

## **Two-Day Training-cum-Skill Development Programme on Cultivation of Medicinal Plants**

Date: 23rd March 2026

Venue: Trans Himalayan Herbal Garden of NISR, Leh

The first day of the Two-Day Training-cum-Skill Development Programme on Cultivation of Medicinal Plants, organized by the State Medicinal Plant Board, Union Territory of Ladakh, in collaboration with the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, commenced with the registration of participants from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 80 attendees, including Amchis, farmers, and other stakeholders with a keen interest in medicinal plant cultivation.

The inaugural session began with a welcome address by Dr. Dorji Galchan, Consultant, State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB), who highlighted the objectives of the programme and emphasized the importance of medicinal plants in sustainable healthcare and livelihood generation.

This was followed by an address from Dr. Tashi Thinlas, Director Health Services/ AYUSH and Chief Executive Officer, SMPB. He elaborated on the role of AYUSH systems in promoting traditional medicine and encouraged participants to adopt scientific approaches for the cultivation of medicinal plants.

Dr. Padma Gyurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, also addressed the gathering. He spoke about the importance of the Sowa Rigpa system and stressed the need for conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants, especially in the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayan region.

The session also included the unveiling of a calendar by the State Medicinal Plant Board, marking an important initiative to promote awareness regarding medicinal plants.

Following a short tea break, technical sessions were conducted. Dr. Tsewang Rinchen delivered a lecture on Cultivation of Medicinal Plants providing insights into the diversity and significance of medicinal flora in high-altitude regions. Ms. Skalzung Lamo presented on the Significance of Ethno-Medicinal Plants and Cultivation Methods in Cold Desert Region, highlighting traditional knowledge and scientific cultivation practices. A guest lecture was delivered by Amchi Sonam Tundup on *Carthamus tinctorius* (Palkur), where practical knowledge regarding its uses and cultivation was shared.

The programme further included the facilitation of speakers in recognition of their valuable contributions. A hands-on session on the cultivation of *Carthamus tinctorius* (Palkur) was conducted, allowing participants to gain practical exposure. This was followed by a field visit, providing on-site learning opportunities. After the lunch break, an open discussion (Q&A session) was held, where participants actively interacted with experts, clarified doubts, and shared their experiences.



