

## Section -8

### National Medicinal Plants in India

This section on National Medicinal Plants in India provides a brief overview of medicinal plants in India. In order to promote medicinal plants sector, Government of India set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on 24th November 2000. NMPB is the apex national body which coordinates all matters relating to medicinal plants in the country and is currently working under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy).

The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organization and implementation of support policies/programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector both at the Central /State and International level.

In recent years cultivation of medicinal plants has started gaining momentum, still a significant part of our requirements continue to be met from wild sources. NMBP focuses on in-situ & ex-situ conservation and augmenting local medicinal plants and aromatic species of medical significance to meet increasing demand for medicinal plants. The NMPB also promote research & development, capacity building through trainings, raising awareness through promotional activities like creation of Home/School herbal gardens. NMPB also seek to support programs for quality assurance and standardization through development of Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACPs), development of monographs laying down standards of quality, safety and efficacy; development of agro-techniques and credible institution a mechanism for certification of quality of raw drugs, seeds and planting material.

Table 8.1

Total Area supported for cultivation under NAM scheme is 8510 hectare, 12462 hectare, 10329 hectare and 9945 hectare for the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. The state of Uttar Pradesh has a lead over the states for having the maximum area supported for cultivation under NAM followed by Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana and Tripura during the year 2018-19.

Table 8.2

This table presents species wise area (in hectare) covered under NAM scheme during 2015-16 to 2018-19. During 2018-19, *Ocimum Sanctum* Linn has the highest area of 2606.69 hectare followed by *Withania somnifera* (Linn.) Dunal having area of 1628.81 hectare.

During 2018-19, species having area of cultivation, ranging from 500 to 1000 hectare are *Aloe vera* (Linn) Burn and *Asparagus racemosus* Willd during. Species having area of cultivation ranging more than 200 and less than 500 hectare are *Piper longum* Linn., *Coleus barbatus* Benth., *Cassia angustifolia* Vahl., *Andrographis paniculata* (Linn.) Burn, *Aquilaria agallocha* Roxb. and *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn .

Species having area of cultivation ranging from 100 to 200 hectare are *Mucuna prurita* Linn., *Aegle marmelos* (Linn) Corr., *Rauwolfia serpentina* Benth. ex Kurz, *Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Pennell ,

*Plantago ovata* Forssk. , *Pterocarpus santalinus* Linn. f., *Stevia rebaudiana* (Bert.) Berttoni, *Gloriosa superba* Linn. and *Santalum album* Linn. during 2018-19

Table 8.3

This table shows the States/UT wise number of farmers involved in the cultivation of medicinal plants under NAM scheme from the year 2015-16 to 2018-19. The number of farmers involved in the cultivation of medicinal plants under NAM scheme is 17771, 14584, 7685 and 5945 during the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. In 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh (2240) has the maximum number of farmers involved in the cultivation of medicinal plants under NAM scheme followed by the states of Uttarakhand (1155) West Bengal(950), Gujarat(560), Mizoram(460), Manipur(258) , Tripura(249) and Nagaland (73).

Table 8.4

This table shows the district-wise details of Cultivation of Medicinal Plants during the year 2018-19. The state of Uttar Pradesh has the maximum 72 districts covered under Cultivation of Medicinal Plants followed by the states of Madhya Pradesh(45 districts), Assam(23 districts), Karnataka(18 districts), West Bengal(17 districts), Telangana(16 districts), Tamil Nadu(12 districts), Nagaland(11 districts) and Uttarakhand(10 districts) and Kerala(1 district) during 2018-19.

Table 8.5

This table presents the list of 140 Prioritized Plants of Medicinal Plants Components under National AYUSH Mission (NAM) with botanical and common name. Out of total 140 Prioritized medicinal plants, list of 75 medicinal plants eligible for 30% subsidy (example *Abrus precatorius*) , 46 medicinal plants eligible for 50% subsidy ( example *Abies webbiana* Lindl) and remaining 19 medicinal plants eligible for 75% subsidy( example *Aconitum ferox* Wall./A. Balfouri).