

Heritage Information

Section-1: Identification of the element



Heritage Location

Division

Mymensingh

District

Mymensingh

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

24.753889

Geolocation(Longitude)

90.403056

Community Category

Professionals

Community

Rural

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Date juice extraction and related activities

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

Date juice, alternately known as the wild, sugar or silver date palm, phoenix sylvestris, is cultivated and tapped to be consumed fresh, or processed, in Bangladesh. It is a popular culinary practice that falls in the ICH Domain of Social practices, rituals and festive events

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

All over Bangladesh; while this documentation is based on practices of Bhaluka, Mymeningh

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- Oral Traditions and Expressions
- Performing Arts
- Social Customs and Traditions
- Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe

- Traditional Craftsmanship
- Food

Section-2: Characteristics of the element



Practitioner(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

Male (farmer, agri-business entrepreneur) : age : 25-50 Female (homemaker) : age : 24-55

Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles)

Every village which have date trees

Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

Bangla. (They have their own local language)

Associated tangible elements used (if any)

Pot, Taffal (special aluminium container), etc

How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

Women are directly involved in this tangible element. They process the juice and produce hot liquid molasses stored in terracotta pots. With the exception of a little, usually consumed as fresh juice, this liquid molasses will be frozen and made into a paste. Clothes are being spread on the soil. In order to make Patali molasses, the juice will be poured over desserts like sauce.

Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

The bark and a bit of the pith of the trunk are shaved everyday, by an expert called gachi (????). This is done very delicately, to make the juice or sap flow. Women heat the raw juice to purify it, and then the hot liquid molasses is poured into a pot. With the exception of a little, this liquid molasses will be frozen and made into a paste. Pouches made of fabric are being spread on the ground, in order to make Patali molasses, The juice is poured in this sauce. Then Patali molasses of date juice is poured in the pot.

Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

The art and knowledge of extracting the juice from the Date Palm Tree is needed to be able to access this practice.

Modes of transmission to others in the community

Planting more date trees, and teaching younger generation the art of extraction. is necessary to procure the juice. However, processing of the juice and making sweet dishes is another aspect of maintaining this culture.

Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

The Department of Agriculture, of the Govt. of Bangladesh, has commissioned research into this practice.

Section-3: State of the element (viability)



Threats to the enactment

Declining wild date palm trees and professionals

Enactment Threats Description

Threats to the transmission (if any)

The art of extraction by a gauchi is certainly not threatened, but certainly loosing popularity.

☐ Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

Not any

☐ Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

All food processed with molasses and jaggery from date sap will become rare if 1) reforestation plans for date palms are not put into place.

☐ Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

Though there is a concern, and research into the viability of this practice has been undertaken, there are still no concrete projects.

☐ Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries



☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Yes they have

☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

No restriction

☐ Section-5: Resource Person



☐ Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

Didarul -ul Alam

☐ Date of data collection

18-05-2020

☐ Place(s) of data collection

Bhaluka, Mymensingh

☐ Section-6: Safeguarding techniques



☐ Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

Planting more trees

☐ Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

Planting more trees Commercial sale of date juice, jaggery and molasses. Celebrating these practices through village festivals.

☐ Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives



☐ References to/in literature

Alam, Muhammad Moniruld, Muhammad Mohiul Alam, Muhammad Samad Miah, and Muhammad Alam. 2008. "Date Palm Cultivation in Bangladesh: Farmers' Practices." Pakistan Sugar Journal (Sugarcane Research and Development Board (SRDB)) 23 (4). Chowdhury, M.S.H., M.A. Halim, N. Muhammed, F. Haque, and M. Koike. 2008. "Traditional utilization of wild date palm (Phoenix sylvestris Roxb) in rural Bangladesh: An approach to sustainable biodiversity management." Journal of Forestry Research 19 (1): 245- 251. Correspondent. 2017. Extraction of date palm juice begins in Jhenidah. November 4.
<http://m.theindependentbd.com/arcprint/details/122043/2017-11-04>.

Shuvo, Mokammel, and Andrew Eagle. 2016. Jessores signature date juice gets scarce. February 21. Accessed May 24, 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/date-juice-road-be-history-575461>.

Audiovisual materials or archives

Discography or archives

Not applicable

Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry +

Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

Riza Ali Dristy

Date of Community Consent

18-05-2020

Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Not applicable now

Present Condition of Heritage

Becoming less

Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

Section-9: Community suggestions +

Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

Planting more trees Raising awareness among people about date juice

Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

Not applicable.

Section-10: Upload Document +

Heritage Images

