



G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development

Brainstorming cum Workshop

Promoting Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (MAP) Sector for Conservation of Snow Leopard Habitat in Himalaya

-Organizer-

**G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development,
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora**

(Under GoI-UNDP-SECURE Himalaya sponsored Project)

1. Background

The Indian Himalaya region (IHR) is a repository of medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) diversity, which is extensively used by inhabitants, traditional healers and pharmaceutical industries for various purposes. Considering the uniqueness of Himalayan MAPs, there has been a phenomenal increase in their demand in the preparation of food supplement, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, etc. besides their established role in preparation of herbal medicine. However, with this increase in demands, overexploitation, unsustainable harvesting, adulteration and illegal trade has also increased, which has resulted into dwindling populations in nature of many of these plants. In recent years, however, the Govt. of India has been making huge efforts to increase conservation of natural habitats, increase cultivation of MAPs, and making this sector as an important means to enhance Himalayan people's livelihood. Yet, the progress is not that satisfactory.

Among Himalayan landscapes, the high altitude areas are better known for richness and uniqueness of biodiversity elements, including MAPs. These landscapes are also the important habitats of very rare charismatic cat - the snow leopards. Realizing the conservation value of this species, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India in collaboration with UNDP through the support of GEF has been aspiring to save such habitats. Among others, promotion of MAPs, as an important vehicle to upgrade rural livelihood, is a major envisaged action.

As elsewhere in the region, most of the raw material of high altitude MAPs is collected from the wild and their availability is being affected. Unfortunately this is happening when the understanding on the diversity of species, potential uses and available stock is poorly developed. In such circumstances, it to: (i) have a realistic assessment of diversity and availability of MAPs, (ii) develop proper harvesting techniques, suitable propagation packages, agrotechniques, and (iii) establish proper marketing linkages, so that conservation and sustainable use of MAPs in snow leopard habitats is ensured. Further, the current trends of collection from the region are likely to lead certain species towards local disappearance. Therefore, appropriate policy and strategic interventions are essentially needed.

Considering the above, the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), under SECURE Himalaya project funding through UNDP, is organizing a Brainstorming cum Workshop to provide a platform to diverse stakeholders for holistic deliberation on the MAP sector in the state of Uttarakhand with a focus on MAPs of high altitude landscapes. The focus of the event is as follows:

2. Event Focus

- 1) To critically review the status of MAP sector development in the state of Uttarakhand, especially w.r.t. high altitude MAPs
- 2) To identify most important challenges and issues related to MAP sector development and suggest remedial measures
- 3) To provide inputs for policy interventions and strategy for development of the MAP sector

3. Target group and participants

The participants of this brainstorming cum workshop includes selected experts/ practice people from academic/research organizations, line agencies and government agencies (i.e., Forest department, horticulture department, Bhesaj Sangh, state biodiversity board, etc.), NGOs, pharmaceutical industries, traders , and other organizations working on the MAPs in the region.

4. Expected outcome

- Comprehensive Status Document on MAPs (diversity, distribution and availability; knowledge base on propagation and agrotechniques; harvesting and marketing, etc).
- Identification of Bottlenecks in trade and value chain development
- Inputs for policy interventions w.r.t. harvesting, cultivation, and marketing of MAPs, especially under Access and Benefits sharing regime

5. Event Schedule (Date and Venue)

The event has been envisaged as part of Annual Day 2019 celebration of GBPNIHESD, and will be held on September 8-9, 2019 at Institute HQs, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263643 (Uttarakhand), India. The participants will become Institute guests on 10th September (f/n) to witness the 25th Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant Memorial Lecture delivered by and eminent personality.

Contact Details

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