

JADIBUTI DECLARATION TO 2030

Kathmandu, 24th August 2023

Recognising that:

1. The trade in medicinal and aromatic plants and fungi in Nepal encompasses as many as 300 species traded annually in tens of thousands of tons worth hundreds of millions of USD, primarily for regional and international markets across the world.
2. The trade is economically important to rural harvesters, traders and wholesalers, processors, and provincial and national governments.
3. Production systems are complex and dynamic, with ever-changing product portfolios and supply networks. For example, in response to infrastructure developments, consumer demand shifts, and policy changes.
4. Many wild-harvested species are becoming more vulnerable from unsustainable harvesting due to increasing demand, diversified industries, and rising prices for raw materials.

Noting that:

1. Evidence shows that although good practices and initiatives in past and current attempts at promoting sustainable management in Nepal generated positive results, they have not sufficiently ensured sustainable wild-harvesting, thereby threatening species and wider landscapes, rural household incomes, processor supplies and ultimately jobs, and public revenues.
2. The domestic processing industry is growing and potentially increasing value-capture in Nepal, and contributing to solving societal challenges such as the lack of employment.
3. There is a solid foundation for interventions in Nepal to increase the sustainability of harvesting, such as long-standing positive experiences with local community management of natural resources and an existing national infrastructure to support interventions.
4. There is substantial published evidence to support increased sustainability.
5. Nepal is a signatory to international agreements including CITES and CBD, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the implementation of approaches for conservation of wild species through sustainable, legal, traceable trade, and equitable benefits to people is embedded in national policies and legal frameworks.

The workshop participants resolved that:

1. There is an urgent need to synthesize, discuss and prioritise available evidence and experiences with all stakeholders on the most important ways forward to support the increased sustainability of trade in medicinal and aromatic plants and fungi in Nepal.
2. This prioritisation can be done based on existing evidence, now, without the need to wait for further evidence.
3. The best way forward is as agreed in the Roadmap for Sustainable Management of Commercial Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Fungi of Nepal developed and agreed upon at the workshop. This constitutes 5 pathways and prioritised actions.
4. The prioritised pathways are (1) increased cultivation, (2) strengthened local management, (3) improved sectoral governance, (4) supported domestic business, and (5) increased international collaboration (India, China and beyond).
5. Stakeholders – from public institutions to implementing organisations and research entities – should prioritise their future activities and investments in accordance with the prioritised pathways and actions identified in the Roadmap.