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Report on One-Day Seminar on Conservation, Cultivation, Processing and
Entrepreneurship Development in Medicinal Plants



One-Day Seminar on
Conservation, Cultivation, Processing &
Entrepreneurship Development in Medicinal plants
Organized by
REGIONAL CUM FACILITATION CENTRE, NORTHERN REGION-II
National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
18 March, 2025
In Collaboration with
Department of Botany
Govt. Degree College Handwara
VENUE: AUDITORIUM, GOT. DEGREE COLLEGE, HANDWARA

A day-long seminar on *Conservation, Cultivation, Processing and Entrepreneurship Development in Medicinal Plants* was organized by RCFC II; National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, Faculty of Agriculture SKUAST-K in collaboration with Department of Botany, GDC Handwara, on 18th of March 2025. The seminar served as a platform to discuss the significance of medicinal plants, the need for their conservation, sustainable cultivation practices, and opportunities for entrepreneurship in this sector.

The event commenced with introductory remarks by Dr. Nisar Ahmad Lone (HoD Botany), emphasizing the importance of medicinal plants and their conservation, particularly in ecologically sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the historical significance of traditional medicine and the potential for integrating it into modern healthcare systems.

The welcome address was delivered by the worthy Principal of GDC Handwara Prof. G R Ganai, who stressed the relevance of local medicinal plants in the region. He spoke extensively on the medicinal properties of some important herbs such as *Saussurea costus* (locally known as Kuth), a plant indigenous to the Himalayan region, which has been traditionally used for its therapeutic properties.

A comprehensive guest lecture was presented by Dr. Mudassir Ahmad Dar (Deputy Director RCFC NR-II), a subject matter expert in medicinal plant conservation. He provided valuable insights into the economic and medicinal importance of various plant species. He expressed concern over the declining availability of medicinal plants in the Kashmir region, attributing it to factors like overexploitation, habitat destruction, and climate change. Furthermore, Dr. Mudassir Ahmad Dar elaborated on the conservation measures required to protect the region's medicinal biodiversity. He advocated for the establishment of medicinal plant gardens, community nurseries, and in-situ and ex-situ conservation methods.

An enlightening lecture by Dr. Rehana Abdulla (a senior faculty member & HoD English) on the folklore practices of medicinal plants. Dr. Rehana Abdulla emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge systems that have been passed down through generations. She shared examples of

The seminar concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shahnaz Mohiuddin, who expressed gratitude to the principal, guest speakers, participants and organizers for their enthusiastic contributions.

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