

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE LEVEL MONTHLY RESEARCH SEMINAR HELD ON 30.01.2023

Monthly Research Seminar on the title “*Diversity, Distribution, Usage Pattern and Conservation Status of Wild Edible Plants of Kinnaur District in Himachal Pradesh*” under the issue “**Managing forests and forest products for livelihood support and economic growth**” was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 in the Conference Hall of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla. The scientists, officers, technical staff and researchers of the institute attended the seminar. **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director and Group Coordinator Research** started the proceedings with welcome of the Dr. Bhupendra Dutt, Professor, Department of Forest Products, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni (Solan), HODs, Scientists, Technical and Research staff present during the seminar. Thereafter, he requested **Sh. Pitamber Singh Negi, Scientist- D** to make a presentation on the given topic.

**Sh. Negi** made a detailed presentation on “*Diversity, Distribution, Usage Pattern and Conservation Status of Wild Edible Plants of Kinnaur District in Himachal Pradesh*” and highlighted the importance of Wild Edible Plants in day to day life of Tribal and rural communities residing in the vicinities of forest areas. During the presentation, he talked about various aspects of wild edible plants viz., importance of wild edible plants in the upliftment of rural income, the diversity of wild edible plants found across



different valleys of Kinnaur district, and the usage pattern of different parts of wild edible plants by the local communities. He also talked about threatened and endemic wild edible plant species of Kinnaur district and also the conservation status of prominent wild edible plants viz., *Pinus gerardiana*, *Malus baccata*, *Sorbus lanata*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Prunus cornuta* of the district along with forestry interventions to be carried out for their conservation for the benefit of local communities and their livelihood security. He also talked on research works carried out

on various aspects of wild edible plants in the past at national and regional levels along with the future agenda/research needs. The presentation was concluded by emphasizing the fact that research on various aspects of wild edible plants should be initiated/carried out in the future in the Himalayan region.

After that, **Dr. Sandeep Sharma** invited **Dr. Bhupendra Dutt**, Professor, Department of Forest Products, Dr. YSP University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni (Solan), to deliver a lecture on wild edible Plants as a guest lecture. **Dr. Dutt** talked on various aspects of wild edible plants w.r.t



food and nutritional value, potentials of unexplored wild edible plants, utilization, demand & supply of wild edible plants. He also put emphasis on scientific management, post-harvest technology, value addition, and marketing aspects of wild edible plants. During the discussion, **Dr. Bal Krishan Tiwari, Scientist-B**, raised a query about whether there is any possibility for genetic improvement of important wild edible plants. In response, **Sh. P. S.**

Negi informed that there is a very good possibility for genetic improvement of edible plants especially *Diospyros lotus* which is found in lower Kinnaur areas.

The Chairman **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director** thanked the speakers for making a nice and elaborative presentation on various aspects of wild edible plants of Kinnaur district during the seminar.

#### **Outcomes of the Seminars:**

- ❖ Documentation of unexplored wild edible species of Kinnaur region of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Seed and nursery technology of prominent wild edible species viz., *Malus baccata*, *Viburnum cotinifolium*, *Crataegus songarica*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Corylus jacquemontii*, *Diospyros lotus*, *Taxus wallichiana* needs to develop on a priority basis.
- ❖ Biochemicals analysis of fruits/berries of wild edible plants i.e., *Malus baccata*, *Sorbus lanata*, *Prunus cornuta*, *Corylus jacquemontii* and *Castanea sativa* needs to be carried out for estimation of various phytochemicals.
- ❖ Establishment of germplasm bank of important wild edible species of Kinnaur district for conservation purposes.
- ❖ Population of *Sorbus lanata*, *Malus baccata*, *Hippophae tibetana* are decreasing day by day in their natural zone due to anthropogenic activities and therefore, regeneration status needs to be assessed immediately.

#### **Formulation of Future strategies & Networking:**

- ❖ Changes in the phenology of many of the wild edible species of the Himalayan region have been observed in the last two decades due to changing climatic conditions owing to global warming and change in snowfall/ precipitation pattern.
- ❖ Hence, research on phenological aspects of prominent wild edible species of Western Himalayan region needs to be taken to observe any variation actually undergoing or not due to changing climatic conditions.
- ❖ Seed germination behaviour and storage protocols of important wild edible species viz. *Malus baccata*, *Sorbus lanata*, *Crataegus songarica*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Corylus jacquemontii* and *Diospyros lotus* need to be standardized for raising of quality stock in the nursery
- ❖ Nursery and plantation technique of important wild edible species viz. *Malus baccata*, *Sorbus lanata*, *Crataegus songarica*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Corylus jacquemontii*, and *Diospyros lotus* need to be standardized for raising quality planting stock in the nursery
- ❖ Collaboration can be done with other institutions like UHF, Nauni, HPKVV, Palampur, IHBT Palampur for research on important wild edible species.
- ❖ Funding from SJVNL & HPPC Ltd and MoEF &CC, CAMPA fund of SFD/ Kinnaur Forest Division could be sought for the execution of research projects for documentation of wild edible plants of areas which are not explored yet and also for developing propagation techniques and establishment of germplasm bank of prominent species.

In the end, **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director** thanked the participants for their active involvement in this seminar and also for providing the best of their input for prioritizing the research needs and identification of the gaps for developing future strategies.

## SOME GLIMPSES OF THE SEMINAR



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