



BE PART OF THE PLAN

International Day
for Biodiversity
2024

Eco-friendly Products & Biodiversity

22 MAY 2024



Consumer Education and Research Centre

Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Programme Centre-
Resource Partner on "Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling & Eco-friendly Products"
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Celebrating Nature's Bounty on World Biodiversity Day

In honour of World Biodiversity Day 2024, CERC-EIACP, a champion of environmental awareness, eco- literacy, and sustainable products, is turning the spotlight on the amazing species that contribute to eco- friendly solutions.

For generations, we've relied on a vast array of plants to meet our needs. However, with the rise of plastics and chemicals, we strayed from nature-based solutions, leaving a lasting negative impact on the environment.

Thankfully, the tide is turning! As public environmental awareness grows, there's a welcome resurgence of interest in eco-friendly products. This growing demand is fuelling a surge in the production of sustainable solutions by manufacturers.

What plant are used in the creation of today's eco-friendly products?

Let's explore the incredible biodiversity that provides us with sustainable alternatives and celebrate the power of nature to meet our needs in harmony with the planet.

Grooming and personal care

Plastic Hair Comb

- Sandalwood (*Santalum album*) hair comb
- Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) hair comb
- Indian timber bamboo (*Bambusa tulda*) hair comb
- Walnut (*Juglans regia*) hair comb



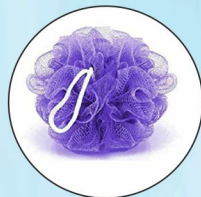
Plastic Toothbrush

- Indian timber Bamboo (*Bambusa tulda*) brush
- Miswak (*Salvadora persica*) stick
- Indian Beech (*Millettia pinnata*) stick
- Babul (*Vachelia nilotica*) stick
- Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) stick



Plastic Loofah

- Bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) Loofah
- Sponge gourd (*Luffa aegyptiaca*) Loofah



Household Items

Polyethylene Bag

- Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) bag
- Jute (*Corchorus olitorius* & *C. capsularis*) bag
- Linseed fiber/ Linen (*Linum usitatissimum*) bag



Plastic Straw Mat

- Coconut fiber/ Coir (*Cocos nucifera*) mat
- Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) mat
- Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) mat



Plastic Planter

- Coconut fiber/ Coir (*Cocos nucifera*) planter



Plastic Rope

- Coconut fiber/ Coir (*Cocos nucifera*) rope
- Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) rope
- Linseed fiber/ Linen (*Linum usitatissimum*) rope



Chemical Cleaner

- Orange (*Citrus x sinensis*) peel cleaner
- Aritha (*Sapindus* sp.) cleaner



Plastic/Commercial timber furniture

- Lantana (*Lantana camara*) furniture
- Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) straw



Plastic Disposable Cutlery

- Birch (*Betula* sp.) cutlery



Plastic Drinking Straw

- Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) leaf straw
- Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) straw
- Papaya (*Carica papaya*) leaf straw



These plants supports a large number of species of other plants and animals. Let's have a look at which Butterflies and Moths benefit from these plants. Before feeling guilty about using the plants that are important for a wide variety of Moths and butterflies, it must be understood that commercially using a plant species can incentivize its conservation, if cultivated in farm and not harvested from the wild.

ⁿ = Larval host plant of n species of Moths

ⁿ = Larval host plant of n species of Butterflies



Note: While a plant supporting many creatures might seem beneficial, it can be deceiving. Lantana, for example, provides food for 47 moth species and attracts countless butterflies with its nectar. However, this attractive plant isn't native to India. It's actually an invasive species that outcompetes native plants and takes over large areas. Because of this threat, people are finding new uses for Lantana, like furniture wood, to control its spread.

References:

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 Kunte, K., S. Sondhi, and P. Roy (Chief Editors). *Butterflies of India*, v. 4.27. Indian Foundation for Butterflies. URL: <https://www.ifoundbutterflies.org>.