

# National Medicinal Plants Board

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is an organisation set up by the Government of India to support policies and look into matters regarding medicinal plants in order to promote their trade export and cultivation

The NMPB comes under the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH).

This article will give further information regarding the National Medicinal Plants Board within the context of the Government Exams.

## Overview of the National Medicinal Plants Board

The National Medicinal Plants Board was established by the Government of India in 24th November 2000. Its mandate is to promote the medicinal plant's sector by developing a suitable mechanism which will support policies and programs for the cultivation and export of medicinal plants.

The growing demand for medicinal plants is met by the NMBP's focus on conservation and augmentation of local medicinal plants and spices of significance. The NMPB encourages research and development, capacity building through training and promotion of actives such as the creation of herbal gardens at the home and school levels. The board also supports programs for quality assurance, which institute a credible mechanism for the certification of quality raw drugs, seed and planting material.

## Functions of the NMBP

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- The functions of the National Medicinal Plants Board is as follows:
- Advise concerned Ministries and State/ Union Territory Governments on policy matters relating to schemes and programs for the development of medicinal plants.
- Identification, Inventorisation and Quantification of medicinal plants.
- Promotion of co-operative efforts among collectors and growers and assisting them to store, transport and market their products effectively.
- Setting up of data-base system for incentivisation, dissemination of information and facilitating the prevention of Patents being obtained for medicinal use of plants which is in the public domain.

- Undertaking and awarding Scientific, Technological research and cost-effectiveness studies.
- Development of protocols for cultivation and quality control.
- Encouraging the protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

## Questions related to National Medicinal Plants Board

### **Who is in charge of the National Medicinal Plants Board?**

The Chief Executive Officer of the NMPB is Dr. J.L.N Sastry while Dr. R Murugeswaran is the deputy director.

### **What is the NMPB needed?**

More than 7000 plants species have known used as medicinal plants out of 17000-18000 flowering plants species in India. To monitor their conservation and prevent excessive cultivation, the National Medicinal Plants Board is required

Cultivation of medicinal plant can decrease the amount to which wild populations are harvested, it will also help to preserve plant species from extinction and will promote socio-economic growth.

### **What proposals are considered under the Central Sector Scheme of the NMPB?**

The following are some of the proposals are considered under the Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants:

- Generating information on wholesale prices, arrivals and trends in different markets to benefit both growers and buyers
- Establishing a communication network for speedy collection and dissemination of market data for its efficient and timely utilization
- Preparing farmer's advisories and issuing the same for the Benefit of farmers towards optimizing returns
- Developing Databases of Cultivators
- Integrating and mainstreaming of Medicinal Plants through call centres including Kisan call centres initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture

