One week compulsory Training Course for the Indian Forest Service officers on "Conservation and Development of Medicinal Plants and Benefits sharing with Local Communities" sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India was organized at HFRI, Shimla from 10.9.2018 to 14.9.2018. A total of 24 IFS officers at the level of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers from thirteen different states participated in the said training programme which was inaugurated on 10.9.2018. The inaugural function of the training programme started with the brief introduction session by Dr. Sandeep Sharma, the Course Coordinator.

Dr V.P. Tewari, Director HFRI welcomed the Chief Guest of the inaugural session Sh. Ajay Kumar, IFS PCCF and HoFF, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department by offering him Himachali Cap and Muffler. While welcoming the Indian Forest Service officers from various parts of the country participating in the course, he highlighted the vast medicinal plant wealth present in the country, especially in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized on importance of medicinal plants in the natural system of medicine and elaborated the threat and constrains of medicinal plant conservation and stressed on their sustainable use. He informed that the purpose of this training programme is to instigate, develop and increase awareness of the IFS officers pertaining to new discoveries and technologies developed in medicinal plant sector.

Dr Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-G and Course Coordinator highlighted the main features of the training programme. He also explained the five days training modules and informed briefly about the day-wise schedule of the training programme. He informed that experienced resource persons from Universities, Institutions, NGO’s, and Industry working in the medicinal plant
sector have been invited to deliver lecture on various topics. He further informed that the third and fourth day of the training programme have specifically been dedicated to field visits which include visit to Kufri, Shillaru nursery, alpine pasture and interaction with local communities and local Vaidyas dealing with traditional system of medicine (day third) and field visit to Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum having Ashtverga group of medicinal plants and local site in Shimla (day four).

Dr Rajesh Sharma, Scientist –G and Head, Genetics and Tree Improvement Division presented an overview of Himalayan Forest Research Institute and significant achievement of the Institute in the last decade. He talked about the various Field Research Stations that HFRI have in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and informed that the Scientists of the Institute are extensively working in the field of medicinal plants and have developed nursery techniques of various medicinal plants.
The Chief Guest, Sh. Ajay Kumar, IFS, PCCF and HoFF, Himachal Pradesh, in his inaugural address narrated that the use of medicinal plants in curing various ailments dates back to Vedic period. He told that there is bright scope in medicinal plant cultivation because of well established medicinal plant based industries which can add to the economy of the rural people. He further added that the cosmetics industry also uses various Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) while producing various products which find its distinct place in the GDP of country. He pointed out that, due to high demand of MAPs in the industry and limited cultivation by peoples, the natural resources of these medicinal plants are highly stressed and need special care and conservation efforts. Besides these, he opined that the commercial cultivation of medicinal plants is very important to meet the ever-increasing demand of medicinal plants of the industry and to relieve stress on natural resources.

Talking in context of Himachal Pradesh, he said that the state has a rich medicinal plant wealth which is well known for its quality across the country. He added that the medicinal plants of the state are mainly found in the forest land and it is quite important for the Forest Officers to have knowledge of their identification, status and medicinal properties in order to save and conserve the medicinal plants wealth for the future generation. He hoped that that the training programme would surely add to the knowledge of Officers and will ultimately benefit the society at last.

Sh. S.P. Negi, IFS, CF proposed the vote of thanks to the chief guest on this occasion for sparing his valuable time to inaugurate the training programme. Shri Negi thanked to the print & electronic media for covering the event.

During the Five days Training Programme, experts from HFRI, various Research Organizations, Institutes, Universities, NGOs and Industries delivered lectures on Identification, Exploration, Collection, Conservation and Characterization of medicinal plant resources. The
various topics covered in the training programme were: Collection and maintenance of Germplasm of important Himalayan Medicinal Plants including high value vitality enhancing endangered Ashatverga plants – Challenges and Opportunities; Sustainable harvesting and processing of some important medicinal plants; Identification and uses of important temperate medicinal plants; Nursery techniques of important temperate medicinal plants; Intercropping of medicinal plants for diversification and augmentation of rural income; Introduction to Sowa-Rigpa - Tibetan system of medicine; Conservation and Management of Medicinal Plants – An Overview; Medicinal Plants Resource of North-West Himalaya – traditional uses by local communities; Livelihood options for diversifying traditional farming; Commercial cultivation of important medicinal plants and marketing issues; Challenges and way forward in MAP sector – availability of raw material, buy back arrangements and processing & uses; Drug discovery and development in Himalayan Medicinal Plants; Some important medicinal plants of Thar Desert, their uses and cultivation practices; Production of medicinal compounds from endangered medicinal plants through cell and tissue culture technology for herbal industry; Insect pests in medicinal plants and their management; Conservation of Endangered Medicinal Plants of Himachal Pradesh – Policy and Legal Issues and Experience sharing while working with communities for developing medicinal plants sector.
The delegates were taken for field visit to Kufri and HFRI Shillaru nursery where the officers interacted with the local people and local Vaidyas. Local Vaidyas informed the participants about the use of medicinal plants for curing various human and domestic animal diseases and identification of medicinal plants. The trainees were also taken to the alpine pasture at Hattu and were introduced to various medicinal plants on the way. They also visited Indian Institute of Advanced Studies and Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum which has been developed and Managed by HFRI.
Sh. Jitender Sharma, IFS, PCCF and HoFF Punjab was the Chief Guest in the Valedictory session. A panel discussion on “Improvement in the working of Forest Department - need for
career development through training and improvement of skills” was also held during this session. Delegates interacted freely and gave their valuable feedback during this session for the development of medicinal plants sector in the country. Addressing the delegates, Chief Guest Sh. Jitender Sharma said that every plant in nature has its own importance in the ecosystem. He added that the plants in its life span not only provide food but also maintain ecological cycles thereby maintaining the equilibrium. He pointed out that the medicinal plants in the country are in great stress due to their ever-increasing demand in the Cosmetic and Ayurvedic industries and to meet this challenge we need to have out of the box thinking. He suggested exploring possibilities to tackle the emerging issues and go with the best possible way to conserve these natural resources. He hoped that the officers came across the country must have been benefited by this training programme and the society will be benefited by their actions.

Delegates of the training programme told that the programme was quite interesting and informative and thanked organizers for organizing this event.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist–G and Course Coordinator formally presented the vote of thanks in the end of the training programme. He specially thanked Sh Ajay Kumar, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, HP and Sh. Jitender Sharma, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Punjab for accepting the invitation to be the Chief Guest during the Inaugural and Closing sessions and also the IFS Officers from thirteen states participating in the training programme for their wholehearted participation to make this training course a success.
Some Glimpses of the Training Course
Aapka Faisla

Amar Ujala

Dainik Bhaskar
दिव्य हिमाचल

शिमला में औषधीय पौधों
के संरक्षण पर होगा मंडन

शिमला : शिमला में आयोजित संरक्षण के लौटने से आगे स्थानांतरण की
अयोग्यता करने प्रथम मुहूर्त आवश्यकता आया गुजरा व अभियान आरम्भित

एच.एफ.आर.आई. में जुटे 13 प्रदेशों के वन अधिकारी

शिमला, 10 सितंबर (स्थूल): औषधीय पौधों के
संरक्षण, विकास और इसमें वाले फायदे से स्थानीय
समुदाय को जागरूक करने के उद्देश्य से शिमला में 5
dिव्यांगों के अधिकारियों, अधिकारियों
तथा विषय प्रवक्ताओं ने बच्चों के संरक्षण, पौधीय
तैयारी करते, पौधीय करते, क्रय-विक्रय व औषधीय
पौधों को खेती से स्थानीय समुदाय तथा किसानों को
होंगे वाले फायदे को जानकारी दी गई। कार्यालय का
शुभारंभ करते हुए प्रथम मुहूर्त आयोजित हिमाचल
वन विभाग अध्यक्ष हेमंत कुमार ने कहा कि भारत में औषधीय
पौधों को जानकारी विभक्ति के क्षेत्र में नैतिक काल
से ही पंपरागत रूप से चली आ रही है। औषधीय
विभागों का उद्देश्य विभिन्न बीमारियों के इंधन में होता
है। उनकी खेती से किसानों द्वारा आर्थिक लाभ भी
अभिज्ञित किया जा सकता है। विभिन्न की कार्यालय
अन्तर्दृष्टि स्वास्थ्य के लिए प्राकृतिक/हर्बल उत्पादों का
उपयोग करते हैं। उन्होंने वही कि सोने का प्रसार
विभाग पदार्थों में भी इसका उत्पादन होता है। औषधीय
पौधों के संरक्षण के लिए इसकी व्यावसायिक खेती
जरूरी हो गई है। शिमला में आयोजित संरक्षण के
निदेशक डा. वॉ.शी. हिमाल ने इस तौर पर प्रशिक्षण
कार्यक्रम को जरूरी बताया। कार्यक्रम संयोजक डा.
सन्दीप समान ने कहा कि इसे भूमि के दौरान प्रशिक्षणों
को दें उन्नत परिवर्तित चारागाह तथा उसके असाधारण
पा करे वाली हिमालयी जूड़ी-बूखी के बारे में
अवलोकन कराकर जाएगा। साथ ही वह के स्थानीय बीमारों
द्वारा औषधीय पौधों के व्यवस्थापन में लगे हुए स्थानीय
समुदाय के लोगों के साथ औषधीय पौधों के बारे में
परिचय का भी आयोजन किया जाएगा।