

Establishment of National Raw Drug Repository (NRDR): A CCRAS Initiative

Since time immemorial, the people have been thriving for the thrust of natural resources for their survival. As the time progressed, when people began to be civilized, they dependent more on plants especially medicinal plants for rescue for their various ailments. Further, with the increasing demand of the industries and increasing global interest in natural remedies has increased the exploitation of medicinal plants which are mainly sourced from the wild areas. This has led to the emergence of a number of issues like sustainability, conservation, cultivation, quality assurance, protection of Traditional Knowledge, issues related to access and benefit sharing etc.

To conserve the medicinal plant's raw drugs, primitive attempts of Raw Drug Repository were made by the Govt. of India in different Research Institutes / Universities. But no concrete results have been obtained from the same repositories as only primitive work were undertaken by these Institutes.

To fulfil these gaps, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India has taken up a major initiative for development of a single 'National Raw Drug Repository' (NRDR) and eight 'Regional Raw Drug Repositories' (RRDRs) across India in respect of raw drugs used in the ASU&H systems of medicine.

Accordingly, National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India has identified Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi as a prime Institute and assigned the task of 'Establishment of National Raw Drug Repository.' Subsequently, the Council has established National Raw Drug Repository (NRDR) at one of its peripheral institute – Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh which is engaged in collection and supply of authentic botanical raw materials/ reference samples.

The National Raw Drug Repository (NRDR) has been set up with an aim to establish standard protocols and keys for authentication of raw drug used in the ASU&H industry. The key objectives of establishing these repositories are to act as accredited reference library for authentication of raw drugs; develop standard protocols & Botanical Reference Samples (BRS) and keys for authentication of raw drug used in the herbal industry and act as educational center for creating general awareness about the raw drugs. The activities in the repository will be focused on the collection compilation, cataloging and documentation (including digitization) of information on raw drugs that are used in the traditional systems of medicine (ASU&H) and preparation of comprehensive monographs.

CCRAS-NRDR is established with the objectives to serve as accredited reference library for authentication of raw drugs; to develop standard protocols and keys for authentication of raw drugs used in AYUSH Pharmaceutical industry; and to create general awareness about the raw drugs used in AYUSH Systems.

This National repository of raw drugs as a reference facility is accessible to personnel of AYUSH drug industry, traders, medicinal practitioners, research scholars, students and academicians. CCRAS-NRDR shall certainly pave a new horizon in conserving codified drugs in AYUSH system of Medicine in the form of a comprehensive database of raw drugs in the country.



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