

Highlights of activities for 2005-2006

Database on Medicinal Plants of the Western Ghats

RMRC, Belgaum has been designated as Coordinating Unit of ‘**MULTICENTRIC PROJECT ON SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS OF WESTERN GHATS**’ by the Council. The data generated by the 5 centres viz. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa, identified by the Council have been collected and is under compilation.

In all, information for 500 medicinal plants used by local traditional practitioners from the Western Ghats has been collected, along with 497 herbarium sheets of 332 plant species and 514 photographs of 318 plant species. The format of the database is finalized in consultation with Task Force Committee Members and the process of Database development is in progress. The database will provide detailed information on botanical name, synonyms, local names, description of the plant, parts used by the traditional practitioner, medicinal uses, formulation, chemical composition, Pharmacology/Toxicology and clinical trials, if any, etc.

A museum of medicinal plants of the Western Ghats has been established on a modest basis, which was inaugurated on 20th May, 2006 by the Director General.

Burden of diseases in Belgaum as per the Hospital Records

Baseline information has been collected for 4 consecutive years (2000-04) for prevailing diseases in Belgaum region. This study suggests that diseases of circulatory system were high in private hospital while certain parasitic & infectious diseases were reported higher for Civil Hospital. Further, a study entitled “Burden of infectious diseases on hospital services in District Civil Hospital, Belgaum” was undertaken. Although there are 21 major sub classifications under infectious diseases, only 5 contributed 93% of the disease burden on hospital beds in the District Hospital. Intestinal infectious diseases (44%) followed by TB (35%) are the leading among these 5. Among the intestinal infectious diseases, diarrhea and gastroenteritis contributed 83% followed by typhoid and paratyphoid fevers (13%). Intestinal infections are leading cause of admissions among <5 years children. This study is now being extended to nearby areas like Dharwad district by obtaining data from Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli.

Survey on usage, availability and utility of Traditional Medicine/Formulations in Belgaum Regions

ICMR has funded a research proposal entitled “Survey on usage, availability and utility of Traditional medicine/Formulations in Belgaum regions.” This project has been formulated in collaboration with B.M.K. Ayurveda College, Belgaum. Preparatory work like establishing rapport with the staff from Ayurvedic hospitals and Traditional medicine practitioners has already been initiated. Formats and protocol are also designed and pretested. Baseline information like names and addresses of the practitioners is also compiled. This study has been initiated recently.

Library

Library has been established with books mainly in the area of Phytochemistry, Herbal medicine, Ayurveda, Physiology etc. Also 12 journals pertaining to the research activities of the Centre have been subscribed.

Infrastructure

Various equipments like Laminar Flow, Elisa Reader, Bio-Safety Cabinet, Spectrophotometer, Lypholyser, Rotary Evaporator etc. have been procured for setting up of Core and Phytochemistry Laboratory.

Major achievements in brief

A museum of medicinal plants of Western Ghats has been set up at the Centre which was inaugurated on 20th May, 2006. Pictures and herbaria of medicinal plants used by local/tribal medicinal practitioners have been displayed in the museum. The objectives for setting up this museum are -

- To provide scientific information on medicinal plants of Western Ghats and their usages
- To create awareness on role of medicinal plants/ ethnomedicobotany in health care and drug development
- To improve knowledge on importance of Western Ghats as a biodiversity hot spot and conservation of medicinal plants

The work on database on ethnomedicinal plants of Western Ghats is in progress and shall be completed by end of this year.

List of publications

1. G. S. Sachdeva, S. Gadkar, C. A. Shah, **S. D. Kholkute** and C. P. Puri. Characterization of a critical region in the hormone binding domain of sperm progesterone receptor. *Int. J. Andrology*: 28, 120, 2005.
2. **S. D. Kholkute**. New World primates in biomedical research. In “National Centre for Primate Breeding and Research: Vision, Challenges and Opportunities”. Eds: C. P. Puri and N. K. Ganguly, Publisher NIRRH, Mumbai, India, page 163,2005.

Meetings Organised

Task Force meeting on the medicinal plants of the Western Ghats was held at the Centre on 6th May 2006. Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy, Sr. DDG & Chief (BMS) was Chairperson for this meeting which was attended by other experts.

Participation of scientists in various meetings/seminars/symposia

Dr. S. D. Kholkute, Officer-in-Charge

1. Participated in International Conference on “ Advances and Challenges in Reproductive Health Research in the post genomic era” from 10th and 11th January 2005.
2. Participated and presented paper in 2005 Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine Expo and Forum, Wuhan, Hubei (China) held from 20th to 22nd October 2005.
3. Participated as a Faculty in National Seminar on ‘**Emerging Trends in Ethnopharmacology**’ on 12-13th November 2005 held at Bagalkot.
4. Participated in the Second Meeting of Scientific Advisory Committee of LaCONES as an **Expert Member**, CCMB, Hyderabad, December 2005.
5. Attended ICMR-NIF National Brainstorming Session on “Benefit Sharing through Validation and Value Addition in Traditional Knowledge” held on December 24, 2005 at IIM, Ahmedabad.
6. **Chairperson Session on Scientific Communication and Writing** Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS) - 23rd Annual National Conference on Bio-statistics in Medicine: Challenges & Opportunities, at K.L.E Society’s Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum, January 2006.

7. **Chairperson Scientific Session** “Second International Symposium on Drug Development and Processing research “ held at College of Pharmacy, Belgaum, 10-12th Feb., 2006.

Mr. Shripad Bhat, Research Asst.

Attended “Global Forum for Health Research Conference” held at Mumbai from 12th to 15th September 2005.

Attended 25th ISMS Conference held at JNMC, Belgaum from 19th January to 22nd January 2006. Served as Jt. Organising Secretary for the Conference

Attended Annual Conference of the “Indian Society for Malaria and other communicable diseases” held at JALMA, Agra from 11th to 13th February 2006.

Mr. Ashok C Naik, Research Asst.

1. Presented “Disease Survey Based on Hospital Records in Belgaum Region” as poster presentation in the Third Southeast Asia and Western Pacific Bi – Regional TEPHINET Scientific Conference, 2006 conducted by National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR) at Chennai, India from 9 – 12 January, 2006.
2. Presented papers on “The Burden of Infectious Diseases on Hospital Services at District Civil Hospital, Belgaum” in Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS), XXII Annual conference 2005 conducted by KLE society’s Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum from 20 – 22 January, 2006.
3. Participated sensitization workshop on “Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP)” district level which is conducted by District Surveillance Unit, District Health and F.W. Services at Belgaum.

Dr. Harsha Hegde, Sr. Research Fellow

1. Technical Seminar on “Innovative HPLC and Analytical Solutions” Dharwad on 14th September 2005
2. National Seminar on Emerging trends in Ethnopharmacology 12th November 2005
Bagalkot presented- Antimicrobial Properties of Medicinal plants used in Traditional Medicine in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka.
3. 2nd International Symposium on Drug Discovery and Process Research at KLES College of Pharmacy, Belgaum from 10th to 12th February, 2006
4. National Seminar on “Management of Neurodegenerative Disorders- Challenges and Opportunities” on 5th March, 2006 at SET’s College of Pharmacy, Dharwad.

Mr. Vinayak Upadhya, Sr. Research Fellow

1. Technical Seminar on “Innovative HPLC and Analytical Solutions” Dharwad on 14th September 2005
2. National Seminar on Emerging trends in Ethnopharmacology 12th November 2005
Bagalkot

Workshops/Conferences/Seminars/Training programmes conducted

Co-organizers of the Annual Conference of ISMS at J. N. Medical College, Belgaum from 19th to 22nd January 2006. Dr. S.D.Kholkute, Officer-in-Charge was co-chairman of the conference and Mr. Shripad Bhat was the Jt. Organising Secretary.