

Training Programme on
“Cultivation and Propagation of *Podophyllum hexandrum* (Bankakdi)”
held at Mashobra, Shimla (H.P.) on March 14th, 2014.

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized one day training programme on “**Cultivation and Propagation of *Podophyllum hexandrum* (Bankakdi)**” at FRH, Mashobra, Shimla (H.P.) for the progressive farmers of Mashobra Panchyat and frontline staff of Shimla Forest Division on dated March 14th, 2014. About 40 participants took active participation in the training programme.

Sh. S.S. Kataik IFS, Head of Office, HFRI, Shimla, inaugurated the training programme. In his inaugural address he welcomed all the participants and told that *Podophyllum hexandrum* (Bankakdi) is a very important high valued temperate medicinal plant. The rhizomes and roots of *Podophyllum* species have gained much importance throughout the world as being the main source or the starting material for the alkaloid podophyllotoxin and its semisynthetic compounds, the etoposide, teniposide, and etoposide phosphate since their use in treatment of specific types of cancers. Owing to its high demand it has been heavily exploited under natural condition to the extent of its endangerment. He informed that the Institute has done commendable work by identifying the superior Chemo-types of *Podophyllum hexandrum* by screening different populations from different geographical locations of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh Valley (J&K). He further added that user friendly propagation techniques of the species has been developed for taking up commercial cultivation, which will help in augmenting of rural income besides conservation of these medicinal plants.

Dr. V.P. Panwar Scientist-C made a presentation highlighting the Institute’s activities and initiatives in the field of medicinal plants.

Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E, Course Coordinator of the training programme briefed about the day’s training programme and subsequently made a detailed presentation on *Podophyllum hexandrum*: A Wonder high Altitude Medicinal Plants; Identification and utilization of important temperate medicinal plants and Intercropping of Medicinal Plants for Augmenting Income of Rural People.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F, delivered lectures on Modern Trends in Nursery Management, Prospects of Commercial Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in Himalayan Region, Marketing of medicinal plants in Himalayan states, composting and vermin-composting techniques etc.

Dr. Sumit Chakraborti, Scientist-F talked about the Insect pests of *Podophyllum hexandrum* and their control measures.

Sh. Pradeep Bhardwaj Dy.C.F. delivered a lecture on Legal and Policy issues pertaining to medicinal plants sector and forestry in general.

During the plenary session all the experts freely interacted with the participants. The participants appreciated HFRI’s efforts towards development of medicinal plants sector in the Himachal Pradesh and suggested that such kind of training programmes should be organized from time to time to create mass awareness about medicinal plants. The relevant queries of the participants were duly addressed through expert opinion.

In the end on behalf of Director HFRI, Shimla a special Vote of Thanks was extended by Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist of the Institute.

GLIMPSES OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES







