

**A Report on the Training Programme under NMPB Funded project  
on "Cultivation of Atish, Ban Kakri and other Important Temperate  
Medicinal Plants" held at Udaipur, Lahaul (H.P.)  
(26.09.2015)**

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized one day training and demonstration programme on ‘**Cultivation of Atish, Ban Kakri and other important Temperate Medicinal Plants**’ at Udaipur, Lahaul (H.P.) on **26.09.2015** under the ‘National Medicinal Plants Board’, New Delhi funded project. About 52 progressive farmers of Pattan Valley falling in tribal district of Lahaul & Spiti and frontline staff of Lahaul Forest Division took active participation in the training programme. The training programme was conducted with a view to sensitize farmers and field functionaries of HPSFD towards medicinal plants cultivation and conservation.

**Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F and Coordinator** of this training programme welcomed the participants on their arrival to Panchayat Bhawan at Udaipur. Thereafter, he briefed about the day’s events to the participants. **Sh. Hem Raj Bhardwaj, Forest Range Officer on behalf of Divisional Forest Officer, Lahaul** stressed upon the importance of such training programme, especially for initiating commercial cultivation of medicinal plants in Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh and also conserving these valuable wealth in their natural habitat. He also told that Lahaul division is full of high altitude medicinal plants and farmers can be benefited by adopting medicinal plants cultivation owing to suitable climatic conditions of the region. The day's proceedings started with **Sh. Pitamber Singh Negi, Scientist-B** by highlighting the activities of the institute. Then he elaborated upon the **Seed and Nursery techniques for raising *Juniperus polycarpus* in the nursery**. The topic was included in this training programme on special request from DFO, Lahaul as this species is traditionally very important for Lahaul region and artificial regeneration is urgently required by the department. After that **Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E** spoke about the importance of medicinal plants, livelihood issues and proper identification of temperate medicinal plants. Thereafter, **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F** presented his work on nursery techniques for raising Atish (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), Chora (*Angelica glauca*) and Kukti (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) and also detailed about the NMPB funded project being implemented by HFRI, Shimla. He also made detailed presentation on the marketing issues pertaining to medicinal plants, composting and vermi-composting techniques, organic farming etc.

After lunch, **Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E** gave a presentation on nursery and cultivation techniques of *Podophyllum hexandrum* (Ban Kakri) and Inter-cultivation of medicinal plants in orchards of temperate areas of Himachal Pradesh. **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist –F** subsequently made detailed presentation on **Modern Nursery Techniques** for the benefit of frontline staff of HPSFD. Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, M/s Nanda Medicinal Plants Exports shared his valuable experiences with delegates pertaining to various problems while dealing with marketing of temperate medicinal plants and stressed the need for developing Ban Kakri and Kutki as crop in Lahaul valley owing to huge demand of these temperate medicinal plants in international market. To further benefit the participants, a complete session was conducted in the evening as interaction among participants and experts. During this session participants expressed their opinion about medicinal plants cultivation & conservation and freely interacted with the resource persons. Relevant queries of the participants pertaining to various issues regarding cultivation of medicinal plants in the field were duly addressed through expert opinion of the resource persons.

In the end, a special Vote of Thanks was also extended by **Sh. Jagdish Singh** to the participants.

# Glimpses of Training Programme



