
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF WORKSHOP ON "PROMOTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS" 6TH - 7TH MARCH, 1991 HELD AT PAKISTAN FOREST INSTITUTE, PESHAWAR

The workshop on promotion of medicinal plants was held on 6th and 7th March, 1991 at the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar, organized at the initiative of Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua, Governor, NWFP. The objectives of the Workshop were to bring together research scientists, pharmaceutical industrialists, traders, professional foresters, farmers, 'attibas' and personals engaged in the manufacturer of medicines used in the traditional system, to initiate discussion among them for the promotion, conservation and use of drug plants on scientific lines, marketing, processing and involvement of the end users i.e. industrial manufacturers.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua, Governor, NWFP, while keynote address on promotion of medicinal plants was presented by Mr. Abeerullah Jan, the Inspector General of Forests/Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Pakistan. A number of papers were presented by the participants of the workshop who included professionals and scientists working in different disciplines of medicinal plants in Pakistan covering various aspects such as distribution, availability, conservation, cultivation, marketing and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants. The problems highlighted in the papers were discussed in the meetings and appropriate measures to solve them were suggested to formulate recommendations.

The working groups were formed on the basis of participant interests for formulation of recommendations on (i) increasing production of naturally occurring, cultivated and marketing of medicinal plants, (ii) processing group. Each group discussed in detail the problems faced by the medicinal and aromatic plants industry, identified the potential and constraints of collectors, cultivators, traders, processors and the government agencies especially Forest Departments for achieving the objectives, and recognizing the institutional changes required and making policy recommendations accordingly.

The proceedings contain the recommendations made by the working groups by consensus. They deal with all aspects related to medicinal plants. All the papers presented in the workshop have been incorporated in the proceedings for the benefit of all concerned. The recommendations made by the workshop envisage the formation of National Commission on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, setting up of an Expert Committee, and formation of an Association of Producers and Consumers, besides measures for development of research facilities, strengthening of medicinal plants sector in Forest Departments, increasing natural occurrence and cultivation, development of market facilities and enhancement of processing of medicinal plants by industrial concerns.