

Programme focus

The MAPPA programme focuses on three main areas.

Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Use

- Increasing local people's participation in conservation through better access and benefit sharing mechanisms
- Developing sustainable harvesting and processing through application of the good agricultural and field collection practices recommended by the World Health Organization



Equitable Commercialisation

- Increasing benefits from subsistence and traditional usage
- Enhancing quality and market gains through local value-adding processing, organic certification, and improved market information and access
- Facilitating enterprise development using business and enterprise platforms



Safe and Efficacious Traditional Systems of Medicine

- Participatory documentation of indigenous traditional knowledge
- Production of traditional drugs based on good practices, self-regulation, and universally recognised standards
- Mobilisation of local green health doctors and traditional healers through capacity building



MAPPA partners and clients

- Donors - International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; Ford Foundation; Common Fund for Commodities; Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- National governments, multilateral and bilateral medicinal and aromatic projects and programmes
- Community-based enterprises, producer companies, business development service providers
- National and international non-government organisations
- Private businesses, federations of commerce and industry



For more information contact

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*Photos: MAPPA Project
Prepared by MAPPA and ICIMOD Publications Unit*

September 2006

Printed in Nepal



Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia



MAPPA
Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

for • **livelihood**
• **health and**
• **posterity**



Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia

Human beings have explored ways of using parts of trees, shrubs, and other plants to treat diseases and increase longevity since ancient times. Knowledge about the use of medicinal and aromatic plants has accrued through thousands of years, and such plants have continued to gain prominence even in modern medicines and as essential ingredients in different



types of cooking. The current resurgence of interest in plant-based systems of medicine has led to an increased focus on conserving medicinal and aromatic plants in the wild, while cultivation of such plants is now recognised to be a potential source of livelihood opportunities for the rural poor.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada initiated the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Programme in Asia (MAPPA) in 1998, with support from the Ford Foundation. The programme built on previous research results of the IDRC Medicinal Plants Network in South Asia. MAPPA has evolved as a flagship programme of strategic research, multiple donor collaboration, and national, regional, and global networking on medicinal and aromatic plants. It was devolved to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu by IDRC in August 2005.

MAPPA goal: To enhance the quality of life of poor and disadvantaged peoples in the uplands and fragile eco-regions of South Asian and Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries.

MAPPA mission: To develop, provide, and promote appropriate wise practices, critical information, sound technologies, ethical trade and enterprise activities, appropriate conservation and development solutions, and proper institutionalisation to benefit poor, enterprising and indigenous people and the environment.



MAPPA projects

MAPPA projects focus on the countries of South Asia and the greater Himalayan region. They range from research, livelihood development, and conservation; through quality and organic production, micro-enterprise development, and marketing; to networking, policy research, and institutional development.

Projects follow a community-based pro-poor approach incorporating social and gender analysis, with a special emphasis on sustainability, networking, and public-private partnerships. In the future they will be supported by the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Information System (MAPIS), which is being developed.

MAPPA projects are currently being implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



Delivery of products and services



MAPPA activities help to strengthen the production to consumption chain system through the following:

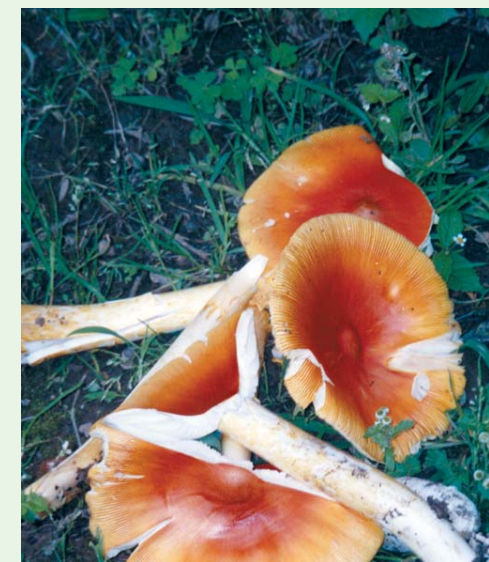
- Addressing national and regional priorities
- Supporting national and regional networks
- Promoting wise practices
- Partnership building
- Documentation and dissemination
- Intelligence, insight and implementation
- A database for a mutual information system

Future plans

Over the next five years, MAPPA plans to facilitate clear linkages of research with national policy and development frameworks, and support increased networking among regional member countries by providing timely and critical information of high quality through MAPIS.



The programme will prioritise conservation and commercial use of important species of medicinal and aromatic plants according to specific agro-climatic zones, and identify specific components of the sector in regional member countries to bridge weaknesses and strengthen national strategies and action plans. It will share knowledge, expertise, and resources at the regional and international levels in the field of biodiversity conservation, commercialisation, technology, information, and policy and partnership development.



MAPPA will investigate and develop mechanisms for increasing and integrating community benefits through access to and use of medicinal and aromatic plant resources. It will also assist regional member countries in developing, enforcing, and practising standards, quality practices, and branding in traditional medicine systems.