

MS. KARAMBU MUREITHI, RISE AFNNET ATTENDS THE INDIGENOUS PLANT USE FORUM (IPUF) CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Karambu Mureithi Msc student under the sponsorship of the Rise AFNNET project was invited to attend and make a presentation in the Conference that was organized by Indigenous Plant Use Forum (IPUF), University of Johannesburg, Department of Botany and Biotechnology, South Africa. The main theme being ***“contribution of indigenous plants towards a sustainable future”***



Ms.Karambu 3rd left & students from other parts of Africa at the Timbali incubator in Nelspruit S.Africa

Ms. Karambu's presentation was in the theme of pesticides and Biopesticides with the title being: ***“Investigation of 4 Kenyan plants of the family Cyperaceae and specifically ethno-botanical uses of Cyperus articulatus.”***

The Conference commenced on 1st July and ended on 4th July and was hosted at the Agricultural Research College-Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops in Nelspruit Mpumalanga province in South Africa.

Presentations were grouped and presented according to sub-themes that included:- Cultivation and Propagation, Ethno-pharmacology, Conservation and Sustainability, Antimicrobial Activity, Commercialization and Product Development, Anti-mutagenic Activity, Ethno-botany, Ant-diabetic activity, Pests and Bio-pesticides, Medicinal plant Chemistry, Ethno-veterinary Medicine, Metabolomics and Quality Control and African pharmacopeia monographs.

Her presentation was highly appreciated by participants especially for the fact that it was aimed at producing a product. All researchers were encouraged at the conference to direct their research towards the ethno botanical products.

Other presentations were made including special presentations on the African Pharmacopeia Monographs by Professor Eloff Kobus of the University of Pretoria. Other key presentations were given by Ermias Dagne of the University of Addis Ababa, Denzil Phillips of the Denzil Phillips International Ltd UK, Professor Drissa Diallo of the University of Bamako and Professor Jacob Midiwo of the University of Nairobi.

The participants also toured the Timbali incubators where horticultural crops were showcased in the green house and later visited the orchard at the Agricultural Research Institute in Nelspruit.

Research scientists were encouraged to direct their research on areas such as; African Aromatic and cosmetic plants use in Perfumery beauty care and wellness, Aromatic compounds, Indigenous Veterinary care, Nutritional uses of indigenous plants, among others. They were further encouraged to make use of the indigenous knowledge and come up with products rather than sticking on isolation and modification of pure compounds.



Ms.Karambu University Of Nairobi, Kenya, Prof. Van Wyk Ben-Erik South Africa, Ms. Bestina Tanzania & Prof. Khalid Hassan of Northern Sudan.