

‘Study cum Survey to Assess the Demand & Supply of Medicinal Plants in India’

The industrial demand for the medicinal plant resources has been on the rise due to the worldwide buoyancy in the herbal sector engaged in production of herbal health care formulations, herbal based cosmetic products and herbal nutritional supplements. The rising demand calls for management of the medicinal plant resources on sustainable basis. The prerequisite for such management is information on the annual present and projected demand of medicinal plants. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India had in the year 2002 and again in the year 2007 got an assessment of the demand and supply of medicinal plants in the country through the Centre for Research, Planning & Action (CERPA) and the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) respectively. The subject being dynamic, the data needs to be updated on periodic intervals.

It is in this context that the NMPB called for expression of interest to re-assess the demand and supply of medicinal plants in the country. The ICFRE, Dehradun, in strategic partnership with FRLHT, Bangaluru, participated in the bids and has bagged this one-year assignment starting 25 February 2015. The work under this assignment is being implemented by a team of experts from across ICFRE Institutes and FRLHT, Bangaluru. Data in respect of consumption of medicinal plants by herbal industry, households, and folk healers and in respect of supplies from wild resources and cultivation is being collected. Data in respect of foreign trade (exports and imports) of medicinal plants is also being compiled. In addition, the policy and regulatory regime related to harvest, trade and use of medicinal plants is also being studied.

Dr. G.S. Goraya, Dy. Director General (Research), ICFRE and Team Leader of the aforesaid assignment, made a presentation at NMPB, New Delhi on 20 August, 2015 on the progress made during the first phase of the study. Smt. Shomita Biswas, IFS, CEO, NMPB, Smt. Padmapriya Balakrishnan, IFS, Dy. CEO NMPB, other officers, consultants and staff of NMPB were present for the presentation and actively participated in discussions following the presentation.