



## FIELD NOTE ON TURUK- SADAM -RAMABOUNG -MANGALBAREY CLUSTER (TSRM) OF SIKKIM

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### Abstract

The study was undertaken to identify the cluster of Medicinal plants' growers in Southern part of Sikkim making species oriented regions. The commulative data of issues and demands of growers were also noted which are essential for the prospective planning of the areas. The representatives of the Local self Gvoernment, medicinal plant growers and farmers of the regions were involved to discourse medicinal plants in the region.

This writing contains the information of the Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung - Mangalbarey Cluster ( TSRM) and enumerated their expressions and commitments.

**Keywords:** Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung -Mangalbarey Cluster ( TSRM), South Sikkim, Sikkim Himalaya, Medicinal Plants growers.

### Introduction

The field visit was conducted in Katam, Ramaboung, Bhangiang, Sadam Suntalay, Melli, Magalbarey villages of the southern part of Sikkim. The objective of field visit was to prepare a strategic planning and impact analysis of medicinal plants. The ancillary activity of this visit was also to find out issues of medicinal plants in the State of Sikkim .

Since, the biodiversity is the strength of Sikkim (Hooker, 1872-1897; Hooker and Thompson, 1855; Hara, 1966, 1971) and Sikkim has a record of selling bioresources from the forest sources for the generation of revenue (HCCD, 2009, Pradhan, 2011). Whilst, the earlier days' rural economy was well connected with bioresources of state. With the advent of time, the State, Sikkim, developed with technology and knowledge. Several policies of the State Government formulated for the conservation and preservation of resources for the global needs (Pradhan, 2011). Nowadays, Sikkim is towards preserving its resources, mostly rare, threatened and endangered species of world (Hara, 1966, 1971; Pradhan, 2011).

Meanwhile, it is also necessary to have sustainable society, primarily at forest fringed villages, therefore, in 2014, the medicinal plants growers' cluster was conceptualized involving the representatives of Local Self Government, stakeholders of forest fringed villages and growers. It was believed that the effective representation and people participatory approach involving rural people of forest fringed villages would be an effective tool to fulfill the trust deficit exists among the medicinal plants growers.

### Materials and Methods

Oral interaction and discussion on issues and solutions among stakeholders, growers, farmers, panchayat regarding medicinal plants were performed and recorded in the query form for understanding medicinal plants produces at forest fringed villages of Sikkim.

The studied areas were Manglabarey, Turuk, Sadam and other forest fringed villages of South Sikkim.

## Result and Discussion

A meeting was conducted among growers, farmers, interested persons and other at Manglabarey Bar Dara, South Sikkim. The growers proposed and decided to cultivate following medicinal plants at their farm fields, viz, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hedychium*, *Zanthoxylum*, *Curcuma*, *Mohonia*, *Kaempferia*, *Bergenia*, *Embllica*, *Astilbe*, *Swertia* etcetera. The growers also prepared a map of their areas for developing into Model village of Medicinal Plants Produces at forest fringed areas and identified issues of the regions such as lack of processing unit, Product certification etc.

The following demands were put forward:-

- (a) The farmers requested for the easy documentation and registration of Medicinal Plants Growers and farmers within and outside the state;
- (b) Provision of easy access to bring high price fetching medicinal plants species to Sikkim;
- (c) Laboratory Testing facilities of medicinal plants produces for quality marketing as per the market demand;
- (d) Warehouse establishment for storing the medicinal plants produces, and
- (e) Semi-processing unit for preparing raw materials ready to sell;

A copy of their minutes was circulated duly certified by the Panchayat of Manglabarey Ward, Turuk Ramabong, G.PU, South Sikkim and the Growers' President of Manglabarey Ward, Turuk Ramabong, G.PU, South Sikkim (Fig a).

Here, in a study group, a segment of a society was considered as a sample case and attempts to explore the economic support of medicinal plants. All obtained data collected from the growers and farmers of Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung -Manglabarey Cluster (TSRM). During the primary data reconnaissance, it was reflected that 19% women participated as respondents to 81% men respondents and the data indicated that the region is suitable for the cluster development of medicinal plants. Notably, the involvement of women in medicinal plants produces is the good indicator of the region.

**Table 1:** Data obtained from experienced personnel Farmers and Growers of Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung -Manglabarey Cluster (TSRM), South Sikkim

Years Farming Experienced	No of Individuals
10-15	3
16-20	0
21-25	1
26-30	5
31-35	3
36-40	0
41-45	2
46-50	1
51-55	1

**Source:** *Farmers and Growers of Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung -Manglabarey Cluster (TSRM), South Sikkim*

**Forest Fringed areas of Turuk- Ramabong villages**

1. Sadam Reserve Forests
2. Rani Ban
3. Sadam Taray Bhir Dara
4. Gowcharan Bhir

In fact, there is a market of medicinal plants across the country and the state, however, it is observed that 73% of the farmers or growers were not having sufficient income out of their efforts. On the contrary, 27% of farmers of same locality was fetching good prices. This discrepancy creates several questions in the mind and found that 27% stakeholders were cultivating their bioresources or medicinal plant produces at the larger areas compare to those 73% marginal farmers who cultivate at approximately 0.002 to 0.004 Ha.

Additionally, some of the Issues identified of the region were unavailability of processing unit; certification for send in and out; technical know-how; not easy to send farm based bioresources like other agricultural produces; unregulated market; harassment of forest check post; quality planting material and selection of material; unavailability of license on domesticated medicinal produces; Transit Permit for agricultural produces etcetera. These issues are significant in a sense and evolved from the discussion of stakeholders.

So, the prospective planning of area must be prepared including the issues and solutions for achieving outcomes and outputs, strategically. During the planning, the vision document must include participatory planning of medicinal plants growers and farmers or organization or SHG or any such other considering the following demands of the stakeholders:

- (a) Easy documentation and registration of Medicinal Plants Growers or farmers or organization or SHG for fetching market of medicinal plants produces within and outside the state;
- (b) Easy access to bring high price fetching medicinal plants species to Sikkim;
- (c) Laboratory Testing facilities of medicinal plants produces for quality marketing, and to meet marketing demand;
- (d) Warehouse establishment for storing the medicinal plants produces and,
- (e) Semi-processing unit for preparing raw materials ready to sell.

Further, the farmers or growers who are dealing medicinal plants were facing problems of identification and laboratory testing of produces or product certificate as these documents were sought by buyers. Hence, it is essential to prepare a regulation for domesticated medicinal plants produces for facilitating medicinal plants producers of the State of Sikkim.

**Table 3:** Rural Economy data obtained from random sampling out of 16 persons of Magalbarey , Turuk Ramabong, GPU. [in Six Month, Year 2014]

Person earning	No.	Percentage
10-15000	7	47%
17-25000	2	13%
26-40000	2	13%
In Lakh or more	4	27%

This study reveals that inclusion of farmers' requirements for the marketing of bioresources would be appreciating initiative, who could encash the benefit of regulation of agriculturally produced medicinal plants for fetching good price. In response to this, the Panchayat , Magalbarey, South Sikkim suggested, '*A good forest management planning is required for the forest fringed villages for the sustainable livelihood*'.

In conclusion, this information of a rural part of Sikkim is a baseline of medicinal plants where the people demanded the lifting of ban on medicinal plants with the procedures as it is creating a problem in agriculturally produced medicinal plants of tropical, sub-tropical, temperate forests fringed villages, and other. Additionally, most of the farmers' fields of forest fringed villages are reluctantly doing their farming due to loss of crops by wildlife menace. Thus, the demands of governmental certified quality medicinal planting materials for the expansion activities at the forest fringed areas, regulation of markets, product certificate etcetera were the interesting proposals of stakeholders of forest fringed villages.

In fact, the domestication of high valued medicinal plants of the forest fringed areas shall be an appreciative step because the villagers of same localities know how to grow. Hence, preparing a master plan or mission document, including all demands and contrivances, shall help to create '**Model Villages Of Medicinal Plants Produces**' at the forest fringed villages of Southern part of Sikkim. Thus, the proposal of Model Villages Of Medicinal Plants Produces of Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung -Mangalbarey cluster (TSRM), forest fringed villages, **was initiated as** an exemplary initiative for the rest of Sikkim to foster the economic activity.

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**(Translated version of Minutes of Model villages of Medicinal Plants produces )**

The day, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, the farmers, youth and interested farmers met with Principal Scientist SMPB at Mangalbarey, Bardara, Turuk. We discussed and analyzed on the farming of coming seasons.

**Decisions:**

1. To upgrade the economic status and marketability, we decided and selected suitable plots for the medicinal plants produces;
2. The domesticated selected medicinal plants shall be *Gloriosa superba, Asparagus, Hedychium, Curcuma, Zanthoxylum, Mahonia, Amla, Orchis, Astilbe, Bergenia* etc.
3. We prepared the sketch of the lands for above said activities;
4. The objective of aforesaid decisions is to promote medicinal plants produces at village level with special emphasis to forest fringed villages. At the meeting, we discussed following issues:-  
Laboratory Testing problem, Storehouse issue, lack of processing unit, issue related to the produce sending out and in, lack of certification, technical gaps, not easy to send own agriculturally produced products, forest check harassment, identification of quality planting material, unavailability of license, unavailability of registration in medicinal plants, seeking transit permit for privately produced products etc.
5. Unanimously, the following bullets points are put forward are as under:-
  - (a) Documentation as well as growers and farmers registration is must so that those registered person could sell within the state and outside the state.
  - (b) High valued species may be allowed to bring into Sikkim.
  - (c) Facility for testing agriculturally produced medicinal plants may be provided as these medicinal plants could not be sold out in market without laboratory test report.
  - (d) Warehouse is necessary; the said warehouse must be provided nearby medicinal plants producing areas. The responsibilities of warehouse shall be given to medicinal plants producing committee.
  - (e) Necessity of Semi-processing unit for value added activity.
  - (f) Unanimously we decided to promote these villages (Turuk- Sadam -Ramaboung –Mangalbarey) as the '**Model villages of Medicinal Plants produces**'.

Sd/-Certified by Panchayat:  
3-Mangalbarey Ward

**Fig 1:** Minutes of Model Villages Of Medicinal Plants Produces of Turuk- Sadam - Ramaboung –Mangalbarey cluster (TSRM)

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