

# AROMATIC AND MEDICINAL PLANTS VALORIZATION IN AGRI-FOOD AND COSMETICS

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## Introduction

Morocco has an old tradition and important know-how in traditional pharmacopeia. Among its natural flora, about a thousand species are currently used for this purpose in various degrees, national capacities are very important and an asset particularly for the rural socio-economic development. It is estimated that only 280 species are currently evaluated. Almost 100 species are exported in the form of dried herbs for food herb trade. The renewed worldwide interest for aromatic and medicinal plants (AMP), encouraged by the development of the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry, has greatly increased the interest and the need for these resources.

## Problematic

Morocco is ranked 10th worldwide as an exporter of aromatic and medicinal plants (AMP) with nearly \$62 million. The number of exporters of AMP and derivatives remains relatively small in terms of product diversification. Only 20 species are used for the production of essential oils or other aromatic extracts intended primarily for the perfumery and cosmetic industry and for the preparation of hygienic products and the formulation of flavours. This is related to the lack of valuable scientific and technical results of research and development projects.

## Objectives

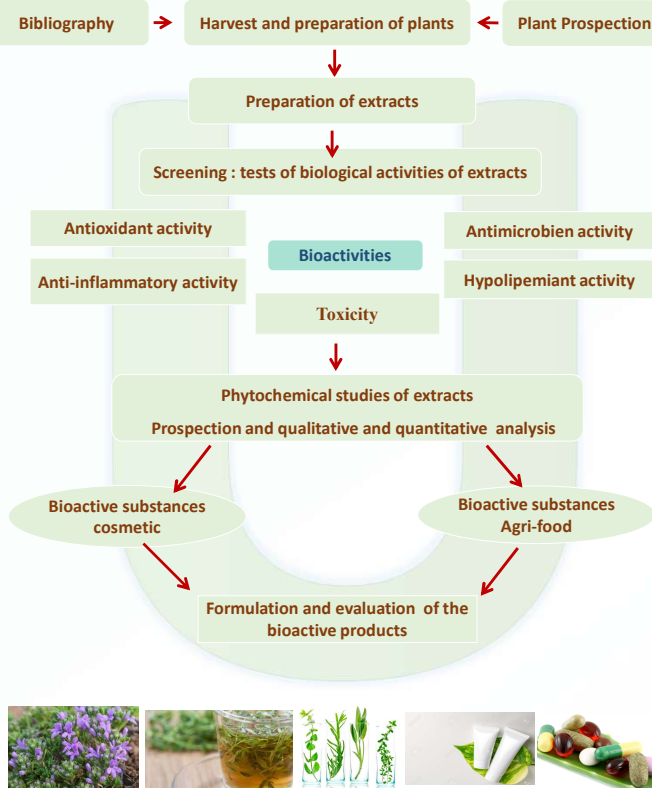
### Overall objective

Prospect aromatic and medicinal plants of Fez-Meknes region. Study and characterization of extracts for their phytochemicals compositions, biological property and interests in food and cosmetics.

### Specific objectives

1. Plant prospection;
2. Phytochemical, biological and ethnopharmacological studies on plant extracts;
3. Testing and evaluating of plant extracts as agri-food bioactive product
4. Testing and evaluating of plant extracts as cosmetics bioactive product
5. Technical, socio-economic, health and environmental studies of bioactive products

## Methodology



## Preliminary works

1. List of aromatic and medicinal plants prospected;
2. Bibliographical study of aromatic and medicinal plants identified;
3. Harvest and preparation of plant;
4. Preparing of protocols
5. Preparation of extracts



## Expected Outcomes

1. Monograph and Valorization of aromatic and medicinal plants from Fez-Meknes region
2. Phytochemical and biological Characterization of bioactive extracts;
3. Development of bioactive products in argi-food and cosmetics;
4. Dissemination of results

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