

Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-45.61.2023.00040

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Mymensingh

District

Mymensingh

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

Geolocation(Longitude)

Community Category

Artists

Community

Urban

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

Practitioners(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

Enactment Threats Description

Unfortunately, for future generations the sweet delights of the wild date palm might not be such a quintessential marker

of winter. Date trees are declining in numbers and few people are interested in taking up date syrup harvesting as a profession now. "In the first decade of this century wild date palm numbers fell by about 30pc nationwide," says Rofiqul Alam, who worked as director of a Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute project covering Palmyra, nipa and wild date palms. He notes the palms grow in about 30 districts where conditions are favourable, including throughout greater Jessore. While Alam's estimate is based on experience, the exact number of wild date palms in Bangladesh is unknown. One survey from 2010 records that up to 15,000 hectares of the country are covered by either wild date or Palmyra palms. In Jessore, the Department of Agriculture Extension (the DAE) tallied the number of trees at around 7 lakhs in 2008, falling to 5.41 lakhs by 2013, before rising again to 6.75 lakhs in 2015, a rise they attribute to their own initiatives. Nonetheless it is commonly observed by Jessore locals that the number of mature palms has decreased, despite strong demand for the tree's syrup. The deputy director of Jessore DAE Nityaranjan Biswas believes a major reason for the decline is because there are fewer professionals, known as a "gachhi", available nowadays to cut the tree trunks and extract the sap.

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

18-05-20, 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 Monirul, 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. Jessore's 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

□ 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)

Becoming less

□ 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.

Consent Document



Heritage Details Document



Heritage Images



Heritage Video

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