

Picrorhiza Kurroa

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Picrorhiza Kurroa Latest News

A sustainable cultivation model adopted by farmers in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district is showing promising signs of conserving the Picrorhiza kurroa species.

About Picrorhiza Kurroa

- It is a **perennial herb** with the presence of rhizomes.
- Picrorhiza word has been taken from the Greek language. In Greek, the word "**Picros**" means **bitter** and "**Rhiza**" means **root**, so bitter root.
- It is **locally known as Kutki**.
- **Habitat:** It is native to the **alpine and sub-alpine regions** (2,700-4,500 metres) of the Himalayas.
- **Distribution:** It is **found in Himalayan region**, from Garwal to Bhutan and Kashmir to Sikkim, Pakistan, Tibet, west of China and Myanmar.
- **Required Climatic Conditions**
 - It **prefers moist**, relatively less exposed, north-west facing slopes.

- **Soil:** Sandy clay textured soil is the best for its growth.
- It **needs porous soil layers**, which facilitate horizontal spreading of the rhizomes underneath, that produce aerial sprouts from the nodes.
- It suffers heavy mortality during prolonged and intense rains.
- **Propagation:** The planting stock can **initially be raised through seedlings**, but can also be propagated through **rhizomes/stolons/offsets**.
 - Stolons are a **side branch which creeps on the soil** and possesses nodes and is a type of stem.

Applications of Picrorhiza Kurroa

- Kutki is an **anti-pyretic, anthelmintic, carminative**, stomachic, hepatoprotector, anti-malarial, and laxative in small doses but cathartic in large doses.
- It improves appetite and stimulates gas- tric secretions.
- It is useful for asthma, cold, and cough.

Conservation Status of Picrorhiza Kurroa

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix II

Source: **TH**

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