

NATIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD (Introduction & Schemes)

R.B.S. RAWAT *

Introduction

India has rich diversity of medicinal plants. The supply base of 90% herbal raw drugs used in the manufacture of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of medicine is largely from the wild. This wild source is speedily shrinking day-by-day. Therefore, there is a need for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Cultivation is clearly a sustainable alternative to the present collection of medicinal plants from the wild. This can be a potential provider of returns to the farmers.

The medicinal plants sector at present is not well organised and needs special attention. Although different Ministries and Departments in the Government, NGOs and individuals in the private sector are making efforts in different directions, co-ordination and implementation of policies relating to medicinal plants both at the national and state levels is necessary to facilitate inter-Ministry, inter-State and institutional collaboration to avoid duplication of efforts. Therefore, a need for the establishment of a national level nodal body called the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) was felt to formulate policies for the sector and develop the potentials of this sector through Schemes

and Projects that encourage investment in this sector.

The Medicinal Plants Board was set up under a Government Resolution notified on 24th November 2000 under the Chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare. The objective of establishing a Board is to establish an agency which would be responsible for co-ordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, marketing of raw material in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The work would continue to be carried out by the respective Departments, Organisations but the Board would provide a focus and a direction to the activities.

With a view to prioritise and select medicinal plants for development, 32 medicinal plants have been identified and prioritised at the national level, which include Amla (*Emblica officinalis* Gaertn.), Ashok [*Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) de Wilde], Ashwagandha [*Withania somnifera* (Linn.) Dunal], Atees (*Aconitum heterophyllum* Wall. ex Royle), Bael [*Aegle marmelos* (Linn) Corr.], Bhumi amlaki (*Phyllanthus amarus* Schum & Thonn.), Brahmi [*Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Pennell], Chandan

* Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plants Board, Deptt. of ISM&H, Govt. of India, New Delhi (India).

(*Santalum album* Linn.), Chirata (*Swertia chirata* Buch-Ham.), Giloe (*Tinospora cordifolia* Miers.), Gudmar (*Gymnema sylvestre* R.Br.), Guggal [*Commiphora wightii* (Arn.) Bhandari], Isabgol (*Plantago ovata* Forsk.), Jatamansi (*Nardostachys jatamansi* DC.), Kalihari (*Gloriosa superba* Linn.), Kalmegh (*Andrographis paniculata* Wall. ex Nees), Kokum (*Garcinia indica* Chois.), Kuth [*Saussurea costus* C.B. Clarke (*S.lappa*)], Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa* Benth ex Royle), Makoy (*Solanum nigrum* Linn.), Mulethi (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* Linn.), Safaid Musali (*Chlorophytum borivillianum* Sant.), Patharchur (*Coleus barbatus* Benth./*C. vettiveroides* Jacob), Pippali (*Piper longum* Linn.), Daruhaldi (*Berberis aristata* DC.), Kesar (Saffron) (*Crocus sativus* Linn.), Sarpgandha (*Rauvolfia serpentina* Benth. ex Kurz), Senna (*Cassia angustifolia* Vahl.), Shatavari (*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.), Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum* Linn.), Vai Vidang (*Embelia ribes* Burm. f.), Vatsnabh (*Aconitum ferox* Wall.).

In order to develop the medicinal plants sector in different agro-climatic zones across the country, there is a need for a coherent approach linking all the stakeholders of the medicinal plants viz. growers, collectors, traders, manufacturers, exporters and others. At the initiation of National Board so far 25 State Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up in the country (Annexure 1).

With a view to give impetus to the activities and development of medicinal plants sector in the country, the Board formulated Schemes for financial assistance and guidelines for implementing the projects. The Schemes and Projects are grouped under 'Promotional' and 'Commercial' schemes.

Promotional schemes : The 'Promotional schemes' are mainly aimed at bringing awareness about the importance of medicinal plants and medicinal plants sector as a whole, besides covering basic studies in areas like survey, inventorisation, *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation encourage co-operative movement in the sector, production of quality planting material, Demand and Supply, market position, Research and Development etc.

Commercial schemes : The 'Commercial schemes' are aimed at production/ cultivation of medicinal plants on large scale, value addition in the techniques of production, harvesting, processing, storage, packing etc. and in developing market of medicinal plants. For these schemes, both Government organisations and NGOs including co-operative and all other stakeholders are eligible and 30% of the project cost as financial assistance is available.

Functions of the Board

The main functions of the Board are co-ordination with Ministries/ Departments/Organisations/State/UT Governments for development of medicinal plants in general and specifically in the following fields :

1. Assessment of demand/supply position relating to medicinal plants both within the country and abroad.
2. Advise concerned Ministries/ Departments/Organisations/State/ UT Governments on policy matters relating to schemes and programmes for development of medicinal plants.

- 3. Provide guidance in the formulation of proposals, schemes and programmes etc. to be taken by agencies having access to land for cultivation and infrastructure for collection, storage and transportation of medicinal plants.
- 4. Identification, inventorisation and quantification of medicinal plants.
- 5. Promotion of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants.
- 6. Promotion of co-operative efforts among collectors and growers and assisting them to store, transport and market their produce effectively.
- 7. Setting up of database system for inventorisation, dissemination of information and facilitating the prevention of Patents being obtained for medicinal use of plants, which is in the public domain.
- 8. Matters relating to import/export of raw material, as well as value added products either as medicine, food supplements or as herbal cosmetics including adoption of better techniques for marketing of products to increase their reputation for quality and reliability in the country and abroad.
- 9. Undertaking and awarding Scientific, Technological research and cost-effectiveness studies.
- 10. Development of protocols for cultivation and quality control.
- 11. Encouraging the protection of patent Rights and IPRs.

Organisational set up

The apex body of the Board is headed by the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare as Chairperson, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare as Vice-Chairperson and other members are as follows :

Ex-officio members : Secretary of Department of Indian Systems of Medicines & Homoeopathy; Ministry of Environment & Forests; Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Department of Bio-Technology; Department of Science & Technology; Department of Commerce; Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion; Department of Expenditure; Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Four nominated members : Having expertise in the field of (i) Medicolethnobotany, (ii) Pharmaceuticals industry of ISM, (iii) Marketing and Trade, (iv) Legal matters and patents.

Four nominated members representing exporters of : (i) ISM&H drugs, (ii) NGOs, (iii) Growers of medicinal plants, (iv) Research and Development industry groups

Two nominated members representing : Federations/co-operatives dealing with medicinal plants.

One member from : Research Councils of Department of (i) Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy, (ii)

Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicines/Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad, and (iii) two members representing State Governments (by rotation every two years).

CEO : Chief Executive Officer in the rank of Joint Secretary as Member-Secretary.

Project proposals can be submitted in the following areas

I. Promotional Schemes :

1. Survey and inventorization of medicinal plants.
2. *In-situ* conservation and *ex-situ* cultivation of medicinal plants.
3. Production of quality planting material
4. Extension activities – Information, education and communication.
5. Study demand supply position and marketing of medicinal plants for domestic and global market.
6. Research & Development in medicinal plants sector.
7. Promote co-operative efforts among growers and collectors of medicinal plants.
8. Value addition and semi-processing of products of medicinal plants.
9. Undertake/assist or encourage scientific technological and economic research on medicinal plants.

Eligibility

- Applicable to government organizations for grant in the specified areas above.
- Reputed Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are eligible for certain specific areas except R&D activities.

II. Commercial Schemes

1. Production and ensuring supply of quality planting material in bulk.
2. Area expansion for selected species and cultivation in more than 2 ha land area.
3. Value addition – for developing proper harvesting techniques, semi-processing of produces viz. collection, grading, drying, storage, packing etc.
4. Develop innovative marketing mechanism.

Eligibility

- Govt. organizations.
- Registered growers, associations/federations of growers, traders, manufacturers, societies, pharmaceutical companies, reputed NGOs and recognised private research institutes or any group of people who have past 3 years experience in the medicinal plants sector.

Preparation and submission of proposal

1. The applicant has to submit the project proposal on appropriate prescribed application form.
2. The objectives of the projects have to be precise and well - defined indicating the likely benefits to be derived.
3. The technical programme of the scheme has to be as comprehensive as possible, outlining allocation of works, work scheduling, annual action plan etc.
4. The promotional activity related proposals have to be directly submitted to the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in five (5) copies with a copy to the concerned State

Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB)/ designated nodal agency of State Government.

5. The commercial project proposals, have to route through the Financial Institution (FI) and State Medicinal Plants Board with an advance copy to National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi.
6. On receiving the project proposals the FI scrutinizes and examines the proposal as to its feasibility. The FI will forward a brief report along with their comments to the SMPB for initial scrutiny with a copy to NMPB. The FI in their brief note will indicate the detailed information about the applicant's profile.
7. After approval of the project by the PSC the applicant, SMPB and the FI will be informed so that the applicant may apply for the appropriate term loan, as per guidelines of the FI.
8. 50% of the Financial Assistance would be released to the participating Financial Institutions after 50% of term loan is disbursed. The remaining 50% Financial Assistance will be released on disbursement of 2nd installment of term loan.
9. The first installment of 50% of the Financial Assistance will be released within Fund Account of the concerned borrower, which is to be adjusted finally against the loan amount of the bank on completion of the project.
10. On completion of the project, the concerned FI would inform NMPB that the project has been completed as per the overall guidelines of NMPB and shall make a request to NMPB for joint inspection of the project, in the presence of the applicant. The remaining 50% of the financial assistance would be released after the satisfactory report of the inspection of the project. The FI would submit utilization certificate about the financial assistance to the NMPB and SMPB.
11. Monitoring and evaluation of the project would be the responsibility of concerned SMPB.

Funding of Projects

- (i) Financial assistance would be considered for Projects related to technology transfer and development for promotion of identified medicinal plants, up to the limit of Rs. 10 lacs per year.
- (ii) For pilot projects based on high quality-commercial production, compact area development approach for popularising new and modern scientific concept of medicinal plants, upto Rs. 10 lacs per year.
- (iii) For Research & Development (R & D) projects on specific problems related to medicinal plants to encourage domestic and export promotion, upto Rs. 25 lacs. The projects from State Agricultural Universities/Research Organisations, Universities/P.G. Colleges of repute and State Governments etc. would be considered.
- (iv) For *in-situ* conservation and *ex-situ* cultivation a grant upto Rs.10 lacs per annum per project would be admissible.
- (v) For training/workshops/seminars : Up to Rs.2 lacs for State level; upto Rs.3 lacs for Regional level; upto Rs.5 lacs for National level and; upto Rs.10 lacs for International event in a year.
- (vi) For awarding title "Vanaushadhi Pandit" up to Rs.1.5 lacs in a year in the country @ Rs. 15,000/- per head.

(vii) To assist all stakeholders in the sector up to Rs.10 lacs could be financed for in-depth Market information service including data bank.

Domestic and international visits

National Medicinal Plants Board may coordinate and organize visit of officials and progressive farmers in India and abroad up to a period of 3 weeks for exposure and training related to development of medicinal plants sector. The group leader will be from the Board.

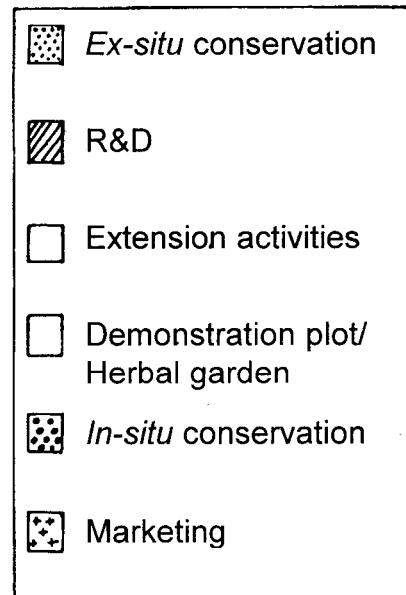
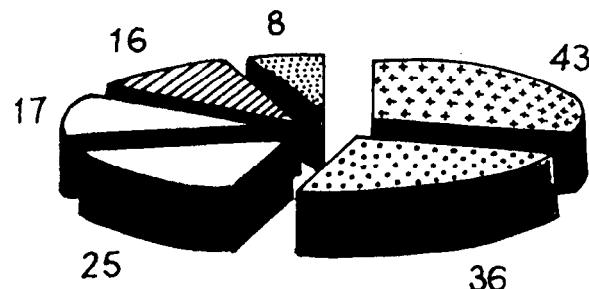
Observation-cum-study tours shall be conducted for officers of NMPB and other concerned divisions to give exposure to the officers about medicinal plants advances in different countries. The team should not exceed nine members at a time including the team leader from the Board.

The entire cost on travel and per diem shall be borne by NMPB as per norms of Government of India.

Projects Sanctioned (2001-2002)

The Board office received about 300 projects from almost all States/UTs for financial assistance. The Project Screening Committee (PSC) screened all the projects and finally approved 145 (Fig. 1) to the tune of Rs. 23.12 crores for Government Sector (first installment of Rs. 9.33 crores) and Projects for Rs. 1.69 crores to NGOs (first installment of Rs. 64.50 lacs released). Projects have been approved for which financial sanctions have been communicated to respective organisations and Principal Investigators. The Board also finalized terms and conditions and monitoring mechanism for these projects. These organisations include ICAR, ICFRE, CIMAP, CSIR institutes and CCRAS,

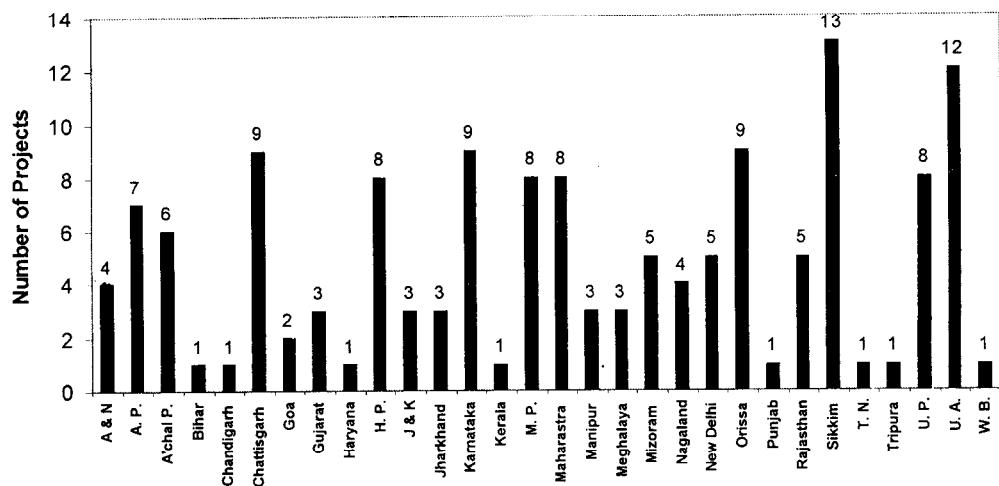
Fig. 1



Category-wise name and number of sanctioned Projects (2001-2002)

Fig. 2

State-wise sanctioned projects (2001-2002)



CCRUM, State Governments, Agriculture and other Universities, Public, quasi-public, Development Corporations and

other organisations. The State-wise number of projects approved is given in Fig. 2.

Annexure I

State / UT Medicinal Plants Boards (SMPBs / UTMPBs)

S. No.	States/UTs	State/UT Medicinal Plants Board Constituted/ Member Secretary/Convenor
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Director, Health Services, A&N Island, Port Blair-744102 (A&N)
2.	Andhra Pardesh	Chief Executive Officer, AP Medicinal Aromatic Plant Board Medical, Health & Family Welfare Deptt. 205, Riviera Apartments, Dwarkapuri Colony, Panja gutta, Hyderadad – 500082 (AP)
3.	Anurachal Prades	Officer I/c of ISM&H Cell of Directorate of Health Services, Naharlagun, Itanagar (Arunachal Prades)
4.	Assam	Commissioner & Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Deptt. of Government of Assam, Dispur (Assam)

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5.	Chandigarh	Dy. Conservator of Forests-cum-Director, Environment (as CEO, MP Board), Old Architect Building, Sector 19B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160019 (UT).
6.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Federation, 10, Anupam Nagar, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
7.	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Director, Medical & Health Services, Secretariate, Moti Daman-396220
8.	Gujarat	Director, ISM&H, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare Secretariat, Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
9.	Haryana	CCF (Protection), Govt. of Haryana, Van Bhawan, Sector 6, Panchkula -134109 (Haryana)
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Director (Ayurveda), Ayurveda Bhawan, SDA Complex, Block No. 26, Kasumpati Shimla 171009 (Himachal Pradesh)
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Director, Indian System of Medicine cum Member Secretary, State Medicinal Plants Board, Govt. of J&K, Near MLA Hostel, Indira Chowk, Jammu (J&K)
12.	Karanataka	Executive Officer, Karnataka State Medicinal Plants Authority (KMPA), Forest Campus, Arakere MICO Layout, Banne Ghatta Road, Bangalore-560076 (Karnataka)
13.	Kerala	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, State Medicinal Plants Board, The Pharmaceutical Corp. (IM) Kerala (Ltd.), Thrissur Oushadhi-680001 (Kerala)
14.	Lakshadweep	Director of Medicine & Health Service & Member Secretary, Medicinal Plants Board, Directorate of Medical & Health Service, Kavaratti (UT of Lakshadweep).
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Commissioner, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, M.P. State MFP (Trade & Dev.) Co-operative Federation, Khel Parisar, Indira Nikunj, 74, Bungalow, Bhopal-1 (M.P.)
16.	Maharashtra	Director (Ayurveda), Khanna Construction House, 2 nd Floor, Dr. RG Thadani Rd, Worli, Mumbai 400018 (Maharashtra)

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17.	Mizoram	Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl (Mizoram).
18.	Nagaland	Programme Officer (ISM&H), Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland, Kohima (Nagaland).
19.	Orissa	Special Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Orissa, (Distt. Khurda), Bhubaneshwar-751001 (Orissa).
20.	Rajasthan	Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Medicinal Plants Board, 373, Krishi Bhawan, 3 rd Floor, Jaipur (Raj.)
21.	Sikkim	Principal CCF-cum-Secretary, (CEO & Member Secretary SMPB), Department of Forests, Environment & Wildlife, Govt. of Sikkim, Deorali-737102 Gangtok (Sikkim)
22.	Tamil Nadu	Commissioner, Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, Arignar Anna Government Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600106 (T.N.)
23.	Tripura	Chief Executive Officer & Member Secretary, Medicinal Plants Board of Tripura, Forest Research Division, Aranya Bhawan, Nehru Complex, P.O. Kunjaban, Agartala-799 006 (Tripura)
24.	Uttaranchal	Director, Herbal Research & Development Institute, Mandal, Gopeshwar (Uttaranchal)
25.	West Bengal	Joint Secretary (ISM Branch), WBCS (Exe), Dept. Health & FW, Govt. of WB, Writer's Building, Kolkata-700 001 (W.B.)

SUMMARY

With a view to promote conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants from shrinking wild sources, a National Medicinal Plants Board has been established with similar Boards at State and regional levels. This Board has identified several plants, which will be taken up for development in the first instance and financed for various purposes, under promotional and commercial schemes. The functions of the Board, its setup, project proposals under these schemes, funding thereof, etc. have been outlined. Projects so far sanctioned, the States where these are located and authorities responsible for promoting the projects in various States have also been indicated, along with a chart showing their State-wise allocation.

राष्ट्रीय औषध पादप मण्डल

आर.बी.एस. रावत

सारांश

जंगलो से मिलने वाले निरन्तर घट रहे औषध पादपों के संरक्षण और लम्बे समय तक उनका मिलते रहना सुनिश्चित करना प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय औषध पादप मण्डल की स्थापना की गई है जिसके नीचे उसी तरह के राज्य और क्षेत्रीय मण्डल भी रहेंगे। इस मण्डल ने प्रथमतः विकास करने के लिए कितने ही औषध पादप चुने हैं जिन्हें विभिन्न प्रयोजनों के लिए वित्त भी दिया जाएगा जिसके लिए प्रोत्साहनात्मक और व्यावसायिक परियोजनाएं बनानी होंगी। इस मण्डल के कार्यों, उनका गठन, योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रस्तुत की जाने वाली परियोजनाएं, उनकी वित्तीय सहायता आदि की रूपरेखा बताई गई है। अब तक जितनी परियोजनाएं स्वीकृत हुई हैं, वे किन-किन राज्यों में हैं और कौन अधिकारी राज्यों में इन्हें प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं उनको भी सूचित किया गया है और साथ में एक चार्ट द्वारा डनहें राज्यवार भी दिखाया गया है।
