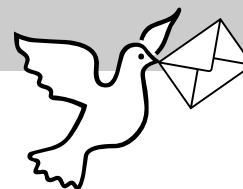


READERS' RESPONSE

**NTFP curriculum development**

The Institute for Culture and Ecology has recently received funding from the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry to develop undergraduate curriculum materials regarding non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and their relationship to overall forest health, sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Our objective is to create materials that provide students with knowledge regarding: a) the ecological, cultural and economic importance of NTFPs; and b) the role of NTFPs in ecosystem management. Therefore, we will be developing a set of modules with different foci (e.g. ecology, history, management, certification, agroforestry, economics, etc.) that can be either incorporated into already existing courses or used as the foundation for new courses or workshops.

It is our goal to create materials that faculty will find useful and easy to use. If you know of any faculty that might be interested, please feel free to share their names with me. I want to be as inclusive as possible. (For more information, please contact: Kathryn A. Lynch, Ph.D., Institute for Culture and Ecology, PO Box 6688, Portland, OR 97228, USA; e-mail: ktlynch@ifcae.org <<mailto:ktlynch@ifcae.org>>; www.ifcae.org <<http://www.ifcae.org>>)

Request for assistance: establishment of a botanical garden

I am working on a proposal to develop a botanical garden in the remote district of Chitral, northern Pakistan, where unique and precious flora is under threat owing to continued biotic pressure over the years. The objective of this botanical garden is to conserve the unique indigenous flora of this mountain region with particular focus on the endemic species and economically important medicinal and aromatic plants of the region.

Can anybody help me out in searching relevant literature, sample proposals or relevant links where I may get information on the subject?" (If you can help, please contact: Aziz Ali at: azizalicharun@yahoo.com)

**REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

We receive many requests from our readers for funding to cover their studies, attendance at conferences or research projects. Unfortunately, we do not have funds for these activities. However, we do suggest that you check the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Web site (www.fao.org/forestry/site/7148/en) for funding sources. You can also participate in the funding forum on the CPF Web site and enquire about grants.

Request for assistance: authors required for medicinal plant handbook

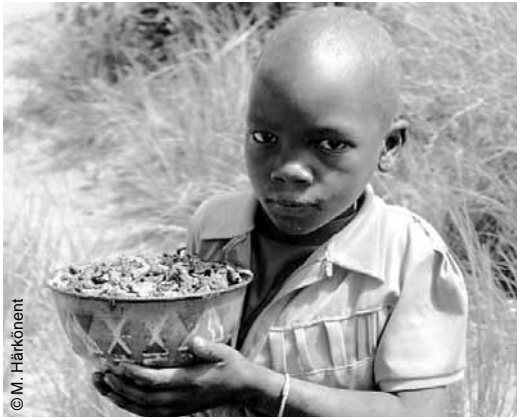
We will be publishing a multi-author book "Handbook of Medicinal Plants" with an international publisher.

We are looking for experts to write the following chapters: Anticancerous plant drugs, Hypotensive plant drugs, Anti-inflammatory and antirheumatic plants, Cardiotoxic plants, Tranquilizers and sedative plant drugs, Hypocholesterolic and hypolipidemic plants, Rejuvenative plant drugs, Anti-obesity plants, Antidiabetic plants, laxatives, Immunomodulatory plants, Antiprotozoan plants, Brain tonics, Anti-asthmatic plants, Antidermatic plants, Antidysenteric plants, Diuretic plants, Antifertility plants, Anti-HIV plants, Abortifacients, Antispasmodic plants, Muscle relaxants, Plants used in eye diseases, Emmanogogues, Emetics, Insect repellent plants, Antimicrobial plants, Analgesics/prostaglandin inhibitor plants, Diaphoretics, Carminatives, Plants against poisons, Hepatoprotective plants, Aphrodisiacs, etc.

We are also looking for experts to write on the following more general subjects: Active principles in medicinal plants, World production and trade, Bioprospecting of medicinal plants, Nutraceuticals based on plants, etc. (If you are interested, please contact: Prof. K.V. Peter, Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Trichur, Kerala, India; e-mail: kvptr@hotmail.com or vckau@sancharnet.in) ●



Wild edible fungi – a source of food and money



Truffles, milk-caps, porcini, chanterelles or termite mushrooms are examples of fungi used in more than 80 countries. A small group of species are of economic importance in terms of export, but the wider significance of wild edible fungi lies with their extensive subsistence uses.