**Introduction of Economic Botany**

Economic Botany is the interaction of people with plants. Economic botany is closely related to the field of ethnobotany that word is based on two Greek roots: ethnos (race: people: cultural group) and botanikos (of herbs) and can mean the plant lore of a race or people as well as the study of that lore. Economic botanists are scientists who study the interactions between humans and plants. That makes the field of Economic Botany as far flung and diverse as both the human and plant life on our planet. Economic botanists study human-plant interactions from a variety of different angles. These skilled researchers rely on a variety of disciplines including archeology, sociology, and ecology in addition to basic botany to help them explain these interactions and their effects on plants, society and our dynamic planet.

Plants are essential for the survival of our planet and the many life Forms on it. Food plants like cereals, vegetables, pulses, root crops, fruits and nuts are hugely important for humans. Other plants provide medicines, spices and kitchen herbs, building material, fibres, cooking and technical oils, dyes, fuel, and many other commodities. Many plants have been cultivated for centuries and are of great economic value both locally and for international trade.

Economic Botany sometimes focuses on the processes as well as the products involved in plant cultivation. We can also study how plants are used. In the past this has meant lists of cultures and their preferred plant sources for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, ritual or aesthetics. Although there are roughly 250,000 species of plants divided into 460 families, we commonly use products from only 300 species in 20 of those families; just a tiny fraction of what’s available.

Often a single plant will fill more than one function. The coconut palm is an excellent example of botanical versatility. It is found in cultivation throughout the tropics where it is known by many names including pokok seribu guna or 'tree of a thousand uses' in Malay. All parts of the plant are used from the leaves that are woven into thatch roofs and mats to the delicious fruit and sap right down to the roots that are processed to treat everything from dysentery to bad breath.