

## **A Report on the training programme on “Identification, ethno-botanical uses and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants of north western Himalayas” held at Chopal, District- Shimla on 21.09.2017**

Non-wood Forest Products Division of Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized one day training programme on “**Identification, ethno-botanical uses and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants of north western Himalayas**” held at Chopal, District- Shimla on 21.09.2017 under the Himachal Pradesh State department funded project with the co-operation of Forest division Chopal. First of all, **Dr Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist** extended a warm welcome to the 40 participants, which included frontline field staff and local villagers of the Chopal. **Sh. A. K. Verma, Divisional Forest Officer, Chopal** apprised the training participants about the forest wealth of Chopal and told that training would be useful for the field staff of the department. Technical session started with the lecture of Dr Vaneet Jishtu, he elaborated the activities of the institutes and thereafter explained in details about the medicinal plant wealth of Himalayan region. He said that the forest resources including the medicinal plants has not evaluated and its contribution in economy is also not valued properly. **Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F** explained the nursery & cultivation techniques for raising Atish (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), Chora (*Angelica glauca*), Nihani (*Valeriana jatamansi*) and karu (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) and also detailed about various marketing issues pertaining to medicinal plants, vermi-composting techniques, organic farming etc for the benefit of participants. Then again, **Vaneet Jishtu** elaborated about the identification and uses of temperate medicinal plants of north western Himalayan region. He discussed about keys to identify the important medicinal plants and stressed that it is very important especially for front line field staff to know the identity of medicinal plants. He also said that medicinal plants need to be included in cultivation as there is tremendous pressure on harvesting of medicinal plants from its natural habitat. Thereafter, **Dr Joginder S. Chauhan, Research Officer** talked about importance of ethno-botany and traditional uses of medicinal plants of north western Himalayan region with special reference to ethno-botanical uses of medicinal plants used by indigenous people of Chopal. He apprised participants that with financial assistant from HP forest department institute carried out studies on documentation of medicinal and aromatic plants and its ethno-botanical uses by local people. He informed that more than 100 medicinal plants species are used for treating minor ailments in the region. However, it was observed during the study that people are reluctant to share the information on traditional uses of medicinal plants as they believe that sharing the knowledge will reduce the healing power of the herbs.

**Vaneet Jishtu** stressed the need to share the knowledge about the traditional uses of medicinal plants so that it could be documented before extinction. **Dr. Sandeep Sharma** told that people should use these medicinal plants for treating various minor ailments. At last **Sh. Pitamber Negi, Scientist-C** delivered a lecture on seed and nursery technique of juniper (*Juniperus polycarpos*) and talish pattar (*Abies spectabilis*) two important medicinal tree species of the higher region.

For the benefit the participants, open discussion was held among participants and the experts. During the discussion, participants freely interacted with the resource persons and their queries pertaining to various issues were duly addressed through expert opinion of the resource persons. At the end of training, **Vaneet Jishtu** extended formal Vote of Thanks to the DFO Chopal, field staff of forest department of Chopal division and farmers for sparing their valuable time and making this programme a success.

## Glimpses of Training



## Media



clips

