

#### **World Congress on**

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# Herbal medicines: Research and development for the welfare of rural society in the Eastern part of India

The economic importance of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) is much more in Asian countries than to rest of the world. These countries provide two third of the plants used in alternative system of medicine and the health care system of rural population. About 80% of the world populations have to rely upon the use of traditional medicines mainly derived from plant materials. Recently, the blind dependence on synthetics is over and people are returning to the naturals with hope of safety and security. India is one of the world's 12 biodiversity centres and having four hot spots with the presence of various MAPs. In India, drugs of herbal origin have been used in traditional systems of medicines since ancient times. Now a day, the MAPs are not only used in drug industry but also used in food, flavor and cosmetic industries. Due to varied abiotic and biotic factors, these plants are now depleting day to day which demand our immediate attention for their sustainable use, proper conservation and commercial cultivation for the greater interest of mankind. Revival of the forest leads to the revival of natural resources. In order to preserve the natural resources of MAPs in West Bengal along with their sustainable use with commercial exploitation as nontraditional cash crops for the welfare of rural people, the present authors have attempted to explore the MAPs flora in plains and hills of West Bengal (Eastern part of India). The studies revealed some encouraging results establishing some target/potential medicinal (especially anti-diabetic) and aromatic plants (especially grasses) which may be exploited for health benefit and social welfare cultivating them as profitable alternative cash crops along with the reclamation of waste land.

#### **Biography**

Mohanlal Ghosh, M.Sc.(Gold medallist), Ph.D., Ex-Associate Professor & Head, Deptt. Of Botany, Itachuna, Bejoy Narayan Mahavidyalaya, Hooghly, West Bengal, India; Presently, Guest faculty in the college and in the P.G.Deptt. of Botany, Hooghly Mohsin college; Resource Scientist Dept. Science & Technology, Govt. of West Bengal and also engaged as a member of different academic bodies in colleges and life member of many national and international research organizations; Visited different countries of Asia, Europe, America, Australia, Turkey and U.K. as a Research Scientist; Recipient of E.O.A.I. Award and Life-Time Achievement Award as a "Distinguished scientist" in Medicinal plants; published sixty research papers in national and international journals and proceedings; attended many national and international conferences in India and abroad as a speaker, invited/key note speaker and chairperson.

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