

IDENTIFICATION, SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION & CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH:

A Training Programme held at Forest Training School, Chail, (H.P.) on 5th March 2013

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla - one of the regional Institute of Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun and with its mandate in the Western Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir- organized a one day training programme on “**Identification, Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Medicinal Plants of Himachal Pradesh**” on **5th March 2013** at Forest Training Institute, Chail, Solan district under one of its ongoing research project titled, “Assessment of optimum harvest limits of *Picrorhiza kurrooa* and *Valeriana jatamansi* in Himachal Pradesh” being implemented by **Dr. A. Rajasekaran**. Approximately 60 participants comprising of the field staff from Solan and Shimla Forest Divisions, Wildlife division- Shimla, trainees of FTI Chail and some farmers from the adjoining areas of Chail were present in the training.

Sh. OP Solanki, Director, Forest Training Institute, Chail inaugurated the training programme. In his inaugural address he explained the importance of medicinal plants and stressed that in the present scenario, Field Staff of the state forest department should be in know of the related issues revolving around identification of endangered medicinal plant species including their conservation strategies. In view of this, he added that the today’s training programme will be of great help to us in this direction. He appreciated the Institute for organizing the training programme which has direct relevance to the farmers for improving their livelihoods also, he stressed.

Dr Sandeep Sharma, Scientist of the institute welcomed the participants and also thanked Director, FTI, Chail for providing necessary facilities for conducting the training and also for sparing his valuable time for inaugurating this one day training. He then briefed about the day’s events and invited **Sh.SS Kataik, IFS** to make an institutional presentation for highlighting the Institutional activities.

After this institutional presentation, **Dr A. Rajasekaran, Scientist** and Coordinator of the training programme made detailed presentation on '**Identification of important medicinal plants of Himachal Pradesh**' with an emphasis on the high value medicinal plants species those have been permitted for extraction by the state forest department, HP. Subsequently, **Sh. S.S. Kataik, IFS, HOD (NWFP) and Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist** talked about the Medicinal Plants Policy of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department and the importance of Temperate Arboretum respectively. Detailed presentation on the already standardized nursery and cultivation techniques of Atish, Chora, Karu and Muskhbala were presented by **Dr. Sandeep**, whereas **Dr. S Chakrabarti, Scientist** discussed management of Insects and Pathogens in medicinal plants. In this sequence, a lecture on Seakbuckthorn – locally known as Chharma - was presented by **Sh. Joginder Singh, RA-I** followed by the discussion of **Dr. Rajasekaran** which mainly revolved around the strategies for sustainable utilization and conservation of medicinal plants of Himachal Pradesh.

The resource persons freely interacted with the participants during the plenary session and in the process experts duly addressed the queries of field functionaries of State Forest Department, local people and farmers those were present during the training.

In the end, a special Vote of Thanks was extended by **Dr. Sandeep** from the Institute.

CLIPS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

