



International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Ethnobotany

September 23-24, 2019 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Systematic Approaches for Medicinal Plants Research from Traditional Knowledge to High Value Herbal Products

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The use of medicinal and aromatic plants as traditional medicines and herbal medicines has increased tremendously with 80% of people worldwide utilizing plants for primary health care. The fast growing industry in traditional medicines has caused regulatory bodies to be concerned on the safety, quality and efficacy thus there is a need for a systematic research and development approaches to address the critical issues. Malaysia is also rich in biodiversity and traditional knowledge of medicinal plants usage for herbal medicines. However it is not fully documented. Therefore FRIM has over the years started out bioprospecting research, traditional knowledge documentation and working with the herbal practitioners and herbal industry in producing quality herbal, cosmetics and personal care products. During the past decade, FRIM has developed many standardization protocols for medicinal and aromatic plants from upstream to downstream and identified potential medicinal plants for product development. Some of FRIM key research areas (traditional knowledge, conservation, post harvest technology, standardization, bioactivity, formulation and quality control) will be presented in this paper.

Biography:

Dr. Nor Azah Mohamad Ali obtained her B.S. in Chemistry (1985) from the University of Waterloo, Canada, M.Sc. in Chemistry (1996) from the University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Ph.D. in Natural Products Chemistry (2004) from the University Putra Malaysia. Upon graduation in 1987, Nor Azah has joined the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as a researcher since 2018 currently; Nor Azah is the director of Natural Products Division, FRIM. For her contribution into research, education and development Dr. Nor Azah has received a number of honors and awards including FRIM Excellent Service Award (2001), Best Thesis Award (2005), FRIM Best Scientist Award (2009) and one of Top Research Scientist Malaysia (TRSM) in 2015. Her research works especially on essential oils have been taken up and commercialized by the herbal industries.