

# MEDICINAL PLANTS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE BHUBANESWAR



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## Medicinal Plants Knowledge Centre

The Medicinal Plants Knowledge Centre has been set up on 60 hectares of land by the side of NH-5 at Patrapada within the city limits of Bhubaneswar. This Centre will create a focus on the medicinal plants sector, and enable the forest officials to quickly enhance knowledge of these plant species and their application. Such knowledge is important for putting in place appropriate plans and prescriptions for sustainable management of the plants of medicinal value whether found in forests or cultivated. The Centre will also cater to the requirements of Ayurvedic practitioners, people relying on various local health traditions, as well as of students and faculties of Ayurvedic institutions in finding a ready source of plant material and an appropriate database on each species. The database comprising both taxonomic and ayurvedic information will be continuously updated. There will also be facility at the centre for undertaking academic activities and research, and for holding seminars and symposia on relevant themes.

**The following facilities have so far been created by 31st July, 2010 at this centre:**

- The entire area has been surveyed and fenced out, and a land use map has been prepared. The **land use map** depicting where exactly to find a particular species, and a complete picture of activities being carried out at different plots, has been prominently displayed as an information signage near the Entrance Area.
- 71 different tree species having medicinal value have been planted at the centre, **each species in a separate plot**. The number of plants on any plot varies from 50 to 125. Each plot has been covered by field bunds, so that all together these plots constitute a **zero run off area**. Further 32 tree species specimens are planted in the demonstration area.



- The relatively more refractory sites extending over 22 hectares have been covered by drip irrigation. Water supply is ensured through five deep bore wells.
- Strips have been laid out under the established tree cover for under planting of species like **Turmeric, Ginger and Arrowroot**. These shade bearing plants are already coming up in profusion at these sites.
- Altogether 76 herbal species, 73 shrub species and 34 species of creepers and climbers have been raised in the nursery beds, and planted in clusters in the Demonstration Area.
- A suitably landscaped **Demonstration Area** has been laid out over 1.35 hectares. This is named after 'Charaka', the legendary man of Ayurveda. All species of trees, shrubs, climbers and herbs can be seen at one place here. The Demonstration Area has a pool for aquatic plants of medicinal value, an amphitheatre, and a central gazebo. To create a proper ambience, a water fall and a water fountain and paved paths have been laid out in this area. There is a signage for each planted species.
- 7 species of medicinal plants which have relatively high demand in our State, have been raised to produce sizeable quantities of the desired plant parts. An area of 2.81 hectares is earmarked as the **Production Area** where the cultivation of these 7 species has been carried out. The number of species in the Production Area can be subsequently expanded. The 7 species now under production are the following.

**1. Tulsi**

(*Ocimum sanctum*)

2000 plants.

**2. Ghee Kuanri**

(*Aloe vera*)

5000 plants.

**3. Aswagandha**

(*Withenia somnifera*)

(annual)

5000 plants; roots harvested in April 2010.

**4. Gudmari**

(*Gymnema sylvestris*)

(Creeper) 200

plants

**5. Kalmegh**

(*Andrographis*

*paniculata*) (annual)

5000 plants, already stems harvested.

**6. Guluchi ( ) (Climber)**

1000 plants

**7. Dalchini**

(*Cinnamomum*

*zeylanicum*) 500

plants; sprouting has taken place.



