



I.C.F.R.E



# INSTITUTE OF FOREST PRODUCTIVITY, RANCHI

Environmental Research Station, Sukna, West Bengal

13-14 March, 2024

“Cultivation, Conservation and Sustainable utilization of medicinal plants in North Bengal”

National Seminar sponsored by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)



A National Seminar sponsored by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on “Cultivation, Conservation and Sustainable utilization of medicinal plants in North Bengal” was organised by Environmental Research Station, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Productivity, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India on March 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Hotel Montana Vista, Uttorayon Township, Siliguri West Bengal.

Welcoming the august gathering Dr. Amit Pandey, Director, ICFRE-IFP highlighted the importance, synergistic effects and uses of various medicinal plants and also fungal species, like *Cordyceps sinensis* and *Ganoderma lucidum*. Guest of Honour, Sri Bhaskar J.V. highlighted that

approximately 105 plant species were found to be used for medicinal purposes by various tribes of West Bengal. He informed that many startup companies in Bengal are coming up with new formulations for different ailments. He stressed for the need to create market linkages between the farmers and industries to bridge the gap between demand and supply of medicinal plants.

Addressing the delegates of the seminar, the Chief Guest, Smt. Kanchan Devi, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, said that herbal medicines are cost effective and have good physiological compatibility. Mentioning about World Health Organisation (WHO) report, she said that approximately 70 to 90 percent of developing countries rely on herbal medicines. She emphasized the integration of indigenous traditional knowledge of medicinal plants with science to enhance their usage and benefits. She stressed upon more scientific studies to identify and bridge the gaps.

The two days national seminar was conducted in three technical sessions on production technology, protection, improvement and utilisation of medicinal plants, ethnomedicinal uses of plant resources, in-situ and ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants. The seminar attracted more than a hundred studies by scientists, professors, research scholars and students of various institutions, universities and organisations across the country. The presentations and discussions were held both in online and physical modes.



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