

# REGIONAL-CUM-FACILITATION CENTRE SOUTHERN REGION

(NATIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD,  
MINISTRY OF AYUSH, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)



**KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

(An Institution of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment)

PEECHI 680 653, KERALA STATE, INDIA



*Cynanchum annularium*

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), constituted by the Government of India in November 2000, is the apex body for the promotion of medicinal plant sector in the country. The mandate of NMPB is to develop appropriate mechanisms for effective coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organizations and implement policies/programs for overall growth of medicinal plants sector.

Majority of the population in developing countries depends on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare needs, and about 25 per cent of all drug prescriptions are derived from the plants or plant products. Over the years, the increased demand has led to over-exploitation of medicinal plants. Scarcity of genuine raw drugs has resulted in an increase in adulteration and substitution of raw drugs. Many Indian traditional medicinal preparations are not available in a standardized form for want of genuine plant materials, quality control, research and development of herbal drugs.

To meet the increasing demand of medicinal plants, NMPB focuses on promotion of cultivation of commercially important and rare species, as well as their in-situ & ex-situ conservation. NMPB also promotes and supports research & development, capacity building through trainings, creating awareness through various activities, good agricultural and collection practices (GACPs), safety and efficacy and institutional mechanism for quality raw drugs.



*Saraca asoca*

## Setting up of NMPB-Regional Centres

For effective coordination of NMPB programmes, seven regional centers were established in different regions of the country. The Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre Southern Region (NMPB-RCFC Southern Region) is functioning in Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) Peechi.

### Vision of NMPB-RCFC (Southern Region)

The NMPB-RCFC (Southern Region) shall be a one-stop shop for all matters related to the medicinal plants sector in the southern region covering States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka and Union Territories of Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



### Objectives of NMPB-RCFC (Southern Region)

- ◆ Co-ordinate all activities of NMPB in the southern region.
- ◆ Co-ordinate with all other organizations in medicinal plants sector and ensure streamlining their activities in the Southern Region.
- ◆ Develop managerial and technical skills among stake holders in production of quality planting materials (QPMs), cultivation, conservation, harvesting, semiprocessing, value addition, storage, marketing, and quality control.
- ◆ Provide financial and technical support for organizing trainings, workshops, seminars, and interaction meetings.
- ◆ Facilitate development of agro-technology of endangered and high-demanding species.
- ◆ Facilitate production of region-specific quality planting materials.
- ◆ Facilitate/strengthen marketing of medicinal plant produce.
- ◆ Assist different organizations in formulating project proposals in the priority areas identified by NMPB.
- ◆ Document and disseminate success stories of activities supported by NMPB.



## **Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)**

established by the Government of Kerala in 1975, is a premier scientific organization engaged in multidisciplinary research in tropical forestry and biodiversity conservation. The Institute is envisioned as a Centre of Excellence in tropical forestry to provide scientific support for decision making on matters related to forestry with particular emphasis on conservation, sustainable utilization and scientific management of natural resources. KFRI houses secretariates and nodal centers of various national and international organizations. The Institute became a part of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), when the KSCSTE was constituted in 2002. The Chief Minister of Kerala is the President of KSCSTE.



### **Contact**

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