



Karnataka Science and Technology Academy
Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Karnataka



National Medicinal Plants Board [NMPB]
New Delhi

National Conference on
**Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of Medicinal and
Aromatic Plants for Health, Livelihoods, Bio-economy and
Conservation**

July 16-18, 2026 | Venue: KSTA, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION AGENDA

National Conference on

**Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Health,
Livelihoods, Bio-economy and Conservation**

July 16-18, 2026 | Venue: KSTA, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

CONFERENCE

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND
ACTION AGENDA**

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Government of Karnataka

Disclaimer

The recommendations presented in this publication are based on the deliberations of the keynote address, invited lectures, technical sessions, panel discussions and interactions held during the National Conference. They are intended to facilitate scientific discussions and inform future policy, research and programme development. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the official policy or position of the sponsoring or supporting organisations.



Compendium
of Abstracts



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List of Acronyms

MAPs	<i>Medicinal and Aromatic Plants</i>
NMPB	<i>National Medicinal Plants Board</i>
GAP	<i>Good Agricultural Practices</i>
GPP	<i>Good Processing Practices</i>
QPM	<i>Quality Planting Material</i>
FPOs	<i>Farmer Producer Organisation</i>
SHG	<i>Self-Help Group</i>
ICAR	<i>Indian Council of Agricultural Research</i>
CSIR	<i>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research</i>
BSI	<i>Botanical Survey of India</i>
APEDA	<i>Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority</i>
BIS	<i>Bureau of Indian Standards</i>



FOREWORD



India is one of the world's richest repositories of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs), endowed with extraordinary biological diversity, a rich heritage of traditional knowledge and well-established systems of indigenous medicine. With increasing global interest in herbal healthcare, natural products and sustainable bioeconomy, the medicinal and aromatic plants sector offers immense opportunities for promoting public health, generating rural livelihoods, conserving biodiversity and strengthening the country's economy. Realising this potential, however, requires an integrated and coordinated approach encompassing biodiversity conservation, scientific validation of traditional knowledge, sustainable cultivation, quality assurance, value addition, entrepreneurship, policy support and global market integration.

The Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, organised the National Conference on "Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Health, Livelihoods, Bio-economy and Conservation" with the objective of providing a common platform for scientists, academicians, policymakers, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, farmers and students to deliberate on emerging opportunities, challenges, and future strategies for the sustainable development of the medicinal and aromatic plants sector. The conference featured keynote addresses, expert lectures, technical sessions, panel discussions, and research paper presentations that facilitated meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences.

The recommendations presented in this document represent the collective wisdom and consensus of the distinguished speakers, panelists and participants who contributed to the deliberations. They provided a practical roadmap for strengthening research, conservation, cultivation, quality assurance, value addition, market development and governance of the medicinal and aromatic plants sector.

These recommendations are expected to serve as valuable policy inputs for the Central and State Governments, research institutions, universities, industries, funding agencies and other stakeholders engaged in promoting medicinal and aromatic plants. KSTA believes that their effective implementation will contribute significantly towards achieving health security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and the vision of *Viksit Bharat@2047* through a vibrant and globally competitive medicinal and aromatic plants sector.

Prof. Rajasab A H

Chairman

Karnataka Science and Technology Academy

Department of Science and Technology

Govt. of Karnataka

PREFACE



Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) represent an invaluable component of India's rich biological heritage and traditional knowledge systems. They play a vital role in healthcare, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and the emerging bio-economy. With growing global interest in natural products, evidence-based traditional medicine and sustainable healthcare, there is an urgent need to strengthen research, conservation, scientific cultivation, quality assurance, value addition and market linkages through coordinated scientific, technological and policy interventions.

With this objective, the Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA), with financial assistance from the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and sponsorship from Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) and Himalaya Wellness Company, organised the National Conference on "Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Health, Livelihoods, Bio-economy and Conservation." The conference brought together policymakers, scientists, academicians, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, farmers and other stakeholders to deliberate on the opportunities, challenges and future directions for the sustainable development of the medicinal and aromatic plants sector.

This publication presents the key observations, conference recommendations, implementation framework and action agenda that emerged from the deliberations of the keynote address, invited lectures, technical sessions and panel discussions. The recommendations proposed by the Session Chairs were carefully synthesised and integrated with the broader perspectives shared by the participants to develop a comprehensive policy-oriented framework for advancing the MAP sector.

This document is intended to serve as a valuable reference for policymakers, government departments, research and academic institutions, industries, entrepreneurs, farmers and development agencies. It is expected to facilitate informed decision-making, strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, promote innovation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal plant resources and enhance India's global competitiveness in the herbal sector.

I sincerely acknowledge the contributions of the Keynote Speaker, Invited Experts, Session Chairs, Chief Patron and Patrons, Members of the Conference Committee, researchers, delegates and participants whose valuable insights enriched this publication. I also express my gratitude to the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), Himalaya Wellness Company and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, for their generous support. I am confident that this publication will contribute to the conservation, scientific advancement and sustainable development of medicinal and aromatic plants in alignment with the vision of *Viksit Bharat@2047*.

Dr. Anand R
Chief Executive Officer
Karnataka Science and Technology Academy
Department of Science and Technology
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BACKGROUND

The Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, organised a three-day National Conference on "Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Health, Livelihoods, Bio-economy and Conservation" during 16–18 July 2026 at KSTA Premises, Bengaluru. The conference served as a multidisciplinary forum to facilitate dialogue among experts and stakeholders on scientific, technological, policy and entrepreneurial aspects of the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) sector.

The conference witnessed the participation of around 120 delegates representing universities, research institutions, government departments, industry, farmer organisations, and non-governmental organisations from across the country. Participants included scientists, academicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs, research scholars, students and professionals working in diverse domains related to medicinal and aromatic plants.

The three-day programme comprised 64 oral research paper presentations, a Keynote Address, distinguished invited lectures, expert panel discussions, an exhibition showcasing products, technologies, and institutional initiatives, and the release of the Conference Abstract Compendium.

- The conference featured
- 64 Oral Research Presentations
- Keynote Address
- Distinguished Invited Lectures
- Panel Discussions
- Exhibition
- Release of Abstract Compendium

The technical deliberations covered a broad spectrum of themes, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable cultivation, quality planting material, phytochemistry, value addition, quality assurance, health care applications, entrepreneurship, market development, and policy interventions.

The deliberations and interactions during the conference culminated in a set of recommendations that reflect the collective views of the experts and participants. These recommendations are intended to guide future research, policy formulation, institutional collaboration and strategic interventions for the sustainable development of India's medicinal and aromatic plants sector.

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Chairman, Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA)

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Senior Scientific Officer, KSTA

Shri Umesh V Ghatage

Scientific Officer, KSTA

Shri Mahadevegowda

Administrative Officer, KSTA

INVITED SPEAKERS



Dr. R R Rao
Senior Scientist /
Former Joint Director BSI, Dehradun &
Kolkata

Title
Indian Region, a Major Emporium of
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants:
Diversity, Conservation and
Bioprospection - A Priority Agenda for
21st century



Dr. Kumar S K
Director, School of Ancient Wisdom,
Govt. Ayurveda Medical College,
Bengaluru

Title
Mainstreaming Medicinal Plants into
Human Healthcare and Wellness:
Integrating Ancient Wisdom with
Modern Science



Dr. M J Prabhu
Senior Medicinal Plant Consultant
Karnataka State Medicinal Plants
Authority (KAMPA), Bengaluru

Title
Adulteration, Marketing with
Traceability of NTFP of MAP's



Dr. U M Chandrashekara
Project Director, NMPB-RCFC (SR)
Kerala Forest Research Institute

Title
Production, Certification and Distribution
of Quality Planting Materials (QPM) of
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)



Dr. G K Sadanand
CoE, FPO, College of Horticulture,
Bengaluru

Title
Contract, Collective and Community
Farming through Farmer Producer
Organizations (FPOs): Inclusive and
Workable Models for Scaling Medicinal
and Aromatic Plant Cultivation in
Karnataka



Dr. Veerendra Pratap Singh
Assistant Professor, College of
Horticulture, Bidar

Title
Value Chain Development Models
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)



Dr. M Sanjappa
Former Director,
Botanical Survey of India, Bengaluru

Title
The Role of Taxonomy in Medicinal
Plant Research



Smt. Smitha Kamath
Pranapoorna Collective, Bengaluru

Title
Ethnobotanical Engineering: MAPs
as Natural Hygiene High Value
Products in Skincare and
Disinfectant Cleaners. Antimicrobials
Replacing Petrochemicals. Scaling
with Sustainable Circular
Bioeconomy - Pranapoorna Case
study

PANELIST



Prof. Dr. S B Dandin
Member, KSTA / Former VC, UHS,
Bagalkote

Chairman, Panel 1

Title

Interactive Meet of Growers, Buyers,
Processing Industries, Herbal
Practitioners and Consumers on MAP
Value Addition and Marketing

Panel Members:

Dr. Srivathsa Govindaraju,
Nature Inspires India, Bengaluru
Dr B S Harish,
Professor of MAP, COH Bengaluru
Dr Mahesh Kumar
Medicinal & Aromatic Plant
Federation, Bengaluru
Dr. Shivakumar T
Asst. Professor, Ayush
Department, Bengaluru
Dr M V Prakash Rao Manchale,
Medicinal Plant Farmer,
Shivamogga



**Prof. Dr. Chandrashekhar M
Biradar**
Member, KSTA / CMD, Global Green
Growth

Chairman, Panel 2

Title

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for
India@2047. Health Security, Farmer
Prosperity and Global Leadership,
Strategic Vision for Positioning India
as a Global Herbal Bioeconomy
Leader

Panel Members:

Mr Basaiah Hiremath
Founder and Director, NOFH,
Bengaluru
Mrs. Sumangala K H,
Founder and CEO, Samanvaya
Trust, Davangere/Bengaluru
Dr Vijayakumar Narayanapur
Prof of MAP, UHS, Bagalkote
Dr. Ashwini Godbole,
Professor, TDU, Bengaluru



MAJOR THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Diversity, Bioprospecting, Conservation and Scientific Validation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs)
- Ethnobotanically Important Medicinal Plants: Scientific Validation and Mainstreaming
- Contract and Collective/Community Farming and Promotion of FPO for MAPs
- Harvesting, Transport, Storage, Adulteration, Marketing and Digital Traceability in MAPs
- Geographical Indicators for Ecological Sustainability (GIES), IPR and Biopiracy aspects of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for both Domestic and Export Promotion
- Quality Planting Material (QPM) - Accreditation and Certification
- Integrated Value Chain Development and Market Linkages for MAPs
- Interaction Meet of Growers, Buyers, Processors, Industries, Herbalists (Traditional Practitioners) and Consumer Segments.
- Experience Sharing in Processing, Value Addition and Marketing Aspects of MAP by all Farmers, FPOs, Industry and Exporters.





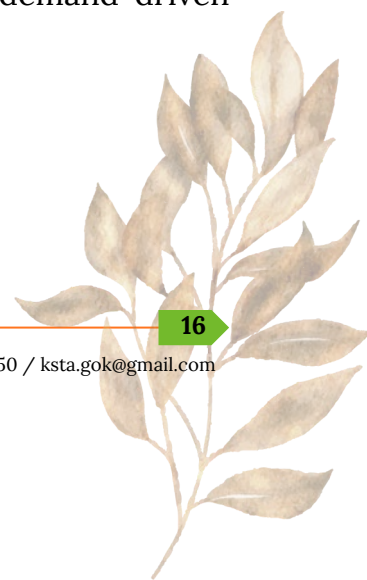
KEY OBSERVATIONS

- India possesses enormous medicinal plant diversity but only a small proportion is cultivated scientifically.
- Wild populations of many commercially important species are declining due to overexploitation.
- Traditional knowledge requires systematic documentation and scientific validation.
- Medicinal and aromatic plants have important linkages with human health, animal health and ecosystem health, highlighting their significance within the integrated One Health and Planetary Health framework.
- Availability of quality planting material remains inadequate.
- Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Processing Practices (GPP) requires strengthening.
- Farmers require better market intelligence and assured marketing systems.
- Traceability and quality certification are essential for export competitiveness.
- Stronger collaboration among academia, industry and government is required.

1. Research & Conservation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritise interdisciplinary research on high-trade, threatened and high-potential medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) species for human and animal healthcare, drug discovery, product development and value addition, while recognising their role in ecosystem health and the broader One Health and Planetary Health framework.
- Document, protect, scientifically validate and promote ethnobotanical knowledge of tribal communities, local herbal practitioners and traditional medicinal practices, including veterinary and animal healthcare systems, while ensuring community rights, appropriate Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), intellectual property protection and safeguards against misappropriation and biopiracy.
- Protect biodiversity hotspots and natural habitats of medicinal plants through conservation-led cultivation, habitat restoration and sustainable management to replenish natural populations.
- Enforce strict regulations to prevent destructive and unsustainable harvesting of medicinal plants from the wild.
- Promote genomic, phytochemical and pharmacological research to scientifically validate medicinal plant resources and facilitate the development of evidence-based herbal products.
- Develop a GIS-enabled National Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) Atlas integrating biodiversity and conservation status, threatened species, agro-climatic suitability, chemotypes, quality planting material (QPM) sources, production clusters, processing facilities, markets and value-chain information to support evidence-based planning, conservation and demand-driven cultivation.



2. Production, Cultivation & Quality

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify suitable agro-climatic zones and chemotypes for large-scale, demand-driven cultivation of priority medicinal and aromatic plant species.
- Promote cluster-based cultivation of region-specific medicinal and aromatic plant species through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs and other community institutions to improve production efficiency, aggregation and market access.
- Standardise and promote GAP, GPP and non-destructive harvesting protocols for priority species.
- Strengthen the production and distribution of certified Quality Planting Material (QPM) by developing robust networks linking accredited nurseries, research institutions, industries, farmers, FPOs, commercial growers and markets.
- Develop a national nursery accreditation and certification system to ensure the production and availability of certified QPM.
- Encourage medicinal plant processing and phytopharmaceutical industries to establish and support certified QPM production systems for conservation and commercial cultivation.
- Promote climate-resilient cultivation and landscape-based approaches for medicinal and aromatic plants in drylands, rainfed regions and degraded lands, including MAP-based agroforestry, precision agriculture and resource-efficient technologies, to enhance climate adaptation, land restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
- Encourage mechanisation and post-harvest technologies, including primary processing, drying, storage and value addition, to minimise losses and improve product quality.
- Establish Integrated MAP Collection, Processing, Testing and Value Addition Centres at the district level to strengthen local value chains and support farmers, entrepreneurs and industries.



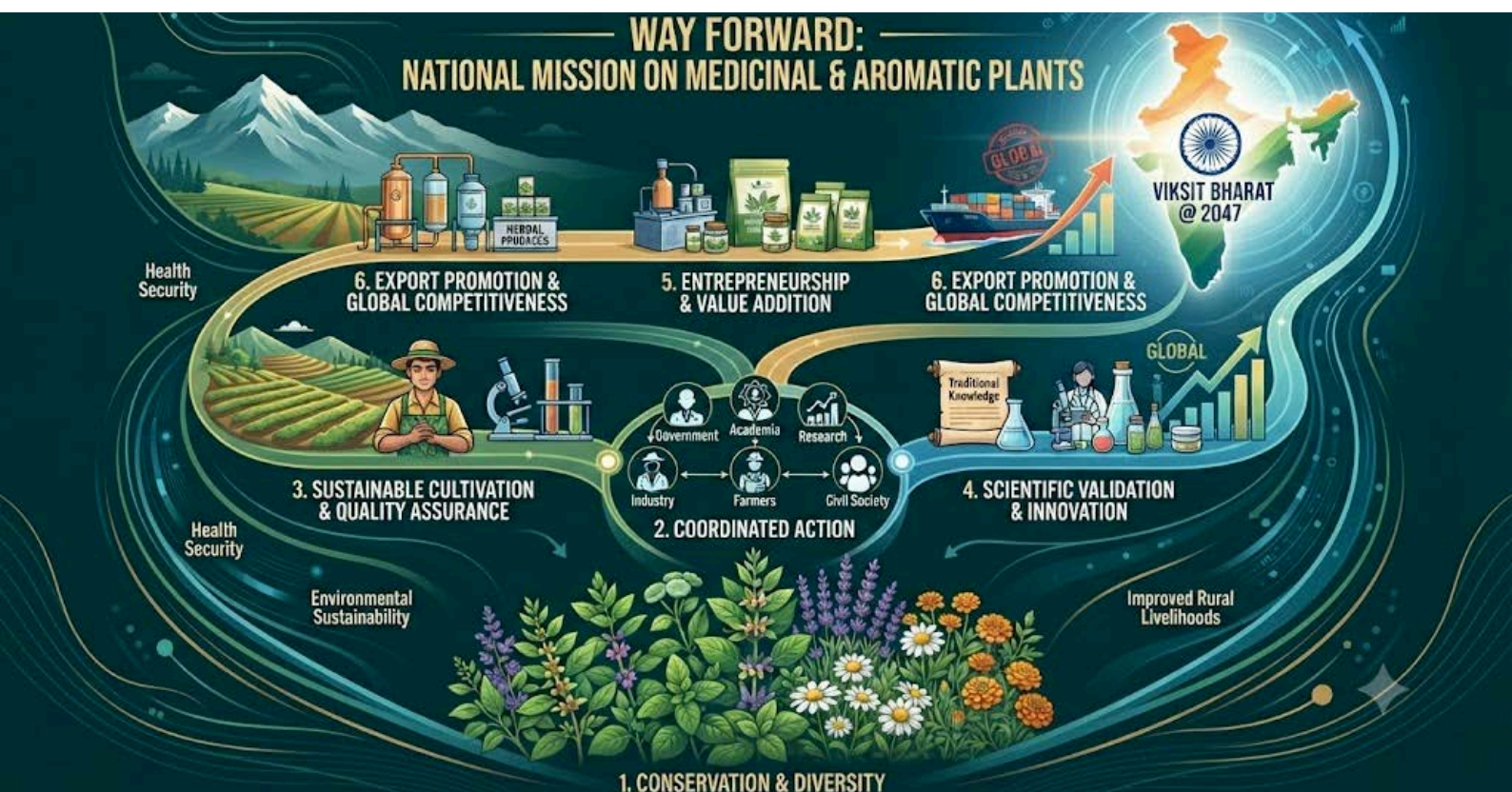
3. Markets, Governance & Policy

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), cooperative farming and contract farming models to ensure fair prices, assured markets, and large-scale commercial cultivation.
- Establish robust systems for traceability, certification, quality assurance and strict anti-adulteration measures through effective regulatory frameworks and enforcement.
- Strengthen branding, market intelligence, value addition, product diversification, export promotion and global value chains to position India as a global leader in the medicinal and aromatic plants sector.
- Strengthen academia-industry partnerships to accelerate technology transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of medicinal and aromatic plant-based products.
- Promote skill development and capacity-building programmes for farmers, entrepreneurs, extension personnel, researchers and industry stakeholders across the medicinal and aromatic plant value chain.
- Promote women and youth entrepreneurship in nursery development, cultivation, processing, herbal product development and rural bio-enterprises.
- Facilitate access to credit, crop insurance and financial incentives for farmers and entrepreneurs engaged in medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation and processing.
- Strengthen international collaborations and harmonise quality standards with global regulatory requirements to enhance exports and global competitiveness of Indian medicinal plant products.
- Develop a National Roadmap for the MAP sector with measurable targets for conservation, cultivation, research, value addition, exports and livelihood generation to achieve the vision of *Viksit Bharat@2047*.
- Develop a Global Herbal Bioeconomy Roadmap aligned with the National Roadmap to position India as a global leader in the production, value addition and export of high-value medicinal and aromatic plant products under the vision of *Viksit Bharat@2047*.
- Establish a coordinated National Mission on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants as the apex institutional mechanism to implement the National Roadmap through convergence among Central and State Government departments, research institutions, industry and other stakeholders for sustainable sectoral development.
- Adopt a demand-driven, farmer-to-market approach for medicinal and aromatic plants by linking cultivation planning with market demand, assured procurement, FPOs/FPCs, processing and value addition, quality standards and end-to-end traceability to ensure remunerative returns to farmers and sustainable growth of the sector.

ACTION AGENDA

Priority Action	Lead Agency	Supporting Agencies	Time Frame
Prepare a National Roadmap for the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) sector with measurable targets.	Ministry of AYUSH / NMPB	DST, ICAR, CSIR, State Medicinal Plant Boards, (eg. KaMPA in Karnataka), State Governments, Universities	Short Term (1–2 Years)
Establish a National Mission on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) as the apex institutional mechanism.	Ministry of AYUSH	NMPB, State Governments, DST, ICAR, CSIR	Short Term (1–2 Years)
Develop a national digital database on medicinal and aromatic plant resources, traditional knowledge and conservation status.	NMPB, State Medicinal Plant Boards, (eg. KaMPA in Karnataka)	Botanical Survey of India (BSI), ICAR, CSIR, Universities, State Biodiversity Boards	Short Term (1–2 Years)
Strengthen the production and distribution of certified Quality Planting Material (QPM) through accredited nurseries.	NMPB	State Medicinal Plant Boards, (eg. KaMPA in Karnataka), ICAR, Universities, Private Nurseries	Short–Medium Term (1–5 Years)
Promote cluster-based cultivation of priority MAP species through FPOs, SHGs and community institutions.	State Governments	NMPB, NABARD, FPOs, NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)	Medium Term (3–5 Years)
Establish Integrated MAP Collection, Processing, Testing and Value Addition Centers in major cultivation regions.	State Governments	NMPB, MSME, Industries, FPOs, Agricultural & Horticultural Universities	Medium Term (3–5 Years)
Strengthen traceability, certification, quality assurance and anti-adulteration systems to improve domestic and export competitiveness.	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Ministry of AYUSH, APEDA, BIS, Export Promotion Councils, NMPB	Medium Term (3–5 Years)
Promote research, innovation, technology transfer and academia–industry partnerships for evidence-based herbal products.	CSIR, ICAR, Universities	DST, NMPB, Industry	Continuous
Strengthen capacity building, skill development, science communication and entrepreneurship, with special emphasis on women and youth.	Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	NMPB, State Governments, Universities, NGOs	Continuous
Position India as a global leader in medicinal and aromatic plants through international collaborations, value addition, branding and export promotion under the vision of <i>Viksit Bharat@2047</i> .	Ministry of AYUSH	Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of External Affairs, NMPB, Industry Associations	Long Term (By 2047)



WAY FORWARD

The conference strongly recommends adopting a mission-mode approach to strengthen India's medicinal and aromatic plant sector through coordinated action involving Government, academia, research institutions, industries, farmers and civil society.

Priority should be given to conservation of medicinal plant diversity, scientific validation of traditional knowledge, sustainable cultivation, quality assurance, entrepreneurship, value addition and export promotion. Establishing a coordinated National Mission on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, strengthening farmer institutions, promoting innovation and enhancing global competitiveness will contribute significantly towards achieving Viksit Bharat@2047, while ensuring health security, environmental sustainability and improved rural livelihoods.

KSTA will serve as a knowledge partner, capacity-building agency, science communication organisation, and policy facilitator in promoting the implementation of the recommendations emerging from this conference. KSTA will facilitate collaboration among government departments, research institutions, universities, industry, farmer organisations and other stakeholders through scientific networking, capacity-building programmes, knowledge dissemination, policy advocacy and outreach initiatives. In partnership with the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Karnataka Medicinal Plant Boards (KaMPA), academic and research institutions, industries and civil society organisations, KSTA will endeavour to support research, innovation, technology transfer and sustainable development of the medicinal and aromatic plants sector in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance extended by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, for organizing the National Conference on Exploring Nature's Pharmacy: Potentials of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Health, Livelihoods, Bio-economy and Conservation.

KSTA also expresses its sincere gratitude to the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, Karnataka Medicinal Plant Board KaMPA) the members of the Conference Committee, keynote speakers, invited experts, panelists, researchers, delegates, collaborating institutions for their valuable contributions, active participation and support in the successful conduct of the conference. Their collective expertise and insights have significantly enriched the deliberations and helped shape the recommendations presented in this report. We are also thankful to sponsoring organizations viz., Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Limited and Himalaya Wellness Company, Bengaluru for their support.

KSTA looks forward to continued collaboration with government agencies, academic and research institutions, industry and civil society organizations in advancing the sustainable development of India's medicinal and aromatic plants sector.

SPONSORS



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Inauguration by watering the Plant



Inaugural address by
Prof. Rajasab A H, Chairman, KSTA



Dr. Anand R, CEO, KSTA



Delegates at Conference



Prof. S B Dandin, Member, KSTA



Prof. Chandrashekar Biradar
Member, KSTA



Group Photo

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Inauguration of Exhibition Stalls



Inauguration of Exhibition Stalls



Distribution of Best Paper Prize



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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Medicinal Plant Stall



Student Presentation



Student Presentation



Technical Session

Student Presentation Evaluation



NOTES



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