Nepal it grows between 300-1500 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds germinate in about 30 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Yields can be 5-155 kg per tree.

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