



Allium Negianum: A New Species of Onion

Why in News

Recently, a newly discovered plant **Allium negianum**, in Uttarakhand has been confirmed to belong to the genus that includes many staple foods such as [onion](#) and **garlic**.

- A **staple food** makes up the **dominant part of a population's diet**. They are eaten regularly—even daily—and supply a major proportion of a person's energy and nutritional needs.

Key Points

- **About:** [//](#)



- Allium is one of the **largest genera in Amaryllidaceae**.
 - **Amaryllidaceae** is a family of **herbaceous** (connected with plants that have soft stems), mainly perennial and bulbous flowering plants.
- The genus Allium contains **about 1,100 species worldwide**, including many staple foods like **onion, garlic, scallion, shallot and chives**.
- The genus naturally **occurs in dry seasons** in the [northern hemisphere](#) and **South Africa** but the newly-identified species **is restricted to the region of the western Himalaya**.
- The scientific name Allium negianum **honours the late Dr. Kuldeep Singh Negi**, an eminent explorer and Allium collector from India.

- They are useful for **various medicinal purposes**.

▪ **Distribution in India:**

- The Indian Allium is **distributed in different eco-geographical areas of the temperate and alpine regions of Himalayas**.
- The Indian Himalayan region has two distinct centers of Allium diversity, the **Western Himalaya (over 85% of total diversity)** and the **Eastern Himalaya (6%)**, covering the alpine-sub temperate region.

▪ **Condition of Growth:**

- It grows at 3,000 to 4,800 m above sea level and can be found along open **grassy meadows, sandy soils along rivers**, and streams forming in snow pasture lands along alpine meadows.

- **Threat:**

- Indiscriminate **harvesting of its leaves and bulbs** for seasoning may pose a threat to its wild populations.

Source: IE

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