



ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF FOREST PRODUCTIVITY, RANCHI

(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)



Environmental Research Station
Sukna, Darjeeling, West Bengal – 734 009



दिनांक :21.12.23 to 22.12.23

आयोजक/Organizer : पर्यावरण अनुसंधान केंद्र, सुकना, पश्चिम बंगाल (भावाअशिप – वन उत्पादकता संस्थान, राँची) आयोजन स्थल: चेंगा, मिरिक, दार्जीलिंग

“उत्तर बंगाल में औषधीय एवं सुगंधित पौधों के संरक्षण, खेती और विपणन में किसानों की भूमिका”

(Role of Progressive Farmers in Conservation, Cultivation, and Harvesting of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in North Bengal)

(विषय पर राष्ट्रीय औषधीय पादप बोर्ड/ National Medicinal Plants Board)

द्वारा वित्त पोषित प्रशिक्षण

Objective:

The two-day training programme, funded by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), aimed to educate farmers about their pivotal role in the conservation, cultivation, and harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants in the North Bengal region. The event took place at Chenga, Mirik block, Darjeeling, and was organized by the Environmental Research Station, Sukna, which operates under the umbrella of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), specifically the Institute of Forest Productivity in Ranchi.

Resource Persons:

The training programme brought together experienced professionals and experts from various departments to share their knowledge with the attending farmers. The distinguished resource persons included:

Sh. Debashish Ghosh, Joint Director of Agriculture
Dr. Ananya Mandal, Asst. Director of Agriculture (SM)
Sh. Loknath Sharma, Asst. Director of Agriculture (Phansidewa)
Sh. Anil Rajak, Asst. Director of Agriculture (Malda)
Dr. Neha Mishra, Senior Ayurvedic Medical Officer
Sh. Malay Modak, DPMU (District Project Management Unit)
Sh. Anshuman Das, Scientist – B, ICFRE-IFP
Sh. Pramod Chand Lakra, IFS, DCF

Their diverse expertise covered various aspects of medicinal plants, and traditional medicinal practices, providing a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Programme Highlights:

The two-day programme was structured to cover a range of topics, ensuring a holistic approach to the cultivation and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants. The sessions included discussions on sustainable farming practices, the identification and cultivation of specific medicinal plants, harvesting techniques, and the market potential of these valuable resources.

1. Day 1:

Inaugural Session: The programme commenced with an inaugural session, featuring welcome addresses from the organizers and an overview of the objectives.

NMPB Schemes: Sh. Loknath Sharma discussed on the various schemes of NMPB for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Sh. Loknath Sharma's detailed presentation on NMPB schemes provided valuable insights into the multifaceted support available for farmers engaged in the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. By elucidating the diverse range of financial, technical, and capacity-building initiatives, the session equipped participants with the information needed to leverage NMPB support for the sustainable and profitable cultivation of medicinal plants.

Vermicomposting: Sh. Malay Modak talked on the use of vermicomposting in medicinal plant cultivation he provided insights into the use of vermicomposting in medicinal plant cultivation and underscored the potential of this eco-friendly practice to revolutionize traditional methods. The use of vermicomposting in medicinal plant cultivation underscored the potential of this eco-friendly practice to revolutionize traditional farming methods. By adopting vermicomposting techniques, farmers can not only improve the quality and quantity of medicinal plant yields but also contribute to sustainable and environmentally conscious practices.

Utilization of Medicinal Plants: Sh. Anil Rajak's session provided a holistic perspective on the utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants, combining practical cultivation advice with insights into traditional uses and market opportunities. By showcasing the versatility of these plants in various domains, the session empowered participants to explore the full potential of incorporating medicinal and aromatic plants into their agricultural practices for both economic and health-related benefits.

Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in North Bengal: Sh. Anshuman Das's session provided a valuable platform for farmers in North Bengal to enhance their understanding of medicinal and aromatic plants. By focusing on plant identification, cultivation practices, and the region's unique flora, the session empowered participants to integrate this knowledge into their agricultural practices, ultimately contributing to sustainable farming and economic growth in North Bengal.

2. Day 2:

Ayurveda in daily life: Dr. Neha Mishra's session on "Ayurveda in Daily Life" provided a practical guide for participants to integrate Ayurvedic principles into their daily routines. By emphasizing the importance of personalized approaches, dose balancing, and mindful living, the session empowered individuals to harness the holistic benefits of Ayurveda for enhanced well-being in their everyday lives. Dr. Neha Mishra enlightened the participants about the traditional medicinal uses of these plants, emphasizing the importance of preserving traditional knowledge. Dr. Neha Mishra encouraged participants to actively participate in the session through a Q&A format. This interactive approach allowed attendees to seek personalized advice and clarification on Ayurvedic practices relevant to their individual lifestyles.

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Market Opportunities and Harvesting Techniques: Sh. Saroj Biswakarma provided hands-on demonstrations and guidelines on effective and sustainable harvesting techniques for medicinal plants and discussed market trends, potential buyers, and the economic aspects of cultivating medicinal and aromatic plants.

Sustainable Farming Practices and Infrastructure in medicinal and aromatic plants: Sh. Debashish Ghosh shared insights into modern and sustainable farming practices that promote environmental conservation and ensure long-term benefits. Sh. Debashish Ghosh's talk served as a valuable guide for farmers, highlighting the importance of sustainable farming practices and essential infrastructure in medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation. By incorporating these insights, farmers can contribute to environmental conservation, enhance the quality of their yields, and ensure the long-term viability of their medicinal and aromatic plants endeavors. The session concluded with a call to action for adopting sustainable practices and building a resilient future for medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation.

Convergence of medicinal and aromatic plants with agricultural schemes: Dr. Ananya Mandal's insights underscored the importance of the importance of medicinal and aromatic plants to be aligned with the traditional crops. By aligning these crops with established initiatives, farmers can benefit from financial support, skill development, and market access, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of both the agricultural and medicinal plant sectors. The session concluded with a call to explore these synergies for holistic and integrated agricultural practices.

Overall,View: Sh. Pramod Lakra talked on the “Role of Farmers in Conservation, Cultivation, and Harvesting of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in North Bengal”. In brief he delved on topic like conservation efforts, cultivation practices, market linkages and economic benefits, Integration with traditional practices, market Linkages and economic benefits, community involvement and harvesting techniques.

Audience Participation:

A total of 45 farmers actively participated in the training programme, demonstrating the significant interest and enthusiasm among the farming community in Chenga. The participants engaged in interactive sessions, asked questions, and shared their own experiences, creating a dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

The NMPB funded training programme on the "Role of Farmers in Conservation, Cultivation, and Harvesting of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in North Bengal" proved to be a valuable initiative in empowering local farmers with knowledge and skills essential for sustainable and profitable agriculture. The collaboration of experts from diverse fields contributed to the success of the event, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for the conservation of medicinal plants in the region. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the resource persons, participants, and sponsors for their contributions to the success of the programme.



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