

Medicinal Plant Cultivation in India; A Profitable Agribusiness



In India, the Ministry of AYUSH has recommended people to drink Kadha (formulation) made of tulsi leaves, Dalchini, dry ginger powder, and black pepper for self-care and immunity-boosting measure. Consumption of medicinal herbs is increasing day by day at a very fast speed. In such a condition, the cultivation of medicinal plants would be a very profitable agribusiness for Indian farmers.

India has 15 Agroclimatic zones, 17,000 to 18,000 types of blooming plants in which 6000–7000 are evaluated to have therapeutic properties. The use of these medicinal plants is found in numerous Indian societies and is archived in Indian systems of medication, for example, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Swa-rigpa, and Homeopathy. Around 960 types of medicinal plants are assessed to be in trade of which 178 species have yearly consumption levels of more than 100 metric tones.

India has solid traditional health care practices that represent the old style of medication. The significant shared characteristic of the Indian old style and the folk health care traditions is their reliance upon the raw material got from an enormous assorted variety of plant species, which is evaluated to be around 6,500.

The first genuine endeavor at the national level to survey the demand and supply of therapeutic plants in the nation was made by the National Medicinal Plant Board during 2001-02 when it appointed an examination through CERPA to comprehend yearly trade levels of chosen 162 medicinal plant species. From that point, the NMPB in 2006-07 commissioned a national report to evaluate demand and supply of medicinal plants in India. That review did by FRLHT, brought different complexities in the herbal area on the surface and added to the comprehension of the subject identified with the assorted variety of raw drugs substances in trade, their botanical relationship, the volume of yearly trade and supply sources.

Profit in Medicinal Plant Farming

Cultivation of medicinal plants in a commercial mode is one of the most profitable agribusiness for farmers. If anyone has sufficient land and knowledge of herb marketing then he or she can earn a high income in a very moderate investment in India.

Cultivation of medicinal herbs like Shankhapushpi, Atis, kuth, kutki, kapikachhu, karanja, are changing the Indian agrarian Ayurvedic scenes along with the extraordinary opportunities for the farmers to increase their income. According to the Traditional Treatment Health Center, 25 significant medicinal plants are always in full demand. They are; Indian Barbary, Licorice, Bael, Isabgol, Atis, Guggal, Kerth, Aonla, Chandan, Senna, Baiberang, Long Pepper, Brahmi, Jatamansi, and Madhunashini, Kalmegh, Satavari, Ashwagandha, Chirata, Katki, Shankhpushpi, Ashoka, Giloe, kokum, Safed Musli.

For example, A farmer producing atis herb, largely utilized in ayurvedic medication, in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh may easily earn Rs2.5-3 lakh for each acre of land. A lavender rancher may get Rs1.2-1.5 lakh returns per acre of land, by cultivating rattan jot, Rs 1.15 lakh per acre, and karu, Rs 1.5-2 lakh for every acre of land.

Along with previously mentioned medicinal herbs Mint, Aloe vera, Basil, Tulsi, Lemongrass, Coriander, Ajwain, are the most beneficial therapeutic yields in India.

However, a survey conducted by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Ethnobiology (AICRPE) during the most recent decade recorded more than 8000 types of wild plants utilized by the tribals and other conventional communities in India for rewarding different medical issues. Around 30% of therapeutic arrangements are gotten from roots, 5% blossoms, 10% organic products, 14% bark, 16% entire plants, 6% leaves, 7% seeds, 3% wood, 4% rhizomes, 6% stems and just under 20% of the species utilized are developed.

NMPB Offers Upto 75% Subsidy for Medicinal Plants Cultivation

To energize the medicinal plants' cultivation throughout India "The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)" offers up to 75% subsidy to the farmers. NMPB has formulated schemes and guidelines for financial assistance in various zones of medicinal plant division secured under Promotional and Commercial plans relevant both for government and non-government associations. Farmers across the nation are getting financial assistance by the AYUSH Ministry to empower the cultivation of herbs and other medicinal plants. A subsidy, as high as 75 percent, is being given as a feature of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

At present, many of medicinal plants species have been prioritized for supporting cultivation across the nation for which subsidy is provided to the farmers, such as 75% subsidy for highly endangered medicinal plants, 50% for the cultivation of critically declining medicinal plants and 30% for other therapeutic plants species which need support.

Production Scenario of Medicinal Plants in the Indian States

Here we will get a state-wise tally about the area and production of medicinal plants. Rajasthan is having the highest area under these crops with a share of 56 percent, followed by Uttar Pradesh (25 %). Other major states were Madhya Pradesh (11%), Tamil Nadu (2%), Punjab (2%), Chhattisgarh (2%), Andhra Pradesh (1%) and Bihar (1%).

In the case of production, Madhya Pradesh ranks 1st with a share of 44% and Rajasthan stand 2nd with a share of 19%. The states like Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh were having a share of 16%, 8%, and 7% respectively. Though Karnataka is having

less than 1% share in the area but the production, it shares 2% to total country production.

Karnataka is gifted with an assortment of climatic conditions. It is one of the gigantically potential states for the cultivation of therapeutic plants. The tropical forests of the Western Ghats and deciduous Jungles of the Deccan plateau are rich in medicinal plants. Biodiversity with over 2500 types of plants. Karnataka is one among the main producers of Ashwagandha (61.65 %), Amla (9.46%), sandalwood (9.41%), and producer of other oils like Lemongrass, Citronella, Palma Rosa, Jasmine, Tuberose and Vettiver in significant qualities. Besides above all, Karnataka has also the potential to take up the cultivation of medicinal plants such as Tulsi, Stevia, Aloe vera, Coleus, Salcia, Acorus, Andrographis, Bail, Guggal, Pachouli, and Gloriosa.

Source- Krishijagaran

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