

Project Name : Standardization of seed handling procedures for commercially important medicinal plants of forest ecosystems .

Project Code : IFGTB/ST/RP17/37/ ICFRE

Project Duration : 1999-2003

Budget : Rs. 13.20 lakhs

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Summary

Destructive and non-sustainable collection methods coupled with low regeneration and habitat destruction have posed serious threat to the survival and availability of various medicinal plants in the wild. In this scenario, cultivation of medicinal plants has become essential, which faces constraints like non-availability of the seeds and seed handling techniques. Fruit collection, seed extraction procedures, dormancy treatments to enhance germination, storage conditions to improve longevity were studied in *Aegle marmelos*, *Feronia elephantum*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Syzigium cuminii*, *Strychnos nux-vomica*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* and *Terminalia bellerica* and arrived at specific seed handling procedures for all the species. It was observed that seeds extracted from fleshy fruits required after ripening while seeds with hard seed coats required pre-treatments mainly water soaking. All the species stored for over a year under controlled conditions of temperature and moisture maintaining good seed vigour.