



TOOLKIT COK-05: Harvesting (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum*) medicinal plants

1

Ocimum kilimandscharicum plants mature for harvesting after about six months after transplanting. Subsequent harvests can be done after every four months. Cut the *Ocimum kilimandscharicum* plants at the stem, about 6 inches from the ground level, using secateurs (shears).



2

DO NOT use implements such as machete (panga) because they will damage the stem of the plant. Plants with damaged stems will not re-grow (regenerate).



3

Carry the harvested plants to a shade and place them on a suitable surface such as a mat.



Partners



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4

Pluck all the leaves off the plant branches.



5

Pack the plucked leaves loosely into a gunny bag. If compressed, the leaves will generate heat which will spoil damage the quality of the leaves and the resulting essential oil.



6

Transport the packed leaves to the drying facility immediately to avoid damage due to heat that is generated in the gunny bag. Transportation can be manual or by hand-pulled or animal cart, bicycle, motorcycle or motor vehicle.



7

At the drying facility, weigh the gunny bags of harvested leaves and record.

Partners



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