

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016 TO CHALK OUT THE ISSUES FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES

A meeting for identification of the issues for holistic development of Medicinal Plants (MPs) sector in North-eastern states was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 3.00 PM in the Conference Room of Ministry of AYUSH. A list of participants is annexed herewith.

At the outset, CEO, NMPB welcomed the chairman of the meeting and all the members participated in the meeting. Out of eight North-eastern states, the representatives from six states were present in the meeting and presented the facts.

The Secretary, AYUSH has mainly stressed upon two major concerns pertaining to medicinal plants sector of North-East (i) overall development of medicinal plants sector in North-Eastern states like other Himalayan states and (ii) establishment of linkages among cultivators/collectors-traders-manufactures.

The State wise presentations along with the actionable points are enumerated here under:

### ASSAM

Mr. C. M Sharma, Additional PCCF and Member Secretary, SMPB in his presentation highlighted about the existing medicinal plants as well as available infrastructure for semi-processing of medicinal plants in Assam. He also presented list of medicinal plants procured from the wild sources by the local people and existing trading practices on those plants. He further proposed to establish a confederation for linkages among farmers, traders and manufactures. He informed that there are no organised collection system and medicinal plants 'Mandi' in state.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH desired that JFMCs/Van Panchayats should be involved for collection of medicinal plants from wild sources and instead of establishing confederation, a proper 'Mandi' for medicinal plants as that of Neemuch (MP) should be developed by SMPB, where JFMC/Self Help Groups/Cultivators could sell their produce to make the transaction transparent and to make available the fair price to stakeholders.

### SIKKIM

Mr. C. S. Rao, Member Secretary cum CEO, SMPB highlighted the medicinal plants resources as well as infrastructure for value addition available in state. He informed in order to promote the cultivation of MPs, state has lifted ban for trading of medicinal plants which are coming from cultivation, but ban from wild is still in regulation. He mentioned that, a medicinal plants' 'Mandi' is functioning in the state at "Rangpo" by Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Sikkim. They process species like Chirayata, Kutaki and Kali haldi. They also got drying yard and have 30 semi-processing units. CEO suggested to have MoU between farmers and industry to assured buy-back facilitation.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH has suggested that a one day interactive workshop should be organised by SMPB in the month of February/March for establishment of linkages among cultivators/collectors/JFMCs-traders-manufactures.

## **MEGHALAYA**

Mr. A. K. Srivastava, CEO, SMPB highlighted the medicinal plants available in wild along with the existing infrastructure for value addition. He informed that the marketing channel is unorganised in the state, the agents are buying the produce from the cultivators/collectors and selling to the trader/end users.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH suggested that a proper medicinal plants 'Mandi' should be developed by SMPB, where JFMC/Self Help Groups/Cultivators could auction their produce to get fair price. A one day interactive workshop could be organised by SMPB in the end of February or first week of March for establishment of linkages among cultivators/collectors/JFMCs-traders-manufactures.

## **MIZORAM**

Mr. Umakant, OSD, Environment & Forest Department delivered the presentation about the status of medicinal plant projects sanctioned by NMPB for resource augmentation and establishment of MPCAs. He mentioned that the marketing infrastructure is not available in the state, the agents are buying the produce from the cultivators/collectors even at throw away prices and selling to the traders/end users at higher price.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH desired that a proper 'Mandi' with necessary infrastructure like storage godown, drying yard, etc. should be developed for trading of medicinal plants where JFMC/Self Help Groups/Cultivators could auction their produce to get fair price.

## **NAGALAND**

Mr. Atoka Zhimomi, Member, Nagaland Bio Resource Mission (NBRM) delivered the presentation about the marketing infrastructure and value addition of medicinal plants. He mentioned that NBRM are marketing some of the products like Zanthoxylum Husks, Lemon grass & Tulsi herbal tea, Aloe vera detergent & Soap, Aloe vera shampoo & Hand wash, which are manufactured by SHGs & progressive farmers under the brand name "ORIGINS". He informed that marketing facility for trading of raw material is not available in the state, like other North-eastern states. The agents/middleman are buying the produce from the cultivators/collectors and selling to the trader/end users as a result farmers suffer much. He also informed that Kalmegh and Agar are sold to outside parties and middleman got the maximum benefit. They have laboratory facilities for development of Agar in the state.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH suggested that a proper 'Mandi' should be developed for trading of medicinal plants where JFMC/Self Help Groups/Cultivators could sell their produce to get fair price.

## **MANIPUR**

Dr. L. Promila Devi, Joint Director & Member Secretary, SMPB delivered the presentation about the existing medicinal plant resources in the State. She further mentioned that infrastructure for trading of medicinal plants is not available in the state.

**Action:** Secretary, AYUSH suggested that a proper 'Mandi' should be developed for trading of medicinal plants where JFMC/Self Help Groups/Cultivators could auction their produce to get fair price.

The meeting came to an end with a vote of Thanks to the Chair.

**List of Participants**

**From North-Eastern States**

1. Mr. C. M Sharma, Additional PCCF and Member Secretary, SMPB, Assam
2. Mr. C. S. Rao, Member Secretary cum CEO, SMPB, Sikkim
3. Mr. A. K. Srivastava, CEO, SMPB, Meghalaya
4. Mr. Umakant, OSD, Environment & Forest Department, Mizoram
5. Mr. Atoka Zhimomi, Member, Nagaland Bio Resource Mission (NBRM), Nagaland
6. Dr. L. Promila Devi, Joint Director & Member Secretary, SMPB, Manipur
7. Dr. Kimi Nagpal, Health Department, Mizoram
8. Dr. Kmolahi Tsusho, Team Leader, Nagaland Bio Resource Mission (NBRM), Nagaland

**From NMPB**

1. Smt. Shomita Biswas, CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board
2. Dr. Lalit Narayan, Dy. Director (MPs), NMPB
3. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Assistant Director (Ay.), NMPB
4. Dr. N. Padma Kumar, Research Officer (Botany), NMPB
5. Sh. Sunil Dutt, Research Officer (MP/Agro), NMPB
6. Dr. Kunal Sajwan, Research Officer (Chemistry), NMPB
7. Sh. S. Khair, Assistant Research Officer, NMPB
8. Dr. Lalit Tiwari, SRA, NMPB
9. Dr. Lily Mitra, Senior Consultant, NMPB
10. Dr. Kavita Tyagi, Consultant, NMPB
11. Dr. Santosh K. Sharma, Consultant (Ex-situ), NMPB