

Regional Cum Facilitation Center - North II (J&K)
Sher-e- Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar.

Objectives/Functions:

- (i) The Centers can act as one Stop shop for all matters related to Medicinal Plants in the region concerned and would provide support to NMPB to fulfill its mandate and to act also as Facilitation Centre of NMPB. It would also undertake research activities pertains to the region concerned.
- (ii) To facilitate and get engaged in setting up of Primary Processing, grading, marketing facilities etc. in collaboration with local Stakeholders/ organisations of repute.
- (iii) To develop managerial and technical skill among the concerned stakeholders including growers, collectors and to provide strategic support by organizing trainings, workshops, seminars etc.
- (iv) Development of Agrotechnology of Medicinal Plants especially endangered and high demand species in the region with focus on organic cultivation and customization/ field trials of already developed Agrotechniques.
- (v) Development of Region Specific Quality Planting Materials and to scientifically handle issues concerned with it.
- (vi) Facilitation of sale of Medicinal Plants/ produce etc. resolving demand supply issue etc. and also develop a database on demand, quantity sold and price of major species along with development of marketing facility in the region by setting up of minimum support price.
- (vii) To provide inputs on conservation, sustainable cultivation, technology upgradation, training & research on Medicinal Plants and to engage Forest Departments and other concerned Departments of the States in those activities.
- (viii) Domestication of wild species which is in demand and endemic to the region and developing varieties thereof.
- (ix) To take forward initiatives on GAP, GFCP etc. in the States concerned and develop species specific GAP & GFCP of the region & dissemination.
- (x) To function as a platform for bringing together the different stakeholders of the medicinal plants in the States (SMPB, implementing agencies of Mission Scheme other

institutions, and civil organisations involved in the development of Medicinal Plants Sector).

- (xi) Assisting the various organizations in the region for formulating project proposals in the priority areas identified by NMPB and also for giving wide coverage of the scheme with emphasis on identification of region specific / issues.
- (xii) To develop capacities of concerned stakeholders by developing and implementing training programmes, orientation session etc.
- (xiii) To organise periodical meetings/ workshops/ consultation of stakeholders
- (xiv) Review of the projects sanctioned by NMPB to various organizations in the concerned states and also to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the projects sanctioned by NMPB as and when assigned.
- (xv) To collect and maintain database of all concerned Sectors of the Medicinal Plants in the states and Integration of database of various States of the region concerned.
- (xvi) To undertake identified research study* of relevance of the region and other matters concerned with Medicinal Plants including dissemination of research findings/ new technologies in the Medicinal Plants sector.
- (xvii) To develop strategy for IEC (Information, Education and Communication) and implement IEC activities.
- (xviii) To document and disseminate success stories of activities supported by NMPB.
- (xix) To publish yearly report of the activities of the center.
- (xx) Any other work assigned by NMPB from time to time.

Project execution & activities undertaken:

Stakeholders Meets Organized:

RCFC North –II has organized 3 stakeholders meets (*one each in Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu*)

- **At Leh Ladakh on 01st August, 2018.** A stakeholder's consultation Meeting cum Training Workshop on Medicinal Plants was organised for at high Altitude Mountain Agriculture Research Institute HMARI, Leh on 1st August ,2018 . During this stake holders meet awareness about the mandates of RCFC, schemes of NMPB ,cultivation of medicinal

plants, production of QPM and marketing of medicinal plants. A data base of stakeholders was also generated for the Ladakh region.



Stakeholders Meet at Leh , Ladakh (J&K)

- **At FOA Wadura , Kashmir on 25th September 2018.** Stakeholders Meet cum Workshop on Medicinal Plants was organized by the Regional-cum-facilitation centres, North II at Faculty of Agriculture (SKUAST-K) on 25th September 2018. The workshop was conducted in different sessions and was attended by more than 50 delegates across the state which included regional Directors from various RCFCs of the country. The training session of workshop was attended by 74 farmers, which included farmer interface in which the farmers interacted with officials of related departments and researchers of different organization working in medicinal plants related fields.



Stakeholders Meet at Kashmir (J&K)

- **At Jammu on 03rd January 2019** Stakeholders Meet cum Workshop on Medicinal Plants was organised at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) on 03rd January, 2019. The workshop was attended by the important stakeholders of Jammu region (180 participants) including Officials from JKSMPB, Forest Department, JKISM, Horticulture Department, Agriculture University, KVKs, Farmers from different districts (Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, Udhampur) of Jammu region etc.



Stakeholders Meet at Jammu (J&K)

Training cum awareness Programmes organized:

RCFC North II (J&K) conducted 24 training cum awareness programmes in all the three regions of J&k viz. Kashmir, Ladakh and Jammu. Diverse stakeholders comprising of farmers, collectors, traders and officers from department of forestry, ecology, agriculture and horticulture participated in these training programmes. Training and awareness was imparted on different aspects of medicinal plant sector Production of Quality Planting Material (QPM), Good Agricultural practices for cultivation of medicinal plants, Post-harvest management and Packaging of Medicinal Plants/products, Value addition in medicinal plants, Marketing of medicinal plants through Jammu based Kanak mandi and famous Manjit Mandi Amritsar, In situ and ex situ conservation of medicinal plants, e-charak application of medicinal plants, Diversity, importance and uses of medicinal plants, Traditional methods for use of medicinal plants by the experts. Total 1379 stakeholders were participated and benefitted.



Awareness programme at KVK Jammu

Exposure visits arranged:

Several exposure visits were arranged during 2018-19 .The beneficiaries were the students of colleges, schools and the farmers. The stakeholders were taken to different nurseries engaged in the production of medicinal plants maintained by the department of forestry and the RCFC North II at FOA, Wadura.



Exposure visit at Leh Laddakh

Kisan Melas organized/participated: 2 nos.

RCFC North II participated in the Kisan mela held during September, 2018 at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura and **Faculty of Horticulture Shalimar Srinagar**, on 9th-10th March 2019 and displayed seed, planting material and technical information. QPM of few species of medicinal plants was distributed among the growers free of cost.



Kisan mela held during September, 2018 at Shalimar Srinagar, on 9th-10th March 2019

Marketing initiatives:

- RCFC North II invited and interacted with the entrepreneurs of Kashmir region for tie up for marketing of MPs of the region

- The farmers cultivating *Terminalia chebula* in Jammu region were invited and encouraged to sell their raw material through specialized Mandi in Amritsar Punjab for harnessing better returns and discouraging intrusion of any intermediates. The Terminalia Growers / Traders vehemently demanded processing facilities of the produce. Efforts have been initiated with ICAR-CIPHET (Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology) Ludhiana for Processing and Post-Harvest management. Of *Terminalia*.

The RCFC North II has tied up with Ginkgo House, Pampore Srinagar, a corporate for marketing of Medicinal plants. Modalities have been worked out with this corporate sector for helping the marketing of medicinal plants/products produced/collected by the growers.

Publications:

- The RCFC North II printed pamphlets both in English and Hindi about introduction of NMPB, RCFC's, RCFC North II. The pamphlets also contained information about the mandate, program and working of RCFC North II. Besides this, the pamphlet also contains the details about the location, address, and contact information etc. for the beneficiaries.
- Charts for display and distribution among farmers / related organizations were published, containing information about the medicinal plant species of Jammu and Kashmir. The species charts contain the basic information about name of species, habit, taxonomy, Common name, related species of Genus, threat status, distribution, phenology/morphology, parts used, importance, market value and Post-harvest management about the medicinal plants.

Also, the charts -MPs for different ailments were published for the information. These charts contain the info about use of MPs for cure of common diseases like fever, cough, kidney problems etc. and have been distributed among the stakeholders

Quality Planting Material (Cuttings) raised under controlled conditions (Poly House):

RCFC NR –II targeted 1.00 lakhs QPM development and total 80000 QPM were developed so far. The following species of Medicinal plants were raised : *Taxus baccata*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Rosa damuscus*, *Lavandula officinalis*, *Rosemerinus officinalis*, *Commiphora mukul*, *Sassurea costus*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Artemisia annua* and *Bergenia strachyei* / *ligulata*, *Betula utilis*, *Artemisia absinthium*, *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, *Inularacemosa*, *Echinacea purpurea*, *Heracleum candicans*, *Berginiaceliata*, *Sassurea costus*.

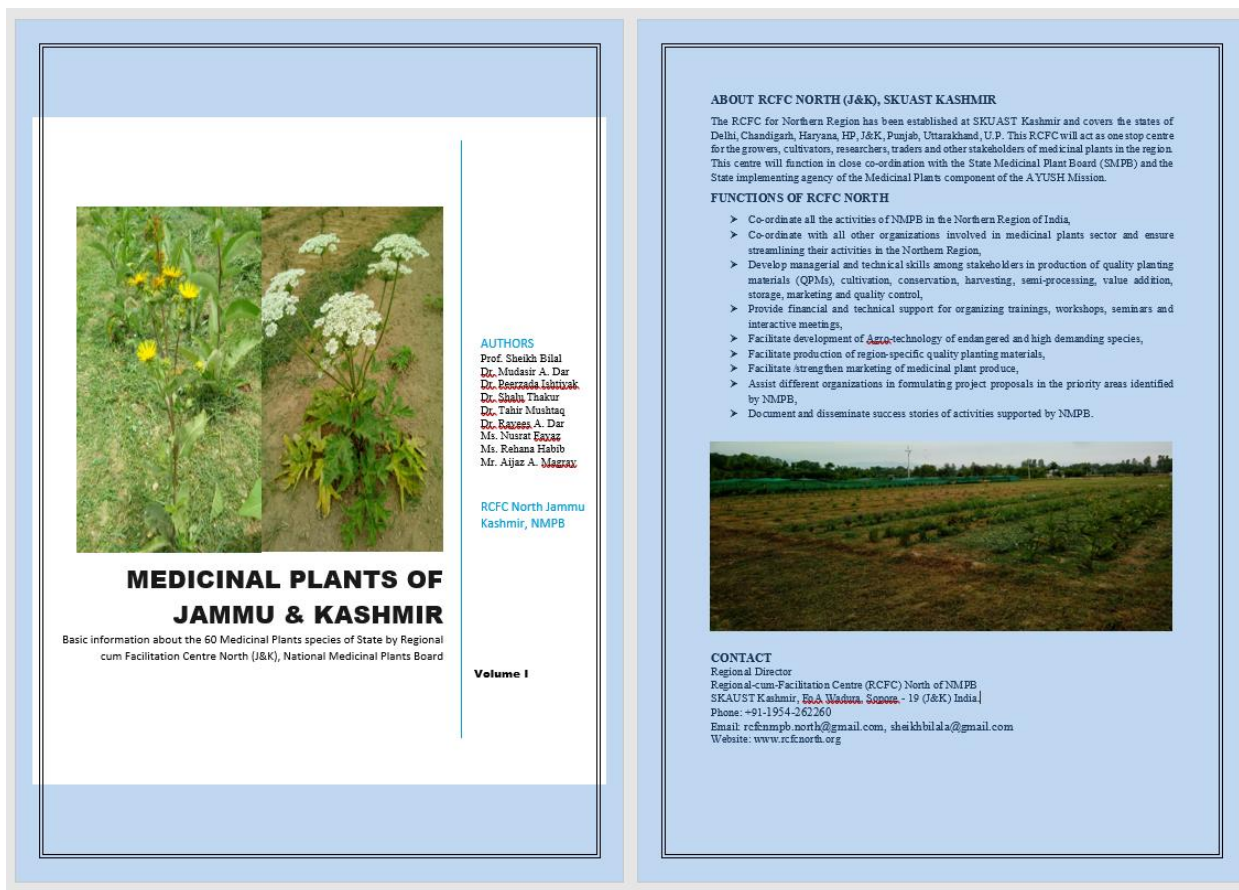
Establishment of Tissue culture Laboratory:

- A tissue culture laboratory has been established in collaboration with Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Kashmir. The laboratory harbors all basic requirements for conduction of experiments and preliminary mass production of medicinal plants which will be further modified to an adequate research laboratory. In this regards two officials of RCFC North (J&K) were deputed for Training program in Plant Tissue Culture.



Book Publication:

The 1st Volume of Book on 60 Prioritized Medicinal Plants of Jammu and Kashmir drafted by the Team RCFC, North II has been sent for publication.



Several outcomes as benefitted to stakeholders

Success story No. 1 Harad (*Terminaliachebula*) Cultivation

During the Stakeholders meet organized by RCFC North II at Jammu, three farmers Sh. Vir Singh, Village Kathar, Block- Dansal, Jammu Distt. Jammu, Sh. Mangal Singh, Village Kathar, Block- Dansal, Jammu Distt., Jammu, Sh. Surinder Singh, Village Ranjan, Gharota, Jammu approached us and decided to cultivate *T. chebula* (harad) on scientific lines under the guidance of experts from RCFC North II and agroforestry division of Jammu. These farmers were provided Quality Planting Material to start cultivation of *T. chebula*. The material was provided by RCFC produced at KVK / Agroforestry division of SKUAST-Jammu. A significant achievement for convincing the above growers to take up cultivation of medicinal plants as source of income generation. Efforts are also being made for providing processing facilities for marketing of Raj Harad (*T. chebula*).



Plantation of Raj Harad (*Terminalia chebula*) at Jammu

Success story No. 2 Medicinal PlantTrader , Mr. Arshad Raja

Mr. Arshad Raja is a trader of medicinal plants from district Srinagar hails from Gogji Bagh, Wazir Bagh, Srinagar, J&K), attended several workshops and trainings organized by RCFC North II for farmers and traders. In one of the workshops organized by RCFC North II at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, he discussed several issues related to trade of the medicinal plants and the problems he was facing in the business of medicinal plants. RCFC, assisted him for trading through Manjit Mandi Amritsar and also gave the awareness about the e-charak. He promoted his trade through Manjit Mandi and presently he is contacted by traders from Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country for *Saussurea costus* and other medicinal plants specific to this region. It was reported by him that his business has since then started flourishing through e-charak.





Medicinal plants stored in Go down of Mr. “Arshid Raja Enterprises”