

during 2006 and 16.52 - 20.04 % during 2007. From above data it can be concluded that the groundnut yield increased with the application of *Rhizobium* bio-fertilizer due to effective communication.

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**DYE YIELDING PLANTS AND PRINTING OF NATURAL FABRICS**

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About 50 plant species are considered to be the most important for dye making (Mahanta and Tiwari 2005). Tribe Bhills of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state, use bark, leaves, flowers and roots of many plants for colouring purposes.

During present investigation, an attempt was made to extract dyes from natural sources and to convert them in the form of powder. The dyeing process was done at boiling temperature for one hour. The samples which were used for dyeing from each source were judged for dye ability, washing fastness, and to study the effect of sunlight on its quality. The powder (5 gm) was packed in polythene bags and judged after one month. Turmeric, pomegranate, onion skin, babul

bark and Awla fruits showed excellent colours. Washing fastness of turmeric, pomegranate, onion skin, babul and Awla was good while beet root, Areca nut, Walnut and Gulmohar showed fair washing fastness. The poor performances was of Harda, *Hibiscus*, Heena and black tobacco. The fastness test showed Babul, Mint, Areca as excellent, beet, onion skin, pomegranate, Heena, Gulmohar and Harda as fair and Turmeric, tobacco, *Hibiscus*, Marigold and Black walnut as poor in performance after sunlight exposure.

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