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‘Himalayan Seed Bank’ in the offing

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Ministry of Science and Technology has decided to set up ‘Himalayan Seed Bank’ for the conservation of the rare and near-extinct plants.



The high-level Italian delegation discussing the project with Minister Dhamala (center). Also seen in the photo is Ev-K2-CNR president Agostino Da Polenza (third from right). (file photo)

Talking to the journalists at the ministry, Minister for Science and Technology Kalpana Dhamala said the government has started the preservation campaign as the rare species of plants are on the verge of extinction.

Minister Dhamala said the Department of Botany under Nepal Academy of Science and Technology would be entrusted with the responsibility to begin the process of establishing such bank.

More than 100 plants including algae and mushrooms are on the verge of extinction especially in the Himalayan region, and this had led to the formation of the bank to carry out conservation efforts in this regard, said minister Dhamala.

An Italian research agency Ev-K2-CNR has signed the deal with the NAST to set up the Himalayan Seed Bank. The Italian delegation comprising its president Agostino Da Polenza, Consul General of Italy in Kolkatta Joel Melchiori among other have recently met Minister Dhamala at the Ministry, Singhadurbar and discussed the prospects of the Bank.

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