A report on Interactive Meeting under NMPB Funded Project, "Biological Control of *Thysanoplusia orichalcea* (F.) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae): A Potential Insect-Pest of *Saussurea costus* in North-Western Himalayas and Extension of Protection Technology to Local Communities" held at Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir on 4th February 2016

Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla organized an interactive meeting on "Protection Technology for the Control of Insect-Pests and Diseases in Medicinal Plants" on 4th of February, 2016 in Kishtwar for the farmers of Chenab Valley in cooperation with the Forest Division, Kishtwar, and Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was primarily focused on the insect-pests and diseases incidences in the medicinal plants in the western Himalayan region and their control measures. About 45 farmers and the frontline staff of Kishtwar and Marwah Forest Divisions participated in this meeting.

In the beginning, Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Scientist-F & Head, Forest Protection Division, HFRI, Shimla, while welcoming the participants, brought the attention toward the importance of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and their use for curing various ailments in several indigenous systems of medicine and told that indiscriminate use of pesticides in the agriculture, horticulture and forestry operations has created many significant ecological backlashes like secondary pest outbreak. He also told that presence of residues of these chemicals in the food chain and other component of the environment proved to be toxic to humans, birds and other beneficial organism of the forestry eco-system and advocated the use of biological control agents in pest management. He also informed about the different pest control methods to be employed in the field during epidemic situations which are ecologically sound and economically feasible and advised the farmer and State Forest officials to take correct timely action against various pests encountered in cultivation of medicinal plants.

Shri Pankaj, Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife), Chenab Division, informed that in the past there has been a controlled extraction of medicinal plants from wild in Jammu and Kashmir and limited natural populations from J&K were enable to fulfill growing trade requirement. He also appreciated the initiation taken by HFRI, Shimla to extend the scientific findings to the formers and staff of Kishtwar Forest Division. He also advocated that cultivation of medicinal plants can be made profitable if technology developed by HFRI be implemented in the field.

Sh. Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, Range Officer, Kishtwar said that due to various changes in climatic conditions the pest and diseases outbreaks had been observed in forests in Kishtwar area causing serious damages. He said that insect-pests and diseases incidence are becoming regular phenomenon in planted and natural forests in Himalayan region and opined that the best way to deal with these problems, is to develop species specific biological control programme, at least for the important species and make them available to the end users.

Shri Ashish Gupta, Dy. Conservator of Forests informed that due to unscientific and continuous extraction of medicinal plants from the wild habitat and very little efforts for conservation, the rich medicinal wealth of the state is becoming scarce day by day with many species are on verge of extinction. He emphasised on promotion of cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in farmer's field.

In the end, Dr. Ranjeet Singh extended formal vote of thanks to the participants and other officials of the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department.

GLIMPSES OF THE MEETING









Media Coverage







CHANDIGARH | MONDAY | 8 FEBRUARY 2016

Talks on checking plant diseases state forest officials to take

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 7

The Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla, in cooperation with the Forest Department, Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, organised a meet-Asshmir, organised a meet-ing on protection technolo-gy for controlling pests and diseases in medicinal plants for farmers of the Chenab valley here on Friday.

valley here on Friday.
According to a press note,
the meeting focused on
pests and diseases in medicinal plants in western
Himalayan regions and their
control measures. About 45
farmers, forest officials and
frontline staff of the Kishtwar Forest Division participated in the meeting.

war Forest Division participated in the meeting.
Dr Ranjeet Singh, organising secretary, drew the attention towards the indiscriminate use of pesticides in the production of forestry.
The presence of chemical residues in the food chain and other components of the

environment would prove to environment would prove to be toxic to humans, birds and other beneficial organ-ism of the forestry eco-sys-tem, he said, advocating the use of biological control agents in pest management. He advised farmers and

state forest officials to take timely action against vari-ous pests detected during the cultivation of medicinal plants. He expressed seri-ous concern over the inci-dence of different pests on various tree energies. various tree species He advised farmers and