

E-Magazine on Medicinal Plants

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KARNATAKA STATE MEDICINAL PLANTS AUTHORITY
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Major achievements of Karnataka Medicinal Plants Authority in conservation and development of medicinal plants.

Medicinal Plants are the main ingredients of local medicines and are of vital importance in traditional health care. People use medicinal plants species for sustenance of their traditional health care system both logistically as well economically. But due to more inclination towards modern Technology and over extraction of many of these plants has resulted in considerable depletion of the population of such species and some have become extinct.

In Karnataka according to the study of the Botanical Survey of India there are 3924 species belonging to 1323 genera and 199 families in the forests, of which 1493 species are of medicinal value. These belong to 808 genera and 108 families. They occur in different vegetation types across the Western Ghats.

KaMPA provides guidance to various departments of government of Karnataka and any developmental organizations on policy matters relating to projects, schemes and programmes for the conservation, utilization and development of medicinal plants in Karnataka state. The authority also encourage and sponsor research related to medicinal plants, its management, harvest, utilization and take up pilot projects in the conservation, utilization and development of medicinal plants.

In order to develop ex-situ conservation strategies for Rare Endangered and Threatened (RET) species in the Western Ghats, a Network Project involving 10 research centres in the state of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam is under implementation. The Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) coordinates the projects and about more than 80 species has been conserved.

Amla (*Phyllanthus emblica*) is one of the most valuable Indian medicinal plants with antioxidant properties and is a very rich source of Vitamin 'C'. Amla is also said to be the only fruit which can cure Tridosas of vatta, pitta and kapha as per the Ayurvedic texts. In order to popularize this plant and make the fruit available to children, NMPB, Government of India has launched a National Campaign on Amla. In Karnataka this project is implemented through IIHR, NGO's and different KVKs situated in each district of Karnataka.

In Karnataka with the help of FRLHT, Bangalore, 17 MPCA and MPDA are established and managed with the help of local people. Details of Medicinal plants conservation areas in Karnataka are given below Location of Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCA) in Karnataka.

Location of Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCA) in Karnataka

Sl.No.	Name of the MPCA	Height about MSL (m)	No. of species	Forest type sub-group
1.	BRT Hills	790-1050	125	Southern dry mixed deciduous forest
2.	Sandur	550-773	96	Southern dry mixed deciduous forest
3.	Savanadurga	800-970	94	Dry Deciduous scrub
4.	Karpakapalli	600-750	96	Dry Deciduous Scrub
5.	Talacauvery	1000-1355	32	West coast semi-evergreen forest
6.	Subramanya Temple	250-800	46	West coast semi-evergreen forest
7.	Charmadi	300-1250	78	West coast semi-evergreen forest
8.	Devimane	50-500	72	West coast semi-evergreen forest
9.	Kudremukh	760-820	78	Southern hill top tropical evergreen forest
10.	Kemmanagundi	1300-1700	69	Southern hill top tropical evergreen forest
11.	Devarayanadurga	850-1040	98	Southern thorn forests
12.	Agumbe	600-700	94	West coast tropical evergreen forest

13.	Kollur		20	West coast tropical evergreen forest
14	Kappat Gudda	653-794	133	Scrub mixed with dry deciduous forest.
15	Ballur-Charjadi	734 - 931	108	Evergreen forest
16	Bababudangiri,	1460 - 1700	115	Evergreen forest
17	Kankumbi,	719 - 820	130	Evergreen forest

14,15,16 & 17 are newly proposed MPCA.