Arunachal Pradesh, which translates to 'land of the dawn-lit mountains' is also known as the Orchid State of India or the Paradise of the Botanists. State covers an area of 83,743 km<sup>2</sup> and has high elevations ranging from 200 m to 7750 m. The wide-ranging ecological habitats support all types of vegetation and it is estimated that the flora of this region will have about 5,100 species of seed plants. Physiographically the hill ranges can be divided into 3 divisions i.e., foothills, lesser Himalayas and Greater Himalayas.

Arunachal Pradesh has over 500 species of medicinal plants and these plants are used for the treatment of a large number of diseases by the local tribal communities. Some of the most important plants at low altitudes are Acorus calamus, Celastrus paniculatus, Dioscorea pentaphylla, Paris polyphylla, Piper pedicellatum, Solanum viarum and Terminalia bellirica. The higher altitudes medicinal plant species are Aconitum heterophyllum, Coptis teeta, Dactylorhiza hatagirea, Illicium griffithii, Podophylum hexandrum and Taxus wallichiana. Some of the medicinal plants such as Curcuma caesia, Rubia cordifolia, etc., are under cultivation to ensure the easy availability of authentic raw materials for better health of people. The medicinal plants are found almost throughout the state. Some species are much sought after by pharmaceutical companies. The demands for MAPs are ever increasing as people are more and more fascinated towards herbals. Extraction from wild has its own problems and risks. We need to cultivate for larger production and authenticity.

## **Conservation and Development Issues**

In the Himalaya, conservation and management of Medicinal Plants and other Non-Timber Forest Produces (NTFPs) is challenged by various factors. The major conservation issue related to MP resources is over-harvesting due to trade pressure. In addition, habitat destruction, livestock grazing, forest fires, etc. are also considered important factors responsible for the depletion of many species. Issues pertaining to equity in benefit sharing from the commercialization of MPs are quite complex as the MP sub-sector involves diverse group of stakeholders

### **Policy and Medicinal Plant Development Sector**

The state Government should have a policy to promote cultivation of medicinal plants in the state. This policy should be motivated by the need to conserve forest resources and increase farmers' incomes through agricultural diversification. Development and diffusion of cultivation technologies, supply of planting material, credit and marketing support need to be considered as a part of the policy making process. The policy must focus on increased cultivation programme with incentive to growers will reduce the material collection from wild.

It has also been observed that with increasing globalization there is a gradual erosion of traditional knowledge (TK) on rural health care system in the state. Such knowledge needs to be documented and made available to the research/conservation agencies so as to give intellectual benefits to the healers in the event of discovery of potential drugs. Similarly, linkages among collectors, growers, traders, processors and consumers at different levels in a value-chain or production-to-consumption system framework need to be developed along with mechanism between the drug manufacturing companies and CBOs needed to ensure for the producers and quality supply for the industry.



Aconitum heterophyllum Wall. ex Royle

Acorus calamus



Aconitum nagarum

Aesculus assamica Griff.

Aglaia edulis (Roxb.) Wall

Bischofia javanica Blume

Celastrus paniculatus Willd.





Beaumontia grandiflora Wall.















Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham.



Coptis teeta Wall.

Dioscorea bulbifera L.

Dioscorea pentaphylla L.

Diploclisia glaucescens (Blume) Diels

Elaeocarpus aristatus Roxb.

Embelia floribunda Wall.

Embelia ribes Burm.f.

Entada phaseoloides (L.) Merril

Gynocardia odorata R.Br.

Hedychium spicatum Sm.





Wight ex C.B.Clarke



Taxus wallichiana Zucc.



Maesa indica (Roxb.) A. DC.



Valeriana jatamansi Jones ex Roxb.

Trichosanthes

tricuspidata Lour.



1



Polygonatum verticillatum (L.) All

Zanthoxylum asiaticum (L.) Appelhans, Groppo & J.Wen



Zingiber purpureum Roscoe

Cover page photo legends

Zanthoxylum

oxyphyllum Edgew.

morphophallus paeoniifolius (Dennst.) Nicolson	Dactylorhiza hatagirea (D.Don) Soo		Embelia basaal (Roem. & Schult.) A.DC.
Gaultheria trichophylla Royle		Podophylum hexandrum Royle	
Pterospermum acerifolium (L.) Wild		Rhododendron arboreum Sm.	
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# **MEDICINAL PLANTS DIVERSITY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**



**EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora) Botanical Survey of India** Howrah http://www.bsienvis.nic.in

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