

India's Medical Heritage

A New Awakening



Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions

Contents

India's Rich Medical Heritage	3
FRLHT: Its Genesis	6
FRLHT At Work	8
Future Plans	13
What FRLHT Can Do For You	15
Appendices	
A. List of Publications & Collateral Material	17
B. Glossary	18

India has one of the world's most sophisticated indigenous medical cultures, with an unbroken tradition coming down across more than four millennia. Though this medical heritage is many centuries old, even today millions of people, in villages, towns and cities across the country, depend upon it for their health care needs. This living medical tradition encompasses two streams — folk medicine and codified medicine.

Folk medicine includes the diverse practices followed by nearly 5,000 ethnic communities across the country. Millions of households practise home remedies, the recipes and formulae for which have been handed down orally from generation to generation. Traditional birth attendants manage 90% of rural deliveries. It is also estimated that traditional bonesetters handle 60% of orthopaedic cases in the country. Over a million folk healers in different areas attend to specific health needs of the local population. Their skills range from treating common ailments to conditions like hepatitis, *visha* (poisons) and mental diseases.

Though these traditions are empirical in nature, over 200 million people in rural India, with limited access to organised health services, depend to varying degrees on the folk tradition for their medical needs.

Codified medical systems include Ayurveda, Siddha, Tibetan and Unani systems of medicine, with sophisticated theoretical foundations. The vast knowledge in

The Codified Traditions

Ayurveda: A science of life that has served Indians since Vedic times. It defines health as a state of equilibrium of the physiological, sensory, mental, and spiritual being.

Siddha: A regional manifestation of Ayurveda with specialisation in accupressure (*varman*), pulse diagnosis (*nadi pariksha*), and drug formulations which use metals and minerals, apart from plants.

Tibetan (*Amchi*): A regional manifestation of Ayurveda, this system spread with Buddhism to the trans-Himalayas. As per this system, a person is considered to be in a healthy state, i.e. "swasthya", when he is established in himself or is one with nature.

Unani: Originating in Greece, this system was popularised in India during the 14th century by Muslim rulers. It is based on the balance of four humours in a healthy body, i.e., *dam* (blood), *balgham* (phlegm), *safra* (yellow bile) and *sanda* (black bile), and diagnoses a disease through *nabz* (pulse), *baul* (urine) and *baraz* (stool).

the codified traditions has been documented in tens of thousands of medical manuscripts. It is not commonly known that these systems cover all basic aspects and branches of medicine, from general medicine to specialised fields like paediatrics, psychiatry, ENT, ophthalmology and surgery. They even cover plant and veterinary medicine (*vrksh* and *pashu* ayurveda). Despite several constraints, these codified medical systems are alive and are gradually regaining lost ground. Currently, there are over 6,00,000 licensed traditional medical physicians in India.

Both these medical streams are closely allied with nature. They use over 8,000 species of medicinal plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, tubers, climbers, and even lower plants like lichens and orchids. They also know the medicinal uses of over a hundred species of animals, birds, fish and insects, and several metals and minerals.

*A Great Tradition
Under Threat*

Due to the rapid degradation and loss of natural habitats juxtaposed with the overharvesting of some species, the biological wealth that is so intrinsically important to these systems of medicine is being destroyed or becoming endangered. Over 200 species of medicinal plants are already on the RED list.

Folk healers (*nattu vaidyas*) cater selflessly to the various primary health care needs of the communities they live in. They even treat conditions like mental diseases and *visha* (poisons). There are also ophthalmologists, who can treat degenerative eye diseases with herbs.

Most of these folk healers have alternative professions from which they earn their livelihood. Legend has it that should they use their knowledge to exploit others, they stand to lose their powers.



A nattu vaidya preparing medicines (left), and treating a patient for snakebite (right)

The knowledge base and practice of both the folk and codified streams have, during the last century, become marginalised due to political, social and economic reasons. Despite their widespread existence during the last fifty years, no systematic national survey has been carried out after Independence to assess their contribution to public health. To date, no appropriate research models exist which are designed to do a fair assessment of their achievements, and public investment for their revitalisation is negligible.

Under the influence of colonialism, the political and social leadership in India had, for some time, developed a disregard for their own indigenous cultural, intellectual and spiritual traditions. It is only in recent years that a new awakening is prompting another look into the Indian medical traditions. Paradoxically, this discovery is also being inspired to some extent by the urgent search in the west for "alternatives" to complement the mainstream medical systems.

A serious national effort and substantial investments are called for in order to demonstrate the contemporary relevance of both the folk and codified streams of our medical heritage, so that their benefits and fuller potential can be made more widely available to the Indian public and to the world at large.

If urgent action in this direction is not taken immediately, we are in danger of irretrievably losing our heritage.

The Situation Today



FRLHT: Its Genesis

The Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) was founded as an independent, non-governmental society in October 1991 (registered under the Societies Registration Act 1890, Maharashtra - Reg. No. 674/1991/G.B.B.S.D., dated 23/10/1991).

The idea of FRLHT grew out of a grassroots non-government movement, which started in 1986, for revitalising India's rich and diverse health cultures.

FRLHT's concern to "revitalise" local health traditions should not be mistaken as an attempt to revert to the past; rather, it is an attempt to discover the contemporary relevance of our widespread traditions in order to serve the country's present and future health care needs. If modernisation is not understood to mean "westernisation", FRLHT's efforts may be seen to be an attempt to modernise our health traditions from their own roots.

FRLHT holds the view that revitalisation of folk traditions holds a real potential for self-reliance for millions of rural people in primary health care. As for the codified systems, their strengths in specialised fields like diagnostics and drug development, and in medical areas like immunology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, mental health, muscular and nervous disorders, cardiac and respiratory ailments, mother and child care, and food and nutrition, can be built upon to make new and original contributions to public health in India, and to the world of medicine.

The Mission

FRLHT has embarked on a mission to revitalise India's medical heritage. This task involves conserving its resource base of plants, animals and minerals, demonstrating contemporary applications of its knowledge base, and energising its social traditions. This is so large and multi-faceted a task that a single organisation can only undertake "pilot demonstration projects", support strategic research in key areas and promote networking. This is the role that FRLHT has chosen to fulfil its mission.

FRLHT works through its links with serious practitioners and scholars of the traditional medical community, modern physicians and scientists, community health organisations, conservationists, industry, government and international organisations.

Thrust Areas

To fulfill its mission, FRLHT focuses its efforts in specific areas:

- × Conservation research and sustainable utilisation of the bio-diversity used by traditional medicine
 - × Computerised multi-disciplinary databases on medicinal plants
 - × Role of traditional medicine and primary health care
-

- ✧ Strategic research on selected medical and sociological aspects of traditional systems of medicine
- ✧ Fundamental research on the theoretical foundations and epistemology of traditional medicine
- ✧ International cooperation and networking in the fields of conservation and traditional medicine

FRLHT's office is located in Bangalore. The office is well-equipped, and staffed by a core team of senior foresters, botanists, computer professionals, traditional physicians and young researchers. A 15-acre site, 20 km from Bangalore, has been offered by the Government of Karnataka for establishing a medicinal plants garden and a national herbarium.

The highest policy-making body of the Foundation is the Governing Council. It consists of eminent figures from a wide spectrum of public life, including a representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

The day-to-day operations of FRLHT are overseen by the Executive Board. The Board is responsible for formulation of new projects, raising financial resources and designing suitable management systems for the working of the Foundation. The organisation is headed by an Executive Director supported by a core team of professional staff. Large projects within FRLHT are managed by Project Management Boards, specially constituted for the duration of the projects.

Organisational Resources



The FRLHT office at Bangalore

FRLHT At Work

Since 1993, FRLHT has initiated a pioneering collaborative programme in response to the crisis of dwindling medicinal plant resources.

FRLHT, in collaboration with the State Forest Departments, local NGOs and research institutes, has established a chain of conservation sites in the Western and Eastern Ghats, across the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

This network is called the "Medicinal Plant Conservation Network" (MPCN). It is a major step towards the conservation of wild genetic resources — the first of its kind in India. The MPCN is today conserving about 1,400 species of medicinal plants, including 70 RED-listed species.

The MPCN has adopted a two-pronged strategy. On one hand, there are forest reserves, where wild populations of medicinal plants are conserved in their natural habitats, so that they can freely breed, evolve and multiply. This ensures their long term survival. About 50 Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas

have been set up in cooperation with the State Forest Departments to conserve the medicinal plants diversity in a range of vegetation types and ecosystems.

On the other hand, medicinal plants, especially the threatened species, are being conserved in ethnomedicinal gardens. Fifteen ethnomedicinal conservation parks have been established in collaboration with NGOs and research institutes to conserve plants known and used by various ethnic communities of Southern India.

In the MPCN network, local communities are being motivated to form management and protection committees to secure long term conservation of forest reserves, and they are also being encouraged to revitalise their local health traditions. A Green Health Programme has been launched to encourage rural households to grow and use medicinal plants for primary health care. Training programmes and

material have been developed on conservation and utilisation of medicinal plants. These programmes are offered to NGOs, foresters and community leaders.

Small enterprises related to growing medicinal plants and value-addition are being promoted in rural communities as an integral part of the conservation strategy. These units demonstrate how the local communities that live around the natural habitats of the medicinal plants can economically benefit from conservation projects.

The Medicinal Plants Conservation Network (MPCN)



*A woman tending her
herbal garden at home*

A chain of nurseries and seed banks have been established around the conservation sites to provide basic planting material to non-commercial as well as commercial user groups. This nursery network raises about 600 species and is spread across different agro-climatic regions.

geneNet, an informal newsletter, is the voice of the MPCN. It gives information on the conservation activities of the MPCN and establishes links with the end-users of medicinal plants, who are the ultimate clients of the MPCN.

FRLHT has a wealth of research data collected during the course of its activities. The Medicinal Plants Conservation Research, Herbarium & Database Unit has developed a multi-disciplinary, computerised medicinal plants database, which is constantly expanding and being updated. The main objective of the database is to generate reliable multi-disciplinary information on the identity, distribution, threat and conservation status, trade data and agro-technology of medicinal plants. This will serve the information needs of sectors like forestry, conservation science, agriculture, drugs and cosmetics, and trade.

The FRLHT biocultural herbarium houses, and maintains records of over 12,000 voucher specimens relating to approximately 2,300 wild plants of Southern India, both medicinal and non-medicinal. Around 1,500 of these are known medicinal plants, with the remaining holding promise of untapped potential. These medicinal plants occur in different forest types of Southern India, viz., tropical evergreen, tropical semi-evergreen, tropical moist deciduous, etc. The herbarium also keeps raw drug samples of medicinal plants used in trade.

FRLHT has made a pioneering effort to assess the rare, endangered and threatened medicinal plants of Southern India, based on guidelines prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. To focus conservation action on these threatened species, a *Red Data Book* of medicinal plants is being prepared.

This information would help promote the conservation of these species, facilitate their propagation and cultivation, and ultimately reduce the pressure of their exploitation in the wild that could result in their extinction.

The Unit has also initiated the preparation of eco-distribution maps of about 300 of the most threatened plants of Southern India, with their precise latitudinal and longitudinal locations. The distribution patterns of these prioritised plants are analysed based on geographical data.

Research into the techniques of plant propagation and cultivation of selected medicinal species has been undertaken.

Medicinal Plants

Conservation Research, Herbarium & Database Unit



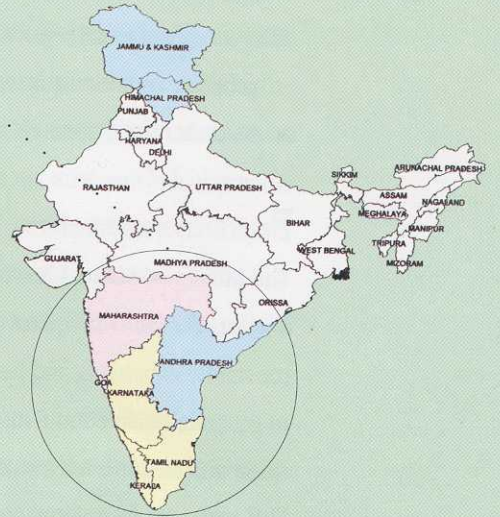
*Voucher specimen
of Cassia tora*

FRLHT's Operations In India

Pilot Stage completed. Consolidation initiated.

Pilot Stage in second year.

MoU signed with Forest Department. Sites under selection.



An MPCA at Devarayanadurga, Karnataka

The Medicinal Plants Conservation Network

- Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA)
- Medicinal Plants Conservation Park (MPCP)
- ▲ Medicinal Plants Development Area (MPDA)



A conservation site at Agastiar, Kerala

This Unit is designed to serve the needs of medical researchers, community health organisations and industry by providing them specialised data related to the traditional knowledge about plants.

FRLHT is conducting a study to compile a list relating the ethnic names of medicinal plants used in the oral traditions to their botanical names. As of today, botanical names of over 6,000 medicinal plant species can be accessed in Sanskrit, Marathi, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam.

*Traditional Indian
Systems of Medicine
Research & Informatics
Unit*

Coscinium fenestratum

The IUCN terms rare and endangered species of plants as “RED-listed” species. In cooperation with the State Forest Departments, FRLHT has been making efforts to identify forest areas where there are still populations of such species.

One such example is *Coscinium fenestratum*. A Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA) has been established in an area in Idukki District in Kerala, which has been identified for conserving wild populations of this RED-listed species.



A comprehensive referenced database of the medicinal plants of India, used in different codified systems — Ayurveda, Siddha, Tibetan and Unani — and folk systems is under preparation. A database and expert system on the *materia medica*, containing referenced information about the processes and formulations of traditional Indian Systems of Medicine, is also being developed.

Documentation and rapid assessment of living local health traditions in Southern India is under way.

Recognising that the success of its initiatives depends on active support from the public at large, FRLHT has set up a Communication and Education Materials Development Unit.

*Communication &
Education Materials
Development Unit*

This Unit coordinates activities to create public awareness for the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Efforts are directed towards relevant audiences through appropriate media. These include the bimonthly magazine *Amruth*, India's only magazine on medicinal plants, newsletters like *geneNet*, books, films, puppet shows, exhibitions, posters and manuals. The publications and other communication material produced by FRLHT are listed in Appendix A.

Through its Education Interaction Programmes, nature camps and exhibitions are organised for school children, where the uses as well as the importance of



A puppet show on the use of medicinal plants in child care

conserving medicinal plants are emphasised. The media used include puppet shows, *yakshaganas*, video films, posters and appropriate publications.

Signages are being developed, for use at conservation sites, for creating greater awareness about the biodiversity and cultural diversity related to medicinal plants.

The Unit is also working to promote public awareness about the relevance of folk medicine. District and state conventions for *nattu vaidyas* (folk healers) have been organised, where outstanding individual contributions of

folk healers are recognised and rewarded, and where they are motivated to pass on their traditional wisdom to the younger generation.

In urban areas, too, awareness campaigns on the use and importance of medicinal plants have been organised, targeted at schools and



Getting the message across: housewives and schoolchildren learn about medicinal plants and their uses



households. Herbal gardens have been set up in schools with the active participation of the students.

Through workshops conducted by a team of Ayurvedic doctors, groups of women have been introduced to medicinal plants which are useful in treating common ailments.



A nattu vaidya shares his knowledge at a convention

Medicinal Plants Conservation Network (MPCN)

In the years to come, FRLHT intends to grow into a competent knowledge-based institution servicing a network of Indian organisations engaged in the conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal plants, who in turn provide useful services to various non-commercial and commercial end users of medicinal plants.

It intends to promote conservation activities in other states in India, in different agro-climatic regions, the immediate priority being the Western and Eastern Ghats and the northwestern Himalayas.

It expects to establish a nationwide network of medicinal plants nurseries, and will also promote community-based micro-enterprise to involve rural communities more actively in conservation.

Medicinal Plants Conservation Research, Herbarium & Database Unit

FRLHT will pursue its efforts to make the Medicinal Plants Conservation Research, Herbarium & Database Unit a reliable certification and reference centre for botanical and cultural information on the medicinal plants of India. The database is expected to evolve into a valuable source of information on their conservation status, nursery techniques, medicinal uses and trade. More raw drug samples of the *officinalis* parts of medicinal plants will be added to the herbarium, and a pharmacognostic unit will be set up.

Traditional Medicine and Primary Health Care

FRLHT will work towards putting life back into the melting pot of cultural diversity and biodiversity represented by local health traditions.

FRLHT will set up a network of regional training centres for community health workers of the government and non-government sectors, where they could learn the practical applications of using medicinal plants for primary health care. These would complement and supplement programmes aimed at achieving "health for all".

Research on Sociological, Medical and Epistemological Aspects of Traditional Systems of Medicine

FRLHT intends to explore the contemporary relevance of Indian medical traditions by participating in collaborative projects on health problems of local, national or global concern in fields like obstetrics, mental health, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, immunology, muscular and nervous disorders, and geriatrics, and public health areas like malaria control. Research will also be undertaken to assess the contemporary relevance of the oral health cultures in rural India.

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The subjects for all these studies will be strategically selected and implemented with competent collaborators, so that they can lead to Traditional Medicine-oriented changes in public health policies.

FRLHT will also promote fundamental research on the epistemology of traditional Indian Systems of Medicine — their foundations, schemes of internal logic, principles, concepts and categories — so as to promote a proper understanding of the indigenous Indian medical knowledge systems.

There is also a plan to establish clinical research facilities in the form of a Rasayan and Panch Karma Research Centre in Bangalore.

International Cooperation

FRLHT intends to explore mutually beneficial South-South collaborative projects with other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America that have a rich medical

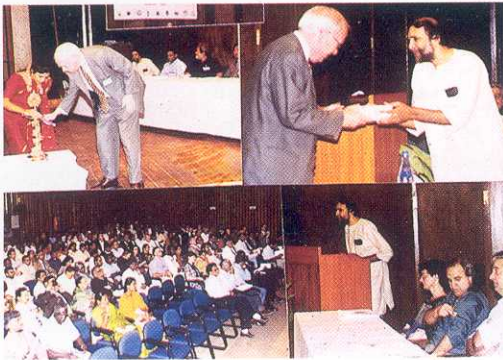
heritage of their own. The operational framework of various traditional health cultures may share some common ground with regard to foundations, concepts, categories & natural resources, and these projects will explore areas like conservation of medicinal plants, natural products databases, drug development, management of tropical health conditions and comparative epistemology.

FRLHT is a founding member of an international network

called **GIFTS of Health** (Global Initiative For Traditional Systems of Health) based in the Oxford University, U K, and the Executive Director of FRLHT is a member of its Executive Board.

Research Fellowships

FRLHT plans to raise an endowment to award fellowships for the documentation of special medical achievements of traditional Indian Systems of Medicine, conservation biology related to medicinal plants, and literary research on medicinal plants from medical manuscripts. Gurukul apprenticeships for medical students with outstanding traditional physicians will also be promoted via these scholarships.



An International Conference organised by FRLHT at Bangalore in February 1998

What FRLHT Can Do For You



An MPCN nursery

Planting Materials

- ✧ Provide information on the sources of planting materials from the MPCN nurseries to meet specific requirements of user groups like rural and urban households, *nattu vaidyas*, traditional physicians (of Ayurveda, Siddha, Tibetan and Unani systems of medicine), industry and institutions (NGOs, schools, colleges, factories, clinics, hospitals, etc.)

Information

- ✧ Provide information on the propagation techniques of medicinal plants, for personal or commercial use
- ✧ Provide reliable educational material pertaining to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal plants (refer Appendix A for the list of books and publications produced by FRLHT)

- ✧ Provide information on the botanical identification, conservation status, and trade information of medicinal plants from its databases and herbarium. This information could be useful to foresters, agriculturists, conservationists, and for those in industry (pharmaceuticals/cosmetics/food), trade, and community health
- ✧ Provide specialised information from the *materia medica* of codified Indian medical systems

Training & Education Material

- ✧ Design and organise training packages on various aspects of conservation, primary health care and community-based enterprises
- ✧ Design and organise advanced training (including international courses) on medicinal plants conservation, traditional Indian Systems of Medicine and public health; on industrial applications of the *materia medica* of Indian Systems of Medicine; and on the epistemology of Ayurveda
- ✧ Produce educational material and communication aids on various facets of traditional systems of medicine in different media



A training session on medicinal plants

Consultancy Services

- ✧ Provide consultancy services on specific aspects of medicinal plants conservation and plant-based applications of traditional systems of medicine — in undertaking research on threat status, trade, distribution and inventories

- in the evaluation of projects
- in studies related to choice of species for cultivation in particular habitats
- in literature research from traditional medical texts
- in the selection of herbal formulations for industrial production



An in situ site at Thaniparai, Tamil Nadu

- in the design of large scale medicinal plants conservation projects
- in the design of projects for Traditional Medicine and primary health care
- in the design of medicinal plant databases.



FRLHT produces books, magazines, videos, posters and other material with information on medicinal plants and their uses. These are available at the FRLHT office in Bangalore, and can be ordered through the mail. Please contact the Medplan Conservatory Society, 8 MSH Layout, 1st Floor, 4th Main, Anandnagar, Bangalore 560 024, for details about how you can order these publications and collateral material.

In the list below, prices indicated are exclusive of postage and packing. All literature, posters, stickers and schoolbook labels are available in English, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil unless otherwise specified.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Price (Rs.)</i>
1. A User's Guide to Medicinal Plants for Primary Health Care	50/-
2. How to Grow Medicinal Plants	35/-
3. Neem	30/-
4. Rare, Endangered and Threatened Medicinal Plants Poster	15/-
5. Green Health Poster # 3	
Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil	40/-
English	45/-
6. Stickers on Rare, Endangered and Threatened Medicinal Plants of Southern India (Set of 10)	
<i>Price of full set</i>	20/-
<i>Price of each sticker</i>	2/-
7. Booklets on medicinal plants and revitalisation of local health traditions (Set of 9, only in Tamil)	
<i>Price of full set</i>	135/-
<i>Price of each booklet</i>	15/-
8. Schoolbook labels with RED-listed medicinal plants (1 sheet of 16 multi-coloured gummed labels)	5/-
9. Jute Bags	
(available with either of 2 messages in English: <i>Medicinal Plants For Survival or Save Medicinal Plants</i>)	75/-
10. White Cotton T-shirts with Medicinal Plants Prints	
(Available in 2 sizes: Medium, Small) 75/-	
11. "Green Health": video on using medicinal plants in primary health care	500/-
12. "Green Healers": video on folk health practitioners	500/-

Appendix A

List of Publications & Collateral Material

<i>Title</i>	<i>Price (Rs.)</i>
13. Plants in Ayurveda: A Compendium of Botanical and Sanskrit Names of Plants (Only in English)	800/-
14. AMRUTH: Magazine on medicinal plants, published bimonthly (Only in English)	
<i>For Individuals</i>	
1-Year Subscription	150/-
3-Year Subscription	400/-
12-Year Subscription	1,500/-
<i>For Institutions</i>	
1-Year Subscription	250/-
3-Year Subscription	600/-
12-Year Subscription	2,500/-
15. geneNet: The quarterly MPCN newsletter (Currently in English; soon in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil)	
1-Year Subscription	100/-
3-Year Subscription	280/-
5-Year Subscription	450/-

Appendix B

Glossary

<i>Conservation biology</i>	The science of conservation of life and living organisms
<i>Epistemology</i>	Branch of philosophy that enquires about the sources of human knowledge, its possible limits, and to what extent they can be certain or only probable
<i>Materia medica</i>	(Latin) Materials used in medication
<i>Officinalis</i>	Used in preparing medicine
<i>Panch Karma</i>	In Ayurveda, five therapeutic procedures for internal cleansing of the body
<i>Pharmacognosy</i>	The study of identification of raw drugs
<i>Rasayan</i>	Drugs that facilitate rejuvenation of the body
<i>Yakshagana</i>	A folk theatre form of Karnataka

FRLHT Governing Council

Mr Sam Pitroda <i>Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of India</i>	Chairman
Mr PR Krishnakumar <i>MD, Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore</i>	Member
Representative of Secretary <i>Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India</i>	Member
Dr P Pushpaganadan <i>Director, TBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram</i>	Member
Dr SS Badrinath <i>Director, Shankar Netralaya, Chennai</i>	Member
Vd GG Gangadharan <i>Director, CIMH, Coimbatore</i>	Member
Dr Ashok Jhunjhunwala <i>Professor, IIT, Chennai</i>	Member
Mr AV Balasubramaniam <i>Director, CIKS, Chennai</i>	Member
Prof Kamaljit Bawa <i>Professor of Biology, UMASS, Boston, USA</i>	Member
Vd RM Nanal <i>Ayurveda Physician, Mumbai</i>	Member
Dr Gerard Bodekar <i>Chairman, GIFTS, Oxford, UK</i>	Member
Dr Prakash Desai <i>Chief of Staff, West Side Medical Centre, Chicago, USA</i>	Member
Dr MS Valiathan <i>Vice Chancellor, Manipal University, Manipal</i>	Member
Vd Bhagwan Dash <i>Ayurveda Physician, New Delhi</i>	Member
Prof Sukhdev <i>Emeritus Scientist, New Delhi</i>	Member
Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury <i>Emeritus Scientist, New Delhi</i>	Member
Mr S Varadachary <i>Retired Civil Servant, Chennai</i>	Member
Mr Darshan Shankar <i>Executive Director, FRLHT, Bangalore</i>	Member
Mr DK Ved <i>Coordinator, Research, FRLHT, Bangalore</i>	Member

To know more about FRLHT and how it can help you, or how you can participate in its activities, contact the persons/departments specified below:

Head, Consultancy Group

For consultancy services offered by FRLHT

The MPCN Secretariat

For general information on MPCN

Information on MPCN nurseries

Collaborative projects with MPCN members

The Head, Medicinal Plants Conservation Research & Database Unit

For herbarium related services

Databases on distribution, trade, agro-technology

The Head, Traditional Medicine Research & Informatics Unit

For specialised databases on traditional medicine

The Medplan Conservatory Society

(8 MSH Layout, 1st Floor, 4th Main, Anandnagar,

Bangalore 560 024. Phone: (91 80) 343 4464)

For subscriptions to Amruth, India's only magazine on medicinal plants

Books, other publications and films

Education material

Exhibitions

Setting up herbal gardens in educational institutions,

homes and organisations



Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions

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