

Foundation Day of ICAR-DMAPR and Industry Meet

ICAR-DMAPR, Anand 24th November, 2022

The 31st Foundation Day of the ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (DMAPR), Anand, was celebrated on 24th November, 2022 in Hybrid mode. Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, Assistant Director General (HS-I), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Mr. Parimal Desai, Founder and Director, K. Patel Phyto Extractions Private Limited, Mumbai was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Satyanshu Kumar, Director, ICAR-DMAPR welcomed the guests and presented an overview of the activities of ICAR-DMAPR. He also highlighted the significant achievements of the ICAR-DMAPR during last one year.

Mr. Desai, in his address appreciated the progress of the Directorate in promotion of medicinal and aromatic plants in the country. He opined that there is need for coherence among the farmers and industries for ensuring quality raw drugs to the herbal sector. He suggested to create awareness among the farmers on various recent trends in herbal sector and also highlighted the supply of the raw materials to the industry at competitive price.

Dr. Pandey, in his address highlighted the importance of organic farming and herbal medicine for health, economy and employment. He said that India can become Vishwa guru in promotion of organic/natural farming and Ayurveda in the world. He suggested that research outputs of the Directorate should be transferred to the stakeholders in order to ensure the benefits to farmers and industries. Dr. Pandey mentioned that the corpus fund from the industries will very much useful for accomplishing the activities in Mission Mode.

Industry meet based on the theme “Reorienting research activities in the context of National and



International perspectives of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants” was also organised by the Directorate on this occasion. The meeting was attended by Mr. Parimal Desai, Director, K. Patel

Phyto Extractions Private Limited, Mumbai; Dr. Lal Hingorani, Founder and Director, Pharmanza Herbal Private Limited, Dharmaj, Anand; Dr. Hardik Soni, Assistant General Manager, Vasu Healthcare Private Limited, Vadodara; Dr. Vandana Modi, Vice President, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited, Ahmedabad; Ms. Bansi Ghadia and Ms. Amritha Prustly, Panacea Phytoextracts Private Limited, Ahmedabad; Dr. Vidhi Bapana, Professor and Head, P G Department of Dravyaguna, J S Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad; Dr. Ankit Panelia, Superintendent, Sunder Ayurveda Pharmacy, Nadiad; Dr. Sujay Dutta, Scientist, ISRO-Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad; Dr. P.S. Nagar, Associate Professor & Garden Superintendent, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, The M S University of Baroda Vadodara; Dr. Rushikesh Joshi, Professor, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad; Mr. Jayesh Raninga, Founder, Green-Cross Agritech, Ahmedabad; Mr. Devansh Joshi, Founder Karbokisan, Bangaluru; and Mrs. Nirupa Parmar, Niarka Herbal Care, Vadodara; Scientists and staff of the ICAR-DMAPR. The meet was Chaired by Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, Assistant Director General (HS-I), ICAR, New Delhi and Co-chaired by Dr. Satyanshu Kumar, Director, ICAR-DMAPR. After elaborate discussion on the topic, the following points emerged:

1. Finger printing and geographical indicators of the medicinal and aromatic plants from the different agro-climatic zones of India is needed for the promotion of cluster-based farming.
2. National database for demand and supply is required to be developed for critical assessment of demand-supply gap and supply chain.
3. Supply/value chain for these crops need to be shortened so that the sustainable supply of good quality (in terms of the content of active ingredients) could be ascertained. Also, traceability (qualitative/quantitative) of the supplied material could be made available.
4. Holistic scientific approach must be followed for utilisation of the substitute plants particularly for those crops which are high in demand and low in supply.
5. Scientific approach from field to the pharmacy need to be adopted for taking medicinal and aromatic crops as well as Ayurveda to the next level.
6. Medicinal and aromatic crops resilient to climate change need to be identified and developed.
7. Corpus fund-based promotion of research activities and public private partnership (PPP) for research and development of herbal medicines should be undertaken.
8. Knowledge sharing and industrial training of human resources is to be facilitated by the industries from this sector.
9. Good agricultural practices needed to refined as per the industry demand.
10. National policy for adoption of uniform methodologies, monitoring of residues/microbial contamination, tagging of area, prevention of negative campaign and validation of Vriksha Ayurveda also need to be considered.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. R. Nagaraja Reddy, Senior Scientist, ICAR-DMAPR, Anand.

(Source: AKMU, ICAR-DMAPR, Anand)