

Report on Seminar/Conference/Workshop conducted

Title: The nutritional and medicinal value of the culinary herbs and fruits to the tribal population of the Nilgiris district

Date(s): 2nd April 2015

Preamble:

A workshop cum exhibition on "the nutritional and medicinal value of the culinary herbs and fruits to the tribal population of the Nilgiris district" with special reference to tribal herbal culture, sponsored by Hill Area Development Programme, Ootacamund, was organized by the Department of pharmacognosy and Phytopharmacy on 2nd April 2015.

Participant's Profile:

This was attended by 58 participants of different tribal hamlets of Nilgiris district. The very purpose of organizing the workshop was to create awareness among the tribes, the nutritional and medicinal value and uses of culinary herbs grown in and around their living places. Also 25 participants belonging to member countries of the nonaligned movement (NAM) took part in the workshop.

Description about the Program:

Srinivas R. Reddy, Project Director, Hill Area Development Programme and Field Director (MTR) inaugurated the workshop and emphasized that though the Nilgiris has been blessed with abundant herbal wealth, most of these herbal species have been found inside the jungles and reserve forests and the need of the hour was to collect data of such herbs to evolve mechanism of commercial cultivation to take their benefit to the common man. He also added that the fast food culture has been spreading very fast among the young people which has no or very low nutritional value and emphasized to look back to the traditional food and herbs to keep good health.

A hand book on medicinal plants containing information in tamil about the herbs and medicinal plants has been distributed to the participants. Dr.S. Rajan, Scientist, AYUSH department, Nilgiris , Dr. Shanthi, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Ootacamund, Dr. B. Duraiswamy, Professor and Head, and the organizing secretary of the workshop spoke on various topics during the lecture session. Dr. Dr. S. P. Dhanbal, Principal told that the participants from NAM countries can exchange the tribal wealth of their respective countries to have a broad knowledge of the herbs. Dr. Arun Kulshehtra, Director General, Centre for Science & Technology of the NonAligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T) highlighted the various Indian System of Medicines and their importance. Dr. P. A. Khushalappa, DirectorAcademics, JSS University, Mysore participated and spoke on the medicinal uses of herbs. The workshop has been sponsored by the Hill Area Development Programme, Udthagamandalam .

Feedback:

All Participants expressed their positive feed back

Future Perspectives:

The department is focusing and planning to conduct more tribal empowerment and out reach programs.

Report Submitted by: Dr. B. Duraiswamy

Designation: Professor & Head

Department: Pharmacognosy & Phytopharmacy

