



# TOOLKIT COK-06: Drying of leaves of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* medicinal plants

## 1

The facility that you use for drying the *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* plant leaves should be kept clean and well aerated. It should protect the plant-material from excessive heat, fire, rain, pests, rodents, insects, birds and animals. Drying directly on the ground under exposure to sunlight should be avoided.

## 2

Wear overalls, protective gloves, respiratory mask, gum boots and eye protection goggles.



## 3

After weighing of the harvested leaves at the drying facility, take the gunny bags of *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* plant leaves into the drying area.



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## 4

Unpack the *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* plant leaves from the gunny bags promptly.



## 5

Spread the leaves on drying racks into a thin layer. Inspect the leaves and remove any undesirable materials and contaminants by sorting and cutting any remaining stalks. The drying frames must be located in a sufficient distance from the ground to provide adequate air circulation and facilitate uniform drying.



## 6

The plant leaves on the racks should be turned over twice daily for the first four days. The leaves take seven days to dry satisfactorily. After drying, pack the plant leaves in bags such as gunny or containers permitting air exchange in order to reduce the risk of pest attacks and mold. Do not store the dried plant leaves beyond six months as this will cause the leaves to lose the essential oil.



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