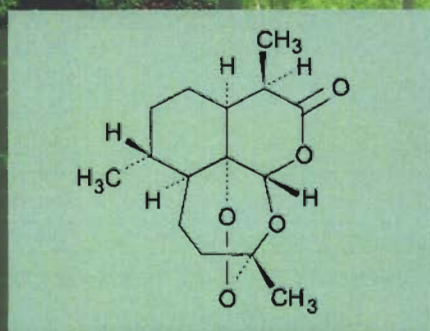


WHO monograph

on good agricultural and collection practices (GACP) for *Artemisia annua* L.



World Health
Organization

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Preface

Traditional medicine, a valuable treasure of the Chinese nation, is an important component of the medical science in China. In the thousands of years of Chinese history, traditional medicine has played a significant role and made an indelible contribution to the health of the Chinese people. During the last two decades, traditional Chinese medicine has been increasingly accepted by many other countries. A good example is acupuncture, which is being used for clinical treatment in most of the countries in the world.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Government of China has made unswerving efforts to promote the development of traditional Chinese medicine, which has become an important component of the contemporary medical medicine. The extraction of artemisinin from traditional herbs as a very efficacious antimalaria drug, is an example of the successful combination of traditional Chinese medicine and modern medicine.

Today in the 21st century, malaria, the ancient disease, is still severely challenging people's health. Each year, more than one million people around the globe die of malaria and more than two billion people in over 100 countries and regions are threatened by the disease. In many developing countries, especially those in Africa, the morbidity and mortality from malaria are still very high. Malaria has had serious impact on the social and economic development of mankind. In order to effectively curb the spread of malaria in the world, WHO has recommended the use of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT) for the treatment of this disease.

In September 2005, the Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao pronounced at the 2005 World Summit that China will strengthen its cooperation with developing nations in terms of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases, and increase relevant assistance to developing countries, especially African countries.

China is the place of origin of *Artemisia annua* L., the largest supplier country of *Artemisia annua* L raw material on the global market, and the first country to extract artemisinin. And artemisinin is a significant contribution of traditional Chinese medicine to the world. China not only has a wealth of experience in the production and usage of artemisinin, but also has unique skills in the cultivation of *Artemisia annua* L. We stand ready to strengthen exchange and cooperation with WHO and relevant countries in treating malaria using artemisinin, and to make a vigorous contribution to curbing the spread of malaria in the world.

China actively supported WHO in developing this monograph on the cultivation of *Artemisia annua* L. It is hoped that the publication of this monograph will be helpful for the prevention and treatment of malaria around the globe. We are willing to continue working together with other countries and WHO in promoting traditional Chinese medicine to serve the health of the people around the world.

A stylized calligraphic signature in black ink, consisting of two characters: '高' (Gao) and '强' (Qiang).

Mr Gao Qiang
Minister of Health
People's Republic of China

