

# Diversification of Agriculture through Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

**R.S. Singh and Birendra Prasad\***

*Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa-852201*

*\*Regional Research Station Agwanpur Saharsa*

*(Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar)*

*E-mail: singhrscoh@gmail.com*

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**Abstract**—India is one of the vast diversified, oldest, reservoirs of medicinal and aromatic plants those are used traditionally by Rishi-Muni from ancient time to heal and cure chronic diseases. More than five hundred million peoples in India are associated directly or indirectly on plant based medicinal products. India is being the second largest exporter, next to China and accounts for about 50 percent of export in comparison to other countries. Although, use of medicinal and aromatic plants in the national market is worth of about Rs. 8000 crore and quantitatively about 2,50,000 tones but India has very small share worldwide in the growing market. Indian medicinal and aromatic plants with their value added products/extracts can contribute valuably in the cosmetic and aroma industries. Sales of plant derived drugs are projected to increase at an average annual growth rate of 6.4 per cent reaching \$ 5 trillion by end of 2050 (Dr. S.P.S. Khanuja, 2007). The villagers of remote areas are still depends on herbal medicinal plants because allopathic treatment is failed at several levels. Most of the pharmaceutically important preparations from living organisms have come from different plants which are continuously being explored even today also. Business accountability of medicinal herbal material is valuable and now playing the significant role in the improvement of health for both human as well as live stocks. Thus, traditional crop cultivation can be diversified by medicinal and aromatic plants which can boom-up the socio-economic level, healthy life of the world and contribute significant in the global economy.