

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL MONTHLY SEMINAR ON “REGULATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF MEDICINAL PLANT PRODUCTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH” HELD AT HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA ON 30.11.2018

In the series of monthly seminar a talk on the topic “**Regulation and sustainable utilization of Medicinal Plant Products in Himachal Pradesh**” under the thrust area “**Managing forests and forest products for livelihood support and economic growth**” was held on **30th November, 2018 at 11.00 AM**. The talk was delivered by Shri Sanjeev Kumar, DCF & Head Facilities & Services Division, HFRI, Shimla. The scientists, forest officers, researchers and technical staff were present during this seminar.

Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI Chaired the proceedings of monthly research seminar. Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Group Co-ordinator Research (GCR) welcomed the Director and all the participants present in the Conference Hall and highlighted the importance of the topic in the light of ongoing research activities on medicinal plants.



Sh. Sanjeev Kumar gave crisp and informative presentation with explanation of regulations governing medicinal plants and highlighted the various issues confronting the medicinal Plants viz. Management of the Resource in its Natural Habitat, Cultivation, Trade and Enterprise, Health Security, Legal Reforms, Institutional Mechanism, Linkages with Other Policies and Linkages with Neighboring States.

He laid emphasis on management of the resources of medicinal plants and regulatory framework for cultivation and the related issues of sustainable utilization of medicinal plants. For sustainable utilization of medicinal plants he stressed on the need to identify the endangered and threatened species, standardization of their cultivation and propagating techniques, identification of their conservation areas and restocking of the species, creating

public awareness and natural products industry be make aware regarding the plight of the endangered and threatened medicinal species.



He also informed about the trade restrictions in medicinal plants in India and internationally, besides enlisting the legal framework in Himachal Pradesh. He gave detailed information on HP Forest Produce transit (land routes) Rules, 2013, which restricts and regulates the storage and movement of the forest produce including medicinal plants within and outside the state. He discussed in detail the general provisions related to Registration of Grower, Cultivation of Medicinal Plants on Private Land and Transportation of Produce so obtained i.e. medicinal plants, seeds and miscellaneous NTFPs to the notified Herbal Mandis and Sale thereof. He also highlighted the new scheme launched by HP Govt. **“Van Smaridhi Jan Smaridhi”** and role of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in this scheme. He also emphasized that provisions of various acts like Forest conservation act 1980, wildlife Act, 1972, Land use policy and agriculture policy be taken into consideration while implementing such schemes. He highlighted the various projects implemented with support of NMPB by forest department and also gave pictorial view of the works done by him during 2006-08 under TDET project in Solan Forest Division.

During the presentation, he emphasized upon the relevant research needs on liberalization of legal aspects in conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants and effect of commercial cultivation of medicinal plants as monoculture on ecosystem and biodiversity of the Forest land.

During the course of discussion, Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director, HFRI raised the issue of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of medicinal plants to encourage private partners for cultivation of medicinal plants and also emphasized to make wasteland and forest land available for cultivation of medicinal plants.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-G raised the issue of practical problem in the field regarding registration of medicinal plant grower and obtaining pass/permit from the concerned authority.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, GCR raised concern about the non response of growers/ collectors of medicinal plants as there is need to rectify the present policy.

Outcome of the seminar:

A. Identification of research needs:

1. Effect of liberalization of legal constraints/ rules in conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants
2. Need to develop and disseminate sustainable harvest methods through field agencies and research institutes
3. Need for management of the Resource in its Natural Habitat
4. To develop regulatory mechanism so that the regulatory authorities can certify the source of the material and monitor the yield
5. Need to Standardize the agro-techniques for priority species
6. Need clarity related to the regulatory mechanisms
7. Effect of commercial cultivation of medicinal plants as monoculture on ecosystem and biodiversity of the Forest land

B. Formulation of Future strategies

It was discussed and unanimously agreed that HFRI in due course of time can take up research projects keeping in view the followings objectives

1. To develop and disseminate sustainable harvest methods
2. Standardize the agro-techniques for priority species
3. Effect of commercial cultivation of medicinal plants as monoculture on ecosystem and biodiversity of the Forest land

C. Networking research options identified

It was discussed and that institute can collaborate with HP Forest Department, CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bio resource Technology, Palampur, Ayurveda Department of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and other institutes in H.P. and adjoining states

D. Future research directions discussed for implementation and opportunities for funding

The institute, in collaboration with identified agencies like Ayush Department, HP Forest Department, NBPGR etc. take project funding to work on future strategies

In the end, GCR thanked Dr. V.P. Tewari, Director of the institute, presenter, and all the researchers present for giving valuable inputs.
