

Peru. Ten Years later: Medicinal Plant Species from Piura

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This poster is part of a Latin American project on the issue of medicinal flora growth, trade and consumption. The aim of the research is both to offer information about medicinal plant species and to improve research about the learning processes and fair use of these cherished natural resources.

Material and Methods

The 2006 sample conducted in Lima included 38 in-depth interviews to 3 focus groups: i) 34 plant traders from city markets, nurseries, fairs, and natural pharmacies; ii) Two traditional Indian healers; iii) a couple of plant therapists and doctors.

The 2016 sample conducted in Piura included 40 interviews to: i) six natural pharmacists; ii) 19 market traders, some of them wild plant collectors; iii) informal fruit and beverage traders; iv) supermarkets attendants that possessed stands offering teas and infusions, as well as packed dried therapeutic herbs or plant portions.

Results and Discussion

A plant list of 150 vernaculars was recorded during fieldwork in Piura, about two thirds of which have medicinal applications (93 plants). The second result is that chamomile is the top-ranking species in both samples. The third is that about 49 species found in Piura coincide with the ones collected in Lima, in 2006.

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Conclusion

Current research registered the existence of two international projects focusing the reforestation of local semi-arid lands. One of them uses the native tree algarrobo (*Prosopis alba* and *pallida*) in cooperation between European institutions and Peru. The flour, syrup, liquor and oil extracted from the pods have antioxidant, anti-anemic and anti-diarrheal properties. We stress there is an increase in demand for natural and alternative remedies ten years later.

