

Workshop 4

Poster

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Using Aloe Plants growing in Israel as a Source for the Cosmetic and Medicinal Industries and as ornamental plants.

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Over the last 20 years we have introduced to the Botanical Garden at the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research at Sede Boker in the Negev Desert of Israel, more than 100 *Aloe* species from the deserts of South Africa. During the last 12 years screening of this collection has been carried out and it has become an important gene bank for the cosmetic and medicinal industries. Agro-technical methods have been developed in order to increase the secondary phenolic metabolites (SPMs) in leaves of *Aloe* plants for use in cosmetics and medicines for skin protection against sun, fire burns and radiation. SPMs are very important to retain the natural balance in the green world. These attractive plants could also be important as ornamental plants in gardens. *Aloe arborescens* can be easily propagated from cuttings and is probably one of the most widely cultivated species of the genus in the world.