Webinar on "Quality Control of Medicinal Herbs" organized by TFRI, Jabalpur

A webinar on the topic "Quality control of medicinal herbs" was organized at TFRI, Jabalpur under the guidance of Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, Director, TFRI on 08/02/2021 from 11 am to 1 pm. The main purposeof this webinar was to acquaint and aware the people about the quality parameters in terms of correct identification and chemical profiling of medicinal herbs.

The webinar was conducted by Dr. Hari Om Saxena, Scientist-D of section of Silviculture, NWFP Forest Management and Agroforestry Division of TFRI. Dr. Kumar, Scientist Narendra of Central Institute of Medicinal & Plants Aromatic (CIMAP), Lucknow (UP) and Dr. Manoj Tripathi, In-charge Kumar of Arogyadham, the Deen Dayal



Research Institute, Chotrakoot (MP) were the key speakers in this webinar.

At the outset Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E & Head, SFM & AF Division welcomed the participants attending the webinar and started the webinar with introductory words. Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, Director of TFRI in his inaugural speech mentioned about the importance of Quality control in medicinal herbs. He said that large section of world population depends on traditional heath care system, hence, quality control of medicinal herbs must be taken on high

priority to ensure herbal products' safety, consistency, reproducibility and efficacy. He stressed that Internationally accepted standards should be followed to maintain the quality control of herbal products as described by WHO and various modern Pharmacopoeias.

Dr. Hari Om Saxena, Scientist-D explained in detail the need and purpose of the webinar. He said that in recent time, COVID-19 made the positive impact on Demand for Medicinal Herbs and Ayurvedic Medicines in Emerging Countries to use as immunity boosters and approximately 80% of the world's population still uses herbal remedies in various forms for their health care. Keeping in view the facts, the quality control of medicinal herbs is very essential to meet the public health challenges globally. In the time of global resurgence on use of natural therapies worldwide, if we want to produce quality and efficacious drugs and wish to capture the International market, we must focus on the quality parameters as per Internationalguidelines. He said that correct identification of species and chemoprofiling using HPLC, HPTLC and GC using active chemical markers is crucial for the quality control of herbal medicines, including authentication of genuine species, harvesting the best quality raw materials, post harvesting handling, assessment of intermediates and finished products.

On the occasion the guest speaker, Dr. Narendra Kumar elaborately spoke on the topic "Quality control of raw drugs – Botanical aspects". His presentation included the technical aspects like Pharmacognostic (macroscopic, microscopic) evaluation of raw drugs including other factors such as the method of extraction, contamination with microorganisms, heavy metals, foreign matter, ash value and pesticides which alter the quality, safety, and efficacy of herbal drugs. He also explained the taxonomic identification of botanicals and use of adulterants in herbal drugs in detail.

Second speaker Dr. Manoj Kumar Tripathispoke on "Quality control and standardization of Ayush drugs – a present day need". In his talk, he highlighted quality evaluation/ chemoprofiling of medicinal plants through HPLC, HPTLC and GC using active chemical markers. He spoke on the role of chemical markers in quality control of herbal medicines, including authentication of genuine species, harvesting the best quality raw materials, post harvesting handling, assessment of intermediates and finished products.

After the talks of both guest speakers, the discussion/ question-answer session was held. The experts replied all the questions of the participants. More than 100 participants joined the programme through virtual mode.

In the last session Dr. Nanita Berry, Scientist-E & Head, SFM & AF Division praised both the eminent speakers for their wonderful deliberations on the selected topic of the webinar.

The webinar was ended by concluding remarks by Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, Director, TFRI who appreciated the efforts of both experts for elaborating their views on the present day need of maintaining the quality of medicinal herbs to produce effective herbal formulations. At the end Dr. Hari Om Saxena, the organizing secretary of the webinar proposed the vote of thanks.Contribution of Dr. S. Saravanan, Scientist-F, Shri. M. Rajkumar, Scientist-C, Dr Rajesh Kumar Mishra, STO and Shri Alfred Francis, in organizing the webinar is greatly acknowledged.











