Ignored Oil Seed Crops

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## CONTENTS

Preface .......................................................................................................................... 3  
Chapter 1: Apricot ........................................................................................................ 4  
Chapter 2: Rose Oil ...................................................................................................... 12  
Chapter 3: Sandalwood Oil ........................................................................................ 16  
Chapter 4: Radish ....................................................................................................... 19  
Chapter 5: Bombax Ceiba .......................................................................................... 23  
Chapter 6: Moringa .................................................................................................... 26  
Chapter 7: Cloves ........................................................................................................ 32  
Chapter 8: Hazel Nut .................................................................................................. 36  
Chapter 9: Almond ...................................................................................................... 39  
Chapter 10: Pimento ................................................................................................... 42  
Chapter 11: Ajowan Oil ............................................................................................... 48  
Chapter 12: Coriander ................................................................................................. 51  
Chapter 13: Citrus ....................................................................................................... 55  
Chapter 14: Walnut ...................................................................................................... 59  
Chapter 15: Camphor Tree ......................................................................................... 67  
Chapter 16: Camelina ................................................................................................ 72  
Chapter 17: Peppermint ............................................................................................. 75  
Chapter 18: Oat ........................................................................................................... 79  
Chapter 19: Aloe Vera ................................................................................................. 84  
Chapter 20: Castor Beans .......................................................................................... 88  
Chapter 21: Mallotus Phuilibensis (Kamala) .............................................................. 92  
Chapter 22: Grapefruit Oil (Citrus paradisi) .............................................................. 97  
Chapter 23: Hesperis Matronalis ............................................................................... 104  
Chapter 24: Cardamom ............................................................................................... 108  
Chapter 25: Khus Oil ................................................................................................ 111  
Chapter 26: Turmeric ................................................................................................. 114  
Chapter 27: Pinus Plaustris (Turpentine Oil) .............................................................. 117  
Chapter 28: Eucalyptus ............................................................................................. 121  
Chapter 29: Saffron ................................................................................................... 125  
Chapter 30: Dill ......................................................................................................... 128  
Chapter 31: Cinnamon ............................................................................................... 131  
Chapter 32: Lemon ..................................................................................................... 135  
Chapter 33: Pistachio ................................................................................................. 139  
Chapter 34: Cassia Oil ............................................................................................... 144  
Chapter 35: Orris Root ............................................................................................... 149
Chapter 36: Pinus ................................................................. 154
Chapter 37: Pumpkin ......................................................... 158
Chapter 38: Wintergreen .................................................... 162
Chapter 39: Neem Oil ......................................................... 167
Chapter 40: Palmorosa ....................................................... 173
Chapter 41: Cedarwood Oil ............................................... 178
Chapter 42: Sweet Basil .................................................... 181
Chapter 43: Calendula ....................................................... 188
Chapter 44: Cactus ............................................................ 191
Chapter 45: Tulip Oil .......................................................... 193
Chapter 46: Pongamia ........................................................ 196
Chapter 47: Algae .............................................................. 198
Chapter 48: Lemon Grass .................................................. 201
Chapter 49: Amaltas .......................................................... 208
Chapter 50: Arjun Plant ...................................................... 211
Chapter 51: Onion .............................................................. 214
Chapter 52: Cumin ............................................................. 218
Chapter 53: Calamus Oil ..................................................... 220
Chapter 54: Black Seed ..................................................... 225
Chapter 55: Kangi Palm ..................................................... 229
Chapter 56: Oil Of Kachi Grass ......................................... 232
Chapter 57: Carrot ............................................................. 234
Chapter 58: Jasmine .......................................................... 237
Chapter 59: Plums (Prunus Salicina) ................................. 242
Chapter 60: Ginger ............................................................ 247
Chapter 61: Mint ............................................................... 255
Chapter 62: Sounf ............................................................... 259
Chapter 63: Amla ............................................................... 264
Chapter 64: Peelu .............................................................. 268
Chapter 65: Fig ................................................................. 274
Chapter 66: Wheat ............................................................ 278
Chapter 67: Cashew ........................................................... 282
Chapter 68: Marigolds ....................................................... 287
Chapter 69: Sorghum ........................................................ 289
REFERENCES .................................................................. 292
Preface

Oil seed sector has been one of the world’s most dynamic in recent decades, growing at almost double the speed of world agriculture as a whole. It covers a wide range of crops used not only for oil but also for direct consumption, animal feeds and a number of industrial uses. Oil-palm, soybean, sunflower and rapeseed account for almost three-quarters of world oilseed production, but olive oil, groundnut, sesame and coconut are also significant. The rapid expansion of production has meant that oil crops have accounted for a huge share of the expansion of the world's agricultural land, with a net increase of 75 million ha between 1974-76 and 1997-99 - this at a time when the area under cereals shrank by 28 million ha.

With their high energy content, oil crops have played a key role in improving food energy supplies in developing countries. Just over one out of every five kilocalories added to consumption in the developing countries in the past two decades originated in this group of products. This trend looks set to continue and indeed intensify: 45 out of every 100 additional kilocalories in the period to 2030 may come from oilseeds. The rapid growth in consumption over the past few decades was accompanied by the emergence of several developing countries - China, India, Mexico and Pakistan, among others - as major and growing net importers of vegetable oils. The result has been that the traditional surplus of the vegetable oils/oilseeds complex in the balance of payments of the developing countries has turned into a deficit in recent years. This has happened despite the spectacular growth of exports from a few developing countries that have come to dominate the world export scene, namely Malaysia and Indonesia for palm oil and Brazil and Argentina for soybean. In most other developing countries, the trend towards increased imports can be expected to continue.

Oil seed crops are important in world and the demand of oil is mounting day by day due to increase in population. But the efforts to promote oil seed crops are not sufficient to feed the hungry world. This book contains information about the oilseed crops that have been ignored in the past and by using this useful information the shortage of oil can be overcome more importantly in developing countries.
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