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MAURITIUS

ROOTS OF THE FUTURE

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Nutraceuticals in Mauritius: A game changing opportunity in the food and healthcare industry

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Why Mauritius?

Shifting consumer behaviour

There is a shift from curative to preventive care in the global world. With immunity taking centre stage due to the onset of the pandemic, consumers are relying more on nutraceuticals

Availability of scientific information on identified nutraceutical plants

a database of the most appropriate species for nutraceutical production has been developed via literature search and scoring in order to assist potential operators/farmers in the transformation of terrestrial plants into nutraceuticals as a feasible economic venture

Potential for Cultivation

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year

A rich biodiversity

Mauritius has a rich biodiversity characterized by a high level of unique & diverse species which has immense potential for the development of nutraceutical products

Rise in ageing population

Mauritius is facing an ageing population. wherein the consumers are focusing more on preventive healthcare. There is a shift in increasing consumption of supplements in the earlier ages in order to prevent them from permanently depending on pharmaceutical drugs

Potential use against chronic diseases

Cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are prevalent within the Mauritian population. Therefore, in the local context, plants with potential to manage these chronic diseases will shine as potential future nutraceutical products

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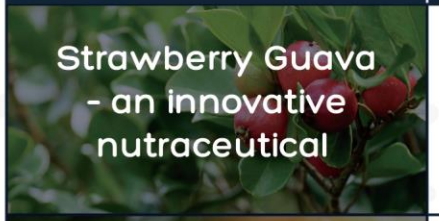
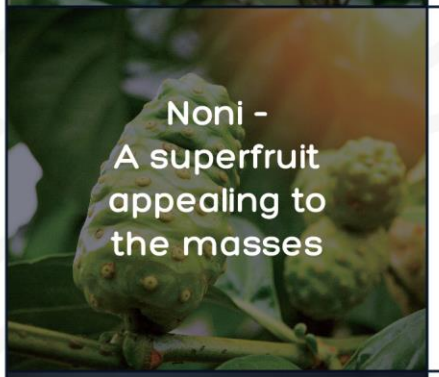
List of 7 Priority Plants	Benefits/ Applications	Plant Part(s) Used	Potential Nutraceutical Products
	Therapeutic applications include cardiovascular and circulation effects, treatment of chronic inflammatory, malignant, and autoimmune diseases	Fruit Crown leaf (on fruit)	Pineapple peel vinegar Pineapple peel powder (mixed with Vanillin) Bromelain extract (enzyme)
	Products derived from pawpaw confer physiological protection against diabetes, cancer & respiratory diseases	Fruit, Leaf, Seeds & Flower bud	Pulp powder, fermented products, encapsulated extracts, herbal tea

List of 7 Priority Plants	Benefits/ Applications	Plant Part(s) Used	Potential Nutraceutical Products
	Anti-inflammatory and boost immunity	Leaf Flower Root Bark Seed	Herbal Tea Pills Oil Concentrated Powder
	Cholesterol lowering and cardio-protective effect	Leaf	Catechin capsule Green tea capsule Concentrated extract (Catechin and green tea) Catechin gel Herbal tea (with tulsi, turmeric, Cardamom, etc.) Tea wine

List of 7 Priority Plants	Benefits/ Applications	Plant Part(s) Used	Potential Nutraceutical Products
 Strawberry Guava - an innovative nutraceutical	Rich in antioxidants, vitamin C, potassium, and fiber	Fruit Leaf	Low GI diabetic jellies, jams etc. Concentrated extract Essential oil
 Noni - A superfruit appealing to the masses	Antioxidant and antidiabetic	Fruit Leaf Flower	Pulp powder Capsule Juice concentrate Flavoured honey Concentrated extract Herbal tea Flavoured honey
 Pomegranate - Opportunity to exploit the underexplored virtues of the non-edible parts	Anti-cancer properties Anti-diabetic virtue Heart benefits	Fruit Fruit peel Seeds Flower	Water-soluble powder Ellagitannins capsule Peel extract powder

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Investment Opportunities

Target Areas	Potential stakeholders
Large scale cultivation for production of nutraceuticals	*Farmers*
	Agro-mechanical companies
Extraction of active ingredients	Laboratories
	Pharmaceutical/Nutraceutical companies
	Equipment suppliers/manufacturers
Production of nutraceuticals	Pharmaceutical/Nutraceutical companies
	Contract manufacturing organisations
	Food processing companies
	Equipment suppliers/manufacturers
Clinical trials	Clinical Research Organizations

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Key Incentives

To establish the right ecosystem for the transformation of crops with high nutraceutical potential into value-added products, the Government of Mauritius will grant an **8 years tax holiday** to foreign companies investing in the nutraceutical sector

Food Processing Scheme (Medicinal Plants)

- 8-year income tax holiday
- Exemption from payment of Registration
- Duty and Land Transfer Tax for the purchase of immovable property
- Exemption from payment of value added tax (VAT) on equipment and machinery

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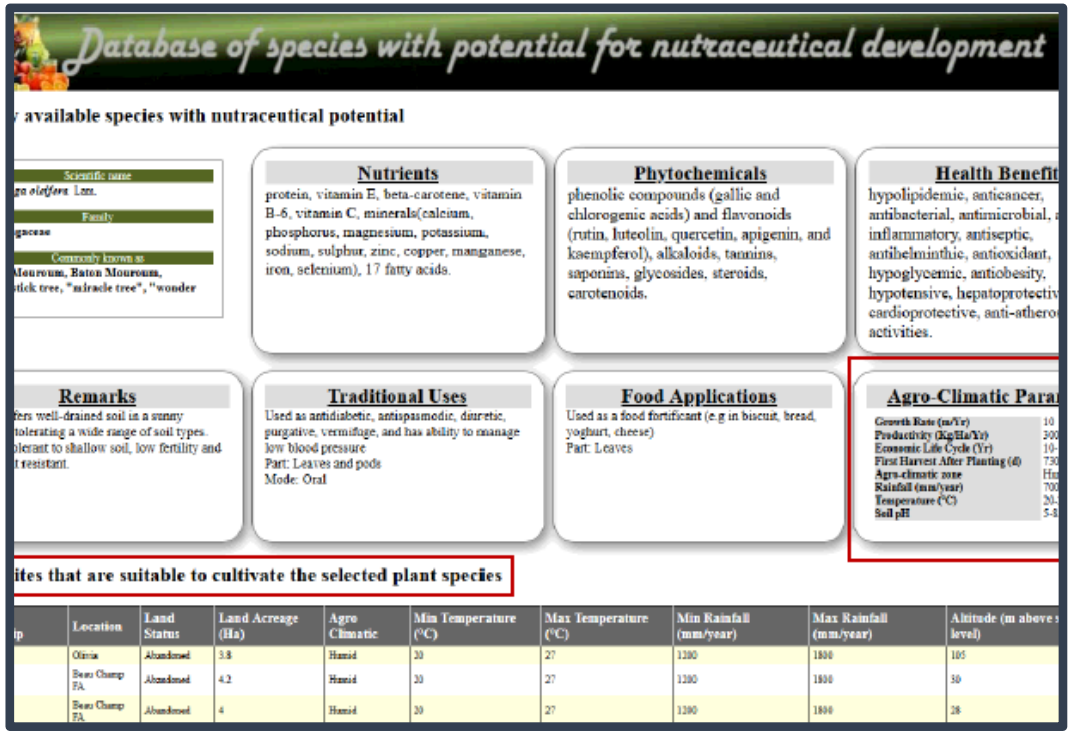
Land & Resource Availability

A database (http://app-edb-nutra.azurewebsites.net/) containing the following information is accessible for use by the general public at the Economic Development Board of Mauritius:

- List of nutraceutical plants (120) that have the potential to be cultivated in Mauritius
- Information pertaining to nutraceutical plant characteristics & their properties
- List of land sites that are vacant or abandoned and may be considered for the cultivation of nutraceutical plants



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