

## CANCER OF ILLEGAL TRADE THREATENS THE ANTI-CANCER YEWS

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*ABSTRACT* : Taxus is slow growing, poor regenerating and rare isolated temperate evergreen plant found in 1800 to 3000 m elevation. Taxol produce from the barks and leaves of the Taxus plant has anti-cancer properties with high pharmaceutical demand worldwide. Taxus has been reported to be found in the different parts of Arunachal Pradesh. However, large scale supply and illegal trade occur in Arunachal Pradesh especially during 1990s. This paper aims to explore the present status, impact of trade and natural regeneration of Taxus plant in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. Interactions with villagers disclose that Taxus in pure stands is no more available in the nearby vicinities. The random transacts in the forest areas reveals many dead plants in different areas of the district. Out of the 143 plants located by the 105 are dead trees, only 4 are live trees, 14 are saplings and 20 are newly growing seedlings.

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