

Conservation and development Centre of medicinal plants in Vidarbha (2014-2015)

Objectives of the project:

- To enrich present number of species in the existing botanical garden in the live form.
- The information on medicinal uses along with processing, administration of drugs, etc. of plants used in Ayurvedic and different system of medicine and plants used by tribal's in traditional medicines could be provided to needy people.
- The garden is supposed to increase awareness about biodiversity conservation and factors affecting biodiversity in general and medicinal plant in particular, amongst general public, Ayurvedic practitioners, agriculturist, and foresters.

Project execution and activities undertaken:

- Establishment of herbal garden in 2 ha area.
- More than 200 medicinal plants species has planted in the garden i.e. *Ficus glomerata*, *Ficus racemosa*, *Mangifera indica*, *Cassia fistula*, *Saraca asoka*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Sida cordifolia*, *Bixa orellana*, *Coffea arabica*, *Datura alba*, *Euphorbia hirta*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Curcuma longa*, *Mimosa pudica*, *Piper betel*, *Vitex negundo*, *Cassia tora*, *Santalum album*, *Abrus precatorius* etc.
- One of the corners of garden has build for class room teaching of Dravyaguna subject that deals with the identification, properties and therapeutic uses of various medicinal plants.
- The herbal garden used as a demonstration plot for the students researchers/students of Dravyaguna subject and other researchers in area to make available the knowledge.
- Ex-situ cultivation and conservation of rare, threatened and endangered medicinal plants such as *Mesua ferrea*, *Justicia gendarussa*, *Garcinia indica*, *Couroupita guianensis*, and *Plumbago rosea* were observed.
- Small nursery also established for providing medicinal plants seedling to the Ayurved colleges in the region, social forestry, Forest development of Maharashtra Ltd., researchers and common people in society.
- Collection of quality planting material i.e. seeds, seedlings, cuttings etc. for identified
- Project investigator has prepared data base and maintained record of identified species of medicinal plants for teaching conserved in the herbal garden.

Outcome of the project:

- Conservation and cultivation of rare and endangered medicinal plants
- The training, awareness programme and workshops were conducted for students, researchers, Ayurvedic Practitioners, Local farmers, undergraduate and post graduate students of Ayurvedic Colleges on the detailed information about the identification and therapeutic uses along with the methods of cultivation and cultivation of plants.
- Database prepared on medicinal plants will be useful for Ayurvedic practitioners, students, teachers in Ayurvedic, pharmacy colleges, medicinal plants growers, botanists, pharmacognosist, pharmacists, Biochemists, Environmentalists, pharmaceutical industries, commercial drug units, interest common people, farmers, students of life science and tribals.

