

## **A Report on Training Programme on “Cultivation of Important Temperate Medicinal Plants - An Option for Additional Income for Farmers” held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Recong Peo on 04.10.2012**

Complying with the objectives and also the emphasis laid during 7<sup>th</sup> workshop organized by Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla at High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre (HAPPRC) at Srinagar, Garhwal. The institute in its earlier continuity organized one day Training and Demonstration Programme on ‘**Cultivation of Important Temperate Medicinal Plants - An Option for Additional Income for Farmers**’ at Recong Peo in tribal district of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh on **4<sup>th</sup> October 2012**. The training was organized under the Externally Aided Project, funded by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi.

For the first time, the institute approached the tribal of the district with the major objective to popularize the medicinal plants growing in the region and also to assess/ use the same for enhancing income of the farmers. Another good thing behind the thought process was the collaborative efforts which the institute attempted with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), which the authorities both at NMPB, New Delhi and ICFRE, Dehradun are insisting upon from time to time. This effort was rather the initiation on this account also.

Dr. ML Verma, Incharge KVK, Recong Peo, inaugurated the training and during his inaugural address explained about the importance of organizing such training programme and appreciated HFRI, Shimla for this collaborative approach for the ultimate benefit of stakeholders. He also stressed the need at various level to pool the resources for greater impact of extension programme. Dr. VP Panwar Scientist-C of the Institute welcomed the participants approximately 48 nos and also the resource persons invited for this training programme. He also briefed about the day’s event and subsequently made a institutional presentation for highlighting the Institutional activities.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-E, of the institute highlighted the importance of medicinal plants and explained specific cultivation techniques of Atish (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*), Mushakbala (*Valeriana jatamasi*) & Chora (*Angelica glauca*), organic cultivation and marketing. Macro-proliferation techniques were practically demonstrated to the participants by the experts. Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E, talked about inter-cultivation of medicinal plants in apple orchards, harvesting and processing of medicinal plants and about screening of superior germplasm of Kutki and Mushakbala from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand for further multiplication and distribution among various end users. Soil Productivity and nutrient management to sustain the yield in any production system was explained by Dr. ML Verma of KVK and Dr. Satish Sharma, Associate Director, Regional Horticulture Research Station, Sharbo, Kinnaur (HP) another outside expert shared his

experiences on 'Pest and diseases of Kinnaur area and their management'. In the end, Dr. KS Kapoor, Scientist-F and Group Coordinator Research of the institute shared his experiences on cultivation under arid and cold desert conditions.

During the plenary session of the training, all the experts viz. Dr. KS Kapoor, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Sh. Jagdish Singh and Dr. VP Panwar along with Dr. ML Verma and Dr. Satish Sharma from KVK and RHRS, Sharbo, freely interacted with the participants. The relevant queries of the farmers, those who were present during the training were duly addressed through expert opinion.

In the end, a special Vote of Thanks was extended by Sh. Jagdish Singh, HFRI, Shimla.





