



## **Essential oil production in undeveloped countries as basis of affordable healthcare**

Essential oil production in undeveloped countries can:

- Provide effective healthcare for common problems, using a small number of oils
- Provide self sufficiency of healthcare
- Improve economic conditions
- Preserve ecosystems and biodiversity

Benefits and advantages of locally and regionally produced essential oils:

- Effective for the treatment of common conditions
- Cost of treatments significantly lower than imported pharmaceuticals
- Using regional plants familiar to the population strengthens traditional modalities
  - Traditionally used plants frequently the only ones available
- Essential oils can be exported
  - Can lead to south-south trading among essential oil producing countries
- Unexploited resources can be utilized
- Integration of traditional knowledge with modern pharmacological research
- Initial investment low

Locally produced essential oils can become a major treatment for common infectious diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems.

Many undiscovered and underutilized medicinal plants contain essential oil components with pharmacological action.

Some examples of essential oils available in undeveloped tropical countries for endemic diseases:

- Skin diseases: eucalyptus globulus; palmarosa; cinnamon; cajuput
- Respiratory diseases: eucalyptus globulus; terebinth; lemon, ginger
- Bactericidal: geranium; eucalyptus globulus; cinnamon; citronella; lemon
- Anti-viral: lemongrass; geranium; cinnamon bark; all citrus oils; melissa; clove
- Yellow fever: basil; geranium
- Ear infections: lantana, lemon
- Diarrhea: geranium; ginger; cinnamon; clove; lemon
- Liver problems: lemon; geranium
- Scabies: lemon; terebinth; clove
- Mosquitoes: lemon; citronella
- Ringworm: citronella