CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN NATURAL ECOSYSTEM IN GUJARAT (INDIA): CONSTRAINTS AND CONSERVATION NEED

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Abstract : The present paper deals briefly about cultivation of medicinal plant of Gujarat. The number of plant species yielding raw materials used by the industry on regular basis and/or in substantially large quantities is put at around 143 species. Among these, 78 species occur wild in forests or other forms of natural vegetation, 23 species grow as weed, 42 species are grown as cash crop for other plant based products and 22 species are cultivated as medicinal crop. There has been a tremendous increase in the production of herbal medicines and other items in recent years. These include such important sources of raw materials as *Aegle marmelos, Commiphora wightii, Emblica officinalis, Eucalyptus, Mentha viridis, Terminalia arjuna, Terminalia bellirica, Terminalia chebula, Withania somnifera* and *Zingiber officinalis*. Few effects have been made to highlight the problems encountered for necessary constraints and conservation need to medicinal plants in this state.

Keywords: Medicinal plant, conservation, cultivated, natural vegetation, Gujarat

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