

4. Components of the Scheme

4.1 Conservation of Medicinal Plants through multi-pronged strategy

4.1.1 *In-situ* conservation

A) Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs)

Objectives

In-situ conservation of important medicinal plants in their natural habitats by setting up MPCDAs, as well as strengthening/up gradation of existing Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) through survey inventory, documentation, protection, and main streaming medicinal plants in habitat management approaches.

Activities

- a Setting up Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas(MPCDAs) through survey, documentation of existing natural population of medicinal and aromatic plants, geo referencing. This would include:
 - As certaining threat status of various medicinal plant species traditionally obtained from the wild.
 - Identifying major causes of threat to the populations of threat ened species and possible remedy.
 - Drawing up of action plan for conservation and sustainable utilization of important medicinal plant species.
 - Stakeholders capacity building, documentation (including a good quality pictorial directory), hosting on website, conducting pilot research studies etc. for sustainable utilization, engaging services of qualified taxonomists and other necessary professionals for the purpose by the concerned State Agency/SMPB, preparation of case studies, promoting conservation values/ sustainability.
- b. Revisiting/ Reviewing/ documentation in respect of previously designated

MPCAs (established more than three years back under different schemes) for further development like up gradation, improving protection, documentation, communication/dissemination linking with area management plan, geo referencing, engaging professionals on short term basis, capacity Building, Community mobilization, hosting on website, piloting studies on utilization/ sustainability issues etc.

- c. Mainstreaming medicinal plant conservation in management approaches based on sound silvicultural/management principles, conducting systematic survey of local medicinal and aromatics plants with medicinal value, and incorporating sound scientific principles for their management in the Working/ Management Plans and its effective communication to Stakeholders. These management plans should also include details of MPCDAs, where they are constituted.

Eligibility

State Forest/Wildlife Department/Forest Development Corporation/Federations/ National and State level Research Organization/ Universities.

Non-Government/ Voluntary Organizations with expertise in the field (subject to the recommendation of concerned forest department.).

Coverage

On an average an MPCDA should extend over an area of 200 ha. though smaller areas of important medicinal plants bio-diversity including sacred groves can also be considered for MPCDAs.

Norms of Assistance

- To set up MPCDAs, 100% central assistance @ 20,000/- per hectare will be provided.
- For up-gradation/reviewing/ strengthening of previously designated Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA) which were established more than three years ago under NMPB or other schemes in various states, assistance @ 5,000/- per ha. will be provided.

- For main streaming medicinal plant conservation in management approaches based on sound management/silvicultural principles, a lump sum support of up to Rs.1.5 Lakhs will be provided per Forest Division to the concerned Forest/ Wildlife Division.

Submission of Proposals

The proposals from the State Forest/Wild Life Department in this respect will be submitted to NMPB in the relevant proforma as at Annexure - III. In case proposal is submitted by Forest Division/Circle a copy of the same should invariably be marked to PCCF/Chief Wild Life Warden as well which will help in implementation and monitoring the project.

Management support

One project management Consultant and one Data Entry Operator will be permitted to be engaged for providing support at NMPB level for activities relating to scrutiny, implementation, monitoring and technical support to the state for the component.

B) *In-situ* resource augmentation

Objectives

- Assisted natural regeneration or artificial re-generation of local populations of medicinal and aromatic plant species for conservation of genetic diversity of medicinal plants, thereby complementing the other biodiversity preservation and climate change mitigation interventions being implemented by the country as part of its international obligations.

Activities

- *In-situ* resource augmentation of medicinal species through assisted natural regeneration. Artificial re-generation of local populations of medicinal and aromatic plant species is particularly important in case of species where wild populations have dwindled on account of habitat degradation, and unsustainable harvest. Active interest and engagement of rural communities in such a conservation program is instrumental to address sustainability of the medicinal plant sector as a whole, hence financial support will also be provided for community mobilization through entry point activities.

Eligibility

- State Forest/Wild Life Departments/Forest Development Corporation.
- Public Sector Corporations/Federations having the mandate to carry out such activities, Voluntary agencies/Non-Government Organisations with experience in the field (only for technical support and capacity building)
- National and State level Research Organisation/Universities with the agreement of Forest Department.

Norms of assistance

cost norms for *in-situ* resource augmentation and plantation of medicinal trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and perennials are given in **Annexure-I**.

Submission of Proposals

The proposal from the State Forest/Wild Life Department will be submitted to NMPB in the relevant proforma as at **Annexure - III**. In case proposal is submitted by Forest Division/Circle a copy of the same should invariably be marked to PCCF/Chief Wild Life Warden which will help in monitoring the project during its implementation.

Management support

One project management Consultant along with one Data Entry Operator will be engaged for providing support at NMPB level for activities relating to scrutiny, implementation, monitoring etc.

4.1.2 Ex-situ Conservation

Objective

Ex situ conservation of medicinal plants species is a complementary action to conserve the genetic diversity of medicinal plant species, thereby reducing pressure on wild habitats and augmenting raw material availability. For many species wild population shaved windled to critical levels and viable populations of these species are not available for initiating in situ conservation action. *Ex-situ* conservation/

plantation of medicinal plants will be a reliable seed source and also serve as field gene banks. This will also help in engaging larger number of stakeholders in production and regeneration of important medicinal plants and aromatic species of medicinal value.

Activities

- For expanding area under medicinal plants and aromatic species of medicinal value. Plantations of medicinal plants would be raised in lands outside designated forests. These plantations may be in blocks, strips, boundaries, marginal lands, agro-forestry models etc., in the countryside as well as urban / periurban locations.
- Such plantations would be raised by organisations having ownership / long term lease of lands and requisite technical competence either in-house or hired/outsourced.

Eligibility

- State Forest Departments/Social Forestry Divisions/State Wild Life Departments.
- Forest Development Corporations/Federations/SMPBs/Integrated Tribal Development Corporations/SC/ST Corporations (in the SC/ST lands)/Municipal bodies/ Housing Societies/PSUs/Voluntary Organisations with experience in the field provided they have the required technical competence.
- Scientific Organizations and AYUSH Institutes and other Government Agencies having the mandate/ capacity and interest in the field of medicinal plants.
- Corporate Sector (including reputed AYUSH manufacturers) in partnership with land owners and Panchayats Van Panchayats/ BMCs/ JFMCs will be considered for project based support subject to forming an SPV and demonstrating commitment by contributing at least ₹ 5.00 lakh rupees to an initial corpus to be dedicated for this purpose out of which at least ₹ 3.75 lakhs will be contributed by the corporate partner.

Norms of assistance

The cost norms for ex-situ plantation of medicinal trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and perennials is given in **Annexure- I**.

- The Corporate Sector (including AYUSH manufacturers of repute) can also be supported for raising ex-situ plantations, including as components in boundary plantations, strip plantation, agro forestry, etc., with adoption of GAP & GFCP. For this purpose a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) involving the reputed AYUSH manufacturer and Panchayats or land owners will be formed. Rs.5 Lakh will be provided as initial corpus fund out of which at least 75% will be contributed by the concerned Corporate Sector. Financial support from NMPB will be considered in project mode and transferred to a separate bank account to be opened in the name of the SPV. Such proposals will be supported in project mode.

Submission of Proposals

The proposal from the State Forest/Wild Life Department will be submitted to NMPB in the relevant proforma as at **Annexure - III**. In case proposal is submitted by Forest Division/Circle, a copy of the same should invariably be marked to PCCF/Chief Wild Life Warden which will help in monitoring the project during its implementation. The proposals by the corporate sector will be submitted to NMPB as well as to SMPB concerned concurrently. The SMPB will render its inputs, if any, within a period of three weeks of receipt of the proposals to the NMPB as well as to the organization concerned, failing which the proposal will be put up for consideration of the PSC/ SFC.

Management support

One project management Consultant along with one Data Entry Operator will be engaged for providing support at NMPB level for activities relating to scrutiny, implementation, monitoring and technical support to the state.