

HOPES OF AN AFRICAN HERBAL PHARMACOPEIA LOOK BRIGHT

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The Association of African Medicinal Plant Standards (www.aamps.org) has recently been awarded a major grant by the EU PRO€INVEST programme to strengthen its financial, administrative and technical skills and to enable it to carry out more effectively its work on developing Quality standards for African herbals leading to the launching of Africa's first herbal pharmacopoeia. Without the creation and promotion of such standards, the development of safe and efficacious herbal drugs and dietary supplements for national, regional and international sale will not be possible. Africa currently holds nearly 30% of the worlds estimated 240,000 plant species but accounts for less than 5% of the turnover of the global herbal industry

AAMPS has members from Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. This grant will allow AAMPS to carry on the work initiated two years ago to prepared quality assurance standards for 50 of Africa's most important medicinal plants. Earlier work was given financial support from the EU-ACP Centre for Development of Enterprise. In order to expand its membership network and enhance its revenue, it urgently needs to strengthen its capacity to recruit members and raise other forms of income so that the organisation can become self sustaining. AAMPS is registered in Mauritius and holds the intellectual property rights to all the documentation prepared under its auspices. The proposed PRO€INVEST support project will include preparing

- A Preparing a five year business plan
- B Organising an international workshop to review the plan and the monographs
- C Upgrading & expanding AAMPS's website
- d) Preparing printed technical and promotional materials

In order to strengthen AAMPS administrative and managerial skills the organisation has teamed up with the long established and well respected Centre for Research Information Action in Africa Southern Africa Developing and Consulting CRIAA SA-DC. CRIAA has played a leading role in developing sustainable policies for Devils Claw and other botanicals grown in Southern Africa.

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