

## Bhojo

**English Name:** Sweet Flag

**Scientific Name:** Acorus calamus L.

**Family:** Araceae

### Introduction:

Perennial aromatic herb about 1 m high, common in wet land areas. Leaves basal, 40 to 150 cm long, 1 to 3 cm wide, flat, linear, midrib distinct, margin wavy. Flowers small, bisexual, yellowish, condensed or cylindrical Spadix. Flowers from May to June. Fruits from August to September.

### Availability:

Distributed from 500 to 2300 m asl in marshy and wetland areas.

### Harvesting Time:

September to February.

### Part used in Trade:

Rhizome

### Description of traded part:

Rhizome is 0.6 to 2 cm in thickness and about 1 m long, jointed, hairy and aromatic. Outer part of rhizome is light orange-brown while inner part is pinkish white in color. Its taste is biting and numbing. Root is white and black in color. White rooted Bhojo is found in irrigated or cultivated areas whereas black rooted Bhojo is found in wild and better.

### Uses:

It is used as food preservatives in houses as natural and safe insecticide. Root has valued medicinal properties. It is also beneficial during cough, cold and wounds in neck, Dysentery, fever and toothache. It is also used as tonic for brain. It is also used in manufacturing incense. Calamus oil is also extracted from its roots.

### Conservation Status:

Government of Nepal has prioritized it for Cultivation and Conservation.

