

**HEALING LANDSCAPES:
SMPB KERALA THROUGH THE YEARS**



STATE MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD
AYUSH DEPT. GOVT. OF KERALA

HEALING LANDSCAPES: SMPB KERALA THROUGH THE YEARS

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FOREWORD

The State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala has been entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and coordinating all medicinal plant-related development activities in the State. The period from 2019 to 2026 was a decisive phase in the Board's institutional growth and programmatic expansion, marked by strengthened field interventions, flagship missions, enhanced farmer participation, and increased scientific engagement.

Despite unprecedented challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate variability, and market disruptions, SMPB successfully ensured the continuity of key sectoral interventions. Large-scale promotion of homestead herbal gardens, expansion of cluster-based cultivation, strengthening of nursery networks, conservation of sacred groves, and recovery programmes for RET species stand out as major highlights of this period.

The Board's consistent emphasis on quality planting material production, scientific cultivation practices, capacity building, and farmer-industry linkages has laid a strong foundation for long-term sustainability in the medicinal plants sector. Special focus on women empowerment, tribal participation, student outreach, and local self-government convergence has further strengthened the social impact of our initiatives.

This report presents a consolidated account of the Board's programmes, achievements, infrastructure development, publications, exhibitions, and training activities during 2019–2025. It is intended not only as a record of performance but also as a strategic document for future planning.

I place on record my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kerala, National Medicinal Plants Board, Local Self Government Institutions, research institutes, universities, manufacturing industries, farmer groups, Kudumbashree units, NGOs, and all stakeholders who have actively partnered with SMPB in its mission. I also acknowledge the dedicated service of Dr. T.K. Hrideek, other officers and staffs of the Board whose commitment has made these achievements possible.

Dr. Rajan N Khobragade IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary
Health & Family welfare & Ayush Depts., Govt. of Kerala

CEO'S MESSAGE

The book on Healing Landscapes: SMPB Kerala Through the Years documents six years of dedicated work by the State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala. Rooted in Kerala's biodiversity and Ayurvedic heritage, SMPB has driven progress in medicinal plant conservation, cultivation, QPM production, research support, and public awareness. We serve as the bridge between traditional knowledge, science, livelihoods, and ecology. From 2019 to 2025, despite challenges, SMPB expanded its impact through innovative programmes: conserving rare medicinal plants, promoting farmer cultivation, developing herbal gardens, scaling up Quality Planting Material, and working closely with government bodies, research institutions, LSGIs, and farming communities. This publication is a record of collective effort. It highlights milestones, flagship missions, farmer initiatives, and institutional gains that shaped these years. I gratefully acknowledge the support of the Government of Kerala, AYUSH Department, National Medicinal Plants Board, Scientists, Farmers, Officials, Institutions, and all stakeholders who advanced this mission. SMPB Kerala remains committed to conserving medicinal plant diversity, ensuring sustainable raw material, empowering farmers, and establishing Kerala as a national leader in medicinal plants. I appreciate all who contributed to this publication and wish continued success to everyone working for this sector.

Dr. T.K. Hrideek
Chief Executive Officer
State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala

CONTENT

Chapter	Title	Page No.
1	Introduction	1
	Vision	1
	Mission	1
	SMPB Kerala Objectives	2
2	Central Schemes & State Initiatives	9
	Conservation activities	9
	Production of QPM's	22
	Commercial Cultivation of Medicinal Plants	27
	Post Harvest facilities	34
	Budget	35
3	Special missions & Nationwide Campaigns	36
4	Information, Education, Communication (IEC) Activities	47
	a. All India Radio (AIR) programmes	47
	b. Workshops	48
	c. Seminars	64
	d. Meetings/Trainings conducted	69
	e. Workshops/Meetings/Seminars attended by SMPB officials	73
	f. Exhibitions	78
	g. Awareness programmes on Medicinal plants	83
	h. Special programmes	88
5.	Publications	96
6	Major achievements	102
7	Conclusion	105
	Annexure I	106
	Annexure II	110



Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala (SMPB) was established in 2002 under the administrative control of the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Kerala, and was later brought under the Department of AYUSH. For the past 22 years, SMPB has been actively functioning to promote the medicinal plants sector in the State. The Hon'ble Minister for Health, Women and Child Development serves as the Chairperson of the Board, while the Secretary, Department of AYUSH, is the Vice-Chairman. The headquarters of SMPB is in Thrissur, with a regional office at Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram. The Board comprises both official and non-official representatives from various departments and institutions. The Board presently consists of 23 members, including 12 official and 11 nominated members.

The primary objective of SMPB is to coordinate activities related to the cultivation, conservation, research and development, and promotion of medicinal plants across Kerala. The Board obtains financial assistance for its various schemes from the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) and also receives support from the State Government under both Plan and Non-plan.

Vision

Promote Kerala as an international source and market for high quality organically grown medicinal plants.

Mission

- **Conservation:** Undertake *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of medicinal plants, including rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) species.
- **QPM Production:** Facilitate the production and supply of quality planting materials of medicinal plants.
- **Cultivation:** Encourage the cultivation of medicinal plants through participatory approach to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials for AYUSH industries.
- **Value Addition:** Promote value addition and semi-processing methods to ensure fair pricing and enhanced income for participants.
- **Marketing Support:** Assess demand and supply trends, and provide market information to farmers, traders, and buyers.



- **Research & Development:** Support and promote research and development initiatives related to medicinal plants.
- **Quality Standards & Certification:** Establish quality standards and procedures, and promote national and international certification of products and services.
- **Training:** Strengthen capacity and empower stakeholders through targeted training programs.
- **Awareness:** Create public awareness about the importance of medicinal plants, with special focus on educating the younger generation.
- **Policy Making:** Formulate policies and projects for the conservation, sustainable development, and non-destructive harvesting of medicinal plants.

SMPB Kerala Objectives

- ◆ In-situ conservation of medicinal plants through home/School Herbal garden
- ◆ Conservation and Resource augmentation of RET medicinal species in high demand
- ◆ Establishing medicinal plant nurseries and seed centre
- ◆ Survey, inventorisation and quantification of medicinal plant resources
- ◆ Establishing of Postharvest facilities Viz. drying yards, storage centres and value addition infrastructures.
- ◆ Commercial cultivation of Medicinal plants demanded by the AYUSH industries with buy back agreement.
- ◆ Facilitate the Quality certification of medicinal plants
- ◆ Training and capacity building for Stakeholders
- ◆ Promotional Activities viz. home /school herbal garden.
- ◆ Carry out the national schemes of NMPB in the state

Kerala is a rich repository of plant diversity, owing to its unique phytogeography. The Western Ghats, backwaters, marshes, swamps, and coastal regions harbour a wide variety of plant genetic resources, among which medicinal plants constitute a significant group. Ethnobotanical surveys conducted across the State have revealed valuable information on the traditional uses of medicinal plants, which can be sustainably utilized for the welfare of the people.

Kerala is also part of one of the thirty-four globally recognized biodiversity hotspots. The State's flora comprises over 5,000 recorded species, of which around 900 are used in medicine. Among these, approximately 150 species are extensively used in various traditional systems of medicine. Kerala is a prominent centre for Ayurveda treatment and industry, experiencing rapid growth, particularly with the rise of health tourism. The State has 650 registered Ayurveda units, with an annual trade estimated



at ₹2,000 crores. The annual raw material requirement is approximately 1,00,000 tons, with around 450 raw drugs used in the production of more than 600 Ayurveda medicines. In addition, Siddha, Unani, and Homeopathic systems which are primarily plant based are also gaining popularity.

This report presents an overview of the programmes, initiatives, and achievements of the State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala, with particular focus on conservation efforts, quality planting material production, cultivation promotion, and capacity-building activities undertaken during the period 2019-2025.

A brief narration of the activities undertaken during the early years (2002 - 2019) is given initially followed by a detailed account of the programmes and initiatives carried out during 2019 - 2025.

The State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Kerala, was established for strengthening the medicinal plants sector in the State. Envisaged as a nodal agency for the conservation, cultivation, sustainable utilization, propagation, research promotion, and awareness generation on medicinal plants, the Board has played a significant role in bridging traditional knowledge systems with scientific interventions and institutional support mechanisms. Since its inception, SMPB Kerala has continuously worked towards ensuring the availability of quality medicinal plant raw materials for the AYUSH sector while promoting biodiversity conservation and livelihood opportunities among rural communities.

Kerala, endowed with rich biodiversity and a strong heritage of Ayurveda, possesses immense potential in the medicinal plants sector. However, overexploitation of medicinal species, habitat degradation, loss of traditional knowledge, and increasing demand for quality raw materials posed major challenges during the early years of the Board. Recognizing these concerns, SMPB Kerala initiated a series of programmes aimed at ex-situ and in-situ conservation, sustainable cultivation, capacity building, awareness generation, and value-chain development.

Institutional Development and Early Initiatives (2002–2008)

During the initial years following its establishment, SMPB Kerala concentrated on laying a strong institutional framework for medicinal plants conservation and promotion in the State. The Board initiated collaborative activities with research institutions, government agencies, Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs), and AYUSH stakeholders for strengthening nursery development, production of quality planting materials, and medicinal plant awareness.

Particular emphasis was given to documenting medicinal plant diversity, identifying priority species, and promoting cultivation practices suitable to Kerala's agro-climatic



conditions. Technical collaborations were established with institutions such as the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Research Station (AMPRS), Ayurveda Research Institute (ARI), and other research organizations to support conservation, propagation, and scientific interventions in medicinal plant management.

Awareness generation programmes, seminars, exhibitions, training programmes, and public outreach activities formed an integral part of the Board's early interventions. These initiatives aimed to familiarize farmers, students, local communities, and traditional healers with the ecological, medicinal, and economic significance of medicinal plants.

Expansion of Conservation and Herbal Garden Initiatives (2008–2013)

As part of its efforts to promote medicinal plants conservation at the grassroots level, SMPB Kerala introduced and strengthened various herbal garden initiatives throughout the State. The promotion of household and institutional herbal gardens became an important strategy to enhance awareness and encourage public participation in medicinal plant conservation.

Home Herbal Garden Programme

The Home Herbal Garden Programme was introduced to encourage households to cultivate medicinal plants for primary healthcare needs and conservation purposes. Through the distribution of medicinal plant seedlings and awareness materials, the programme encouraged families to revive traditional healthcare practices and promote medicinal plant conservation at the household level. More than 700 home herbal gardens were established across Kerala, contributing significantly to decentralized conservation and awareness generation.

School Herbal Garden Programme

Recognizing the importance of sensitizing younger generations towards biodiversity conservation and traditional medicinal systems, SMPB Kerala initiated the School Herbal Garden Programme in educational institutions across the State. More than 500 schools were covered under the programme, enabling students to gain practical exposure to medicinal plant identification, cultivation practices, and medicinal applications. Herbal gardens established in schools served as living educational laboratories and played a vital role in strengthening awareness among students regarding indigenous healthcare traditions.



Simultaneously, SMPB Kerala intensified its efforts toward medicinal plants conservation through targeted interventions for ecologically and economically important species. Programmes were designed to address the decline of medicinal plants caused by habitat degradation and unsustainable harvesting.

Rehabilitation of *Santalum album* (Sandalwood) and *Saraca asoca* (Ashokam)

Recognizing the ecological, medicinal, and economic importance of sandalwood (*Santalum album*) and Ashokam (*Saraca asoca*), SMPB Kerala initiated rehabilitation programmes aimed at restoring and augmenting populations of these valuable species in selected districts of the State. The project focused on promoting ex-situ conservation through homestead planting and nursery-based propagation.

The programme was implemented in phases across selected districts including Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki, Thrissur, Malappuram, and Palakkad, with technical support from institutions such as KFRI, AMPRS, and ARI. Large numbers of quality seedlings were produced and distributed to homesteads for planting, thereby contributing to resource augmentation and long-term conservation.

Awareness generation formed a major component of the initiative through seminars, technical classes, brochures, and community-based outreach programmes on the conservation and cultivation of Sandal and Ashokam. The initiative recorded encouraging survival rates, particularly in the case of Ashokam, and successfully demonstrated a participatory conservation model integrating public involvement with scientific support.

Community-Based Cultivation and Livelihood Interventions (2010–2016)

A major milestone in the evolution of SMPB Kerala was the introduction of community-based medicinal plant cultivation programmes aimed at linking conservation with rural livelihoods and assured market support.

“Grameenam” – Medicinal Plants for Health and Wealth

“Grameenam” emerged as one of the flagship initiatives of SMPB Kerala, implemented with financial assistance from the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). The project aimed at promoting ex-situ conservation, large-scale cultivation of medicinal plants, livelihood generation, and sustainable supply of quality medicinal raw materials to AYUSH industries.



Initially implemented in selected Grama Panchayats including Mattathur (Thrissur), Peringamala (Thiruvananthapuram), and Mokeri (Kannur), the project introduced a community-based cultivation model supported by assured buy-back arrangements with major AYUSH industries such as Oushadhi, Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal, Vaidyaratnam Oushadhasala, and Sitharam Ayurveda Pharmacy.

Among the selected Panchayats, Mattathur Grama Panchayat emerged as a successful model, where medicinal plant cultivation expanded to approximately 105 acres covering commercially important medicinal species such as *Plumbago indica* (Chettikoduveli), *Sida alnifolia* (Kurunthotti), *Kaempferia galanga* (Kacholam), and *Curcuma longa* (Manjal). The initiative generated around 19,000 employment days, particularly benefiting tribal women and unemployed rural communities.

The project also promoted fair-price procurement mechanisms for medicinal raw materials collected from nearby forest areas and ensured a reliable supply chain to AYUSH industries through buy-back arrangements. Grameenam thereby established an innovative model integrating conservation, cultivation, livelihood generation, and market assurance.

National Amla Mission

The National Amla Mission was another notable initiative implemented by SMPB Kerala for promoting the cultivation, value addition, and utilization of Indian Gooseberry (*Phyllanthus emblica* / *Embolica officinalis*). The mission emphasized processing, entrepreneurship, and consumer awareness regarding the medicinal and nutritional benefits of amla.

As part of the initiative, SMPB introduced the concept of the “Seven Sisters,” comprising seven innovative amla-based beverage formulations aimed at enhancing consumer acceptance and demonstrating the scope for value addition in medicinal plants-based enterprises. The programme promoted entrepreneurship opportunities and highlighted the economic prospects associated with medicinal plant cultivation and processing.

Oushadhakeralam 2013: A Landmark National Event

A major milestone in the history of SMPB Kerala was the successful organization of “Oushadhakeralam 2013” – AYUSH Expo & National Buyer-Seller Meet on Medicinal Plants, held from 12th to 16th December 2013 at Thekkinkadu Maidan, Thrissur.

The mega event was conceived as a national platform to strengthen the medicinal plants sector through interaction among cultivators, researchers, industries,



policymakers, and stakeholders associated with AYUSH systems. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, while the National Buyer-Seller Meet was inaugurated by Smt. Santosh Chowdhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Shri T. K. A. Nair, Principal Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, attended the programme as Guest of Honour.

The event witnessed the participation of senior officials from the Department of AYUSH, Government of India, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), State Medicinal Plants Boards, State Horticulture Missions, medicinal plant cultivators, AYUSH industries, academicians, researchers, and policymakers from across the country.

"Oushadhakeralam 2013" facilitated exhibitions, buyer-seller interactions, technical sessions, awareness programmes, and deliberations on medicinal plant cultivation, quality raw material availability, value addition, marketing, conservation of threatened species, and sustainable utilization practices. The programme significantly contributed to strengthening market linkages and improving awareness regarding medicinal plants cultivation among farmers and entrepreneurs.

Conservation and Resource Augmentation of Sacred Groves (Kavus)

In recognition of the ecological significance of sacred groves as repositories of biodiversity and traditional conservation practices, SMPB Kerala implemented the project on "Conservation and Resource Augmentation of Selected Sacred Groves (Kavus) of Kerala with Medicinal Plants" with financial assistance from NMPB.

The project aimed at strengthening biodiversity conservation through medicinal plant enrichment, bio-fencing, soil and water conservation, and public awareness generation. Following detailed field inspections, selected sacred groves across Kerala were included for implementation.

Special emphasis was given to the conservation and enrichment planting of medicinal and rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) species such as *Saraca asoca* (Asoka), *Santalum album* (Chandanam), *Aegle marmelos* (Koovalam), and *Oroxylum indicum* (Palakapayyani). Awareness activities and local participation strengthened public understanding regarding the ecological and medicinal significance of sacred groves and reinforced community stewardship in biodiversity conservation.

The project demonstrated encouraging progress and entered its subsequent implementation phase by 2019, thereby strengthening traditional ecological heritage conservation in Kerala.



Gruhachaithanyam: Household-Level Conservation Initiative (2017–2019)

In 2017, SMPB Kerala launched “Gruhachaithanyam”, a flagship initiative aimed at promoting medicinal plant conservation at the household level through the distribution of one seedling each of Arya Veppu (*Azadirachta indica*) and Curry Veppu (*Murraya koenigii*) to homesteads across Kerala.

The project was formally launched on 01 June 2017 by the Hon’ble Governor of Kerala in the presence of the Hon’ble Minister for Health and Social Justice. Envisaged as a three-year programme, the initiative was implemented in phases through active collaboration with Local Self Government Institutions and Government agencies.

The programme recorded a high survival rate and received enthusiastic public participation. During subsequent phases, implementation was strengthened through convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), enabling large-scale seedling production and distribution despite challenges posed by the floods of 2018. Gruhachaithanyam significantly contributed to household greening, medicinal plant conservation, and public awareness regarding the health and economic importance of medicinal plants.

Institutional Consolidation and Transition (2015–2019)

Following the constitution of the AYUSH Department in Kerala, SMPB Kerala came under its administrative jurisdiction in 2015, further strengthening institutional coordination for medicinal plants promotion and sustainable raw material supply to the AYUSH sector.

By 2019, SMPB Kerala had evolved into a dynamic institution integrating medicinal plant conservation, cultivation promotion, livelihood enhancement, public awareness, research collaboration, and market facilitation. Through initiatives such as herbal gardens, species rehabilitation programmes, sacred grove conservation, Grameenam, Gruhachaithanyam, and national-level promotional events, the Board successfully strengthened medicinal plant stewardship across Kerala.

The period from 2002 to 2019 thus laid a strong institutional and operational foundation for the Board’s subsequent interventions in medicinal plant conservation, cultivation, quality planting material production, awareness generation, and sustainable value chain development, paving the way for expanded programmes and achievements during the period 2019–2025.



Chapter 2

CENTRAL SCHEMES & STATE INITIATIVES

Conservation activities

In Kerala, the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) implements tailored conservation and development initiatives that reflect the region's rich phyto geography. SMPB's programmes include establishing *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation areas, promoting herbal gardens in schools, homes, and institutions, and protecting traditional sacred groves that harbour rare and endangered medicinal species. The board also facilitates awareness campaigns, training workshops, and community engagement to foster sustainable use of plant resources

a. School Herbal Garden

The State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) of Kerala has achieved remarkable success over the past decade by successfully establishing school herbal gardens in over 630 schools across the state. Out of the total schools covered, 300 were funded directly by NMPB, 250 were supported under NMPB-SMPB collaboration, and 80 were funded by SMPB under the State Plan scheme. This initiative has not only contributed to the conservation of medicinal plant species but has also nurtured a sense of environmental responsibility among the younger generation. Focusing on 50 key medicinal plant species, this endeavor has yielded outstanding results, with 70% of the schools demonstrating excellent performance in maintaining and utilizing these gardens.

One of the primary objectives of the SMPB's initiative was to raise awareness about the importance of medicinal plants and their role in traditional healthcare systems. By collaborating with educational institutions, the board ensured that students had hands-on experience with cultivating, nurturing, and utilizing these plants. This practical approach has kindled a deep interest in herbal remedies and sustainable practices among the youth.

The selection of 50 medicinal plant species for the school gardens was a carefully considered decision. These species were chosen for their significance in traditional medicine, biodiversity conservation, and ease of cultivation. The variety of plants allowed students to learn about different botanical families, growth requirements, and the preparation of herbal medicines. Moreover, the initiative has served as a living laboratory for students to explore the connections between science, culture, and health. The school's herbal garden provides aesthetic charm with vibrant *Cassia fistula*, *Saraca asoka*, etc., Fruit-bearing delights like Amla, Pomegranate, and Annona thrive. The Neem tree offers shade, hosting eco-friendly classes, especially for lower primary students, fostering a harmonious blend of nature and education

The remarkable success rate of 70% in maintaining these school herbal gardens showcases the commitment of both students and teachers to the cause. Regular training sessions, workshops, and exchange programs conducted by SMPB ensured that the schools received continuous guidance in garden management and plant utilization.



The impact of these herbal gardens extends beyond the schools themselves. The communities surrounding the schools have also benefited from the accessibility to medicinal plants and knowledge about their uses. Furthermore, this initiative has contributed to the preservation of indigenous knowledge and the conservation of valuable plant species.

The school herbal garden project was sanctioned In 2019-20 and 2 school herbal gardens were established with 50-75 medicinal plants comprising both herbs and trees during 2020-21, 8 school herbal gardens were established with 50-75 medicinal plants comprising both herbs and trees. Seventeen (17) School Herbal gardens were sanctioned during the year 2022-23 under State Plan. Sanctioned amount has already been released to schools and the developing work of Herbal gardens is progressing well.



Inauguration of Herbal Garden at A.J College of Science and Technology, Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram by Dr. P. Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Board member, SMPB Kerala.



Inauguration of Herbal Garden at TKMM College, Haripad, Alappuzha District



Distribution of medicinal plants to students by Mr. P.K. Raju, Deputy Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation



"Marunnu Muttam" (Medicinal plants in School premises) at 5 schools in Alappuzha District. The district level programme was inaugurated by Dr. Priya Devadhath, Executive Committee Member, SMPB Kerala on 14/07/2022.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) sanctioned a project titled "Establishment of Herbal Garden in Selected 100 Schools in Kerala" with a total budget of Rs. 53 lakhs. The main intention of the project is to promote the importance of conservation and cultivation of medicinal Plants and its sustainable utilization in our daily life among students. For the selection of schools, SMPB invited application through print and online media. Out of the numerous applications received, 100 schools across the state were selected. The first installment to all the selected schools has been disbursed for the timely initiation of the project. Some schools expressed their willingness to promote and nurture medicinal plants through active participation by clubs such as the Eco Club, Nature Club, and National Service Scheme (NSS).



The enthusiasm is matched by the proactive involvement of many teachers, who have embraced the idea of establishing a small nursery on the available school land. This nursery aims to produce seedlings for the coming year, ensuring the sustainability of the initiative. SMPB already provided a list of medicinal plants to the schools, guiding the selection and planting process. The implementation of this project is successfully ongoing, reflecting a collaborative effort towards environmental stewardship and educational enrichment.



Planting of Medicinal Plants at LCUPS, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur



Deweeding done by Scout and Guides at Sarvodaya HSS Eachome, Wayanad



Established School Herbal Garden at Sarvodaya HSS Eachome, Wayanad



QR code displayed in Herbal Garden at Aryampadam, Thrissur



Exhibition of Medicinal Plants in Schools as a part of awareness programmes



Display boards erected for individual plants



b. Model Demonstration Garden

For creating awareness among the public, students and farmers SMPB provided subsidy to develop four Medicinal plants Demonstration Gardens in the State as given below:

- 1) Oushadhi, Sub center, Pariyaram, Kannur
- 2) Kannur University, Kannur
- 3) Regional Agriculture Research Station, Ambalavayal, Wayanad
- 4) Kerala Agriculture University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur



Medicinal Plants Demonstration Garden at College of Forestry, KAU, Thrissur



Medicinal Plants Demonstration Garden at Kannur University, Kannur.

c. Institutional Herbal Garden

1. Herbal Garden at Raj Bhavan Campus

As part of establishment of special Herbal gardens all over the nation, NMPB sanctioned the project to State Medicinal Plants Board Kerala to establish a Herbal Garden in the Raj Bhavan premises at Thiruvananthapuram. SMPB entrusted the work to Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode. The Herbal Garden was raised in two acres of land in the Kerala Raj Bhavan compound. Garden at Raj Bhavan was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Justice (Retd.) Sri. P. Sathasivam in presence of Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice, Smt. K. K. Shailaja Teacher, Dr. B Ashok Kumar IAS, Secretary AYUSH, Govt. of Kerala, Smt. Shobita Biswas IFS, Chief Executive Officer, NMPB and other dignitaries on 03/08/2016. At present, the garden houses more than 3,000 plants representing 206 medicinal species, including aromatic, rare, and threatened taxa. All plants are reported to be healthy and growing well. The garden features special thematic groups such as Star



Trees, Spice Plants, Hair Tonic Plants, and species constituting the ingredients of classical Ayurvedic formulations like Dasamoola, Dasapushpa, Thriphala, Thrikatu, and Nalpamaram. Each plant is labeled with scientific and common names, and descriptive information boards are also displayed across the garden. The layout follows an informal landscaping design, integrating trees, shrubs, herbs, and climbers with well-laid footpaths to ensure accessibility. The hedges and border plants used are also of medicinal value.

As part of standard documentation and cataloguing practices for a model herbal garden, a 'Handbook on Medicinal Plants in the Herbal Garden at Raj Bhavan, Kerala' has been prepared. The handbook serves as a popular-scientific reference featuring plants arranged in alphabetical order of their scientific names, along with regional names in English, Malayalam, and Sanskrit, indexed as appendices. It provides details on medicinal uses, plant parts utilized, and additional uses such as applications in food, spices, timber, or ornamental gardening. The publication is enriched with colour photographs of the plants and various views of the garden, highlighting the diversity and richness of the collection.



Inauguration of the Raj Bhavan garden by Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Justice (Retd.) Sri. P. Sathasivam in presence of Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice, Smt. K. K. Shailaja Teacher



SMPB established an Institutional Herbal Garden with 100 medicinal plants at the Govt. Homeo Hospital in Neyyattinkara, Thiruvananthapuram, with funding from the National AYUSH Mission Kerala. The garden serves as an informative resource for the public about Medicinal Plants, their properties and uses. The garden was opened for public on 31/12/2024.



Medicinal plants garden established at Govt. Homeo Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram



Vertical Garden established at Govt. Homeo Hospital Thiruvananthapuram



2. Herbal Garden at St. Thomas College, Thrissur

SMPB facilitated the establishment of an institutional Herbal Garden at St. Thomas College, Thrissur, an autonomous institution. More than 300 plants were planted in the garden covering 80 species. The financial support was given by NMPB and the garden was inaugurated by Mar. Tony Nelankavil, Bishop of Thrissur Arch Diocese in the presence of Dr. T.K. Hrideek CEO, SMPB and other dignitaries on 05/06/2024.



Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO SMPB planting a Medicinal Plant at HG St. Thomas College Thrissur

3. Herbal Garden at Vimala College, Thrissur

SMPB was involved in the establishment of an Herbal Garden at Vimala College, Thrissur, an autonomous institution. Approximately 250 plants were planted in the garden covering 60 species. The financial support was extended by NMPB and the garden was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Sr. Beena Jose on 14/03/2025.



Inauguration of Herbal Garden at Vimala College Thrissur

d. Conservation and Resource augmentation of selected Sacred Groves of Kerala with Medicinal Plants

The project titled "Conservation and Resource Augmentation of Selected Sacred Groves of Kerala with Medicinal Plants" was implemented by the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Kerala, with financial assistance from the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Central Sector Scheme. The project was sanctioned in 2016, and the second installment of funds was released in 2019, facilitating the continuation and consolidation of conservation efforts across the selected sacred groves in Kerala. Considering the ecological and cultural significance of sacred groves as natural repositories of biodiversity, SMPB conceived and submitted this project with the primary objective of strengthening and enriching the existing groves with valuable medicinal plants. The project aimed at conserving and enriching medicinal plant diversity in selected sacred groves, creating public awareness particularly among the younger generation about the importance of protecting these



ecologically sensitive areas, and promoting both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation to enhance the overall biodiversity of the State. The initiative also sought to create a clean and green environment around the groves through the planting of medicinal species and to ensure the effective utilization and protection of the existing land by replacing invasive weeds with valuable medicinal plants. During implementation, SMPB emphasized the conservation of the existing flora, soil and water conservation measures, bio-fencing, and awareness creation. A list of medicinal plants commonly found in sacred groves was circulated to all implementing agencies for reference and uniform execution. Additionally, SMPB instructed the inclusion of important Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) medicinal plants such as *Saraca asoca* (Asoka), *Santalum album* (Chandanam), *Aegle marmelos* (Koovalam), and *Oroxylum indicum* (Palakapayyani) in the plantation activities. To ensure visibility and uniformity across project sites, SMPB designed and distributed a model metallic display board to be installed at the entrance of each sacred grove, indicating the names of the funding and implementing agencies along with the number of species conserved. As part of the project activities, the implementing agencies organized local awareness programmes highlighting the ecological and medicinal importance of sacred groves. These initiatives played a vital role in fostering environmental consciousness and instilling a sense of responsibility among the local community, particularly the youth, towards the conservation and sustainable management of sacred groves.

During 2020–21, the second phase of the project was implemented following the release of the second instalment of funds. Under this phase, SMPB sanctioned 79 sacred groves across the State for conservation and resource augmentation activities. In implementing the project, greater emphasis was placed on the conservation of existing flora, soil and water conservation, bio-fencing, and awareness creation among local communities. To ensure uniform and effective implementation, SMPB provided a list of medicinal plant species commonly found in sacred groves to all participating agencies and applicants. In addition, the Board also initiated the planting of important Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) medicinal species, including *Saraca asoca* (Asoka), *Santalum album* (Chandanam), *Aegle marmelos* (Koovalam), and *Oroxylum indicum* (Palakapayyani), within the selected sacred groves.



Developing planting program in sacred groves



Sacred groves

Display boards in sacred groves



Medicinal plants planted at Valiyaveetil Kav, Thazhava, Kollam



Medicinal Plants planted at Sree Dharmasastha Temple, Poozhikkad, Pathanamthitta.



Medicinal Plants planted at Sree Edappara Chamundeswari Temple, Kannur

PRODUCTION OF QPM's

To ensure the availability of quality planting material of medicinal plants in the State, the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), utilizing the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) Medicinal Plants allocation, extended subsidy support to public and private sector institutions for the establishment of Medicinal Plant Nurseries. Selected Government and non-Government agencies, namely Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Ayurveda Research Institute, and Oushadhi possess well-established nursery infrastructure and trained technical manpower. With the support of these nurseries and financial assistance from the State Government, SMPB has produced and distributed more than 10 lakh quality seedlings.

The selected species included commercially important plants, Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species, and those widely used across AYUSH systems as well as in traditional home remedies. Major species propagated included *Saraca asoca*, *Santalum album*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Cassia fistula*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Butea monosperma*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, and *Murraya koenigii*, among others.

The seedlings were distributed free of cost to the public, students, farmer societies, Kudumbashree units, and selected societies/NGOs actively engaged in promoting the medicinal plants sector. This initiative significantly strengthened nature conservation efforts and fostered a planting culture among the public, particularly the younger generation.

During the year 2020-21 SMPB produced and supplied around two lakhs quality seedlings.



QPM-Oushadhi nursery at Kannur



During the year 2021-22 SMPB produced and supplied around two lakhs quality seedlings.



QPM of *Azadirachta indica*



QPM of some medicinal plants in Kerala Agricultural University



QPM of Oushadhi



QPM at ARI, Poojapura



QPM of *Azadirachta indica* and *Aloe vera* ready for distribution at Oushadhi, Thrissur



QPM nursery at Oushadhi Kannur

During the year 2023-24, SMPB produced and supplied around three lakhs quality seedlings.



QPM nursery at Oushadhi Kannur



Medicinal plants produced for distribution at Aralam Farm, Kannur



During the year 2024-25, SMPB produced and supplied around five lakhs quality seedlings.



Pongamia pinnata - Nursery at Oushadhi, Thrissur



QPM of Medicinal plants produced for distribution at MBGIPS Kozhikode



Medicinal plants Nursery at ARI Thiruvananthapuram



Medicinal plants Nursery at ARI Thiruvananthapuram

1) Medicinal Plants Nursery

To ensure the availability of quality seedlings of medicinal plants in the State, SMPB provided subsidy to various public and private sector institutions for establishing Medicinal Plants Nurseries. By utilizing the NAM Medicinal Plants allotment during the period SMPB sanctioned 12 nurseries in the state. The details are given below

a. Model Nurseries (Public sector) - 4

- Oushadhi, Sub Center, Pariyaram, Kannur
- Kerala Forest Research Institute, Sub Centre, Devikulam, Munnar
- Malabar Botanic Garden & Institute of Plant Science, Kozhikkode
- University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram



Medicinal plants nursery - Oushadhi, Kuttanellur - Thrissur District



B. Model Nursery (Private sector) – 1

i) Peermade Development Society, Peermade, Idukki



Medicinal plants nursery – Peermade Development Society – Idukki District

C. Small nurseries (Public sector)- 2

- i) Govt. Ayurveda Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram
- ii) Aralam Farming Corporation (Kerala) LTD., Kannur
- iii) The Pharmaceutical Corporation (IM) Kerala limited (Oushadhi), Kuttanellur



Medicinal plants nursery – Govt. Ayurveda Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram



Medicinal plants nursery – Aralam Farming Corporation – Kannur District



D. Small Nurseries (Private sector) - 4

- i) Mattathur Labour Contract Co-Operative Society, Thrissur
- ii) Danwanthari Herbal Products, Thodupuzha, Idukki
- iii) Nagarjuna Herbal Concentrates, Thodupuzha
- iv) MVR Ayurveda Medical College, Pappinissery, Kannur

2) Seed center

For the collection and storage of medicinal plants seeds, the following two institutions were selected for the establishment of Seed Center in the State.

- 1) Forestry College, Kerala Agriculture University, Thrissur
- 2) Department of Botany, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram



Medicinal Plants Seed Centre at College of Forestry KAU, Thrissur



Medicinal Plants Seed Centre at Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram



Commercial Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

To promote large-scale cultivation of medicinal plants across Kerala, the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Gram Panchayats, MGNREGS, Kudumbashree units, farmer groups, and co-operative societies, implemented targeted cultivation programmes linked with assured market support from AYUSH industries. Major species cultivated included *Saraca asoca*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Adhatoda zeylanica*, *Plumbago indica*, *Kaempferia galanga*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Santalum album*, *Aloe vera*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Piper longum*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Coleus barbatulus*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Alpinia galanga*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Alpinia calcarata* and *Desmodium gangeticum*.

During the year 2021–22, medicinal plant cultivation was promoted across 550 hectares, benefiting 346 farmers. Farmer clusters entered into buy-back MoUs with Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers to ensure guaranteed procurement of produce.



During the year 2022–23, medicinal plant cultivation was promoted across 450 hectares, benefiting 420 farmers. Farmer clusters entered into buy-back MoUs with Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers to ensure guaranteed procurement of produce.



Cultivation of *Alpinia galanga* under Plantain and Rubber plantations at Pathanamthitta District



Sandal wood plantations at Elappully and Attappady areas of Palakkad District



Kaempferia galanga cultivation under Coconut plantation in Thrissur District



Aloe cultivation in Kannur district

During the Year 2023-24, the cultivation of medicinal plants has been extended to 330 acres based on the 12 MOUs signed with Ayurveda Medicine manufacturers. 230 farmers have been benefited. Despite the requirement in low quantity for certain raw materials in Ayurvedic medicine manufacturing, there is a shortage of availability of these medicinal plants. To overcome this issue SMPB initiated the cultivation of medicinal plants such as Hibiscus, Rauvolfia, Centella asiatica, etc. through selected local farmers according to the requirements of the medicine manufacturers in order to ensure their timely supply. To provide additional income to the farmers, seeds of cultivated medicinal plants like *Sida*, *Saraca*, *Asparagus* etc. were procured from the farmers. These seeds are then used for cultivation in subsequent years. Last year, about 1.2 tonnes of seeds worth approximately Rs. 9 lakhs (including 400 kg of *Sida* and 700 kg of *Saraca*) were collected from the farmers, enabling both increased income for farmers. Major Species cultivated are *Saraca asoca*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Adhatoda zeylanica*, *Plumbago indica*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Santalum album*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Piper longum* and *Desmodium gangeticum*.

During this period, SMPB promoted Mattathur Labor Co-operative farmers Society (MLCS) and they alone have supplied raw materials worth around Rs. 1 crore to Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers like Oushadhi, Kottakkal Aryavaidyasala etc. The Mattathur Labour Co-operative Society, in association with the State Medicinal Plants Board, has been undertaking extensive medicinal plant cultivation in around 75 hectares spread across 10 Grama panchayats of Thrissur district, 8 panchayats of Alappuzha district and 11 panchayats of Kannur district, in collaboration with the Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNRES). This initiative has helped to create more employment opportunities in rural areas, especially among women. In the Kalliasseri Legislative constituency of Kannur district, 30 acres of *Sida* cultivation was successfully carried out, resulting in the production of around 8 tonnes of *Sida*. This initiative provided approximately Rs. 10 lakhs income to Kudumbashree members and farmers.



Sandal plantation (6ha) at Attappady, Palakkad



Sandal Seedlings at the time of planting



One year old Sandal Plantation at Attappady, Palakkad



Sida (Kurunthotti) cultivation at Thrissur District by Kudumbasree Members



Sida (Kurunthotti) cultivation at Kannur District by Kudumbasree Members



Cultivation of *Alpinia galanga* (Kolinchi) under rubber plantation at Pathanamthitta District



Harvesting of *Sida*



Collection of *Sida* seeds by winnowing



Harvesting of *Alpinia*

During the year 2024–25, medicinal plant cultivation was expanded to 140 acres state wide, based on MOUs signed with Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers. A total of 280 farmers has benefited from these efforts.



Gmelina arborea plantation



Gmelina arborea plantation



Ocimum tenuiflorum plantation

Mission on Kurumthotti Cultivation

Kurumthotti, or Bala (*Sida alnifolia*), is an important raw material required to produce classical Ayurvedic medicines. The Ayurvedic drug manufacturing industry in Kerala predominantly relies on classical formulations, resulting in a substantial annual demand for Kurumthotti—estimated at approximately 700 tons. Currently, a major portion of this raw material is sourced from natural habitats. However, these natural sources are insufficient to meet the growing demand. Consequently, the cultivation of Kurumthotti has gained increasing importance over the years.

To address the shortage of the high-demand medicinal plant *Sida* (Bala), a dedicated cultivation campaign was launched in 2023. Kerala undertook this campaign with the goal of improving productivity and ensuring a steady supply of high-quality raw materials for Ayurvedic industries. In 2024–25, the campaign has been successfully implemented across 200 hectares in 35 selected Gram Panchayats, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, NREGS, the Mattathur Labour Contract Cooperative Society (MLCS), and other stakeholders.

This mission has strengthened backward linkages in Ayurvedic raw drug production and promoted income generation in rural areas, especially among women. So far, around 30 tons of *Sida* have been harvested and procured by Oushadhi, the state-run Ayurvedic medicine manufacturer, under a buy-back agreement. To provide additional income opportunities, SMPB has also facilitated the procurement of seeds of cultivated medicinal plants such as *Sida*, *Saraca*, and *Asparagus* directly from farmers. These seeds are being preserved for use in future cultivation seasons, ensuring sustainability and continuity in medicinal plant farming.



Sida seedlings transplanted to the fields



Different Stages of Sida cultivation



Weeding in the *Sida* cultivation field



Sida cultivation under Coconut Plantation



Birds eye Veiw of *Sida* cultivation areas



Purification of Sida seeds from the field by traditional methods



Sida kept for field drying after harvesting



Sida roots kept for final drying in a Solar-based Dryer

Impact of Commercial Cultivation Initiatives (2021–2025)

- Structured introduction of commercial medicinal plant cultivation in Kerala
- Expansion of cultivation area across multiple districts through cluster-based models
- Assured market access through buy-back MoUs with AYUSH manufacturers
- Enhanced farmer income and employment generation, particularly among self-help groups
- Reduced dependence on forest-sourced raw materials
- Strengthened raw drug supply chain for the Ayurvedic industry

These initiatives reflect a focused approach towards strengthening the supply of raw drug and enhancing farmer participation through institutional collaboration and targeted campaigns



Post Harvest Facilities

Collection Centre, Drying yard and Godown for Medicinal Plants.

Post-harvest facilities constitute a critical component of the medicinal plants sector, ensuring that raw materials are properly handled, processed, and preserved after harvesting. These facilities support activities such as cleaning, grading, drying, storage, and primary processing, which are essential for maintaining the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicinal plant produce. The establishment of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure minimizes losses, enhances shelf life, and ensures compliance with quality standards required for domestic use and export markets. Strengthening post-harvest management systems thereby contributes to value addition, better price realization for cultivators, and the overall sustainability of the sector.

To ensure the collection, storage and drying of medicinal plants raw materials SMPB initiated the establishment of 3 Collection Centres, 4 Drying sheds and 4 Godowns in the State. The selected institutions are Ayurveda Medicine Manufacturers working in the Co-operative sector.

- 1) Kerala Ayurvedic Co-operative Society Ltd., Kozhikkode
- 2) AMPIC Co-operative Pharmacy, Thrissur
- 3) Sahyadri Ayurvedic Pharmaceuticals Idukki
- 4) Oushadhi, The Pharmaceuticals Corporation (IM) Kerala Ltd.



Amphic Co Operative Pharmacy Ltd.



BUDGET

Year wise	Plan fund (State fund)	Nucleus fund	Non plan fund support for salary	Non plan fund support for Non salary	GOI Project fund	Other funds
2019-2020	3,6,41,806	26,11,670	20,00,000	1,99,400	30,95,000	
2020-2021	20,00,000	7,83,422	16,26,000	1,72,500		6,76,10,600
2021-2022	12,15,000	33,30,000	35,74,000	1,50,660		1,51,11,200
2022-2023	19,80,000	28,00,009	47,60,000	1,84,760		16,00,000
2023-2024	10,00,000	35,00,000	47,679,43	1,86,000	43,90,000	1,40,000
2024-2025	15,00,000	35,00,000	55,43,587	2,35,160		

CHAPTER 3

SPECIAL MISSIONS & NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

A. Grameenam Project

As part of Grameenam project, SMPB in collaboration with the Mattathur Labour Co-operative Society undertook the cultivation of medicinal plants in 30 acres of land, focusing on commercially important annual and biennial species such as *Plumbago indica* (Chettikoduveli), *Sida alnifolia* (Kurumthotti), *Kaempferia galanga* (Kacholam), *Pseudarthria viscida* (Moovila), *Asparagus racemosus* (Sathavari), *Karimkuringi*, *Kodithua* and (Orila).

The society successfully harvested and marketed approximately 40 tonnes of raw materials. All the harvested materials were supplied to industries with whom Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) had been executed, thereby ensuring a steady supply of quality raw drugs to AYUSH industries.

Table 1. Medicinal plants marketed under Grameenam Project (2019-2020)

Table 1. Medicinal plants marketed under Grameenam Project (2019-2020)

SI No.	Medicinal Plant name	Quantity (in kg)
1	Kurumthotti	23,591
2	Karimkuringi	12,593
3	Orila	4,229
4	Moovila	93
5	Kodithua	77
	Total	40,583



Plumbago indica



Kaempferia galanga



Harvested
Asparagus racemosus



Sida alnifolia



Harvested *Sida*



Harvested *Plumbago*



Honoring the farmer for his contribution
in medicinal plant cultivation

b. Grihachaithanyam Project

The Grihachaithanyam Programme, implemented by the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Kerala, was a flagship initiative aimed at promoting the cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants at the household level. The programme sought to integrate medicinal plant cultivation into daily life by encouraging every family to grow and maintain medicinally valuable species within their homesteads. It aimed to create public awareness on the importance of medicinal plants in traditional healthcare, promote environmental sustainability, and ensure the availability of raw materials for Ayurveda and other Indian systems of medicine.

The programme was implemented with the active participation of Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs), Kudumbashree units, schools, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). By ensuring community involvement, the project strengthened the connection between people and nature while promoting self-reliance in primary healthcare. Seedlings of commonly used medicinal plants were supplied free of cost to the beneficiaries, and awareness was created through training programmes, seminars, exhibitions, and household-level campaigns.

The first and second phases of the programme were successfully completed, generating wide public participation and awareness across the State. Building on the success of these initial phases, the third phase of the Grihachaithanyam Programme was implemented in 2019, covering 447 Gramapanchayaths across Kerala with the active involvement of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). To create awareness among LSGD members and implementing officers, 14 district-level workshops were organized during June and July 2019 for officials representing MGNREGS, Agriculture, and Gramapanchayaths, with a total of 1,485 participants attending these sessions.

Under this phase, SMPB procured quality seeds and supplied them to the Gramapanchayaths for nursery establishment and seedling production. The nurseries were managed by the respective local bodies. However, heavy monsoon rains adversely affected seed germination and resulted in the loss of many germinated seeds and young seedlings, which delayed seedling production. Despite these challenges, approximately 11.80 lakh seedlings were successfully raised comprising 7.50 lakh Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and 4.30 lakh Curry Leaf (*Murraya*

koenigii) seedlings. Distribution to households commenced on 15 December 2019 and was completed by March 2020.

For effective dissemination of information and to promote sustainable practices, SMPB prepared and distributed bilingual brochures in Malayalam and English on the cultivation, utilization, and medicinal value of Neem and Curry Leaf. These brochures were widely circulated among households and during public events such as exhibitions and seminars. The Board also organized painting and quiz competitions in collaboration with schools and research institutions to enhance awareness among students about the significance of medicinal plants in everyday life.

The Grihachaithanyam Programme received overwhelming public response and was widely appreciated across various sections of society. The initiative successfully integrated medicinal plant cultivation into community life, enhanced biodiversity



Production of Medicinal Plants Seedlings at Grama panchayath Level with the support of MGNREGS workers



conservation at the local level, and revived traditional healthcare practices. Through this programme, SMPB promoted a clean, green, and healthy Kerala, ensuring both environmental and social sustainability through the active participation of its citizens.

c. Rogapradhirothathinu Grahaushadhikal (Home remedies for disease prevention)

Many medicinal plants traditionally grown in homesteads have long been used to enhance human immunity and support primary healthcare practices. However, this tradition has been gradually disappearing over time. The project 'Grahaushadhikal' was conceived with the objective of reviving this practice by reintroducing medicinal herbs into household gardens. The project promoted the cultivation of commonly used medicinal plants such as Thulasi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*), Manjal (*Curcuma longa*), Inchi (*Zingiber officinale*), Kiriya (*Andrographis paniculata*), Panikoorka (*Coleus amboinicus*), Thippali (*Piper longum*), Kurumulaku (*Piper nigrum*), Aryaveppu (*Azadirachta indica*), Adalodakam (*Justicia adhatoda*), and Chittamruthu (*Gymnema sylvestre*), which are widely known for their use in treating common ailments.

Initially, SMPB implemented the project in two Municipal Corporations of Kerala as a pilot initiative, distributing kits containing five selected medicinal plants to 1,000 households in each corporation. The state-level launch of the project, along with the release of the brochure and poster, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice on 5 June 2020. Around 50,000 seedlings were produced and procured from the nurseries of the Government Ayurveda Research Institute, Oushadhi, and the Mattathur Labour Co-operative Society. This initiative successfully created widespread awareness and fostered a renewed interest among the younger generation in the importance of medicinal plants and traditional systems of healthcare.





Mattathur Model

To scale up cultivation and reduce dependence on wild collection, SMPB launched the Mission Kurumthotti Cultivation Programme with the active participation of the Mattathur Labour Co- operative Society (MLCS). The initiative began in Mattathur Grama Panchayat, Thrissur District, and resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pharmaceutical Corporation (IM) Kerala Ltd. (Oushadhi), a leading government-sector Ayurvedic medicine manufacturing unit in Kerala. Initially, the programme was implemented with the support of MGNREGS. The success of the pilot cultivation gradually led to its expansion into adjacent panchayats. At present, 40 gramapanchayats spread over Kannur, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kollam, and Alappuzha districts are engaged in this mission. Various government agencies, including the Agriculture Department, Kudumbashree, Local Self-Governments, and MGNREGS, are now actively associated with the Kurumthotti cultivation programme. Encouraged by the results, other leading Ayurvedic medicine manufacturing industries have also signed MoUs to procure Sida roots directly from cultivators.

In the last couple of years, about 100 hectares of land—including barren areas and coconut plantations—have been brought under Kurumthotti cultivation. Last year alone, the mission produced 80 tons of crude drug material valued at 80 Lakhs. In addition, Bala seeds were procured from farmers at the rate of ₹1,500 per kilogram to support the expansion of cultivation in the coming year. Approximately ₹20 lakhs has been utilized for the purchase of seeds.



Nationwide Campaigns

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, has been implementing nationwide awareness campaigns focusing on selected medicinal plant species to promote their conservation, cultivation, and utilisation. These species-specific campaigns, including those on Ashwagandha, Amla, Giloe, Moringa etc., aim to disseminate knowledge on the therapeutic importance of medicinal plants and encourage their integration into daily life.

The campaigns are designed to generate public awareness, promote cultivation among farmers, and ensure sustainable availability of raw materials for the AYUSH sector. Activities typically include distribution of planting materials, training programmes, awareness workshops, and multimedia outreach through print and electronic media.

These initiatives also contribute to livelihood generation by encouraging farmer participation and strengthening the medicinal plant value chain. By linking traditional knowledge with scientific validation and market potential, the campaigns play an important role in the overall development of the medicinal plants sector in the country.

i. Amrita for life (2019)

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) sanctioned a project titled "Promotion and Propagation of Amrita (*Tinospora cordifolia*) in Kerala". The production of seedlings commenced in reputed government nurseries, including the Kerala Forest Research Institute (Peechi), Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (Palode), Government Ayurveda Research Institute (Poojappura), and Oushadhi (Thrissur). The seedlings have been planted in sacred groves and selected schools where NMPB/SMPB projects are being implemented. Around 2 lakhs seedlings were produced and have also been distributed to the public, societies, and NGOs, and the distribution and planting activities are still in progress.

For the statewide promotion of the Amrita campaign, the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) designed and printed two types of multicoloured brochures in Malayalam, which were distributed widely through exhibitions, seminars, and awareness programmes. These brochures were officially released by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice, Smt. K. K. Shylaja Teacher. SMPB also participated in various national and international exhibitions, displaying hoardings, potted plants, and Ayurvedic products made from Amrita to raise public awareness about its medicinal and daily-use significance. To engage and educate children, painting and quiz competitions were organized with the support of research institutions and schools.



Production of Amrith seedlings in the Nurseries of Oushadhi, KFRI, JNTBGRI & ARI



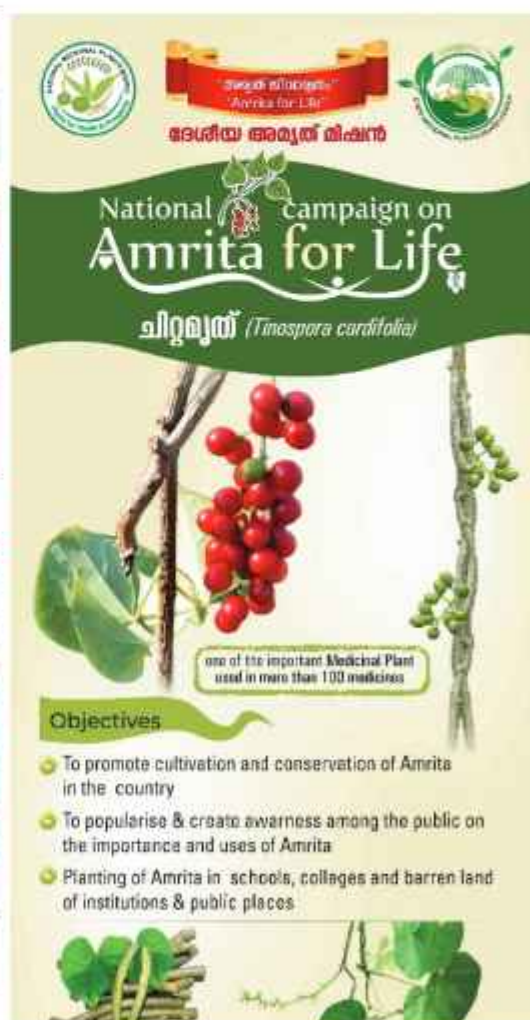
Distribution of Amrita seedlings to ISM & Block Panchayath officials



Display of Amrit seedlings in Vertical Garden



Release of Brochure & Leaflet on 'Amrita for life' by Smt. K.K. Shailaja Teacher, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice



Leaflet on 'Amrita for life'



Exhibition of Amrith included Medicines of Oushadhi

ii. Ashwagandha - A Health Promoter (2023)

Withania somnifera, commonly known as Ashwagandha, is a medicinal plant widely used in the traditional Ayurvedic system of medicine. In an effort to promote the consumption and cultivation of this valuable plant, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) initiated a comprehensive campaign. The primary objective of the NMPB campaign was to increase the awareness and utilization of Ashwagandha. This involves encouraging its cultivation across suitable regions in India and to create awareness on the plant's significant medicinal benefits. After a thorough evaluation of the cultivation aspects of ashwagandha, including soil and climate requirements, the State Medicinal Plants Board identified the Chittur block in the Palakkad District as an ideal location for trial cultivation. This region was chosen due to its favorable soil as well as climatic conditions that align well with the needs of Ashwagandha plants. Four trial plots, each covering one acre, were established to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of ashwagandha cultivation in Kerala. ISD Farm, Eruthempathy, State seed farm, Muthalamada and two farmer fields in Eruthempathy were chosen for the demonstration trial.

Two varieties of Ashwagandha, 'Pushti' and 'Poshita', were planted in these trial plots. These varieties were supplied along with Vesicular-Arbuscular Mycorrhiza (VAM) sourced from Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) to enhance plant growth and soil health. The soil pH of the trial plots was analyzed, revealing a pH range from 7.5 to 8.1.



This indicates a slightly alkaline to moderately alkaline soil, which is suitable for Ashwagandha cultivation. This project marks the first instance of Ashwagandha being planted for commercial cultivation in Kerala. The initial results from the experimental plots were highly promising, demonstrating successful growth and adaptability of Ashwagandha in the region.

To raise awareness among local farmers, a seminar on Ashwagandha cultivation was held on February 27, 2024, at Krishi Bhavan in Eruthempathy, Palakkad. Approximately 90 farmers attended the seminar, which was well-received and deemed a success. The seminar aimed to educate farmers on the benefits and cultivation practices of Ashwagandha and about 15000 seedlings of Ashwagandha were distributed. The seminar was a resounding success, reflecting the farmers' keen interest and enthusiasm in adopting Ashwagandha cultivation. The positive response highlights the potential for expanding Ashwagandha farming in Kerala and beyond. The initiative to promote *Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha) cultivation in Chittur block, Palakkad District, has shown promising results. The establishment of trial plots and the successful seminar have laid a strong foundation for future cultivation efforts. With continued support and education, Ashwagandha farming can become a viable and profitable agricultural practice in select pockets of Kerala, contributing to the state's medicinal plant industry at the same time benefiting local farmers. A book in local language entitled Aswagandha, detailing the cultivation methods, suitable soil and climate conditions, and medicinal products derived from Ashwagandha was published by SMPB.

As a continuation of the initiative, further expansion of the trial cultivation was undertaken during 2024-2025. Additional demonstration plots were established in one acre at Ahalia, Palakkad, and two acres at the Attappady Farming Co-operative Society, Agali Attappady. These extended trials were carried out to validate the adaptability and performance of Ashwagandha within the district. The results from these locations were also found to be successful, reaffirming the suitability of selected regions in Palakkad for Ashwagandha cultivation and strengthening the scope for its scaled-up promotion in Kerala.



Field preparation for Ashwagandha cultivation



Ashwagandha seeds (Pushti & Poshita)



Ashwagandha seedlings produced in protrays at Govt. Seed farm Eruthempathy, Palakkad



Ashwagandha demonstration plot of farmer at Eruthempathy



Inauguration of Seminar on Ashwagandha



Distribution of Ashwagandha seedlings to Farmers



Honoring Ashwagandha Farmers



Ashwagandha Hand Book and Brochure in Malayalam



CHAPTER 4

Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Activities

a) All India Radio (AIR) Programme

SMPB signed an agreement with All India Radio (AIR) for a series of broadcast with respect to medicinal plants. As part of this programme during the year 2022, Seventy-two episodes were broadcasted by AIR, Kochi FM. These episodes covering various topics related to Medicinal plants conservation, cultivation, marketing, sustainable utilization, primary health care, scientific harvesting, value addition, semi processing etc. The panel committee included SMPB officials, Board Members of SMPB, Ayurveda doctors, Botanists, experts in medicinal plants, selected farmers etc. It was a phone in programme which connected local people with their queries.

This initiative has yielded positive results, generated significant interest and encouraged many individuals to start planting of medicinal plants. During the course of the programme, we received a substantial number of enquiries from farmers who were interested in learning more about medicinal plants and their cultivation. These enquiries highlighted the growing interest among farmers in diversifying their crops and exploring new opportunities in the field of herbal medicine.

Six live episodes were telecasted in Doordarshan channel. CEO, SMPB was the key speaker and each episode has one hour duration. The topics discussed in the live programme are given below

- Introduction to Medicinal Plants:** This episode provided an overview of medicinal plants, their importance in healthcare, and the potential economic benefits of cultivating them.
- Cultivation Techniques:** This episode focused on the specific cultivation techniques required for various medicinal plants. It covered topics such as soil preparation, seed selection, planting methods, and suitable climatic conditions.
- Medicinal Properties and Uses:** This episode highlighted the diverse medicinal properties of different plants and their applications in traditional medicine. It aimed to educate the audience about the potential health benefits of using medicinal plants.
- Market Opportunities:** This episode explored the market opportunities available for medicinal plants. It discussed the demand for herbal products, potential buyers, and avenues for selling medicinal plant produce.
- Sustainable Practices:** This episode emphasized the importance of sustainable practices in medicinal plant cultivation. It covered topics such as organic farming, pest management, and the conservation of medicinal plant species.



- f. **Success Stories:** The final episode showcased success stories of farmers who had successfully ventured into medicinal plant cultivation. These stories aimed to inspire and motivate others to take up similar initiatives.

During the year 2024-25, SMPB signed an agreement with All India Radio (AIR) for a series of broadcast with respect to medicinal plants. As a part of this programme 72 episodes (10 minutes duration) and 4 live phone-in programme (one-hour duration) were broadcasted by AIR. These episodes covered various topics related to Medicinal plants conservation, cultivation, marketing, sustainable utilization, primary health care, scientific harvesting, value addition, semi processing etc.

b) Workshops

1) National level

i) Consultative Workshop on Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges - Special Reference to Export-Oriented Marketing

The Consultative workshop on "Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges - Special Reference to Export-Oriented Marketing" funded by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) was organized by the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Kerala on March 24, 2025, at Hotel Dass Continental, Thrissur. The event served as a platform for policy makers, researchers, practitioners, and industry leaders to engage in meaningful discussions on the current challenges and future potential of medicinal plant cultivation, raw material production, and marketing with a focus on exports. A total of 55 participants attended the workshop.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session. Followed by prayer, Dr. M Navas, Senior Scientific Officer, SMPB Kerala, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of aligning traditional medicine practices with global quality standards and sustainable sourcing. Dr. T K Hrideek, Chief Executive Officer, SMPB, delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the Board's commitment to supporting research, innovation, and value chain development in the medicinal plant sector. The workshop was officially inaugurated by Dr. Rajan N Khobragade IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. In his keynote address, he underscored the necessity of integrating traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific approaches to ensure global competitiveness and public health relevance.

The first technical session, titled "Prospects, Challenges, Solutions in AYUSH Herbs", was delivered by Dr. P Madhavankutty Varier, who emphasized the growing demand for herbal formulations worldwide and the need to preserve traditional practices while adopting scientific validation. The second session, "Conformity Assessment: Solution to Quality Raw Material and Access to Global Markets", was led by Dr. Manish Pande, Director, Quality Council of India. He presented insights into the role of conformity assessment in building credibility for Indian herbal products in international markets. In the third session, "Export and International Marketing for Medicinal Plants and Raw Materials", Mr. Ashuthosh Srivastava, Deputy Director of AYUSH EXCIL, Ministry of AYUSH, outlined the global trade landscape for Indian medicinal plants. The fourth session,



“Raw Material Production and Supply Chain of Medicinal Plants”, featured a presentation by Dr. S D Singh IFS (Retired), Senior Consultant in Forestry and Agroforestry. He addressed the gaps in the existing supply chains and the necessity for farmer cooperatives, proper cultivation techniques, and post-harvest management practices focusing on the case study of Uttarakhand. In the final technical session, “Challenges in Export-Oriented Marketing of Raw Drugs of Traditional Systems of Medicine: An Overview”, was presented by Dr. Jayanthi A, Principal Scientific Officer at the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy.

Recommendations of the Workshop

i. Promote Organic and Cluster-Based Cultivation:

Encourage grassroots-level participation by linking organic farmers and promoting cluster-based cultivation models instead of scattered, individual-based cultivation. Implement a cyclic approach: Conservation–Cultivation–Consumption–Commerce (4Cs).

ii. Develop Standardization and Certification Systems:

Establish clear and unified standardization procedures for raw drugs and formulations at both national and international levels. Expand certification systems (e.g., AYUSH Mark, QCA) for single and combination drugs to assure quality and market access. Strengthen quality control and standardization under a unified system to facilitate export-oriented marketing

iii. Expand Cultivation and Scale up Production:

Formulate practical modalities to expand cultivation areas and scale up product output, including selection of priority crops and developing agro-techniques for more species. Develop a database for availability and sustainable use of medicinal plants with BMCs’ support.

iv. Certify Wild-Collected Raw Materials:

Ensure that raw materials collected from the wild or forests, which are naturally organic, are properly certified for international markets.

v. Support Individual Enterprising Farmers:

Identify and support enterprising farmers and build Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the medicinal plants sector, similar to the agriculture model.

vi. Identify and Address Critical Gaps:

Work with farmers to identify critical gaps in cultivation, harvesting, processing, and post-harvest practices, and invest in developing Good Agricultural, Collection, Harvesting, and Storage Practices.

vii. Develop Cultivation and Resource Maps:

Prepare comprehensive cultivation maps for key crops, indicating total cultivation areas, locations, and availability to guide planning and marketing.



viii. Implement Licensing Systems:

Introduce licensing systems to identify genuine farmers and ensure traceability and authenticity of raw drugs.

ix. Facilitate Market Access:

Prepare action plans to capture markets for raw materials and products, improve market research to understand international regulations, and organize regular Buyer-Seller Meets and Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets.

x. Enhance Regulation and Conservation:

Strengthen regulations for collection, storage, and transport, especially for rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) species. Categorize medicinal plants by abundance and threat status to guide conservation and sustainable use.

xi. Develop Sustainable Cultivation Models:

Adopt and replicate successful cultivation models like the Mattathur model and Kurunthotty story as all-India examples. Select 50 priority medicinal plants for focused cultivation based on market demand and sustainability.

xii. Invest in Research and Development:

Increase investments in R&D for AYUSH products, processes, agro-techniques, phyto-pharmaceuticals, natural products, and improved harvesting and processing methods.

xiii. Establish FPOs in medicinal plant sector for better resource pooling.

Like in the field of general Agriculture, farmer Producer Organisations may be formed exclusively for medicinal plants for better resource pooling, marketing etc.

xiv. Strengthen Quality Control:

Bring all quality control and standardization programmes under a single umbrella to avoid duplication and strengthen enforcement of standards for domestic and export markets.

xv. Encourage Value Addition:

Move towards producing standardized herbal extracts and phyto-pharmaceuticals instead of exporting only raw materials.

xvi. Benchmarking and Roadmaps:

Develop clear roadmaps and benchmarking strategies covering production volumes, target markets, pricing, cost recovery, stakeholder engagement, and documentation.

xvii. Converge Government Schemes:

Ensure convergence of state and central government schemes to maximize support for cultivation and processing.

xviii. Establish Institutional Networks:

Foster collaborative ventures and networks linking industry, academia, and research institutions to build capacity and share expertise.

xix. Mitigate Contamination:

Formulate measures to eliminate or reduce heavy metal contamination in raw drugs.

xx. Government as Facilitator:

Ensure that Kerala government continues to act as an active facilitator, providing incentives and support to farmers and the industry.



Inauguration of National Level Consultative Workshop on Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges – Special Reference to Export-Oriented Marketing by Dr. Rajan N Khobragade IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Kerala



Delegates attending the Workshop



Presentations by Experts



Dr. Manish Pande, Director,
Quality Council of India



Mr. Ashuthosh Srivastava,
Deputy Director, AYUSH EXCIL



Dr. S D Singh IFS (Retired), Senior
Consultant in Forestry and
Agroforestry



Dr. Jayanthi A, Principal Scientific Officer, Pharmacopoeia Commission
for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy. Dr. S D Singh IFS (Retired), Senior
Consultant in Forestry and Agroforestry



Dr. D Ramanathan, General
Secretary of AMMOI





ii) Consultative Workshop on Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges –Special Reference to Raw Materials

The Consultative Workshop on “Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges – Special Reference to Raw Materials”, jointly organized by the State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Kerala, and other key stakeholders, was successfully conducted on March 25, 2025, at Hotel Dass Continental, Thrissur. A total of 54 participants including farmers attended the workshop. The inaugural session commenced at 9:30 AM with a prayer. Dr. M. Navas, Senior Scientific Officer, SMPB Kerala, delivered the welcome address, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the participants and highlighting the objectives of the workshop. Dr. T K Hrideek, Chief Executive Officer, SMPB Kerala and Managing Director of Oushadhi, delivered the presidential address, stressing the need for stronger policy frameworks and community-driven approaches to ensure a sustainable supply of medicinal plant raw materials. The event was officially inaugurated by Smt. Shobhana George, Chairperson of Oushadhi and former MLA, who delivered the keynote address. She highlighted Kerala’s pivotal role in India’s AYUSH sector and emphasized the importance of harmonizing traditional knowledge with modern research and export-oriented strategies.

The first session, on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Biodiversity Laws, was delivered by Dr. V Balakrishnan, Member Secretary of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board. The second session, held from 10:30 to 11:00 AM, featured a presentation by Dr. Rajamohan V, Special Officer at IRIA, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, on Sustainable Raw Materials Availability. The third session resumed at 11:15 AM with a talk by Mr. A O Sunny, Retired Assistant Conservator of Forests and Consultant to SMPB Kerala, on Rules Related to the Collection of Medicinal Plants from Forest Areas. The fourth session, conducted from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM, featured Dr. D Ramanathan, General Secretary of AMMOI and Managing Director of Sitaram Ayurveda. He spoke on the topic AYUSH Industries and Availability of Raw Materials, highlighting the growing demand for certified, high-quality raw materials and the need for backward integration with farmer clusters, improved traceability systems, and supportive policy interventions. The fifth session, from 12:15 to 12:45 PM, showcased a Success Story in Medicinal Plant Cultivation – Mattathur Model by K P Prasanth, Secretary of the Mattathur Labour Contract Co-operative Society.

Recommendations of the Workshop

i. Strengthen Biodiversity Governance and Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS)

- Prepare and maintain a comprehensive inventory of spl. bio-resources and actual raw material availability.
- Clearly define raw material requirements sourced from nature to prevent over-extraction.
- Establish mandatory registration for traders and vendors dealing in medicinal plant raw materials.
- Ensure certification of raw drugs, whether sourced from the wild or cultivated, and implement BMC certification for cultivated products.
- Develop a modern, transparent framework for ABS that aligns with international conventions and generates fair economic returns to local communities.



- Validate traditional knowledge, particularly of tribal communities, and ensure fair benefit sharing.
- Form a BMC consortium to strengthen local-level implementation, compliance monitoring, and capacity building.

ii. Sustainable Cultivation and Conservation Practices

- Promote organised cultivation through joint farming, cluster models, and co-operative approaches (e.g., the Mattathur Kurunthotti Model).
- Encourage the replacement of ornamental plants with medicinal species to increase coverage and community health benefits.
- Prioritise high-demand species for cultivation and encourage farmers to utilise NMPB and SMPB subsidy schemes.
- Expand location-specific cultivation practices to maximise efficacy and potency.
- Develop agro-techniques for key species, including detailed guidelines on habitat, parts used, maturity period, and sustainable harvesting methods.
- Select suitable cultivation areas with attention to soil suitability and heavy metal contamination; identify and address regional gaps.
- Support cultivation aligned with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and international norms.
- Encourage sustainable harvesting, avoiding destructive practices such as premature collection and invasive species proliferation.
- Strengthen traditional conservation methods alongside scientific approaches.

iii. Quality Assurance and Value Addition

- Develop local pre-processing and semi-processing facilities, including drying yards, cutting and chopping units, and GMP-certified centres.
- Promote farm-level and cooperative-level value addition, including packaging and processing for the export market.
- Encourage quantification of plant parts used in formulations and rationalisation of ingredient numbers to reduce environmental burden.

iv. Fair Pricing, Market Linkages and Support Mechanisms

- Create awareness among farmers about the scope of Ayurveda and market opportunities.
- Establish tripartite agreements between farmers, industry, and government to guarantee minimum support prices.
- Strengthen direct farmer–industry linkages and make use of buyer groups such as AMMOI.
- Promote buy-back farming models to secure market access and stable income for farmers.
- Develop a licensing system for genuine farmers to ensure traceability and quality control.
- Support organised production based on a crop map that balances short-term and long-term crops to ensure year-round supply.



Inauguration of National Level Consultative Workshop on Medicinal Plants: Prospects and Challenges -Special Reference to Raw Materials by Smt. Shobhana George Ex. MLA & Chairperson Oushadhi



Dr. T K Hrideek
Chief Executive Officer, SMPB



Dr. V Balakrishnan, Member
Secretary, Kerala
Biodiversity Board



Dr. Rajamohan V, Assistant
Professor Govt. Ayurveda
College, Thiruvananthapuram



Mr. A O Sunny, ACF
(retd.) Consultant SMPB



Farmer under MLCS
sharing Experience



Dr. D Ramanathan,
General Secretary,
AMMOI



Farmer under MLCS
sharing Experience



2) State level

a) Capacity Building Workshop for Agriculture Officers

The State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, organized a capacity-building workshop for Agriculture Officers on medicinal plant farming on 28th June 2024 at Thrissur. The workshop was inaugurated by Mrs. Shobana George, Ex-MLA and Chairperson of Oushadhi, and the presidential address was delivered by Dr. T. K. Hrideek, CEO of SMPB. Sri Muhammed Harris P.A., Deputy Director of Agriculture (Horticulture), Thrissur District, delivered the introductory remarks, while Sri K. V. Govindan, Executive Member of SMPB, facilitated the programme. The event saw the active participation of 120 officers, including Assistant Directors of Agriculture and Agriculture Officers from across the district. Prof. (Dr.) N. Miniraj, Former Dean of Kerala Agricultural University and Consultant (Agri/Horti), SMPB, delivered an insightful presentation on the prospects and challenges of medicinal plant cultivation in Kerala. Sri K. P. Prasanth, Secretary, Mattathur Labour Contract Society, Thrissur, shared practical field-level approaches and challenges faced in medicinal plant farming. Mrs. Anila Thomas, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Mathilakam Block Panchayat, shared her experiences and learnings from previous medicinal plant cultivation initiatives. Dr O L Pius, JSO SMPB introduced NMPB and SMPB Schemes on development of Medicinal plants. Discussions focused on the medicinal plant development schemes of the Department of Agriculture, priority species required in medicinal formulations in Kerala, and strategies to integrate medicinal plant cultivation into mainstream agriculture.



Inauguration of Capacity-building workshop for agriculture officers on medicinal plant farming by Smt. Shobhana George Ex MLA, Chairperson Oushadhi.



Capacity-building workshop for agriculture officers on medicinal plant farming



Number of other workshops were conducted by the State Medicinal Plants Board as part of its ongoing efforts to promote awareness, capacity building, and best practices in the medicinal plants sector. These programmes focused on various aspects such as cultivation techniques, sustainable harvesting, value addition, and post-harvest management. The details of these workshops are presented in the table below.

Table 1. Other workshops conducted

Date	Name of the Programme	Participants	Venue	VIPs attended
June–July 2019	District Level Workshops under Gruhachaithanyam (14 districts)	1485 officers (MGNREGS, Agriculture, GP)	Across all districts, Kerala	Not specified
14/02/2020	Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation, Sustainable Utilization & Home Remedies	102 beneficiaries	Mala, Thrissur	Not specified
26/03/2021	Stakeholders Workshop	Officials from SMPB, RCFC, Aralam FC, Forest Dept., Kudumbasree, MGNREGS, Ayurveda Industry	Aralam Farming Corporation (Kerala) Limited	Dr. N. Padmakumar (NMPB)
08/10/2021	Block Level Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	40 farmers	Elappully GP, Palakkad	Smt. K. Revathy Babu (GP President)
23–24/11/2021	Two-day Workshop on Conservation, Cultivation & Sustainable Utilization	40 farmers	Mattathur, Thrissur	Smt. Aswathy V.B (President), Sri B. Shamsudhin, Dr. T.K. Hrideek
03/01/2022	District Level Workshop on Homestead Cultivation & Primary Health Care	88 Kudumbasree members	Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College	Dr. Latha K.K (Principal), Sri C.P. Pauly (Councilor)
14/02/2022	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	80 farmers/Kudumbasree	Muriyad GP, Thrissur	Prof. R. Bindhu (Minister for Higher Education)
05/03/2022	Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	80 farmers	Parappukkara GP, Thrissur	Sri K.K. Ramachandran (MLA)
21/06/2022	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation	40 farmers	Chakkittapara GP, Kozhikode	Sri K. Sunil (GP President)
28/06/2022	Workshop on Medicinal Plants Cultivation	50 farmers	Moodadi GP, Kozhikode	Sri K. Sreekumar (GP President)



Date	Name of the Programme	Participants	Venue	VIPs attended
25-28/04/2023	Three-day Workshop on Drug Formulation & Analytical Techniques for Quality Control	Drug Inspectors & Lab Assistants	Mahatma Gandhi University	Prof. Sabu Thomas (Vice Chancellor)
29/11/2023	One Day Workshop on Cultivation & Marketing of Medicinal Plants	250+ farmers & public	Oushadhi Auditorium, Thrissur	Sri Pramod G Krishnan IFS (PCCF)
15/03/2024	Stakeholder Workshop on Medicinal Plants (Master Plan – Thrissur)	Agri Officers, Oushadhi, Farmer Societies	SMPB Office, Thrissur	Dr. T.K. Hrideek (CEO)
03/03/2024	Workshop on Cultivation & Semi Processing	Selected farmers	Kottiyam GP Hall, Kannur	Sri K.P. Mohanan (MLA)
10/03/2024	Workshop on Cultivation & Semi Processing	Selected farmers	Kannapuram GP Hall, Kannur	Smt. K. Rathi (President)
04/04/2024	Capacity Building Workshop for Forest Officers (IAS Management) (IAS Management)	50 Forest Officers	CCF Office, Thrissur	Prof. R. Bindhu (Minister for Higher Education) Mrs. Shobana George (Ex-MLA, Chairperson Oushadhi)
28/06/2024	Capacity Building Workshop for Agriculture Officers	120 Officers	Thrissur	
03/12/2024	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	160 farmers	Kalliyassery Block Panchayat, Kannur	Sri M. Vijin (MLA)
27/01/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	80 farmers	Annamanada GP, Thrissur	Sri V.P. Vinod (President)
06/02/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	75 farmers	Govt. Orange & Vegetable Farm, Nelliampathy, Palakkad	Sri P. Prasad (Minister for Agriculture)
15/02/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	150 farmers	Mattathur GP, Thrissur	Not specified
28/02/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	100 farmers	Madakathara GP, Thrissur	Mrs. Indira Mohan (President)
10/03/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	75 farmers	Valappad GP, Thrissur	Sri Jith V.R (Vice President)
17/03/2025	One Day Workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation	100 farmers	Sasthamcotta Block Panchayat, Kollam	Mrs. Shanidha (ADA)



Inauguration of Workshop by Prof. R. Bindhu, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education at Muriyad Grama panchayath, Thrissur on 14/02/2022



Participants



Workshop inaugurated by Smt. Aswathy V.B, President, Mattathur Grama panchayath in the presence of Dr. T.K Hrideek CEO, SMPB on 23/11/2021



Resource persons delivering classes on different aspects of Medicinal plants



Inauguration of Workshop by Sri. CP Pauly, councilor, Thrissur Corporation on 03/01/22



Inaugurated by Sri. K.K. Ramachandran, MLA on 05/03/2022



Workshop on medicinal plants cultivation organized at Moodadi Grama panchayath, Kozhikode on 28/06/2022



Workshop on Medicinal Plants and Drug Formulation in Ayurveda-classes and Lab Demonstration



Inauguration of Workshop on Medicinal Plants by Sri. Pramod G Krishnan IFS, PCCF, Forest Dept



1) Workshop Inaugurated by Sri. K. P Mohanan, MLA, Koothuparambu 2) View of audience



Capacity-building workshop for forest officers on the Management of Invasive Alien Species through Medicinal Plant Cultivation.



Inaugural Address by Sri. Vijin, MLA at One-day workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation at Kalliyasseri, Kannur



Inauguration of One-day workshop on Medicinal Plant Cultivation by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Sri P Prasad at the Orange and Vegetable Farm Nelliampathy, Palakkad

c) Seminar

State level

State Level Seminar on "Role of Sacred Groves in Conservation of Nature" was organized at Thevakkal, Ernakulam District on 29th February 2020. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. C Raveendranath, Hon'ble Minister for Education. Classes on various topics related to sacred groves, medicinal plants and conservation of nature were taken by Dr. N. Sasidharan, Deputy Director, NMPB -RCFC Southern Region; Dr. V Balakrishnan, Member Secretary, Kerala State Biodiversity Board; Dr. N.C Indushoodan Rtd. DFD, Kerala Forest Dept. More than 350 peoples were attended the one-day seminar.



Date	Name of the Programme	Participants	Venue	VIPs Attended
05/06/2019	Seminar on Medicinal Plants (with CARD NGO)	Not specified	Nadavayal, Wayanad	Sri C.K. Saseedran (MLA), Sri I.C. Balakrishnan (MLA)
05/06/2019	Environmental Day Celebration & Seminar on Medicinal Plants	Not specified (1000+ seedlings distributed)	Thrissur (with Oushadhi)	Adv. K. Rajan (MLA, Ollur)
06/06/2019	Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation	Not specified	Peringamala, Thiruvananthapuram	Adv. D.K. Murali (MLA)
29/02/2020	State Level Seminar on "Role of Sacred Groves in Conservation of Nature"	350+	Thevakkal, Ernakulam	Prof. C. Raveendranath (Minister for Education)
02/03/2022	Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	60 farmers	Varadharappilly GP, Thrissur	T.G. Asokan (President)
10/03/2022	Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	40 farmers	Alagappa Nagar GP, Thrissur	Sri Prinson (President)
27/06/2022	One Day Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation	75 farmers	Vellamunda GP, Wayanad	Smt. P. Radha (President)
11/10/2022	One Day Seminar on Conservation, Cultivation & Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants	150	University of Kerala	Dr. A.G. Pandurangan (Former Director)
06/11/2023	National Ayurveda Day Celebration & Seminar on Cultivation and Semi Processing	Selected farmers	Kadannappilly-Panappuzha GP, Kannur	Sri M. Vijin (MLA)
24/10/2024	One Day Seminar on Medicinal Plants	100 students	S.N. College, Cherthala	Dr. Priya Devadath (Executive Member SMPB)
13/02/2024	One Day Seminar on Medicinal Plants	85 (75 farmers + 10 GP members)	Nanniyode GP, Thiruvananthapuram	Smt. Shylaja Rajeevan (President)
24/02/2024	District Level Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	60	Govt. LPS & Pre-Primary School, Vilappil, Peyad	Smt. Lilly Mohan (President)
13/03/2024	District Level Seminar on Medicinal Plants	75 (125 plants distributed)	Cooperative Bank Auditorium, Chithara, Kollam	Sri T.K. Premkumar (DGM, NABARD), Sri M.S. Murali (President)
30/01/2024	District Level Seminar on Cultivation, Conservation & Utilization of Medicinal Plants	85 farmers/ cluster leaders	Mavelikkara, Alappuzha	Smt. K.G. Rajeswari (District Panchayath President)
25/02/2025	State Level One Day Seminar on Medicinal Plant Cultivation (Women Empowerment – Escalera Expo 2025)	100 women farmers	Thiruvananthapuram (in collaboration with Kerala State Women Development Corporation)	Not specified



Seminar on medicinal plants cultivation and marketing at Varandharappilly Grama panchayath on 02/03/2022



Seminar on medicinal plants cultivation and marketing at Alagapanagar on 02/03/22



One day seminar on medicinal plants cultivation organized at Vellamunda Gramapanchayath, Wayand on 27/06/2022



Inauguration of Ayurveda Day and Workshop by Sri. M. Vijin, MLA, Kalliyasserri on 06/11/2023



1) Seminar inaugurated by Smt. Shylaja Rajeevan, President Nanniyode Gramapanchayt, 2) Class on Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Marketing by Dr. M Navas, SSO, SMPB



Inauguration of seminar by Sri. T K Premkumar, DGM, NABARD 2) Class on Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Marketing by Dr. P Sanjeevkumar,



Inauguration of seminar by Smt. K.G Rajeswari, President, District Panchayath Alappuzha 2) Classes on medicinal plants Dr. Priya Devadath & Prof. (Dr.) N. Miniraj, Consultant, SMPB



Classes on Ashwagandha Prof. (Dr.) N. Miniraj & Sri. A. O. Sunny Consultant, SMPB



Awareness programme organized as part of National Ayurveda Day Observance at SN College Cherthala Alappuzha



State Level One Day Seminar on Medicinal Plant Cultivation Exclusively for women empowerment at Thiruvananthapuram



c. Meetings/Trainings conducted

Several meetings and training programmes were conducted to facilitate effective implementation of activities, strengthen stakeholder coordination, and enhance the technical knowledge of beneficiaries and field functionaries. These programmes provided a platform for review, planning, and capacity building across various components of the medicinal plants sector. The details are presented in the table below

Table 2. List of meetings/trainings

Date	Programme Title	Venue	Target Group / Participants	Key Dignitaries / Resource Persons	Major Outcome
11/12/2019	Training on Value Addition of AMLA (Phyllanthus emblica)	Thiruvananthapuram	120+ women	CEO (i/c), SMPB Board Members	Capacity building on value addition, home remedies & sustainable
11/10/2021	SMPB-Rubber Board Collaborative Meeting (Medicinal Plants as Intercrop)	SMPB HQ, Thrissur	Rubber Board officials, Ayurveda industry, farmers	Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board; CEO SMPB	Decision to promote medicinal plants as intercrop in rubber plantations
06/12/2021	Review Meeting – Rubber Intercropping Initiative	SMPB HQ, Thrissur	Officials from Rubber Board & SMPB	Dr. Jessy M.O., Director of Research, Rubber Board	Review of implementation; 9 acres funded in Thrissur
25–27/07/2022	Three-Day Training – Cultivation of Economically Important Medicinal Plants	Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute	60 Kudumba-sree members	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (Exec. Member SMPB), Dr. R. Prakashkumar (Director JNTBGRI)	Skill devt.; field & product demonstration; promotion of cultivation
13–15/06/2022	Three-Day Training – Acts & Rules Related to Ayurveda Drug Industry	KTDC Grand Chaitram Hotel	Drug Enforcement Officers & Drug Inspectors	Justice (Retd.) Abraham Mathew; Justice (Retd.) Dr. K. Narayana Kurup	Strengthened regulatory knowledge in AYUSH drug governance
14/06/2022	One-Day Training – Acts & Rules Related to AYUSH Industries (Southern Districts)	KTDC Grand Chaitram Hotel	60 Ayurveda manufacturers & technical staff	Dr. Rajan N. Khobragade IAS	Industry compliance & regulatory awareness
12–13/07/2022	Two-Day Training – Medicinal Plants Quality Parameters in Manufacturing	Hotel Elite International	22 Drug Inspectors & Analysts	Dr. T.K. Hrideek; Dr. P. Sanjeevkumar	Capacity building in quality control & field exposure



Date	Programme Title	Venue	Target Group / Participants	Key Dignitaries / Resource Persons	Major Outcome
09/07/2022	Training – Medicinal Plants Cultivation for Tribal Farmers	Silent Valley Forest Dormitory, Makkali	Tribal farmers (Mattathur & Attapady Kurumba Societies)	SMPB Officials	Promotion of cultivation & sustainable harvesting
28/11/2022	One-Day Training – Acts & Rules Related to AYUSH Industries (Northern Districts)	Thiruvananthapuram	120+ women	CEO (i/c), SMPB Board Members	Capacity building on value addition, home remedies & sustainable
18-30/11/2024	In-Service Training – Newly Joined Drug Inspectors (Batch I)	Various (SMPB coordinated)	Newly appointed Drug Inspectors	SMPB & Drug Control Dept	Technical familiarization & field training
20/01-01/02/2025	In-Service Training – Newly Joined Drug Inspectors (Batch II)	Various (SMPB coordinated)	Newly appointed Drug Inspectors	SMPB & Drug Control Dept	Capacity building in taxonomy, pharmacognosy & drug laws
12/12/2024	Meeting on AYUSH-Industry Collaboration	SMPB HQ, Thrissur	AYUSH Industry & Oncology experts	Representatives from Malabar Cancer Centre; Kerala Forest Research Institute; National AYUSH Mission	Initiated integrative oncology collaboration



Meeting with CEO, SMPB and Rubber Board chairman Dr. K.N. Raghavan IRS, for the extension of medicinal plants cultivation under Rubber plantation as intercrop at SMPB Head Quarter, Thrissur on 11/10/21



Three days training for selected unemployed woman on Familiarization and methods of cultivation of selected economically important medicinal plants at JNTBGRI, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram.



Three-day Training for Drug enforcement officers and drug inspectors on the topic 'Acts and Rules related to Ayurveda drug Industry' at KTDC grand Chaitram Hotel, Trivandrum from 13/06/2022 to 15/06/2022.



Dr. Rajan N Khobragade IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Kerala inaugurating a One-day Training for Ayurveda Manufactures and their technical staff on "Various Acts and Rules Related to AYUSH Industries" at KTDC Grand Chaitram Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram on 14/06/2022



Two days Training for Drug inspectors and Drug Analysts of Drug Department on the topic 'Medicinal Plants - Quality parameters on medicine manufacturing' at Hotel Elite International Thrissur during 12/07/2022 to 13/07/2022.

Industrial and field visit as part of the two days Training for Drug inspectors and Drug Analysts of Drug Department on the topic 'Medicinal Plants - Quality parameters on medicine manufacturing'



Training on medicinal plants cultivation for tribal farmers organized at Silent Valley Forest Dormitory, Mukkali on 09/07/2022



One day Training for Ayurveda Manufactures and their technical staff on "Various Acts and Rules Related to AYUSH industries" at KSCSTE-Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute of Plant Sciences, Kozhikode on 28/11/2022

**d. Workshop/Meetings/Seminar attended by SMPB officials**

The officials of the State Medicinal Plants Board actively participated in various workshops, meetings, and seminars organized by different institutions and agencies. These engagements provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, exposure to emerging trends, and strengthening institutional linkages in the medicinal plants sector. The details are presented in the table below.

Table 3. List of workshop/Meetings/Seminar attended by SMPB officials

Date	Programme / Event	Venue	Role of SMPB Representative	Organizer
26/04/2022	Awareness Class for Farmers (Sedapatti Block, Tamil Nadu)	SMPB Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram & Botanical Garden, Govt. Ayurveda Research Institute, Poojappura	Awareness class & exposure visit	SMPB Kerala
06/06/2022	Environmental Day Talk – “Medicinal Plants for Human & Environmental Health”	AJ College, Thonnakkal	Invited Talk – SSO	AJ College
27/07/2022	Training on Medicinal Plants Cultivation	Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute	Invited Talk – SSO	JNTBGRI
17/08/2022	NSS Camp Talk – Cultivation & Conservation	GHSS Tholicode	Invited Talk – SSO	School NSS Unit
02/11/2022	Seminar on Conservation & Sustainable Utilization of Bio-resources	GVHSS Kadakkal, Kollam	Invited Talk – SSO	School
29/11/2022	Awareness Class on Harvesting (Women SHG)	Wayanad	Inauguration & Technical Session	SMPB
03-04/12/2022	National Seminar on Invasive Plants	Craft Village, Kovalam	Talk by CEO on Invasive Medicinal Plants	Kerala State Biodiversity Board
12-14/02/2023	35th Kerala Science Congress	Kuttikkanam, Idukki	Paper Presentation & CEO Talk	Kerala Science Congress
18-20/02/2023	State Biodiversity Congress	Calicut	CEO Talk on SMPB Activities	Kerala State Biodiversity Board
27/02/2023	Workshop – Biodiversity Act Implementation	IMG, Thiruvananthapuram	Participation – SSO	Kerala State Biodiversity Board



Date	Programme / Event	Venue	Role of SMPB Representative	Organizer
11-12/05/2023	Workshop on Technology Translation	IIST, Thiruvananthapuram	Participation – SSO	KSCSTE
18-19/05/2023	National Conclave (NAM)	Vikas Bhavan, New Delhi	CEO Talk – Procurement & Supply Chain	National AYUSH Mission
20/05/2023	International Congress on Kerala	Thrissur	Paper Presentation –	AKG Education & Research
22/05/2023	International Biodiversity Day Seminar	Kerala Sahitya Academy, Thrissur	CEO Talk – Sacred Groves	Kerala State Biodiversity Board
22/06/2023	Researches Fest	University of Kerala	CEO Talk – R&D in Medicinal Plants	University of Kerala
29/07/2023	Seminar on Medicinal Plants Cultivation & Marketing	Kannur	Talk – Consultant	Kannur District Development Authority
24-25/08/2023	ICER-NaRM-2023 International Conference	Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu	Participation – SSO	S.T. Hindu College & International Collaborators
07-08/12/2023	National Seminar on Plant Biodiversity	University of Calicut	CEO Talk	University of Calicut
10/11/2023	National Seminar on Invasive Plants	State Level Ayurveda Day Celebration	CEO Talk; QR Code Release	NAM & ISM Dept
11/01/2024	Medicinal Plants Buyers Meet 2024	Hyderabad, Telangana	CEO – Chair & Sessions	RCFC Southern Region
29/01/2024	DBT Skill Vigyan Programme	KSCSTE-JNTBGRI Palode	Invited Lecture – SSO	Kerala Biotechnology Commission
15/02/2024	Workshop on Standardization of Ayurveda Drugs	Thiruvananthapuram	CEO Participation	NAM Kerala
22/05/2024	National Consultative Workshop on Bioinvasion	Thiruvananthapuram	CEO Talk – Exotic Medicinal Plants	Kerala State Biodiversity Board
13-14/05/2024	International Conference – Himalayan Biodiversity & Climate Change	Delhi	Talk – Consultant	University of Chicago Centre



Date	Programme / Event	Venue	Role of SMPB Representative
17/07/2024	Ayurveda Experts Meeting	Thiruvananthapuram	CEO Talk
05/08/2024	Talk – Conservation of Medicinal Plants	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Thiruvananthapuram	Invited Talk – SSO
27/09/2024	Talk – Importance of Medicinal Plants	Govt. Women's College, Thiruvananthapuram	Invited Talk – SSO
24/10/2024	National Ayurveda Day Seminar	S.N. College, Cherthala	Invited Talk – SSO
18/12/2024	Medicinal Plants in Health Care	Najeeth College, Varkkala	Invited Talk – SSO
23/12/2024	NSS Programme	Govt HSS Aruvikkara	Invited Talk – SSO
26/12/2024	NSS Programme	Govt HSS Tholicode	Invited Talk – SSO
07–10/02/2025	37th Kerala Science Congress	Kerala Agricultural University	Paper Presentation – Consultant
04/03/2025	National Biodiversity Seminar 2025	Rajagiri College, Kalamassery	Invited Talk – SSO



CEO SMPB receiving token of appreciation in National Seminar on Invasive Plants organized by Kerala State Biodiversity Board from 03/12/2022 to 04/12/2022 at Craft Village, Kovalam, Trivandrum.



Selected farmers from Sedapatti Block, Madurai District of Tamil Nadu at SMPB Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram on 26/04/2022.



Harvesting the medicinal plants cultivated by Kera Vriksha Coconut producer's society, a woman SHG, Wayanad District on 29/11/2022.



Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO SMPB delivering a talk on medicinal plants marketing in the National Conclave organized by NAM, at New Delhi on 18th & 19th May 2023.



CEO SMPB participated and chaired various sessions in the Medicinal Plants buyers Meet 2024 organized by RCFC, Southern Region at Hyderabad, Telangana on 11th January 2024.



CEO SMPB attended workshop on Stake holders concerns in standardization of Ayurveda Drugs manufactured, organized by NAM at Thiruvananthapuram on 15th February 2024.



Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO SMPB & MD Oushadhi delivering a talk on "Importance of Research and Development in medicinal plants for the formulation of new drugs" in the Global Ayurveda Summit and Expo 2024



e. Exhibitions

The State Medicinal Plants Board participated in various exhibitions to showcase its initiatives, promote medicinal plants, and create public awareness on their importance and uses. These exhibitions served as an effective platform for outreach, dissemination of information, and interaction with stakeholders, including farmers, students, and the general public. The details are presented in the table below.

National level

1. Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023) at Thiruvananthapuram

The Consortium of Ayurveda fraternity with support from Government of India - Ministry of AYUSH, and Government of Kerala organized the Fifth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023) from 01 to 05 December, 2023 at Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023) provided a unique opportunity for visitors to explore and experience the world of Ayurveda, including Ayurvedic medicines, herbal products, wellness services, and Ayurvedic equipment's. It also facilitated the interactions between exhibitors and visitors, providing a space for networking, collaboration, and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

As part of event, State Medicinal Plants Board actively participated in the exhibition and scientific interaction during all five days activities and exhibited potted medicinal plants in the exhibition stall with QR codes. SMPB also exhibited display boards and posters explaining the activities of SMPB and NMPB, various schemes, programmes, initiatives etc. in the stall. Brochures and pamphlets were also distributed to the public and medicinal plants enthusiasts. More than 5000 people visited SMPB stall in 5 days. Large number of people, especially students from Ayurveda sector interacted with the officials of SMPB on various aspects of medicinal plants, cultivation prospects, research on medicinal plants etc. Dr P Sanjeevkumar, Executive Member, SMPB; Dr T K Hrideek, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. M. Navas, Senior Scientific Officer; Dr O L Pius, Junior Scientific Officer; and Dr K J Dantas, Technical Assistant attended the event and performed various duties in connection with the 5 day long Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023).



1. Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023) – Dr.T.K Hrideek CEO, SMPB & Dr.K.S Preeya, Director, ISM Dept. along with other officials of State NAM.
2. India Heals – Reverse Buyer Seller Meet- International Expo at Grand Hyatt Kochi from 30th Jan to 2nd Feb 2020
3. As per the direction of Govt. of Kerala, SMPB has participated 9th AYUSH Natural Expo at Worli, Mumbai from 4th to 6th March 2022. SMPB erected stall and exhibited the activities and achievements.



SMPB pavilion- 9th AYUSH Natural Expo at Worli, Mumbai from 4th to 6th March 2022



The officials of the State Medicinal Plants Board also attended various exhibitions organized by other institutions and agencies. These events provided opportunities to observe best practices, explore market trends, and establish linkages with stakeholders in the medicinal plants and allied sectors. The details are presented in the table below.

Table 4. List of other Exhibitions participated by SMPB officials

Date	Venue	Name of Exhibition/ Event
30 Jan – 2 Feb 2020	Grand Hyatt, Kochi	India Heals – Reverse Buyer Seller Meet
4 – 6 Mar 2022	Worli, Mumbai	9th AYUSH Natural Expo
22 – 24 Apr 2022	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit
1 Apr – 31 May 2022	Sarovaram, Kozhikode	All-India Agriculture-Industry-Health & Education Exhibition
3 – 5 Jun 2022	Neyyar, Thiruvananthapuram	Ayurveda Parv 2022
4 – 6 Aug 2022	Panaji, Goa	10th AYUSH Natural World Expo
11 Apr 2022	Thrissur	Seed Utsav – Kerala State Biodiversity Board
1 Nov 2022	Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala Piravi Medicinal Plants Exhibition
8 – 11 Dec 2022	Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa	9th World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya
18 – 20 Feb 2023	Calicut	Kerala State Biodiversity Congress Exhibition
13 Mar 2024	Chithara, Kollam	Medicinal Plants Seminar & Exhibition (KFPC)
23 – 26 Mar 2024	Thrissur	Arogya Wellness Expo – Global Yoga Fest & Darshan Expo
16 – 18 Dec 2024	Chalakyudy, Thrissur	Medicinal Plants EXPO 2024
20 Dec 2024	20 Dec 2024, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram	8th Siddha Day Exhibition
16 – 18 Jan 2025	Calicut University, Malappuram	Sastryan Exhibition 2025
16 – 18 Jan 2025	Govt. Women's College, Thiruvananthapuram	Cognitopia Multidisciplinary Academic Fest
6 – 10 Feb 2025	KAU, Mannuthy	Kerala Science Congress 2025 Exhibition



Global AYUSH investment and innovation summit, held at Ahmadabad, Gujarat from 22nd to 24th April 2022. MOUs were signed with Industries and farmers societies in the venue of the summit



SMPB Kerala stall at 'Ayurveda Parv' 2022, organised by AYUSH Dept. Govt. of India and ADIVEDA at Neyyar, Thiruvananthapuram.



SMPB stall at 'Seed Utsav' by Kerala State Biodiversity Board at Thrissur on 11/04/2022



Pavilion Inauguration and distribution of Medicinal plants by Hon'ble Minister For Revenue Sri K Rajan at Chalakudy Medicinal Plants EXPO 2024



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. P. Raveendran visiting Exhibition Pavilion at Sastryan Exhibition at University of Calicut, Thenipalam, Malappuram



Pavilion Inauguration by Hon'ble Minister For Revenue Sri K Rajan at Kerala Science Congress held at KAU, Mannuthy



Exhibition Pavillion at Cognitopia a three-day Multidisciplinary Academic Fest, Govt. Women's College Thiruvananthapuram

f. Awareness Programmes on medicinal plants

Table 5. List of awareness Programmes on medicinal plants

Date	Venue	Programme / Event	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
26 Feb 2020	Irinjalakuda, Thrissur	Awareness Programme on Medicinal Plants for Home Remedies (Anganwadi & ASHA Workers)	Seedlings distributed; Amrita seedlings	AKG Education & Research
05 Jun 2020	Kerala (State-level)	Rogapridhirothathinu Grahaoushadhikal Project Inauguration		Smt. K.K. Shailaja Teacher, Hon'ble Minister; Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph IAS
20 Sep 2020	Thiruvananthapuram Corporation	District-level Medicinal Plant Distribution	10,000 plants to 2,000 homesteads	Sri. K. Sreekumar, Hon'ble Mayor
05 Jun 2021	Police Head quarters, Thrissur	Medicinal Planting Programme	100 plants planted	R. Adithya IPS
24 Jul 2021	Thrissur Corporation	Homestead Medicinal Plant Distribution	5,000 plants to 1,000 homesteads	Smt. Ajitha Jayarajan, Hon'ble Mayor
29/01/2024	DBT Skill Vigyan Programme	KSCSTE-JNTBGRI Palode	Invited Lecture – SSO	Kerala Biotechnology Commission
21 Sep 2021	HOMCO, Mundakayam	Medicinal Plant Cultivation Programme	1,500 seedlings planted	Dr. M.N.Vijayambika; Sri. V. Bhooshan
26 Oct 2021	Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram	Homestead Medicinal Plant Distribution	✓ 400 plants	Dr. Sunil Kumar
31 Oct 2021	Amala Ayurveda Hospital, Thrissur	Homestead Medicinal Plant Distribution Programme	✓ 500 plants	Sri. T.N. Prathapan, Hon'ble MP
24 Dec 2021	MVR Ayurveda College,	Medicinal Plants Nursery Inauguration Parassinikkadavu	✓ 500 plants	Sri. M.V. Govindan, Hon'ble Minister; Sri. M. Vijin MLA
16 Mar 2022	Thagaraja Polytechnic College, Alagappanagar	Campus Planting & Awareness Programme	✓ 100 plants (30 species)	Sri. Prinson, Gram Panchayat President



Date	Programme / Activity	Venue	Target Group	Inaugurated/ Presided by	Plants Distributed	Remarks
16/02/2021	Launch of Medicinal Plants 'On Call' Help Centre	Kerala Forest Research Institute	Public & Officials	Smt. K.K. Shailaja (Health Minister); Adv. K. Rajan	-	SMPB initiative for medicinal plant advisory support
12/11/2023	One-day Seminar on Medicinal Plants	Paravoor, Alappuzha	70 Ayurveda Doctors	Sri H. Salam, MLA (Ambalapuzha)	-	Organized with ISM & Ayurveda Medical Association of India
14/12/2023	Awareness Programme for MD Students (Draviyagunam)	SMPB HQ, Thiruvananthapuram	20 PG Students	Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO SMPB	-	Field visit to Herbal Garden at Aryapadam
02/12/2023	Seminar - "Medicinal Plants of Kerala"	SMPB HQ, Thrissur	Govt. Ayurveda Doctors (Uttarakhand)	SMPB Officials	-	Interstate knowledge exchange programme
31/01/2024	Importance of Medicinal Plants in Primary Health Care	NS Boys HSS, Mannar, Alappuzha	Students & Teachers	Dr. Priya Devadeth, Exec. Member SMPB	100	Awareness on home remedies & primary healthcare
10/08/2023	Awareness Programme on Medicinal Plants	Govt. Ayurveda Hospital, Nedumudy, Alappuzha	Public & Students	Smt. Mini Manmathan, President, Nedumudy Grama Panchayath	300+	Organized with Panchayath & Govt Ayurveda Hospital
05/06/2023	World Environment Day Awareness Programme	PSHSS, Pallipuram, Alappuzha	ECO Club Students	SMPB Officials	150	Focus on primary healthcare plants
05/06/2023	Awareness Programme on Medicinal Plants	Autism Centre, Kayamkulam	Participants	SMPB Officials	100	Inclusive outreach programme
03/06/2023	Awareness Programme for Promotion of Medicinal Plants	KKMGVHAA, Elippakulam, Alappuzha	Students	Adv. Vipin C Babu, Vice President, Alappuzha District Panchayath	300+	District-level promotion programme
10/05/2023	Distribution - World Environment Day	Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta	PG & Research Dept. of Botany School	-	100	Institutional distribution



Date	Programme / Activity	Venue	Target Group	Inaugurated/ Presided by	Plants Distributed	Remarks
30/05/2023	Herbal Garden Establishment	GHSS Kilimanoor	School	—	100	Herbal Garden setup
30/05/2023	Environmental Day Distribution	LIC Lane Residents Association, Poojappura	Residents	—	50	Community-level distribution
30/05/2023	Herbal Garden Development	Kudumba-sree ADS, Poojappura (Mannam Memorial Child Park, Thiruvananthapuram)	Institute	—	100	Conservation initiative
14/08/2023	Independence Day Distribution	Women & Child Development Department	Department Staff	—	-	Thematic distribution
01/01/2024	Medicinal Plant Distribution	Govt. Sidha Hospital (NHM), Kulathoor, Thiruvananthapuram	Hospital	—	100	Institutional distribution



Distribution of medicinal Plants to Thrissur Collectorate employees by Sri. K. Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue on 01/01/24 in the presence of District Collector and CEO, SMPB



Planting of Medicinal Plants in the premises of Police Head Quarters Thrissur by R. Adithya IPS, commissioner of Police in the presence of CEO, SMPB on 05/06/2021.



Inauguration of seminar on medicinal Plants and distribution of plants to Ayurveda Doctors by Sri. H Salam, MLA, Ambalapuzha on 12/11/23



Awareness programme for MD Ayurveda (Draviyagunam) at Herbal Garden, Aryampadam, Thrissur on 14.12.2023



Distribution of medicinal plants to school students (Govt. LPS Nadubagam & St. Marys HSS Chambakulam , Alapuzha) on 10/08/2023.



Distribution of medicinal Plants by Smt. Saraswathy Kandasami, Hon'ble Minister for Entrepreneur & Co-operation Development, Govt. of Malaysia on 01/08/2023.



Distribution of medicinal Plants to Oushadhi Panchakarma Hospital employees by Sri.Bhagwanth Khuba, Hon'ble Union Minister for Chemical & Fertilizer in the presence of CEO, SMPB on 16/06/23

g) Special programmes

The Board actively participated in and organized a series of Special Programmes aligned with nationally and internationally significant observances such as World Environment Day, Ayurveda Day, International Yoga Day, Seva Pakhwada, and similar campaigns. These programmes were undertaken to promote awareness on environmental conservation, the importance of traditional systems of medicine, holistic health practices, and community engagement. Through coordinated activities including awareness sessions, outreach campaigns, demonstrations, and public interactions, the Board contributed to the larger objectives of sustainable development, promotion of medicinal plants, and dissemination of traditional knowledge among diverse stakeholder groups.

1. International Yoga Day

The State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala, celebrated International Yoga Day. The event was inaugurated by Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO of SMPB, Kerala, and the Chief Guest was Dr. Rajithan K.S., Medical Superintendent, Oushadhi Panchakarma Hospital, Thrissur. Dr. Teena from Oushadhi Panchakarma Hospital led the yoga session as the instructor. Officers from SMPB and Oushadhi actively took part in the event. Medicinal plants were distributed to all participants as part of the celebration.



2) Programme under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Table 6. List of programmes

Date	Venue	Programme / Event	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
01 Sep 2021	Thrissur (RCFC Southern Region)	Homestead Medicinal Plant Distribution	500+ plants	Sri. P. Balachandran, MLA
04 Sep 2021	Ahalia International Foundation, Palakkad	Medicinal Plant Cultivation (15 ha)	5,000 seedlings planted	Dr. T.K. Hrideek
15 Sep 2021	Thiruvananthapuram Corporation	Distribution to households & Kudumbasree units	2,000 plants	Smt. Veena George (online), Smt. Arya Rajendran
Sept 2021	Aralam Farming Corporation, Kannur	Mass Cultivation in Revenue Land (164 Ha)	22,000+ seedlings planted	
21 Sep 2021	HOMCO, Mundakayam	Medicinal Plant Cultivation	1,500 seedlings planted	Dr. M.N. Vijayambika
25 Sep 2021	Thiruvananthapuram	Distribution to farmers	1,500 plants	Sri. V. Sivankutty



Date	Venue	Programme / Event	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
25 Sep 2021	Thrissur	Distribution to farmers	Plants distributed	Smt. Veena George (online)
02 Oct 2021	Chalaky, Thrissur	Medicinal Plants Garden Inauguration	150 species planted	Sri. V.O. Pailappan
Oct 2021	Pamba River Basin	Mass Plantation Drive	10,000 plants	
02 Oct 2021	Anthoor, Kannur	Plantation in Revenue Land		Sri. K.V. Govindan
02 Oct 2021	Kerala University	Campus Plantation	300 plants	Dr. Swapna
14 Oct 2021	Tribal Hamlets	Distribution for Primary Health Care	500+ plants	Adv. K. Rajan
26 Oct 2021	Thiruvallam, TVM	Homestead Distribution	400 plants	Dr. Sunil Kumar
31 Oct 2021	Amala Ayurveda Hospital	Distribution Programme	500 plants	Sri. T.N. Prathapan
24 Dec 2021	MVR Ayurveda College	Nursery Inauguration		Sri. M.V. Govindan



Inauguration of Medicinal planation at HOMCO, Mundakayam by Dr. M.N. Vijayambika, Director, Homeopathy on 21/09/2021

3) Programmes under Seva Pakhwada Campaign (2022)

Table 7. List of programmes

Date	Programme / Activity	Venue	Inaugurated/ Presided by	VIPs Attended
30 Sep 2022	District Medical Office (ISM), Thrissur	Awareness on Medicinal Plants	150 plants	-
01 Oct 2022	District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur	Awareness Programme	300 plants	-
01 Oct 2022	Govt. Ayurveda Research Institute, TVM	Conservation Awareness Programme	250 plants	Dr. P. Sanjeev kumar



Distribution of medicinal plants to Nursing students at District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur on 01.10.2022



Seva Pakhwada: - SMPB Kerala conducted an awareness class on importance of medicinal plants in our daily life at District Medical Office, Indian Systems of Medicine, Thrissur on 30/09/2022.

4) National Ayurveda Day Programmes

Table 8. List of activities

Date	Venue	Programme	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
10 Nov 2023	Palakkad	State Level Ayurveda Day Inauguration	300 plants	Smt. Veena George
08 Nov 2023	District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur	Awareness Programme	300 plants	-
09 Nov 2023	ISM Dept., Kerala	Distribution to Employees	plants	Sri. APM Mohammed Hanish IAS
09 Nov 2023	Aryampadam Herbal Garden	Student Training & Planting	150 plants + 50 planted	Dr. T.K. Hrideek
31 Oct 2023	Oushadhi Hospital, Thrissur	Oushadhi Hospital, Thrissur	100 plants	Dr. T.K. Hrideek
30 Oct 2023	Amala Ayurveda Hospital	Awareness Programme	200 plants	Fr. Julious Arakkal
09 Nov 2023	ARI Poojappura	Awareness Programme	250 plants	Sri. K.V. Govindan
10 Nov 2023	Chinnamma HSS, TVM	School Awareness	200 plants	
10 Nov 2023	GHSS Tholicode	School Awareness	50 plants	
22 Dec 2023	Govt. Medical College, Thrissur	Herbal Garden Renovation		Dr. B. Sheela
24 Oct 2024	S.N. College, Cherthala, Alappuzha	Plantation Drive in collaboration with Dept. of Botany	Saplings planted in campus + seedlings distributed	Prof. (Dr.) T. P. Bindu



Date	Venue	Programme	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
25 Oct 2024	Saraswathi College of Arts & Science, cVilappilsala, Thiruvananthapuram	Plantation Drive	300 plants	Smt. Veena George
28 Oct 2024	Sree Narayana Vilasam HSS, Anad, Thiruvananthapuram	Plantation Drive with NSS participation	50 plants planted + 250 seedlings distributed	Smt. Bindu Balakrishnan
28 Oct 2024	Govt. HSS, Tholicode, Thiruvananthapuram	Plantation Drive & village distribution by NSS	50 plants planted + seedlings distributed	Smt. Ganga T. R
28 Oct 2024	Govt. HSS, Vithura, Thiruvananthapuram	Plantation Drive	25 plants planted + seedlings distributed	Smt. Bindu M
30 Oct 2024	GVHSS for Girls, Pettah, Thiruvananthapuram	Plantation Drive & distribution	25 plants planted + 300 seedlings distributed	
04 Nov 2024	Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, University of Kerala	Plantation Drive & Memorial Lecture Programme	25 plants planted + 100 seedlings distributed	Dr. V. Arunachalam
30 Oct 2024	St. Thomas College, Thrissur	Plantation Drive for UG & PG students	100 plants planted + 150 seedlings distributed	Dr. (Fr.) Martin K. A
28 Oct 2024	Al Ameen Public School, Chandiroor, Alappuzha	Plantation Drive	25 plants planted + 100 seedlings distributed	Dr. Priya Devadath
28 Oct 2024	Sree Narayana Central School, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha	Plantation Drive	25 plants planted + 100 seedlings distributed	Dr. Priya Devadath



Ayurveda Day Celebration – Sri. Shafi Parambil, MLA, Palakkad receiving Medicinal plants from Smt. Veena George, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Woman and Child development on 10/11/2023



Distribution of medicinal plants to Indian Systems of Medicine & Ayurveda Medical Education Dept. was inaugurated by Sri APM Mohammed Hanish IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and AYUSH on 8th November 2023.



Ayurveda Day Celebration – Distribution of Medicinal plants to School students (HSS Sarvodayam, Arayampadam) by Dr. T.K. Hrideek, CEO, SMPB on 09/11/2023.



Distribution of Medicinal plants at Government Higher Secondary School, Vithura, Thiruvananthapuram on National Ayurveda Day Celebration



Planting Medicinal plants as a Part of National Ayurveda Day Celebration at Government Vocational Higher Secondary School for Girls, Pettah, Thiruvananthapuram

5) World Environment Day Programmes (2023 & 2024)

Table 8. List of programmes

Date	Venue	Programme	Plant Distribution / Planting	VIPs Attended
05 Jun 2023	PSHSS Pallipuram	Awareness Programme	150 plants	
08 Nov 2023	District Co-operative Hospital, Thrissur	Awareness Programme	300 plants	-
05 Jun 2023	Autism Centre, Kayamkulam	Awareness Programme	100 plants	
03 Jun 2023	KKMGVHAA Elippakulam	Awareness Programme	300 plants	Adv. Vipin C Babu
05 Jun 2024	Oushadhi Hospital, Thrissur	World Environment Day Programme	100 plants	Smt. Shobana George
05 Jun 2024	Secretariat, TVM	Awareness & Distribution	500 plants	Sri. P. Prasad
05 Jun 2024	Ayurveda College Poojappura	Half Day Seminar	250 plants	
05 Jun 2024	MES Asmabi College	Herbal Garden & Arboretum	planting	Prof. (Dr.) A. Biju
05 Jun 2024	Vrindavanam Group, Palode	Community Programme	150 plants	



Inauguration of MP distribution as apart of World Envirnment Day Celebrations 2024 at Govt Secratariate Thiruvananthapuram by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Sri P. Prasad



Planting Medicinal plants as part of Oushadha Bhavanam programme in connection with World Environment day Nanniyode, Thiruvananthapuram



Awareness programme organized at Govt. Tamil UP School, Chala, Thiruvananthapuram part of Republic Day Celebration



CHAPTER 5 PUBLICATIONS

The State Medicinal Plants Board has brought out various publications to disseminate knowledge on medicinal plants, including their cultivation practices, uses, and value addition. These publications serve as important reference materials for farmers, researchers, and other stakeholders. The details are presented below.

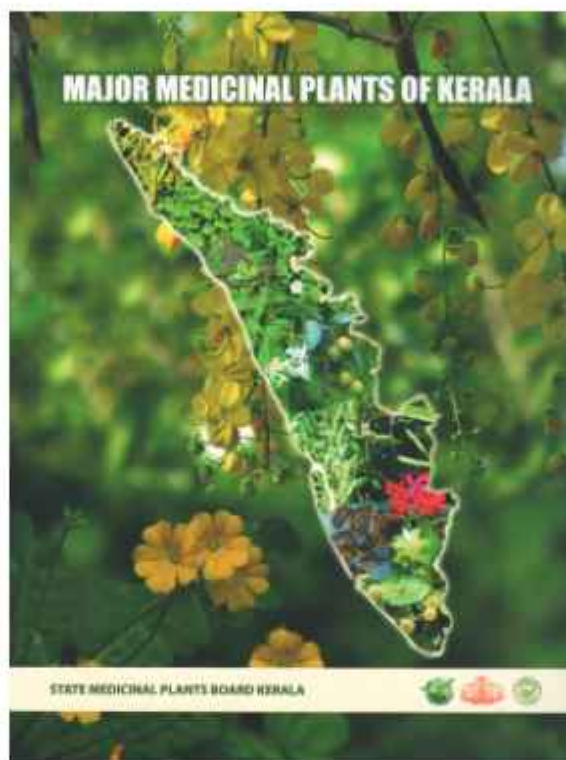
2019-20

- 1) Brochure on the Cultivation practices, scientific harvesting, conservation and uses of *Azadirachta indica*
- 2) Brochure on the Cultivation practices, scientific harvesting, conservation and uses of *Murraya koenigii*.
- 3) Brochure on the Cultivation practices, scientific harvesting, conservation and uses of *Tinospora cordifolia*
- 4) Leaflets on various uses of *Tinospora cordifolia*



2020- 21

1. TK Hrideek, P Sanjeev Kumar, K V Govindan, J Thomas, A Gangaprasad and B R Reghunath (2021) Major medicinal plants of Kerala. ISBN No. 978-81-955111-1-2 published by State Medicinal Plants Board Kerala, Govt. of Kerala.
2. Brochure on selected 10 medicinal Plants commonly used for home remedies and helps to increase the immunity of human body.



2021-22

1. TK Hrideek, P Sanjeevkumar, KV Govindan, J Thomas, A Gangaprasad and BR Reghunath 2022. Major Medicinal Plants of Kerala. ISBN No.978-81-955111-1-2 published by State Medicinal Plants Board Kerala, Govt. of Kerala.
2. M Navas, T K Hrideek, O L Pius and K J Dantas 2022. Progressive approaches for livelihood enhancement through conservation and cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. 32nd Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) & National Symposium on The Contribution of Angiosperm Diversity to Human Wellbeing and the Risks Associated with its Decline. Dept. of UG, PG and Research in Botany, Karnatak University's Karnatak Science College, Dharward, Karnataka. Book of Abstracts, pp.112.
3. M Navas, O L Pius, K J Dantas and T K Hrideek 2022. Indications on Medicinal Use of



Invasive Species. National Conference on Bioinvasions, Trends, Threats and Management. Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Thiruvananthapuram. Book of Abstracts, pp.75.

4. O L Pius, K J Dantas, M Navas, and T K Hrideek 2022. Major Exotic Medicinal Plants used in Indian Systems of Medicine. National Conference on Bioinvasions, Trends, Threats and Management. Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Thiruvananthapuram. Book of Abstracts, pp.76.
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CHAPTER 6

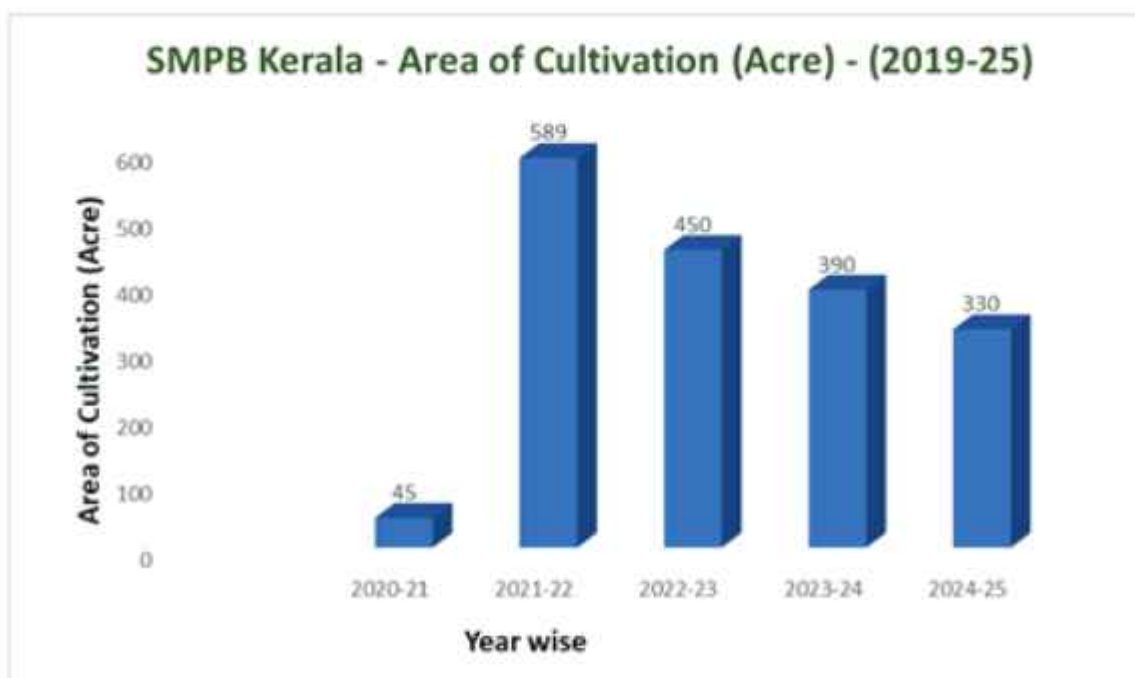
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The period from 2019 to 2025 marks a phase of significant progress and consolidation for the State Medicinal Plants Board, with focused interventions across cultivation, conservation, capacity building, and value addition. Various schemes and initiatives implemented during this period have contributed to strengthening the medicinal plants sector in the State, enhancing farmer participation, and improving the availability of quality raw materials. The key outcomes achieved during this period are summarized below.

Table 1. Impacts on medicinal plant cultivation (subsidy released)

Year	Area of Cultivation (in Acres)	Amount Released	No. of Beneficiaries
2020-21	45	200000	30
2021-22	589	7718846	346
2022-23	450	2705850	420
2023-24	390	2957371	215
2024-25	330	924277	246
Total	1804	14506344	1257

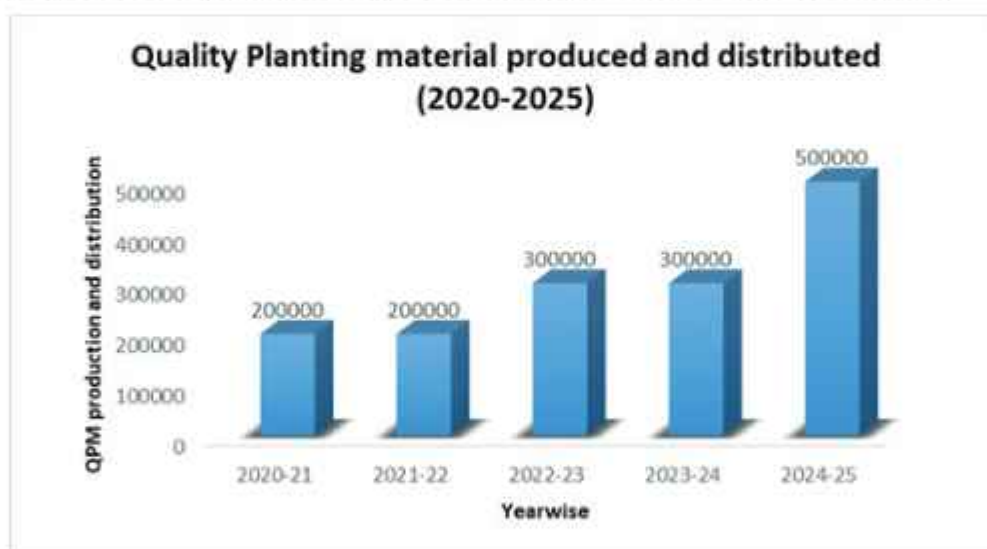
Graph 1. Area cultivated during 2019 – 2025





The data reflects a significant expansion in medicinal plant cultivation initiatives over the five-year period, though with notable fluctuations. The area under cultivation shows a sharp rise from 45 acres in 2020-21 to a peak of 589 acres in 2021-22, linked with the highest financial support (₹77.18 lakh) and the largest beneficiary participation (346 beneficiaries). This surge suggests strong programme uptake and investment during that year. However, in subsequent years there is a gradual decline in the cultivated area, reducing to 330 acres by 2024-25, with corresponding variations in financial allocation and beneficiary numbers. While the area and fund allocation dropped after 2021-22, beneficiary participation remained comparatively stable, indicating a sustained interest among farmers and stakeholders despite budget adjustments. Over the entire period, a total of 1804 acres were brought under cultivation, ₹145.06 lakh was released, and 1257 beneficiaries were supported highlighting consistent and impactful efforts in promoting medicinal plant cultivation across the state.

Graph 2. Impact on quality Planting material produced and distributed



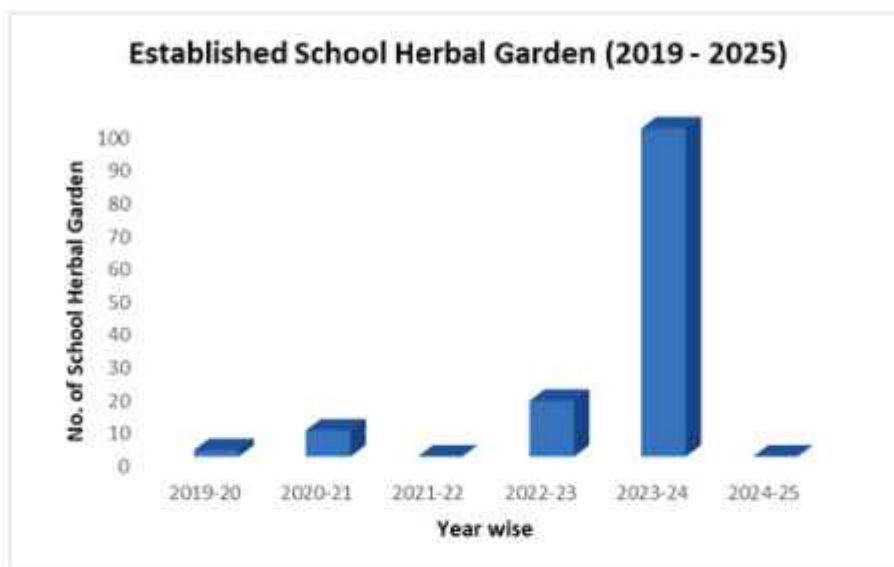
The graph shows the year-wise production and distribution of quality planting material (QPM) of medicinal plants during the period 2020-2021 to 2024-2025. The data indicates a gradual increase in production over the five-year period, reflecting the strengthening of nursery activities and growing demand for medicinal plant cultivation in the State.

During 2020-2021, around 2 lakh seedlings were produced and distributed. A similar level of production (2 lakh seedlings) was maintained in 2021-2022, indicating a stable output during the initial years. In 2022-2023, the production increased to 3 lakh seedlings, demonstrating an expansion in propagation activities. The same level of production (3 lakh seedlings) continued in 2023-2024, suggesting a consistent supply of planting material to support cultivation and conservation programmes.

A significant increase was observed in 2024-2025, when the production rose to 5 lakh seedlings, the highest during the period. This increase reflects the scaling up of nursery

operations and enhanced efforts to promote medicinal plant cultivation across the State. Overall, the trend shows steady progress with a notable growth in the final year, highlighting the expanding role of the programme in ensuring the availability of quality planting material for farmers, institutions, and conservation initiatives.

Graph 3. Established School Herbal Garden



Impacts of Conservation activities, the establishment of School Herbal Gardens has shown a varied trend over the six-year period. The programme began modestly with 2 gardens in 2019–20, followed by a steady increase to 8 gardens in 2020–21. However, no new gardens were established in 2021–22, indicating a temporary pause in expansion due to pandemic-related constraints. The initiative regained momentum in 2022–23 with 17 gardens, reflecting renewed focus and activity. A remarkable scale-up occurred in 2023–24, with 100 School Herbal Gardens established, marking the most significant year of progress and demonstrating strong institutional engagement and outreach. In 2024–25, no new gardens were recorded, as the focus was towards the maintenance and strengthening of the already established gardens. The major outcomes achieved during the period reflect the steady expansion and strengthening of the medicinal plants sector in the State through targeted interventions in cultivation, conservation, capacity building, and infrastructure development. The successful implementation of various schemes has enhanced the availability of quality planting material, promoted farmer adoption, and improved awareness on sustainable practices and value addition.

Building on these achievements, future efforts may focus on scaling up cultivation in identified clusters, strengthening post-harvest and market linkages, promoting Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP), and encouraging research-driven interventions for high-value species. Greater emphasis on value addition, export-oriented production, and convergence with allied sectors will further enhance the economic viability of medicinal plant cultivation, ensuring long-term sustainability and increased livelihood opportunities for stakeholders.



CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

The period from 2019 to 2025 represents an important phase in the implementation of programmes and activities of the State Medicinal Plants Board, Kerala. During this period, the Board undertook a range of interventions aimed at strengthening the medicinal plants sector in the State, with emphasis on cultivation, conservation, production of quality planting material, infrastructure development, capacity building, and awareness creation.

Medicinal plant cultivation was expanded through farmer-oriented and cluster-based approaches, supported by the production and distribution of quality planting material through established public and private nurseries. The establishment and strengthening of seed centres, collection centres, drying sheds, and storage facilities contributed to improved post-harvest management and systematic handling of raw materials. These measures supported the steady supply of medicinal plant raw drugs to AYUSH industries and related stakeholders.

Conservation initiatives implemented during this period included the protection and enrichment of sacred groves and focused interventions for Rare, Endangered and Threatened medicinal plant species. These activities contributed to biodiversity conservation, resource augmentation, and the preservation of ecologically sensitive areas. Awareness programmes and field-level interventions supported community participation in conservation efforts.

The Board also prioritized capacity building and outreach activities through training programmes, workshops, seminars, publications, exhibitions, and school herbal garden initiatives. Special emphasis was given to the involvement of Local Self Government Institutions, Kudumbashree units, tribal communities, farmers, students, and research institutions, ensuring broader participation and effective implementation of schemes. The major outcomes achieved during the period reflect the steady expansion and strengthening of the medicinal plants sector in the State through targeted interventions in cultivation, conservation, capacity building, and infrastructure development. The successful implementation of various schemes has enhanced the availability of quality planting material, promoted farmer adoption, and improved awareness on sustainable practices and value addition.

Overall, the initiatives undertaken during 2019–2025 strengthened the medicinal plants sector in Kerala by improving resource availability, supporting livelihoods, and promoting sustainable practices. The experience and outcomes of this period provide a sound basis for planning and implementing future programmes in a structured and coordinated manner. Building on these achievements, future efforts may focus on scaling up cultivation in identified clusters, strengthening post-harvest and market linkages, promoting Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP), and encouraging research-driven interventions for high-value species. Greater emphasis on value addition, export-oriented production, and convergence with allied sectors will further enhance the economic viability of medicinal plant cultivation, ensuring long-term sustainability and increased livelihood opportunities for stakeholders.

**Annexure 1****Table 1. List of school herbal garden**

Sl No.	School name
2019 - 2020	
1	GVHSS Chalakudy, Thrissur
2	UP School Kalariparamba, Thrissur
2020 - 2021	
1	Vivekananda Public School, Piravom
2	Vivekananda Public School, Kurumulloor, Kottayam
3	Sree Saraswathy Vdya Mandir, Karikode, Kottayam
4	Saraswathy Vidyanikethan Sec. School, Kudayathoor, Idukki
5	Gayathri Central School, Puliyannoor, Kottayam
6	Ambika Vidyabhavan Aimkombu, Kottayam
7	KKMHSS, Cheekode, Malappuram
8	Govt. Higher Sec. School Areekode, Malappuram
2022- 2023	
1	CMS Higher Secondary School, Kuzhikala, Pathanamthitta District
2	SMS Govt. UP School, Chandanakkunnu, Pathanamthitta District
3	Mar Thoma College, Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta District
4	DB Pampa College, Parumala, Pathanamthitta District
5	SNSVM UP School, Vettipuram, Pathanamthitta District
6	MSC LP School, Nannuvakkadu, Pathanamthitta District
7	KKMGHSS, Orkkatteri, Kozhikode District
8	St. Joseph's College, Devagiri, Kozhikode District
9	Govt. Welfare Higher Secondary School, Cherukunnu, Kannur District
10	Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kadannappalli, Kannur District
11	Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kunjhimangalam, Kannur District
12	Govt. LPS Puthuppally, Alappuzha District
13	Govt. Town UPS, Nedumangadu, Thiruvananthapuram District
14	Govt. High School, Kandala, Thiruvananthapuram District
15	Poomala Higher Secondary School, Poomala, Thrissur District
16	Govt. LP School, Puthur, Thrissur District
17	Sarvodayam VHS School, Aryampadam, Thrissur District
2023 - 2024 (NMPB fund)	
1	Savithri Devi Saboo Memorial Women College, Vellanoor, Kozhikode -
2	Al-Ameen Public School, Chandiroor, Alappuzha
3	Govt. UPS, Nemom, Thiruvananthapuram
4	The Principal Sainik School, Kazhakootam, Sainik School (PO), Thiruvananthapuram
5	Govt. UPS, Russelpuram (P O), Thiruvananthapuram
6	GVHSS, Kadakkal, Kollam



Sl No.	School name
7	Canadian Central School, Karakkunnam, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam
8	GHSS, Kottila, Kottila (PO), Kannur
9	St. Thomas College, Pala Educational Trust, Pala, Kottayam
10	Henry Baker College, Melukavu, Melukavumattom (PO), Kottayam
11	Sarvodayam UPS Porur, Thavijal (PO), Manathavady Wayanad 670644
12	Sarvodaya HSS, Eachome (PO), Panamaram wayanad 670721
13	Nehru Arts & Science College, Padnekkat (PO), Kanhangad, Kasaragod
14	AUPS, Movvar, Movvar (PO), Kasragod 671543
15	KMCT Ayurveda Medical College, Manassery (PO) Mukkam, Kozhikode 673602
16	SARBTM Govt. College, Koyilandy, Muchukunnu, Kozhikode 673307
17	SN Trust Central School, Nangiarkulangara,
18	HSS, Thiruvambady, Alappuzha-688009
19	Milad-E-Sherif Memorial College, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha-690502
20	Njavakad LPS, Keerikad South Kayamkulam, Alappuzha - 690502
21	VHSS Chathiyara, Thamarakulam, Alappuzha-690530
22	NSSHS, Pullikkanakku (PO), Kayamkulam, Alappuzha 690537
23	TSSGUPS, Thakazhy, Alappuzha
24	KKMGVHSS, Elippakulam, Alappuzha-690503
25	TK Madhava Memorial College, Nangiarkulangara (PO), Harippad, Alappuzha-690513
26	Ahalia Ayurveda Medical College, Ahalia campus, Palakkad-678557
27	Mercy College, Palakkad, 678006
28	MES Asmabi College, P. Vemballur, KodungalloreThrissur-680671
29	Stella Maris Institute of Management and Technology, Poyya, Thrissur-680733
30	CNNGLPs, Cherpu (PO), Thrissur-680561
31	Sreeramakrishna Vidyanikethan Public School, Nandikkara (PO), Thrissur - 680301
32	Saraswathy Vidyanikethan Central School, Kodakara, Prambra(PO), Thrissur-680689
33	SNVLP School, Edathiruthy West, Edathiruthy (PO), Thrissur-680703
34	National Institute of Plant Science Technology, MGU, Priyadarshini Hills PO, Kottayam
35	GHS for Deaf, Kunnamkulam, Thrissur-680503
36	Bishop Abraham Memorial College, Thuruthicad PO, Mallappally, Pathanamthitta
37	Paramekkavu Vidhya Mandir, MLA Road, Poonkunnam, Thrissur-680002
38	St. Dominic's College, Kanjirapally, Podimattom, Parathode (PO), Kottayam 686512
39	Nirmala Convent UP School, Ayyanthole, Thrissur 680003
40	VV Krishnan Master Memorial GLP School, Thiruvallur, PO Kodungallur
41	A S L P School, Chelakode (PO), Pazhayannur, Thrissur-680587
42	Iqbal College, Peringammala, Daivapura (PO), Thiruvananthapuram-695563
43	Fatima Mata National College, Kollam-691001
44	Adi Shankara Institute of Engineering and Technology, Mator, Kalady, Ernakulam



SI No.	School name
45	GUP School, Valiyathura, Vallakadavu (PO) Thiruvananthapuram-695008
46	Govt Medical college, Thrissur
47	Navajoythi College of Technical education for women, Olarikkara
48	Newman College, Department of Botany and Biotechnology, Mangattukavala, Idukki
49	Govt Tamil LPS Chala PO, Thiruvananthapuram 695036
50	BFMLPS Perumpazhuthoor PO, Thiruvananthapuram 695126
51	LF HS Anthiyoorkonam, Kollode PO, Thiruvananthapuram-695571
52	St. Thresias LPS Thoonganpara, Thoongapara PO, Thiruvananthapuram
53	GHSS Kulathummel, Kattakad, Thiruvananthapuram-695572
54	NSBHSS, Mannara, Alappuzha 689622
55	Govt. Womens College Thiruvananthapuram
56	PBM GHSS, Kodungallur, Sringapuram Kodungallore PO, Thrissur-680664
57	Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta 689645
58	LCUPS Irinjalakuda, Irinjalakkoda North, Thrissur-680125
59	Sree Buddha College of Engeneering, Pattoor P O Nooranad, Alappuzha 690529
60	MES FRUP School, Vekkode, P. Vemballur, Thrissur 680671
61	Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous Kuttikkanam PO, Peermade, Idukki
62	Thrithallur UP School, Thrithallur PO, Thrissur 680619
63	Kailasanatha Vidyanikedhan Mount Kailas, Mullakara, Pananchery, Thrissur 680651
64	SNBHS Kanimangalam, Thrissur 680007
65	KSMDB College, Sasthamkotta, Kollam 690521
66	TPS HS Thrikkur, Thrikkur PO, Thrissur-680306
67	WLPS Mannar East, Mannar PO, Alappuzha-689622
68	Sree vidya Poshini LP School, Vadanappilly, Thrissur-680619
69	Panchakarma hospital Oushadhi
70	Little flower college Gurvayoor, Thrissur 680 103
71	Vayanakam VHSS, Njakannal, Ochira, Kollam 690533
72	SN UP School, Maruthukulangara South, Karunagappilly, Kollam 690533
73	School of legal Studies, Department of Law, Kannur university, Kasaragod-
74	Govt. Model Up school, Chenithala, Cherukole P O, Alappuzha-690104
75	Dept. of Zoology, Kannur University, Manathavady Campus, Wayanad-670645
76	St Annes CGHS, West Fort PO, Ayyanthole, Thrissur-680004
77	HS For Girls, Karunagappilly, Kollam 690533
78	GVHSS Kumarokam, Kottayam
79	Govt. Town Up School Karunagappilly
80	BCM College, Kottayam
81	Govt. LP School, Srayikkad, Kollam
82	SPSSUP School, Thodiyur, Kollam
83	ST Marys UP School, Kanchiyar Idukki



Sl No.	School name
84	St. Stephens College, Uzhavoor
85	Pankajakasthuri Auyurveda Medical College, TVM
86	St George's UP School, Koruthode, Mundakayam
87	Holyfamily inchiyani
88	St. Donbosco Girls HSS, Kodakkara
89	SANTHA HSS Avanoor
90	VVHSS, Thamarakulam
91	PSNM UP School, Veliyanoor P O, Vellanadu, Thiruvananthapuram-695543
92	SN UP School, Kollayil P O, Madathara, Thiruvananthapuram-691541
93	Holigrace Academy of Pharmacy, Kuruvilasseri P O, Thrissur-680623
94	Sree Saraswathi Vidhyalayam, Senior Secondary School, Oorutambalam, Thiruvananthapuram
95	Paramekkavu College of Arts and Science, Punkunnam, Thrissur
96	Chithiravilasam LP School, Perungala P O, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha-690559
97	Gurukulam Public School, Venginissery, Thrissur
98	AVM LP School, Pambur Thrissur
99	Sree Narayana Central School, Kayamkulam
100	Pm Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya Army Cantt., Pangode, Thiruvananthapuram

**Annexure 2****List of Medicinal Plants Selected for School Herbal Garden (Trees)****TREE CROPS**

Sl. No	Botanical Name	Local name
1	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Koovalam
2	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Veppu
3	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Kanikkonna
4	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Kumizhu
5	<i>Oroxylum indicum</i>	Palakapayyani
6	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Nellikka
7	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Ungu
8	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>	Venga
9	<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	Rakthachandanam
10	<i>Santalum album</i>	Chandanam
11	<i>Saraca asoca</i>	Asokam
12	<i>Stereospermum colais</i>	Pathiri
13	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Njaval
14	<i>Terminalia arjuna.</i>	Neermaruthu
15	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>	Thani
16	<i>Moringa Pterygosperma</i>	Muriga
17	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Kariveppu
18	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Mathalam
19	<i>Garcinia gummi-gutta</i>	Kodampuli
20	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>	Dhanthappala
21	<i>Premna serratifolia</i>	Munja
22	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i>	Pachotti
23	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Kadukka
24	<i>Coscinium fenestratum</i>	Maramanjal
25	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Peral
26	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Athi
27	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Arayal
28	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Karinochi

**SHORT TERM CROPS**

Sl. No	Botanical Name	Malayalam name
1.	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Vayambu
2.	<i>Adhatoda zeylanica</i>	Adalodakam
3.	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Kattarvazha
4.	<i>Alpinia calcarata</i>	Chittaratha
5.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Kiriyath
6.	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Sathavari
7.	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Brahmi
8.	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i>	Thazhuthama
9.	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Manjal
10.	<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>	Orila
11.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Kanjunni
12.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Naruneendi
13.	<i>Holostemma ada-kodien</i>	Adapathiyan
14.	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Neelayamari
15.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Aadalodakam
16.	<i>Kaempferia galanga</i>	Kacholam
17.	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Naikkorana
18.	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	Thulasi
19.	<i>Piper longum</i>	Kattuthippali
20.	<i>Plectranthus hadiensis var. tomentosus</i>	Iruveli
21.	<i>Plumbago indica</i>	Koduveli
22.	<i>Pseudarthria viscida</i>	Moovila
23.	<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>	Sarpagandhi
24.	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Avanakku
25.	<i>Sida alnifolia</i>	Kurumthotty
26.	<i>Solanum anguivi</i>	Cheruvazhuthana
27.	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	Puthirichunda
28.	<i>Strobilanthes ciliatus</i>	Karinkurinji
29.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Chittamruthu
30.	<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i>	Kattupadavalam
31.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Inchi