The Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (DMAPR) is being implementing SCSP for the “Promotion of medicinal plants cultivation for livelihood and health security of SCs in Gujarat” in Gujarat. The programme was initiated in 2018-19 with short-term as well as long-term objectives. The short-term objective is to create awareness among the SCs about the medicinal plants their importance and uses in home-made medicines for primary health care and well-being. The long-term objective is to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants at commercial scale to uplift the socio-economic status of the SCs.

A one-day farmers training on “Cultivation of MAPs” was conducted on 26.06.2019 at Nani Devti, Sanand, Ahmedabad. Since, this is a traditional rice and wheat growing area, the aim of the training was to provide introductory information on MAPs to SC farmers. Total 50 poor SC farmers participated in this training programme. The training programme was inaugurated with the floral welcome of president of the training, Dr. Satyajit Roy, Director, ICAR-DMAPR by Dr. P L Saran, Principal Scientist and Chairman of the SCSP committee. Dr. R P Meena presented floral bookie to chief guest Shri. Mahendra bhai, the nodal SC person who help in conducting this programme. Dr. K. A. Kalariya, Member Secretary, SCSP introduced the scheme and its associated activities to the farmers. Dr. Satyajit Roy, Director emphasised on general health issues and use of medicinal plants in management of such health issues. Five lectures on MAPs cultivation were delivered during this program. During this programme, a 16 L knapsack spray pumps, a grass cutter and a phavda were distributed to each 50 poor SC participants. The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Riddhi Patel.

(Source: ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand, Gujarat)