

Chapter-8 | Pharmacognosy

Role of medicinal and aromatic plants in national economy and their export potential

Introduction:

- The term medicinal plant include various types of plant used in herbalism.
- It is the use of plant for medicinal purpose & the study of such uses.
- The word herb has been derived from the Latin word herbs and an old French word herbs now a days herb refers to any part of plants like fruits, seed, stem, bark, flower, leaf, stigma or a root as well as a non woody plant. Earlier the term herb was only applied to non woody plants including those that come from trees and herbs.
- Among ancient civilization India has been known to be rich repository of medicinal plants. The forest in India is the principle repository of large no of medicinal and aromatic plants which are largely collected as raw materials for manufacturing of drugs and perfumery products.
- Recently WHO, estimated that 80% of people worldwide sly on herbal medicines for some aspect according to WHO, around 21000 plant species have the potential for being used as medicinal plants.
- Medicinal plants such as Aloe, Tulsi, Neem, turmeric and ginger cure several common ailments. These are considered as home remedies in many parts of the country. It is known fact that lots of consumers are using bark tulsi, for making medicines, black tea.
- Over the past two decades these has been a tremendous there has been a tremendous increase in the use of herbal medicine however these is still a significant lack of research data in the field.
- Therefore since 1999, WHO has published there volumes of the WHO monograph on selected medicinal plants.

Importance of some herbs with their medicinal values:

- Herbs such as black paper, cinnamon, myrrh, aloe, sandal wood, ginseng, are used to heal wounds sores and boils.
- Basil fennel, cilantro apple mint thyme, oregano, lemon, rosemary, are some important medicinal herbs can be planted important medicinal herbs and can be planted un kitchen garden.
- Many herbs are used as blood purifiers to alter or change a long standing condition by eliminating the metabolic toxin these are also known as blood cleaners certain herbs improve the immunity of the person there by reducing condition such as fever.
- Turmeric is useful in inhibiting the growth of germs harmful microbes and bacteria turmeric is widely used and a home remedies to heal out and wounds.

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- To reduce fever & the production of heat caused by condition certain antipyretic herbs such as chiraula, black paper, sandalwood is especially used in arresting is especially used in arresting the discharge of blood mucus etc.
- Herbs such as marshmallow root and leaf they serve as antacids the healthy gastric acid needed for proper digestion is retained for proper digestion is retained by such herbs.
- Indian sages were known to have remedies from animals and snakebites.
- Herbs like cardamom and coriander are renowned for their appetizing qualities other aromatic herbs such as peppermint, cloves and turmeric add a pleasant aroma to the food thereby increasing the taste of the meal.
- Ginger and cloves are used in certain cough syrup, they are known for their expectorant property which promotes the injection of mucus from the lungs trachea and bronchi eucalyptus, cardamom, wild cherry and cloves are also expectorants.
- Herbs such as chamomile, calamus, ajwain, basil, cardamom, coriander, fennel, peppermint & spearmint cinnamon ginger & turmeric are helpful in promoting good blood circulation therefore they are used as cardiac stimulants.
- Certain aromatic plants such as aloe chirya are used as mild tonic. The bitter taste to such plant reduce toxins in blood they are helpful in destroying infection as well.
- Honey turmeric marshmallow and liquorice can effectively treat a fresh cut and wound they are turned as vulnerary herbs.

Future economic growth:

- Worldwide approx. 35000 – 70000 species of plants have been used at one time as another for medicinal, nutraceuticals & cosmeceuticals purposes. In India, approx. 1000 plant species in Nepal about 700 species about 700 species in peninsular Malaysia and its neighboring Islands & in Chinese medicine about 9905 plant materials are used.
- Thus these is lot of scope in future for new plant based drugs that are still to be introduced and the economic significance of these plant based pharmaceuticals is considered which is based on the cossets based plant pharmaceuticals. The value of potential plant based pharmaceuticals.
- The value of these drug are described both market and economic value. Market value is a subset of economic value which includes all benefits to society.
- Economic value represents all the social benefits of particular type of product including market value.
- Economic value can be viewed as an expression of the total benefit of product. The medicinal plants and their products have taken an increasing medical and product categories like health food, cosmetics and personal care products containing natural ingredients the demand for medicinal plants is growing exponentially. The fastest growing world market in herbal products is opening up new opportunities for the developing countries to benefits from the rising green consumerism trend to develop their export potential.