

Project Update: August 2014

Introduction: Four hilly districts of the state are selected as the study sites for conservation of medicinal plants involving community people. These four districts are considered as storehouse of the medicinal plants but unscientific collection of these herbs has posed a threat of extinction on the species. Doda is one such district from where the number of cases of smuggling of the medicinal plants appeared in last 3 years. Some herb smugglers from Kishtwar districts are also caught by police and forest officer on Doda – Jammu National Highway-1B. Therefore the project work has been initiated from district Doda and Kishtwar.

Activities undertaken:

June 2014 initiatives:

1. Engagements of field assistants
2. Purchase of field equipment and stationary.
3. Preparation of resource material for distribution.
4. Development of questionnaire for collecting Indigenous Knowledge (IK).

July 2014 initiatives:

1. Exploration of medicinal plant niches and habitats in Doda District.
2. Collection of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) through questionnaire study in Kishtwar District.
3. Organisation of painting competition among the school students in Doda.
4. Awareness among tourists visiting the wild habitats of medicinal plants in Doda.
5. Door to door campaign in three Panchayats in Doda.
6. Exploration of traditional agriculture and domestication practices in Doda.



Project leader interacting with school children in a natural habitat of medicinal plants



Domestic tourists made aware about native medicinal plants through resource material distributed to them



Project leader exploring medicinal plants and their niches



Traditional agriculture and domestication practices in the hill of NW Himalaya



Local community people made aware of native medicinal plants and good agricultural practices

Kashmir Valley," he explained. Article 370," Prof Gupta said.

Awareness camp on native medicinal plants organized at Jai Meadow

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, June 24: To create awareness among tourists and students visiting at vulnerable niches like meadows for recreation purpose only, an awareness camp was organized to save the medicinal plants of hills at Jai Meadow, Bhaderwah.

The awareness camp was a part of the project "Community involvement in Conservation of Medicinal Plants in four hilly districts of Jammu and Kashmir" sanctioned by "The Rufford Foundation, London" wherein the local collaborators were The Himalayan Ecological and Conservation Research Foundation, Jammu (HECRF); Global Health Education and Research & Development Society, Bhaderwah (GHERDS) and Shivam Welfare Organization, Jammu (SWO).

Dr Harish Chander Dutt, Project leader along with his team members Adv Vijay Parihar (SWO), Adv Naveen Kumar (HECRF) and Adv Sanjeev Singh Katoch (GHERDS) made awareness among teachers and students of Government Middle School, Zanahri, Thateri, Doda

while their visit at the meadow as tourists.

During the camp, Project leader Dr H C Dutt and other team members also interacted with tourists present on the spot and discussed the problems responsible for the depletion of the medicinal wealth growing on the hills. Posters showing the important and valuable medicinal plants of the area were also distributed among the teachers and students. During the awareness camp a very important issue came into light, when teachers discussed about the anthropogenic activities like habitat fragmentation by road construction on the hills which is not a sustainable approach of development.

To pound the importance of native medicinal plants, an on-spot drawing competition on medicinal plants was also organized during the camp, wherein 18 students of Government Middle School, Zanahri participated. Samiya Banoo was awarded with 1st prize while Zareena Bano and Mudasir Manzoor got 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Awards were distributed by Yash Pal a prominent senior citizen of Bhaderwah.



**Community Involvement in Conservation of Medicinal Plants in
four Hilly Districts of Jammu and Kashmir, India**

Questionnaire for Ethnobotany

Informants consent for the participation in the study

I..... (name of informant) hereby give my full consent and conscious to participate in this study and declare that to the best of my knowledge the information that I have provided are true, accurate and complete.

Date.....

Signature/ Thumb impression of informant

Informant's details:

Name.....

Gender.....

Age.....

Occupation.....

Education.....

Location/ residence.....

Data about medicinal plant and its use:

Plant (Local name).....

Habit (Tree/Herb/Shrub/Climber)

Plant part used.....

Cultivated / Wild.....

If cultivated, cultivated for.....

If wild, availability in natural resources (easy/difficulty/very difficult)

Conservation needs

Conservation efforts made by Government and local residents.....

Method of collection and storage.....

Name of diseases(s) treated.....

Methods of crude drug preparation

Mode of administration

Dosage

Other use (if any)

Remarks:

Plant identified as

(Botanical name and family)

Signature of researcher