

Training on
“Cultivation and utilization of medicinal plants”
(Under extension activities of VVK)
[17th to 19th October, 2016]

Medicinal plants play a vital role in home remedy of many diseases like fever, cold, injuries, pain and allergy, etc. Besides, these are also an essential part of drug formulation in pharmaceutical sector specially, in Unani and Ayurveda. They exist in natural forests since a long but their over extraction from natural forests created a threat to their existence in the nature and there is the only option to grow them outside forests. The suitable and approachable area to establish them is the farm field but economic value addition for farmers is a need of today.

Keeping in view, the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun conducted 3 days training from 17th to 19th October, 2016 on “Cultivation and utilization of medicinal plants” for the farmers of the area around Chandigarh UT, teachers of schools of Chandigarh Administration associated with Eco-Club and Front Line Staff of Forest department of Chandigarh Administration under the activities of Van Vigyan Kendra. The training was inaugurated by Shri Santosh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Chandigarh Administration at Van Vigyan Kendra, Botanical Garden, Chandigarh.

In his inaugural address he told that the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun is called “Makka” of Forestry research with wide spectrum of technical information starting from silviculture to utilization of forest produce including medicinal plants. He quoted that medicinal plants are being grown in surroundings of the Chandigarh city by many farmers. People are also growing them in their home garden in many forms. He said that knowledge on climatic and site suitability for growing these plants should be with the farmers so that

farmers may be able to grow a suitable species according to climate and site. He quoted that quality of seedlings, always counts because a good quality seedling produces a good quantity of product. He mentioned that in future, market for medicinal plants will certainly explored and farmers will be benefitted by farming. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the teachers associated with Eco-Clubs for their remarkable work in the field of growing and preserving medicinal plants in their schools. He also mentioned that Cooperatives if formed in rural areas may help in good marketing of produces. He suggested that cultivation of a species should be done according to the demand of market in a particular area. Besides, he told that a scientific harvesting, storage and processing technology of medicinal plants may enhance the productivity.

Shri Virender Chaudhary, Dy. Conservator of Forests also addressed the participants of the training. In his address he mentioned that Forest Department, Chandigarh Administration started many schemes for growing of medicinal plants under these schemes workshops and trainings are organized from time to time for different categories of stakeholders. He quoted that teachers and farmers of Chandigarh UT are also an integral part of our schemes and getting benefit. He told the house that teachers of schools associated with Eco-Clubs are working as extension agents for us and motivating children and parents for growing and preservation of medicinal plants. Shri Karan Singh, Range Forest Officer, Forest Department, Chandigarh introduced the participants and faculty during in inaugural session.

During technical session, interactive talks were made on following topics:

- Introduction of medicinal plants and their utilization–Dr. A. K. Pandey, Scientist-G, Chemistry Division, FRI
- Potential of medicinal and aromatic plants under agroforestry- Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist-E, Extension Division, FRI

- Selection and collection of healthy seeds of medicinal plants- Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist-D, Extension Division
- Collection and harvesting techniques of medicinal plants- Dr. B. P. Tamta, Scientist-E, NWFP Division, FRI
- Soil suitability for medicinal plants- Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist-C, Extension Division
- Insect pests of medicinal plants and their management- Dr. Moh. Yusuf, Scientist-G, Entomology Division
- Disease of medicinal plants and their management- Shri Manoj Kumar, RA-1, Pathology Division, FRI

A field trip for participants was also arranged under which they visited the nursery of medicinal plants in Botanical Garden and came to know about a basic knowledge on the identification of plants and their uses with help of team of FRI, Dehradun and Shri Karan Singh, Range Forest Officer and Shri Bhupinder Singh, Forester, Forest Department, Chandigarh UT.

The training was completed successfully on 19th October, 2016 with distribution of certificates to the participants. The welcome address was given by Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist-D, Extension Division and Vote of thanks was extended by Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist-C, Extension Division. The inaugural and closing session of the training was conducted by Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist-E, Extension Division, FRI.

Dr. Charan Singh, Scientist-C, Dr. Devendra Kumar, Scientist-D, Shri Rambir Singh, Scientist-C, Shri P. K. Gupta, Scientist-C (Retd.), Ajay Gulati, RA-1 and other team members contributed a lot in organizing the training. An active support was provided by officers and officials of Forest department, Chandigarh UT.

Glimpses of the training



Interactive talk of subject specialists with participants



Interaction between Faculty and trainees of the training



Trainees on Field visit of Herbal nursery of Botanical Garden, Chandigarh



Certificate distribution



Certificate distribution



Faculty members and trainees altogether