

OR-84**Streghnth and Challenges for Better Utilization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Sudan**

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There is a worldwide revival interest in the use of medicinal plants (MP) and their products, as a home remedies for treatment of various ailments. As the development in new concepts of nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, phytotherapy and aromatherapy are widening the use of MP, their new applications in functional foods, agricultural pest management and organic production of foods and animal husbandry are gaining popularity. The medicinal and aromatic herbs and the plant based pharmaceutical are now accounting for substantial proportion of the drug market. This is might either be due to the broad horizons of natural medicine to control major health disorders, in one hand or to the high cost and reported cases of side effects of the synthetic drug in the other hand. Being one of the richest country in flora (3613 flowering species), Sudan has now the opportunities to derive economic benefit through proper utilization of its medicinal plants resources. In addition to the diverse climate and soil types, the presence of the diverse ethnic groups, technical knowhow, number of government supported research institution and polices, interested NGOs and private sectors. They all together represent the strengthening and enabling tools for utilization of medicinal plants in Sudan. However, gaps in sustainability of quality and quantity, development of value addition, market-oriented production , formulation and primary processing, encouraging government polices, availability of research facilities, awareness and knowledge about property rights and benefit sharing issues, marketing, promotion and commercialization of research products are the major challenges for better utilization of MP in Sudan. In this presentation the current status of MP utilization will be discussed in the light of above mentioned strength and challenges.
