

Book Review

JOURNAL OF NATURAL REMEDIES

Production Technology of Medicinal and Aromatic Crops

By A. A. Farooqui, M. M. Khan and M. Vasundhara, 1999,

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Published by M/s Natural Remedies Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore-561 229.

Pages 176, Price Rs: 165.00 (includes postage)

Medicinal and Aromatic Crops are the source of basic raw materials for pharmaceutical, perfumery, flavor, soap and cosmetic industries and now a days are receiving global attention since they contribute for health security, employment and income generation to millions of people in rural and peri-urban areas. In addition, they contribute to health needs of people in rural communities in alternate systems of medicine, generate additional employment and income, offer opportunities for processing and export enterprises and contribute for national development.

The increased demand for medicinal and aromatic crops for internal consumption as well for export has led a situation of over exploitation of these natural resources leading to habitat loss, genetic erosion and species loss perhaps leading to a crisis situation of the future. Thus the demands for these crops and their products has necessitated in their large-scale cultivation.

However, the information on cultivation aspects of most of these plants are scanty, scattered and mostly beyond the reach of even the progressive farmers and there is a dire need of this kind of publication. Though, the book was originally published in 1993, it covered only 32 crops. The revised current edition is enlarged and covers information on 69 species of medicinal and aromatic crops. Each crop is dealt under headings such as Introduction, soil, climate, varieties, cultivation practices, sowing, major pests and diseases etc., enough for a field worker. A few color plates of the plants besides the index of the common name with the botanical name with page numbers are also provided at the end.

The information provided is very concise and will serve as a ready reckoner for extension workers, farmers, students, teachers and others who have a general interest in these group of crops.

The efforts of Prof. Farooqi and his team in bringing about the above publication are really laudable. The book is moderately priced and is available on request from the publishers or from the authors (Dr. A. A. Farooqui, Prof - Horticulture, Horticultural Division, GKVK, UAS, Hebbal, Bangalore-560 065.)

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