

A Report on Training and Demonstration Programme on “Cultivation of Important Temperate Medicinal Plants”

**held at ABV Mountaineering and Allied Sports Institute, Manali (H.P.)
on dated 22.05.2013 to 24.05.2013**

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized three days training and demonstration programme on “**Cultivation of Important Temperate Medicinal Plants**” for other stakeholders held at A.B.V. Mountaineering and Allied Sports Institute, Manali (H.P.) from dated 22.05.2013 to 24.05.2013. This training programme was sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. About 50 nos. of participants from other stakeholders i.e. Gram Panchyat Pradhans, NGO's, School Principals, Press Reporters, Social Activist, members of Eco-clubs, representatives from herbal industry etc. took active part in this training programme.

Dr. V.R.R Singh, IFS Director HFRI, Shimla, inaugurated the training and demonstration programme on 22nd May 2013. In his inaugural address he welcomed all the participants and explained about the importance of organizing such training programme for other stakeholders to ultimately sensitize farming communities towards medicinal plants cultivation in Himalayas. He further highlighted the Institute's initiatives in the field of medicinal plants sector for the benefit of various stakeholders and hoped that they would make optimal use of this opportunity thereby, helping in conservation and sustainable utilization of valuable medicinal plants.

Sh. Hari Chand Sharma, Chairman, Zila Parishad, Kullu District, appreciated HFRI's effort for organizing such training programmes for the benefit of other stakeholders and hoped that the cultivation of medicinal plants will help in improving the economy of the local folk. He further requested that Scientist may explore the possibilities of '**Kesar (Saffron) Cultivation**' in Kullu District as it may also prove boon for the farmers of the region.

Dr. K.S. Kapoor, Scientist-F briefed about the day's events and subsequently made a presentation for highlighting the Institutional activities. He also delivered a lecture on biodiversity of medicinal plants in the north- western Himalayas. Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F, of the institute highlighted the importance of medicinal plants and explained specific cultivation techniques of *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Valeriana jatamansi* & *Angelica glauca*; organic cultivation and marketing. Macro-proliferation techniques were practically demonstrated to the participants in the field by experts. The need for diversification of traditional crops was also emphasized by him. Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E, talked about inter-cultivation of medicinal plants in apple orchards, Cultivation of Aromatic plants; harvesting and processing of medicinal plants. Dr. A. Rajasekaran, Scientist-C talked about the sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants and the role sacred groves of Kullu valley in conservation of medicinal plants. Dr. S. Chakrabarti, Scientist-F delivered lecture on Insect pests of medicinal plants and their control measures.

Sh. Bhupender Rana, CF (Research), Sundernagar delivered a lecture on *In-situ* conservation of medicinal plants to develop Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas. Dr. S.S. Samant, Scientist & In-charge G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Mohal Unit (Kullu, Himachal Pradesh) talked about the Population status, Cultivation and Conservation strategies of various temperate medicinal plants.

During the training programme one day field trip on 23rd May 2013 was organized to Field Research Station of HFRI, Shimla at Jagatsukh (Manali), where a practical demonstration on Macro-proliferation techniques for mass multiplication of important medicinal plants, specific nursery & cultivation techniques and Vermicomposting etc were given to the participants. General forestry practices were also demonstrated to the participants.

During the plenary session of the training, all the experts freely interacted with the participants. The relevant queries of the participants were duly addressed through expert opinion. Captain R S Saluria, Director, ABV Mountaineering Institute, Aleo (Manali) shared his views and distributed the certificates to the participants.

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



Inaugural Address by Dr VRR Singh, Director, HFRI, Shimla



Address by Sh. H.C. Sharma, Chairman, Zila Parishad, Kullu (HP)



Field Demonstration of various nursery techniques of medicinal plants at FRS, Jagatsukh (Manali)



Captain RS Saluria, distributed certificates to the participants



Group photo of participants and resource persons of the training