



SEMINAR REPORT

on

"Safeguarding Indigenous Knowledge of Medicinal Plants Used by Tribal Healers"

06 November 2024

Jointly Organized by

School of Studies in Biotechnology, Pt.RSU, Raipur

and

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF) in Bhilai (C.G.)

associated with

Public Outreach Centre, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur

School of Studies in Biotechnology, Pt.RSU, Raipur and IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF) in Bhilai (C.G.) collaboratively hosted a seminar on November 6, 2024. The primary objective of this seminar was to explore the identification, formulation, preservation, and cultivation of medicinal plants used by the Bastar community, focusing on revitalising traditional health practices. The seminar's theme was **"Safeguarding Indigenous Knowledge of Medicinal Plants Used by Tribal Healers."**

This event aims to disseminate Indigenous knowledge regarding the application of medicinal plants in the traditional medicine of Bastar (C.G.), encourage their cultivation through sustainable practices, and highlight the significance of a sustainable diet that fosters lifestyles in harmony with nature, thereby bridging research

and practical application. Historically, medicinal plants have played a crucial role in traditional medicine and have been essential to local diets. The transition towards a sustainable lifestyle must incorporate adopting sustainable diets and using medicinal plants to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address climate change's health and environmental repercussions, ensuring a sustainable future for future generations. The event was presided over by Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, the distinguished Vice Chancellor of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, alongside Shri B. Anand Babu, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director of SFRTI, Raipur. Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh serves as the IBITF Project Coordinator and Coordinator of the Public Outreach Center at Pt. RSU, Raipur, played a significant role in the event.

Proceedings, Resource persons and participants' profile

The session commenced with the chanting of Saraswati Vandana and the lamp lighting by the esteemed guest Shri B. Anand Babu with other eminent speakers and participants, followed by the Chhattisgarh state song, the "Arpa Pairi Ke Dhar". Prof. Keshav Kant Sahu, the program coordinator and project Co-PI, addressed the participants and highlighted the workshop's objectives. They appeal to the traditional healers to share information about the research project's goals, which poses a significant threat to the current situation. The reluctance of traditional healers to disclose information regarding the research project's objectives is jeopardising the present circumstances. He also added that the project's focus on sustainable livelihood was emphasised, along with the explanation of the database creation system. The event was convened by Prof. Keshav Kant Sahu, School of Studies in Biotechnology, Pt. RSU, Raipur. He formally initiated the event by sharing the objectives and delivering the inaugural speech. Anchors warmly greeted the participants, expressed gratitude for their presence, and presented the welcome note. Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh presented an objective of the seminar. He then explained to the students and participants the project's vision outlined by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and IBITF Bhilai. He explained that the seminar would include sharing traditional knowledge from local healers and botanical experts, along with a panel discussion addressing a critical issue: the necessity of protecting medicinal plants at risk of extinction due to overexploitation and a lack of awareness.

Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla noted that an allocation of 2.84 crore has been designated for the welfare of tribal communities associated with the university. He further emphasised the importance of events, seminars, and partnerships between the University and the forest department. He highlighted the crucial role of medicinal plants and the need for a comprehensive understanding of their uses to benefit the communities involved. His discussions with the President of India also focus on indigenous and tribal research, advocating for standardising information sharing through rigorous research and scientific validation. He stated that even

individual efforts can lead to positive contributions, which will ultimately be recognised. He effectively conveyed the necessity of establishing ongoing objectives and a steadfast commitment to advancement.

Shri B. Anand Babu, he emphasised that Chhattisgarh is home to 44% of India's forest area, contributing an annual business turnover of 1,000 crore through the collection of tendu leaves and other forest products. The region's favourable soil composition, water resources, and climate foster a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Focusing on plant life, he elaborated on the abundant phytoconstituents found in medicinal plants. In the context of contemporary innovation and technology, he effectively conveyed to the audience the existing biodiversity and the potential for cultivation and production within both agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The esteemed speaker highlighted several critical points during his presentation, successfully engaging the audience as he addressed trends concerning minor forest products in Chhattisgarh. He detailed ongoing initiatives to conserve forest resources, particularly medicinal plants, through research, development, and entrepreneurship. Conservation efforts can be pursued through both *in situ* and *ex-situ* methods, with *in situ* practices currently being applied to species such as Chironjee, Sarpghandha, and Aonla, which are undergoing grafting.

Moreover, establishing market linkages offers significant opportunities, and it is crucial to conduct quality testing in Chhattisgarh. The Haribol self-help group produces 18 Ayurvedic products from local villagers, generating over 32 lakh nutritious millet products yearly. Additionally, Ayurvedic medicines are being made at the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Furthermore, Kerala is acknowledged as a leader in the herbal industry, and analysing their strategies could provide valuable insights for potential application.

Invited talk session – I By Mr Nirmal Kumar Awasthi, Director of the Paramparagat Gyan and Vanoushdhi Vikas Foundation in Bilaspur.

The following session in the seminar series featured the esteemed speaker, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Awasthi, who serves as the Director of the Paramparagat Gyan and Vanoushdhi Vikas Foundation based in Bilaspur. He began his presentation by emphasising that South Africans derive only 10% of their dietary intake from cereals, predominantly depending on underground roots and yams. He pointed out that Bechaindi Chips (*Andrographis paniculata*) is traditionally consumed to bolster immunity, offering protection against skin infections and various allergies. Additionally, he highlighted the efficacy of marigold flowers in treating ear-related ailments.

Mr. Awasthi elaborated on Chitrak, which exists in two forms, red and white, and is utilised in the traditional practice renowned for its considerable medicinal benefits. He proposed that groups of 15 students could participate in nursery development and cultivation to foster planting initiatives. Furthermore, he discussed the application of Yogikanth Goli/Tablets during instances of cough and cold, which comprise a formulation of 100 grams of Harra (*Terminalia*

chebula), Amla (*Phyllanthus emblica*), and *Terminalia bellirica*. This combination is highly regarded in traditional Ayurvedic medicine, often used alongside Harra and Amla in the Triphala formulation, and can be augmented with a pinch of salt for alleviating cough symptoms.

He underscored the significance of advancing traditional farming practices, particularly in nursery development. He also mentioned Adusa, scientifically known as *Adhatoda vasica*, a medicinal plant commonly utilised in Ayurvedic and traditional medicine for its beneficial effects on respiratory conditions such as cough, asthma, and bronchitis. Lastly, he referred to Maida Chali, also known as Chiretta or *Swertia chirata*, which is acknowledged in traditional medicine, especially in Ayurveda, for its anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and digestive properties and potential anticancer effects. Sonpatta, scientifically identified as *Cissus quadrangularis*, is another plant frequently employed in traditional practices.

Invited talk session –II By Traditional Healer Mr Avhgesh Kumar Kashyap

The subsequent distinguished speaker was Mr. Avhgesh Kumar Kashyap, who shared valuable insights regarding various medicinal plants, detailing their dosages and administration methods, some prominent medicinal herbs and plants including *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *C. quadrangularis* and *Curculigo orchioides* etc.

Invited talk session –III By Traditional Healer Mr Shukla Prasad Dhruv

Mr Shukla Prasad Dhruv shared his extensive knowledge of traditional healing practices using medicinal plants to address various health issues. He discussed a remedy for blood vomiting, cancer management, inflammatory and other related diseases, etc

Invited talk session –IV By Traditional Healer Mr Vijay Kumar Nag

Mr. Vijay Kumar Nag, a tribal healer with over 25 years of experience, shared his expertise in treating various health conditions using traditional remedies. He has a particular focus on treating jaundice in children and has successfully used Sarso Tel (mustard oil), and Mahua leaves for liver disorders, especially jaundice.

During the seminar, Mr. Nag conducted a live demonstration of eye health treatments, providing attendees with hands-on experience in his healing methods. He discussed several plant-based remedies, including Rohina for vein blockages, BhuiAmla for liver health, and a stamina-boosting tonic combining Safed Musli, Satavar, and Ashwagandha.

Mr Nag provided attendees with a unique opportunity to observe the practical application of his healing practices, specifically focused on eye health. The session allowed participants to gain first-hand insight into traditional healing techniques and their potential benefits, fostering a deeper understanding of alternative approaches to wellness. The audience is watching the demonstration, engaged and eager to learn more about these these age-old practices

Invited talk session –IV By Local Healer, Mr UpeshwarThakur

Mr Upeshwar Thakur, a local healer from Kanker, shared his extensive knowledge of the medicinal properties of Nirgundi (*Vitex negundo*), a plant central to traditional healing practices. He recommended a decoction that Nirgundi be consumed in the early morning to improve digestion, relieve constipation, and promote longevity with prolonged use. Nirgundi also aids in treating ulcers, sinus infections, and typhoid fever and can be combined with paralysis.

Invited talk session –V By Local Healer: Mrs. Rambha Joshi

In a series of sessions, Rambha Joshi, a local healer from Darbha block, Bastar, shared videos showcasing her 25-year commitment to serving the locals. She discussed the therapeutic use of the plants for various health conditions such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Tuberculosis, Asthma, and Typhoid. She also emphasised the medicinal value of Arjunabark for treating numerous ailments.

Rambha Joshi practices traditional healing passed down through generations and cultivates an array of medicinal plants, including (*Nyctanthesarbor-tristis*), Gulmohar(*Delonixregia*), Harra (*Terminali achebula*), and Shikakai(*Acacia concinna*), on her one-acre land. She underscored the importance of preserving and utilising medicinal plants in local healthcare traditions.

Interactive Session

The interactive session of the seminar was an engaging platform for lively discussions and the exchange of ideas among researchers, esteemed speakers, and traditional healers. Participants, including students, expressed great interest in herbal care and treatment, with some inquiring about solutions for hair loss. It was noted that extracts of Machimudi (*Solanum trilobatum*) and Arjuna Bark (*Terminalia arjuna*) can be directly applied to address this issue. The session culminated in a significant and uplifting moment where the guests reflected on the importance of preserving traditional knowledge. They emphasised the need to integrate these practices into modern society for their contribution to health, well-being, and sustainability. The guests also highlighted the value of continued dialogue between scientific and traditional communities. The session concluded on a note of collaboration and mutual respect, setting the stage for future discussions and initiatives.

The session concluded in an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect, establishing a foundation for future discussions and initiatives. The vote is represented by Dr Nagendra Kumar Chandrawanshi, who serves as the Project Investigator and Assistant Professor at the School of Studies in Biotechnology.

In his remarks, Dr Chandrawanshi conveyed his sincere appreciation to all distinguished guests, speakers, participants, and volunteers whose efforts were instrumental in the event's success. He recognised the significant insights shared during the interactive sessions and underscored the necessity of safeguarding traditional knowledge with scientific progress. Dr Chandrawanshi further expressed his heartfelt gratitude to

the organising committee for their thorough planning and execution and to the attendees for their enthusiastic participation and involvement. In closing, he reiterated the importance of continued collaboration in promoting modern science and traditional wisdom, wishing everyone success in their future pursuits.

At the event's conclusion, a comprehensive lab visit was arranged for all distinguished guests and speakers at various university departments, including the NCNR Department, Biotechnology Department, Pharmacy Department, and Chemistry Department. During this visit, attendees were given an extensive tour of the advanced facilities and laboratories, allowing them to observe the ongoing research and innovations in Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical sciences, and Chemistry. This experience enabled participants to develop a more profound appreciation of how contemporary scientific research is harmonised with traditional knowledge, facilitating future collaborations and interdisciplinary initiatives.

The tour served as an appropriate finale to the event, underscoring the university's dedication to promoting research, education, and knowledge-sharing between traditional healers and scientific researchers. It was a moment to contemplate the potential for synergy between these fields to foster a healthier and more sustainable future.

Program Schedule

NATIONAL SEMINAR

On
Safeguarding Indigenous Knowledge of Medicinal Plants Used by Tribal Healers
 On
06/11/2024

The seminar is designed to explore the identification, formulation, preservation, and cultivation of medicinal plants used by Bastar community, with a focus on the restoration of indigenous health practices.

Esteemed Speakers

Mr. Nirmal Kumar Awasthi Director, Paramparag at Cyan and Vanoushdi Vikas Foundation, Bilaspur	Mr. Upeshwar Thakur Traditional Healer, Kanker	Mr. Vijay Kumar Nag Traditional Healer, Pharagson	Sessions by Traditional Medicine Practitioners
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Patrons

Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla
 Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,
 Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.)
 &
Prof. Rajiv Prakash
 Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai (C.G.)

Program Coordinators	Program Secretaries
Dr. Keshav Kant Sahu SoS in Biotechnology, Pt. RSU, Raipur Dr. Manju Singh University Institute of Pharmacy, Pt. RSU, Raipur Dr. Deependra Singh University Institute of Pharmacy, Pt. RSU, Raipur	Dr. Nagendra Kumar Chandrawanshi SoS in Biotechnology, Pt. RSU, Raipur Dr. Indrapal Karbhal SoS in Chemistry, Pt. RSU, Raipur

Organized by
 Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur
 &
 IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation, Bhilai
 Seminar Hall, School of Studies in Biotechnology
 Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.)

Aim of the Seminar

Throughout history, medicinal plants have played a central role in traditional medicine practices. They also serve as essential components of local diets. It is imperative, that transition towards sustainable lifestyles, encompass the adoption of sustainable diets and the utilization of medicinal plants, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addresses the health and environmental impacts of climate change, and ensure a sustainable future for upcoming generations.

This Seminar aims to disseminate indigenous knowledge regarding use of medicinal plants in the traditional medicine, promote their sustainable cultivation, and emphasize importance of a sustainable diet that aligns with nature, thereby connecting research with practical application. Furthermore, a primary objective is to empower the tribal community, fostering self-sufficiency in employment and entrepreneurship, while also prioritizing the sustainable cultivation and harvesting of medicinal plants.

This seminar will feature the sharing of traditional knowledge from local healers and botanical experts, alongside discussion in a panel format addressing a critical issue: the necessity of protecting medicinal plants that are at the risk of extinction due to the overexploitation and insufficient awareness. Educating the local community on this matter is of utmost importance.

Who can participate

Participation in the Seminar is open to all, including: Traditional Medical Practitioners, Students, Researchers, Gatherers and cultivators of medicinal plants or minor forest products.

S.N.	Programme schedule	
1.	10:30 AM to 10:40 AM	Arrival of Guests, Speakers and other Dignitaries
2.	10:41 AM to 10:50 AM	Lightening of Lamp & Presentation of Bouquets to Guests
3.	10:51 AM to 11:04 AM	Welcome Address: Prof. Keshav Kant Sahu, School of Studies in Biotechnology, Pt. RSU, Raipur
4.	11:05 AM to 11:15 AM	About the Seminar: Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh, the IBITF Project Coordinator & Coordinator, Public Outreach Center, Pt. RSU, Raipur
5.	11:15 AM to 11:30 AM	Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Pt. RSU, Raipur
6.	11:31 AM to 11:45 AM	Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai (C.G.)
7.	11:46 AM to 12:00 AM	Shri B. Anand Babu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Director, SFRTI, Raipur
8.	12:01 PM to 12:40 PM	Invited talk session -I
9.	12:41 PM to 01:15 PM	Invited talk session -II
10.	01:31 PM to 02:00 PM	Lunch
11.	02:01 PM to 02:45 PM	Invited talk session -III
12.	02:46 PM to 3:30 PM	Invited talk session -IV
13.	03:31 PM to 4:15 PM	Invited talk session -V
14.	04:16 PM to 05:00 PM	Interactive Session
15.	05:01 PM to 05:15 PM	Guest of Honors
16.	05:16 PM to 05:30 PM	Vote of Thanks



Glimpses of the Seminar



Arrival of Guests, Speakers Dignitaries and Participants.



Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, Hon. Vice Chancellor of Pt. RSU, presenting plant sapling to Chief Guest Shri B. Anand Babu.



Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Shukla is presenting a plant sapling to Hon. Professor Sachchidanand Shukla.



Inaugural Session



Dr. Nagendra Kumar Chandrawanshi presenting plant sapling to Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh



Dr. Manju Singh presenting a plant sapling to Mr. Nirmal Kumar Awasthi



Prof. Keshav Kant Sahu, extending his warm greetings to everyone present in the Seminar.



Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh, highlighting the key objectives of the project and Seminar.



Professor Sachchidanand Shukla, Hon. Vice Chancellor of Pt. RSU, delivering the speech.



Chief Guest Shri B. Anand Babu, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and SFRTI Raipur Director, delivered the speech.



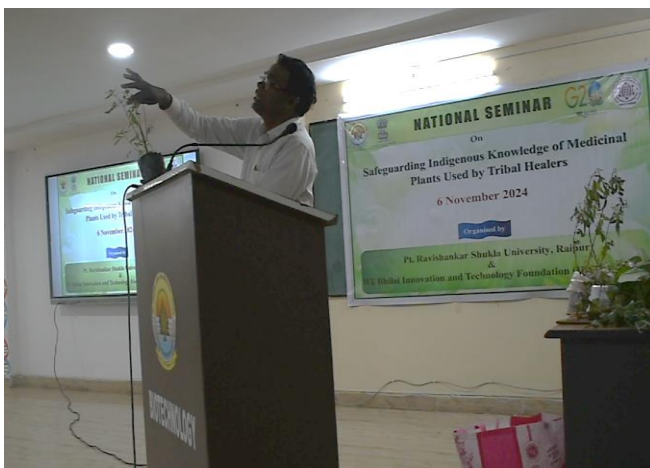
Chief Guest Shri B. Anand Babu Shared valuable insights into the innovative initiatives of the Van Dhan Vikash Kendra in Korba, Chhattisgarh



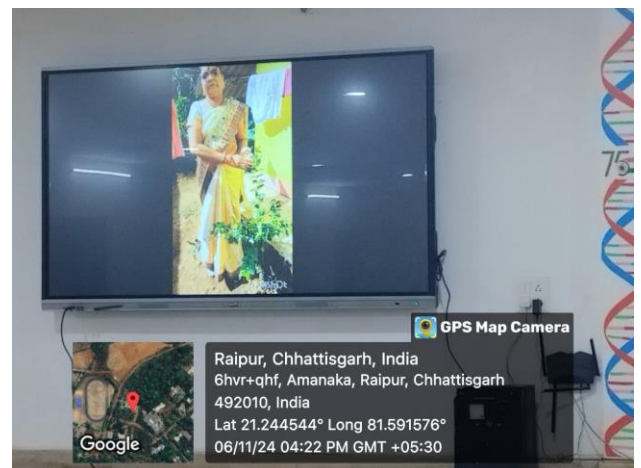
The attendees, ranging from students to professionals, are actively engaged in the session, with some taking notes and others listening intently to the speaker.



Mr. Shukla Prasad Dhruw is seen sharing valuable insights on traditional healing practices



The image above features Mr. Upeshwar Thakur, a local healer from Kanker, sharing his knowledge and work experience on Nirgundi Plant



Mrs. Ramba Joshi, a traditional healer from Darbha Bastar, participated in the seminar virtually and shared her experiences.



Mr. Vijay Kumar Nag, performing live demonstration at the seminar, allowing participants to witness the practical implementation of his healing techniques for eye care.



The session featured a vibrant Q&A segment where participants had the opportunity to engage directly with the speaker.



Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, Hon.Vice Chancellor, bestowed a memento to the chief guest Shri B. Anand Babu



Professor Keshav Kant Sahu presenting a memento to the Esteemed Speaker Mr. Nirmal Kumar Awasthi



Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Shukla presenting a memento to the Esteemed Speaker Mr. Avhgesh Kumar Kashyap



Dr. Indrapal Karbhal presenting a memento to Traditional Healer Mr. Vijay Kumar Nag



Dr. Manju Singh presenting a memento to the Esteemed Speaker Mr. Upeshwar Thakur



Prof. S.K. Jadhav presenting a memento to the Esteemed Speaker Mr. Shukla Prasad Dhruw



Vote of thanks by Dr. Nagendra Kumar Chandrawanshi

This section provides an overview of the plant species presented during the seminar and planted in the department's botanical garden.



These plants were planted for their educational value, Medicinal Value, ecological importance, and aesthetic appeal. The collection represents various plant types, including tropical, medicinal, and native flora.



Vidhara (*Argyaei Nervosa*)



Haldu/Kalmi (*Haldina cordifolia*)



Dhawai phool (*Woodfordia fruticosa*)



Bhuineem (*Andrographis paniculata*)



Gurmar (*Gymnema sylvestre*)



Kali musli (*Curculigo orchioides*)



Keukand (*Costus igneus*)



Kevti (*Ventilago denticulata*)



Kulthi (*Macrotyloma uniflorum*)



Shyam haldi (*Curcuma longa*)



Shatavari (*Asparagus Racemosus*)



Jatamasi (*Nardostachys jatamasi*)



Nagarmotha (*Cyperus rotundus*)



Pattharchatta (*Bryophyllum pinnatum*)



Chitrak (*Plumbago zeylanica*)



Glimpses of the comprehensive lab visit were organised for all distinguished guests and speakers, providing them with an opportunity to explore the Labs of the **NCNR Department**, **Biotechnology Department**, **Pharmacy Department**, and **Chemistry Department**.

Appendix- F: Media coverage

संगोष्ठी: औषधीय पौधों को संरक्षित करने और स्थाई खेती को बढ़ावा देने पर की गई चर्चा

सिटी रिपोर्टर. रायपुर

पं. रविशंकर शुक्ल यूनिवर्सिटी में औषधीय पौधों के स्वदेशी ज्ञान की सुरक्षा पर राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। रविवि और आईआईटी भिलाई इनोवेशन फाउंडेशन द्वारा आयोजित इस संगोष्ठी में "आदिवासी चिकित्सकों द्वारा उपयोग किए जाने वाले औषधीय पौधों के स्वदेशी ज्ञान की सुरक्षा" विषय पर चर्चा की गई। संगोष्ठी का उद्देश्य पारंपरिक



चिकित्सा में औषधीय पौधों के ज्ञान को संरक्षित करना, युवाओं को इसके महत्व से अवगत कराना और स्थाई खेती को बढ़ावा देना था। संगोष्ठी के अंतिम सत्र में पारंपरिक चिकित्सकों एवं विशेषज्ञों को विश्वविद्यालय परिसर के विभिन्न

प्रयोगशालाओं (जैव तकनीकी, रसायन, और फार्मसी विभाग) का भ्रमण भी कराया गया। इस मौके पर रविवि कुलपति प्रो. सच्चिदानंद शुक्ल कुलपति, डॉ. नागेंद्र कुमार चंद्रवंशी सहित 150 से भी ज्यादा रिसर्चर शामिल हुए।

11/11/2024, 16:19

Nat'l seminar held on indigenous medicinal plant knowledge - Times of India

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THE TIMES OF INDIA



Name of the Local Coordinator

(With Signature and Stamp)