

## **Natural Product network in Africa and their contribution to regional and interregional cooperation**

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**Resume:** Research on natural products has grown over the past decades on the African continent. Natural product research has been an all encompassing term addressing issues like agricultural research, medicinal and aromatic plants and characterization of bioactive molecules etc. Quick searches through databases increasingly show publications around the natural product theme from African researches. While there is no dearth of research publication, unfortunately this has not been translated into patents or means whereby wealth could have created out of this useful work. Yet several networks have been created around this theme and include *inter alia*, NAPRECA amongst others.

The growing interest in this field is an indication of the importance that African institutions have for this field which has the potential of influencing food, medicine-security on the continent if addressed through, *inter alia*, capacity building, and research policy. Networking has had an important role to play in terms of getting researchers know themselves but their effectiveness in changing policy remains to be seen both at regional level and interregional level.

How can networking help influence policy? How does higher education and scientific research on the continent bring about these changes? Why is networking so important for researchers involved in this area?

Some of these questions will be handled in the course of the presentation.