

**A Report on the Meeting-cum-Camp Workshop under NMPB
Funded project on
"Cultivation of Atish and Ban Kakri"
held at Nichar, Kinnaur (H.P.)
(12.08.2015)**

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized one day meeting-cum Camp workshop on '**Cultivation of Atish and Ban Kakri**' at Nichar, Kinnaur (H.P.) on 12.08.2015 under the 'National Medicinal Plants Board' funded project with active cooperation of 'Nichar Medicinal Herbal Growers cum Collecting Co-operative Society Ltd.' Nichar, Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.).

In the beginning, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F and Coordinator of the meeting-cum Camp workshop welcomed all the 34 participants from Nichar village of tribal district Kinnaur (H.P.) and briefed about the objectives for organizing this meeting - cum - Camp workshop. The meeting started with the talk by Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E highlighting the importance of crop diversification in hill farming and stressed the need to include medicinal plants cultivation in that. Thereafter, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Scientist-F explained the nursery & cultivation techniques for raising Atish (*Aconitum heterophyllum*) and Chora (*Angelica glauca*) and also detailed about the NMPB funded project being implemented by HFRI, Shimla. He told the farmers that under this project for initiating cultivation in their field, planting material of Atish will be provided today itself to selected farmers. Reacting to specific queries, he further briefed on various marketing issues pertaining to medicinal plants, vermi-composting techniques, organic farming etc for the benefit of participants. Then again Sh. Jagdish Singh, Scientist-E discussed about the inter-cultivation of medicinal plants in orchards of temperate areas of Himachal Pradesh especially Apple Orchards and nursery & cultivation techniques of Ban Kakri (*Podophyllum hexandrum*) a potential medicinal plant for this region.

To benefit the participants, open discussion was held among participants and the experts. During the discussion, participants freely interacted with the resource persons and their queries pertaining to various issues regarding handling, transplanting, aftercare etc. of Atish plants were duly addressed through expert opinion of the resource persons and even live demonstration was given for more clarity. After the discussion, Atish plants were distributed to the farmers to initiate its cultivation in the field. At the end of the long meeting-cum- camp workshop, Sh. Jagdish Singh extended formal Vote of Thanks to the farmers for sparing their valuable time & office bearer of 'Nichar Medicinal Herbal Growers cum Collecting Co-operative Society Ltd. and making this programme a success.

Glimpses of Meeting –cum- Camp Workshop



