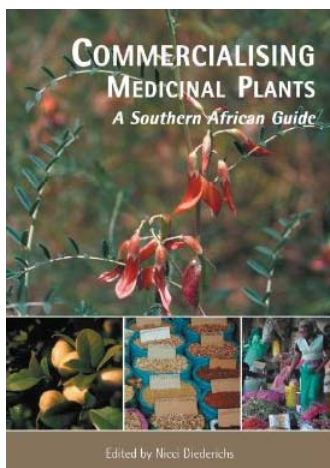


Commercialising Medicinal Plants: A Southern African Guide



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MEDICINAL PLANT INDUSTRY

The use and trade of medicinal plants in southern Africa has been recognised as providing important health care benefits, livelihood opportunities and as being culturally significant. This industry and its current roleplayers are, however, threatened by a number of factors, including: unsustainable and declining raw material supplies, unsupportive legislative frameworks, poor organisation, limited capacity and new entrants into the industry with commercial interests.

Limited knowledge about the use and trade of medicinal plants constrains interventions made to support and develop the industry for the benefit of current roleplayers.

THIS BOOK

It is the intention of this southern African Guide to Commercialising Medicinal Plants to equip researchers, practitioners, business people and those involved in supporting and developing the industry with the knowledge and tools to address the challenges, and to pick up the emerging opportunities.

Chapters included in the book are:

- **Overview of the Medicinal Plants Industry in Southern Africa:** A status quo statement of the dynamics of the medicinal plant trade in southern Africa.
- **Conservation & Trade Regulations for Medicinal Plants:** A look at the local and international regulatory framework for harvesting and trade in medicinal plants in southern Africa.
- **Sustainable Bark Harvesting Technologies:** Innovative ways to address the issue of unsustainable harvesting of tree bark.
- **The Economics of Medicinal Plant Cultivation:** Answers to some of the key questions about commercial medicinal plant farming: feasibility, requirements and costs.
- **Propagation Technologies for Medicinal Plants:** A wide variety of traditional plant propagation technologies and how they can best be applied to medicinal plants.
- **Farming Medicinal Plants:** A detailed farmers guide to the production of medicinal plants.
- **The Chemistry and Pharmacology of Medicinal Plants:** Information and techniques for assessing the range and concentration of medicinal compounds in various parts of a medicinal plant are presented.
- **Fact Sheets for Popular Medicinal Species:** All you need to know about some of the most popular medicinal plants in the region.
- **Processing and Packaging Technologies:** Integral to the commercialisation of medicinal plants is a need to stabilise them for storage, and add value by processing and packaging them.
- **Production of Traditional Medicines:** Standards & Regulatory Issues.
- **Marketing and Retail of Medicinal Plants and Products:** The types of products traded, and the markets for each product category are described.
- **Development of Organisations and Businesses in the Medicinal Plants Sector:** This chapter presents a clear analysis of the different institutional models available for practitioners assisting with business and organisational development.
- **Biodiversity Prospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing:** Much has been made about the potential of southern Africa's biodiversity as source of new drugs. As a result, indigenous knowledge, access to resources and sharing of benefits are becoming critical considerations.