Medicinal and aromatic plants from the Himalaya

CO-OPERATION PROJECT BETWEEN GIZ AND IPD ENCOURAGES THE EXPANSION OF NEPALESE EXPORTS  
June 2017

Trade in medicinal and aromatic plants is an important source of income for the Nepalese population and makes an important contribution to the national economy. In Nepal the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Import Promotion Desk (IPD) are working together to support enterprises with the marketing of these highly sought-after plants. One company to benefit from this co-operation is the exporter Satya International.

At the BIOFACH 2017 exhibition in Nuremberg, Satya International presented its exceptional product range on the joint IPD and GIZ exhibition stand. The portfolio of the Nepalese exporter includes a large range of rare medicinal and aromatic plants for product innovations in pharmacy, natural cosmetics and the spice industry. Particularly popular amongst German and European traders are jatamansi oil and Szechuan pepper in certified organic quality.

“Jatamansi oil is a rare treasure. The oil is obtained from the spikenard, a plant which is now found only in the Himalayas,” explains Dietmar Wolz, owner of the pharmacy Bahnhof-Apotheke Kempten, which purchases the precious oil from Satya. The particular effect of this plant was already known in ancient times and it has been imported to the Mediterranean region since antiquity and used to prepare valuable oils and ointments. “We use jatamansi oil for high-quality body oils and natural perfumes which we manufacture according to our own formulations,” says Wolz. The oils are also very well-suited for use in Ayurveda medicine and aromatherapy.

Satya International specialises in the production of health-promoting plant products. Besides jatamansi oil, these include a number of other essential oils, such as valerian, lemongrass or wintergreen oils and various Ayurvedic healing plants such as Berberis aristata, kutaki (Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora), calamus (Acorus calamus) or swertia (Swertia chirayita). Exotic spices also form part of the company’s product range. A particular highlight is here its Szechuan pepper. This is harvested from wild-growing pepper plants which can be found only in the forests of the Himalayas.

Satya receives its raw materials directly from wild herb collectors and small farmers who cultivate various types of herbs under natural conditions. The company supports traditional agriculture, refuses the use of pesticides and thus contributes to maintaining biodiversity. In addition, Satya makes use of the herb gatherers’ traditional knowledge on the effects and uses of the medicinal plants.
Natural medicinal plants from the Himalayas for contemporary uses in cosmetics and pharmacy – that is the concept of Satya International," explains Rabindra N. Shukla. “At the beginning we had a small production for essential oils and some Ayurvedic products. Today we are one of the region’s leading producers in the fields of medicinal and aromatic plants. Thanks to the support of the IPD we have now also managed to expand our export business into the European market."