



## INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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### *Foreword*

Regional Medical Research Centre, Belgaum is set up to promote research in Traditional / herbal medicine through inter-system collaboration to bridge the gap between modern and traditional medicine. The Centre is also collecting information on prevalence of diseases in the region and the role of herbal medicine in treating these diseases. Apart from these, the mandate of the Centre is to create general awareness on medicinal plants and promote scientific temperament of the same in the region. Among its thrust areas is survey of fauna and flora of medicinal value in Western Ghats, pharmacological screening of biological activity of plants for their action on various systems, chemical characterization of medicinal plant products and clinical trials of selected traditional remedies. The database will be useful to lay man, students, academicians, traditional healers and scientific community interested in the area of herbal medicine. Disease survey was based on hospital records of two major hospitals in Belgaum, one Government and the other private.

A museum has been set up highlighting biodiversity of Western Ghats, through posters, laminated photographs and herbaria. This has attracted both scientists and lay public. Efforts are on to improve its infrastructure, and preparation of scientific/ informative brochures. A herbal garden has also been which is being visited by the people from various backgrounds.

A survey on usage, availability and utility of traditional / herbal Medicines / Formulations in Belgaum Region is also being undertaken to collect information on usage of traditional and ethnic practices.

The Regional Medical Research Centre, Belgaum is poised for development which is the need of the country from the Government Sector which would complement its efforts to project the gains from India's rich heritage of plant kingdom and traditional knowledge. I wish Dr. S. D. Kholkute all success in bringing out the first annual report of this institution.

Date : 24.6.2008  
New Delhi 110029

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