

# Archaeology of Buddhist Perspectives on African Agriculture and Environmentalism

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## *Abstract:*

*A settled agrarian practice in India got established with coming of iron tools during Buddhist period. The Buddhist Philosophy, mentality, economic, philosophy, psycho-social environment created by Buddhism played a critical milieu in which surplus producing agriculture began in India. The pali, prakrit, sanskrit and Greek literature provides ample evidences for it. The impact of Buddhist philosophical thoughts on pre and post Islamic Arabian world is widely accepted by the scholars. The Arabs linkages with Africa again is thoroughly investigated by volumes of scholars. The Indian sea born trade to Arab and African world is widely known. the Greeks also worked as intermediaries in post Byzantine situations. It is argued that certain plants of Indian origin are found in Africa and vice-versa. The paper tries to capture these linkages on agriculture and environmentalism and impact of Buddhist philosophy in it.*

## **Introduction**

Buddhism is the majority religion in Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, Mongolia Laos, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Tibet, Macau and Singapore, Taiwan, Kalmykia and Vietnam over 470 million followers.. The first Buddhist came to Africa in 1925 brought by the British people to build the East African railways to Tanzania. Buddhist temples and centres can be found in Sub-Saharan African countries such as Botswana. Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The majority of Buddhists in Africa are of Asian descent, mostly Chinese, Vietnamese, Sri Lankan Japanese. The African countries and territories in Indian Ocean also has significant Buddhist monasteries. According to Boston university 2020 reported by the Association of Religion of data Archive, Buddhist make up just over 0.3% of the Middle East of the total population. Many of these Buddhists are workers who have migrated from Asia to Middle East. Since, the late 1990s many of them come from countries that have large no. of Buddhist population such as China, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka and

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