

## **Digitized inventory of economically important plants**

The Government of India has decided to establish a digitized inventory of economically important plant resources for specific purposes other than medicinal, aromatic and timber uses. The Bio-resources project, under the Department of Biotechnology, would digitize data from flora and other sources at a cost of US\$200,000. The focus of this project is to develop spatial maps identifying the distribution and population of each species.

The project would also compile information on taxonomy and biology, evaluate the nomenclature of the species and identify synonyms in the nomenclature. Additional objectives of the project include: development of a template of relational database management system for incorporating spatial, graphical, descriptive and other forms of information gathered by different working groups and compiling the data sets with suitable link services to be offered for two kinds of users – web-based and CD-based. The project, to be completed by 2002, would also compile information on the economic potential, national status in the export and import of products, and explore potential markets for the future. (Chemical Weekly, 15 May 2001)