



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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## PROTECTING THE OWNERSHIP OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN INDIA

### VIDEO

FOREST/PLANT

KANI TRIBE GATHERING  
PLANTS

Dr. PUSHPANGADAN IN OFFICE

Dr. PUSHPANGADAN ON  
CAMERA

KANI MEN EATING SEEDS

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Found deep in the forest in southern India, this wild plant holds the power to fight fatigue and to improve the human immune system. (8")

For centuries, the Kani tribe has kept this plant a secret. Recently, they were persuaded to share their knowledge in exchange for benefits. (9")

Dr. Pushpangadan is the scientist who found out about the properties of the medicinal plant while on a field survey. (7")

#### DR. PUSHPANGADAN (English)

*"At one point of time, my team got exhausted, and we stood under the shade taking rest, but not these Kani boys. They said: "Sir, if you try these seeds, you get plenty of energy". (11")*

#### NARRATION

And it wasn't easy to convince the Kani men to reveal the source of the plant. (5")

Dr. PUSHPANGADAN ON  
CAMERA

DR. PUSHPANGADAN (English)

*They said: "this is our secret, why do you want to know it?" I told them: "I tried it and it's very good. It will be even better for the humanity; I want to give it to the Humanity. I made an agreement with the tribe that they should get some benefits." (13")*

JEEVANI BEING SOLD IN  
PHARMACIES / ARCHIVE  
PICTURES

NARRATION

After reaching an agreement with the Kani, the commercialization of the herbal drug, "Jeevani" took seven years of intensive experimentation headed by c. The drug is an energy booster that also relieves stress and protects the liver. (15")

P.K. PARAMESWARAN SPEAKS  
TO Dr. PUSHPANGADAN

P.K. Parameswaran is the manager of the Arya Vaidya Pharmacy. (5")

P.K. PARAMESWARAN (English)

*"Really it's a wonder drug. No doubt at all." (3")*

PARAMESWARAN ON CAMERA  
  
KANI VILLAGE/FAMILY  
WASHING IN RIVER/ INSIDE A  
HOUSE

NARRATION

The Kani, once a nomadic people living an isolated and impoverished life in the forest, now receive half of the royalties from the sales of Jeevani – and their lives are improving. (11")

JEEP ON ROAD

They have put the money in a trust fund for the benefit and welfare of the tribe. And they have purchased a jeep. There's now a road connecting them to the outside world. (10")

KANI MEN IN COMMUNITY  
CENTRE

The Kanis have also built a community centre. For the first time they have a place to meet and discuss problems. (7")

Rajendran is the Secretary of the fund. (2.5")

RAJENDRAN (Malayalam)

*"We could not have accomplished all that without the income from these plants. We are all very happy". (7")*

RAJENDRAN ON CAMERA

NARRATION

The Kani tribe is only one of the more than five hundred tribal communities in India. As herbal medicine becomes popular, there is a growing interest in their knowledge of wild medicinal plants. There's also a rise in bio-piracy. Their knowledge is often taken without their permission. (18")

KANIS GATHER PLANTS IN  
FOREST

STREET IN DELHI / LIBRARY  
RESEARCHERS

In New Delhi, the Government has set up the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. It documents the medicinal properties of native plants in five international languages, aiming to ensure that patents are granted to the proper parties. (14.5")

V. K. Gupta is the head of the Library. (2.5")

V. K. GUPTA (English)

"Once we make it accessible to international patent offices, it will definitely prevent bio-piracy of the

contents available in the library.” (11”)

V. K. GUPTA ON CAMERA

NARRATION

The library, the first of its kind in the world - a 30-million page encyclopaedia, - comprises only traditional knowledge taken from ancient written texts, not oral knowledge. (11”)

RESEARCHERS IN OFFICE

V. K. GUPTA (English)

*“We need another Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for undocumented traditional medicines.”*  
(5”)

V. K. GUPTA ON CAMERA

NARRATION

The agreement with the Kani has been hailed by the United Nations Development Programme as a global model for benefit sharing. The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by over one hundred and fifty countries, calls for the protection of the ownership of indigenous knowledge. (18”)

KANI MEN CULTIVATE PLANTS

The task of documenting thousands of years of traditional knowledge, and ensuring access and equity in the distribution of benefits is a daunting challenge. (9”)

RESEACHERS IN LIBRARY

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan and Alan Spector for the United Nations.

UN LOGO

