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EDITORIAL

Role of NMPB in the conservation, cultivation & sustainable development of medicinal plants

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AYUSH is comprised from Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathic Systems of Medicine. In all system of medicines, medicinal plants are basic need for development. About 2500 Plant Species are used in all the Codified System of Medicine practices in India and these are basic ingredients in ASU & H formulations, proprietary / ethical OTC medicines, herbal cosmetics, herbal teas / functional foods / nutraceuticals, extract / phytochemicals / resin & gums, flavours and fragrances, aromatic oils / aromatherapy, culinary herbs and spices, veterinary herbal Products.

Recently, the two schemes run by NMPB (National Medicinal Plants Board) are as follows:

I. Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and

Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants”

II. Medicinal Plants Component of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) NMPB Supports Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in Cluster mode SHG (Self Help Groups), growers, cooperatives, producer companies over individual centric cultivation will ensure targeting of subsidy to the small and marginal farmers. Cultivation of medicinal plants has not taken off in the country, as the raw material sourced from the wild is available at cheaper rates even as it has deleterious effect on their wild populations.

Therefore, small and marginal farmers will be organised into Self Help Groups (SHG) and cooperative societies of medicinal plants growers or as producer companies to enable them to take up medicinal plants cultivation, which presently they are unable to do.

NMPB supports for medicinal plants processing and post-harvest management including marketing. It is estimated that as high as 30% of the raw material reaching the manufacturers is of poor quality and rejected from companies. Therefore, needs to be supported with infrastructure for ware

housing, drying, grading, storage and transportation.

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