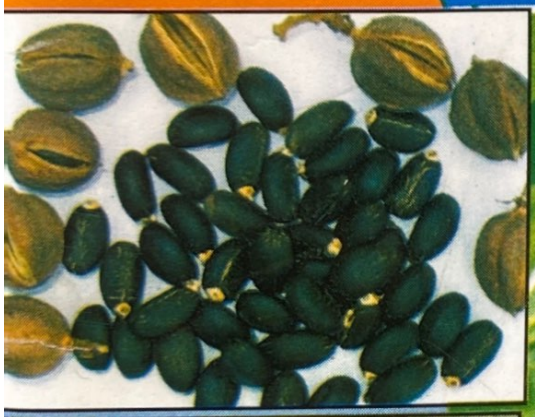
MANUAL Of

JATROPHA CURCAS:

A GREENGOLD PLANTS







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MEDICINAL POTENTIALS OF *JATROPHA CURCAS*

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Originally Jatropha is a native of American tropics especially Mexico and Central America, however it is now widely cultivated in both tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world.

It is a plant that produces seeds with high oil content. Jatropha is capable of growing in marginal soils, helping in their replenishment. The seeds are toxic and non-edible hence not naturally dispersed by animals nor serve as fodder for them. However, some edible varieties exist in Mexico.

Some consider Jatropha to be a weed. However, it is definitely not an invasive species since it hardly propagates by itself. Seeds from fruits that drop on the ground surrounding the mother plant seldom germinate to develop. Jatropha is a resilient plant that can adapt to many ecological conditions.

Its mechanism enables it to withstand period of stress, it retrieves the nutrient from its leaves and store them in the plant stem and root system. The leaves turn yellow and are afterward shed by the plant, the stem remains photosynthetically active in this dormant state and can remain for more than a year in this state.

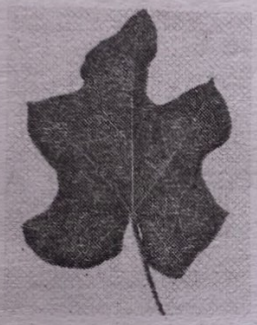
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Jatropha is a multi-purpose plant that has several benefits relating to health, environment and even in terms of alternative source of energy generation. Thus expectations are high and a lot is underway in trying to explore the possible uses of the dynamic plant.

Therapeutic uses

All parts of Jatropha (seeds, leaves, stem bark and root) have been used in medicine and for veterinary purposes, some of which have been in use for several years by indigenous pharmacopoeia.

Leaves



The leaves are anti-parasitic, applied in the treatment of scabies, it is also effective against paralysis, rheumatism and hard tumor. In India, the leaves are ground and applied on horse's eye to scare flies. The tea obtained by boiling of the leaves could help with the reduction of fever, jaundice and gonorrhea. In Barcelona, leaves are boiled and the decoction used to relieve heart burn.

Seed oil



The oil from the seed is used in treatment of rashes, eczema and parasitic skin diseases. And it has also been used as a purgative medicine. The seed oil is an emetic, laxative, purgative and for skin ailments. The ashes are used as salt substitute. Seeds

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when chewed relieves effect of constipation. When the seeds are grounded with palm oil it can be use as rat poison.

Sap



The sap flowing from the stem is used to arrest bleeding of wounds, ulcer and also used in the treatment of pile. The latex is also used to treat toothache, ringworm as well as in the dressing of sores and inflamed tongues.

Stem bark

The tender twig can also be used as a tooth brush to clean the teeth. Also for urinary infection and sexually transmitted diseases.

Root

The decoction from the roots are used in treating epilepsy and as antidote for snake bites.

Other internal uses include the following:

Jatropha is a remedy for alopecia, anasorea, ascites, burns, carbuncles, convulsions, cough, dermatitis, diarrhea, dropsy, dysentery, dyspepsia, eczema, fever, erysipelas, jaundice, paralysis, rashes, rheumatism, yellow fever, tetanus, ulcer, stomach ache, sores, heart burns, thrush, uterosis, whitlows. The plant is used as a
natural pesticide and insecticide because of its toxicity.

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The milky sap is used for the treatment of diseases relating to the skin *(dermatomucosal diseases)*. Jatropha contains an alkaloid known as *Jatrophine* and is believed to possess anti-cancer properties. Jatropha has also been known to display certain anti-tumor properties, anti-malaria properties and studies are also advancing in the area of HIV/AIDS and urine system response enhancement.

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