

successful introduction. The introduction of safed musli to South Indian states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu from Maharashtra is an example of plant introduction within the country.

Narrow genetic base in introduced medicinal plants is the primary constraint for further crop improvement as in isabgol, senna, opium poppy, stevia, mints, citronella, etc. In some of the introduced crops quality and quantity of secondary metabolites are inferior than from where these were introduced due to environmental interaction which plays an important role in secondary metabolite production. Quarantine measures also have to be taken care in medicinal plant introduction as in the case of any other crops.

In the post-CBD era due to introduction of several restrictions and regulations, free exchange of genetic material has become limited. Almost all the introductions made in the past were species based. However, at present the introductions are mainly made to broaden the genetic base with well-defined targets. In medicinal plants, the scope of new species introduction is limited due to the interaction of genotype and environment on quality of secondary metabolite production. However, broadening of the genetic base of the existing endemic or introduced medicinal plants under cultivation needs to be targeted seriously to enhance the productivity of these crops in future.

Integrative Strategies for Genetic Conservation of Asian Medicinal Plants through Participatory Approach for Livelihood and Sustainability

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South-East Asian countries accounts for more than 60% of the global supply of herbs in the trade today. The time has now come when several models of integrative approaches must be devised and be put to test in utilizing our collective traditional knowledge and bio-resources towards the visible emergence of a joint Sector of Asian System of Medicines. The ASEAN model can act as a template to begin with in this direction. Obviously, this would involve equal partnership of various components of the entire value chain, comprising of traditional healers, plant collectors, conservation scientists, farmers, industry, traders and retailers. Exchange of plants and their introduction and quality evaluation/ validation in neighbouring countries will be an intense activity of this proposed model. All strategies aim to be applied in this mission must have three focal deliverables in

sight: IPR interests of the entire region, conservation of the exclusives and, people participation for sustainability and societal benefits. The age old concept and slogan of "Gene rich regions" has to be converted into business by reversing the status of supplier of raw materials to producers of the end products. Sufficient infrastructure and expertise are now in place to move ahead on this collective mission through complementation and synergism. We have to make our herbs quality validated in the backdrop of wider agro-climatic adaptability, cheaper cultivation costs and efficient nutrient utilization. The philosophy of establishing the Bio-villages for plant introduction, pioneered by CIMAP in last three years, will be presented in the symposium to exemplify the proposed model.