A STUDY ON CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION OF SOME OF THE IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Medicinal plants are used as raw materials for the manufacturing of herbal medicine. The demand for raw herbs and herbal products in West Bengal far exceeds the actual production in the state. For mass production of medicinal plants/vegetable raw drugs, sound agro-techniques and knowledge on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) should be followed as outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO). A baseline information on the propagation, cultivation and conservation of about forty medicinal plants that are growing in West Bengal have been discussed in this paper. Vernacular names in Bengali and economic importance of these plants have also been provided.