



INNOVATIVE INTEGRATED TRAINING IN
HEALING PLANTS
BUSINESS

IO3 - The Total Business Plants Training Material

Module No. 2

“Methods for harvest treatment”

Unit 2. Harvesting of healing/medicinal plants

- **Summary**

Unit 2 discusses how harvest parameters may alter the final product's quality and quantity and which of them should be taken under consideration regarding the needs of raw and final product. Examples are also given, in order to understand better the range of those parameters.

- **Learning outcome descriptors**

- **Knowledge, understanding and professional skills**

1. Specify the main factors that should be taken into consideration for harvesting
2. Understand which harvesting parameter may be responsible for the low quality of the final product
3. Pick the desirable parameters for the specific plant and final product

- **General and transferable skills:**

1. Plan a research task
2. Work independently or with a minimal guidance where appropriate
3. Work in team with minimal guidance where appropriate
4. Show good written and oral communication skills
5. Demonstrate computer literacy
6. Perform online (computer) search to develop information technology skills in order to retrieve information from a variety of sources

1. Harvesting of healing /medicinal plants

Harvesting medicinal and aromatic plants, is the initial phase in primary processing the plant product, and makes it prepared for use in different ventures. Harvesting ought to be completed such that both quality and health of the product are kept up. Ideal states of harvesting are essential for acquiring a raw material of high quality and increased processing efficiency. There are various elements that they may influence the harvesting conditions, from climate and gear to species or part of the plant specific parameters. Careful consideration for ideal harvesting conditions is a pivotal stride for a high quality harvest.

Quality issues in completed products can be because of: use of the wrong species, absence of organ specificity, harvesting at a non-optimum phase of development, non-optimum cultivation parameters, for example, soil, light, water, temperature and nutrients, contamination by microbial and chemical agents, non-ideal drying and capacity, non-ideal extraction procedure and long-term finished product storage. Quality issues in completed products are additionally complicated by the way that in many cases the phytochemical constituents in charge of the claimed activity of the plant product are often not

known or poorly explained. However, to prepare reproducible phytochemical items effectively, the majority of the above described operations should be directed by specific protocols.

References

1. Hakibu Tanko, Danielle Julie Carrier, Lijun Duan and Ed Clausen (2005). Pre- and post-harvest processing of medicinal plants. *Plant Genetic Resources*, Volume 3, Issue 2, 304-313.

