

Promoting Herbal Garden in Schools (August)

As a part of IYB 2010 celebrations, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in collaboration with National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) organised a competition among the school children on “promoting herbal gardens within their schools” to motivate students, their teachers and families to recognize the importance of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge that helps maintain health and sustain biodiversity for future generations. A total of 15 schools participated in the competition. As a part of competition, the children visited the herbal garden of ICIMOD to witness the *ex situ* conservation of medicinal plants of the Himalayas. The students then initiated the herbal garden creating their own model with herbs of their own choice at their schools. A group of experts from ICIMOD and NTNC visited the herbal gardens in schools to monitor the progress made in the gardens maintained by the students on August. (Pictures are attached)

Competition for story writing on biodiversity conservation and management in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (August)

The Hindu Kush-Himalayas are home to a rich biodiversity of global significance, and are an integral part of culture and traditions of the region, forming the basis for livelihoods of 200 million people. As a contribution to the IYB, ICIMOD made a call for competitive story writing on biodiversity conservation and management in the region. A special book, on best success stories including the lessons learned, will be published to draw attention of the policy makers, learn from it, and replicate the experience in the region. <http://www.icimod.org/?page=1178>