

A Report on

**National Conference on**

**“Emerging Technologies and Enabling Tools for Eco-friendly management of Diseases in Medicinal & Aromatic plants (MAPs)”**

**(29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022)**

**Organized by**

**Manav Rachna Centre For Medicinal Plant Pathology(MR-CMPP)**

**Dept. of Biotechnology, FET, MRIIRS**

**Supported by**

**National Medicinal Plant Board, Ministry of AYUSH, GOI, New Delhi**

The inaugural session was graced by the **Chief Guest Dr. Chandrashekhar Sanwal**, Deputy CEO, IFS, NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH, GOI. The ceremony also witnessed the presence of Hon'ble Keynote Speaker, **Prof. P.C. Trivedi**, Former Vice Chancellor- 5 Universities; **Dr Sanjay Srivastava**, Vice Chancellor, MRIIRS; **Dr. Pradeep Kumar**, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology; **Mr. R. K Arora**, Registrar MRIIRS; **Dr. Nidhi Didwania**, Director, MR-CMPP (Convener) and Dr. Manu Solanki, Head, Department of Biotechnology.

Prof. P.C. Trivedi gave an insight about the phytodiversity and talked about the Eco-Friendly Management of Diseases of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge and our treasure trove. Prof. (Dr.) Nidhi Didwania , Convener, highlighted the objective of the conference “Health of Healthy Plants”.

This was followed by two sessions which were conducted by **Dr. A N Shukla**, Scientist E, Biodiversity Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), New Delhi; **Dr. Jeetendra Kumar Vaishya**, Research Officer (Medicinal Plants / Agronomy), National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, **Mr. Sameer Kant Ahuja**, Chief Manager, Regulatory Multani Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and **Mrs. Reeva Sood**, Director, Tanishka Herbals.

The oral & poster presentations were conducted on both the days of conference. The conference was attended by students, faculty members and participants from all over India, viz CSIR-NIScPR, Pusa, University of Patanjali, Haridwar, University of Delhi, Delhi, Banasthali Vidhyapeeth, Madurai Kamraj University, Tamil Nadu, JNV University, Jodhpur, UPES, Dehradun, MIT, Pune, JP Institute of Technology, Noida, JECRC University, Jaipur, Shoolini University, Solan, HP, Banaras Hindu University, Banaras, GGSIP University, Delhi, and MDU, Rohtak.

On the second day, the progressive farmers from Faridabad & Palwal, **Mr. Bijendra Singh Dalal** & team participated in the conference with full enthusiasm and are interested in cultivation of Medicinal Plants with the support of MR-CMPP, MRIIRS and NMPB. This was followed by a lecture session (invited talk) by Eminent Scientist, Professor N K Dubey, Head, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He delivered an exceptional talk in which he emphasized the importance of botanical pesticides with reference to the origin of mycotoxin and how nature had played the role of doctor in the absence of advancement in the past. He also pondered over the impact of pests or disease control of plants on the pharmaceutical industry.

Following this Dr. A. A. Ansari, Former Scientist E, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), famously known as the “Crotonaria Man”, delivered a detailed overview on plant pathogens on different species of medicinal plants. He reflected on the valuable ancient knowledge of medicinal plants and further emphasized on the importance of preserving this precious treasure trove.

The students of Department of Biotechnology organized a cultural program, where various dance forms (traditional and contemporary) and skits/street plays were used as a medium to depict the beauty of Nature & Indian Culture. Through various forms of art, they delivered an impactful message to protect the environment.

Dr. Jeetendra Vaishya, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) highlighted the following recommendations made by the participants: Strategies should be in place for the post-harvest management of the medicinal plant produce; Need of inventorization and taxonomic identification of biodiversity in the Aravalli ranges for conservation of Medicinal Plants; and Special attention is to be made to the utilization of resources (agro-economics) whereby farmers should be made aware of the expensive medicinal plants so that they may expand their cultivation.

NMPB supported the recommendations and agreed to extend full support for carrying out research and extension activities in the newly established Manav Rachna Centre For Medicinal Plant Pathology (MR-CMPP).

The proposed conference provided a platform to discuss and provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of Medicinal & Aromatic plants.

Dr. Nidhi Didwania  
Convener  
Director, MRCMPP