



Links between Sustainable Development and ABS : Argane tree case in Morocco

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جمعية ابن البيطار



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Association IBN AL BAYTAR

Argan tree : *Argania spinosa*

The Argan tree is unique to Morocco where.

There are over 20 million Argan trees covering an area of 830.000 hectares.

They are very resistant to desert-like conditions, surviving temperatures raising from 3°C to 50°C and rainfalls as low as 120 to 200 mm per year

They are the last barrier against the desert.



Economic, Social and ecological role of the Argania forest

**Argan tree :
multipropose tree**

1 ha : 400 euros/year



Provides products and
income for more than 2
million people

20 million working
hours / year.

**The Argan tree was considered as “green
curtain”
against the desert.**

- 1) It stabilizes the soil, reduces erosion, maintains moisture in the air, shelters a large variety of small and wild animals
- 2) It shades domestic cultures and furnishes via its fruit the major part of the Argan forest dwellers lipid diet.



The Argania forest : a fragile ecosystem

Since the 1970s, the Argania forest is on decline and is threatened by evolution of the lifestyle in rural regions.

Between IXX et XX century, we lost 50% of the forest.
1965-1980 : 600ha/an



Difficult climate
Increase of the demography
Need to increase surfaces for agriculture
→ clearing



Increase of wood consumption
Over-exploitation of the soils
Irrigation: exhaustion of ground water

Research – Development : Evaluation of the Argan oil determinants of quality

Developing new ways of processing and presenting the product to make it more attractive. Organization of producers in cooperatives for improvement of women's social and economic condition



Improving
the
extraction of
Argan oil

Traditional methods :
non-optimal sanitary conditions

Improving the
packaging

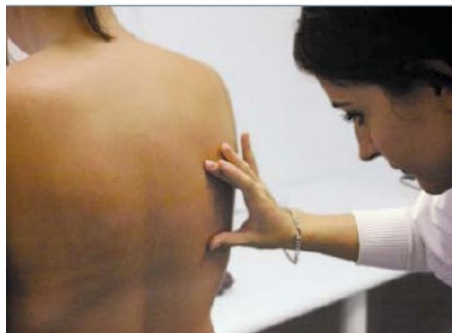


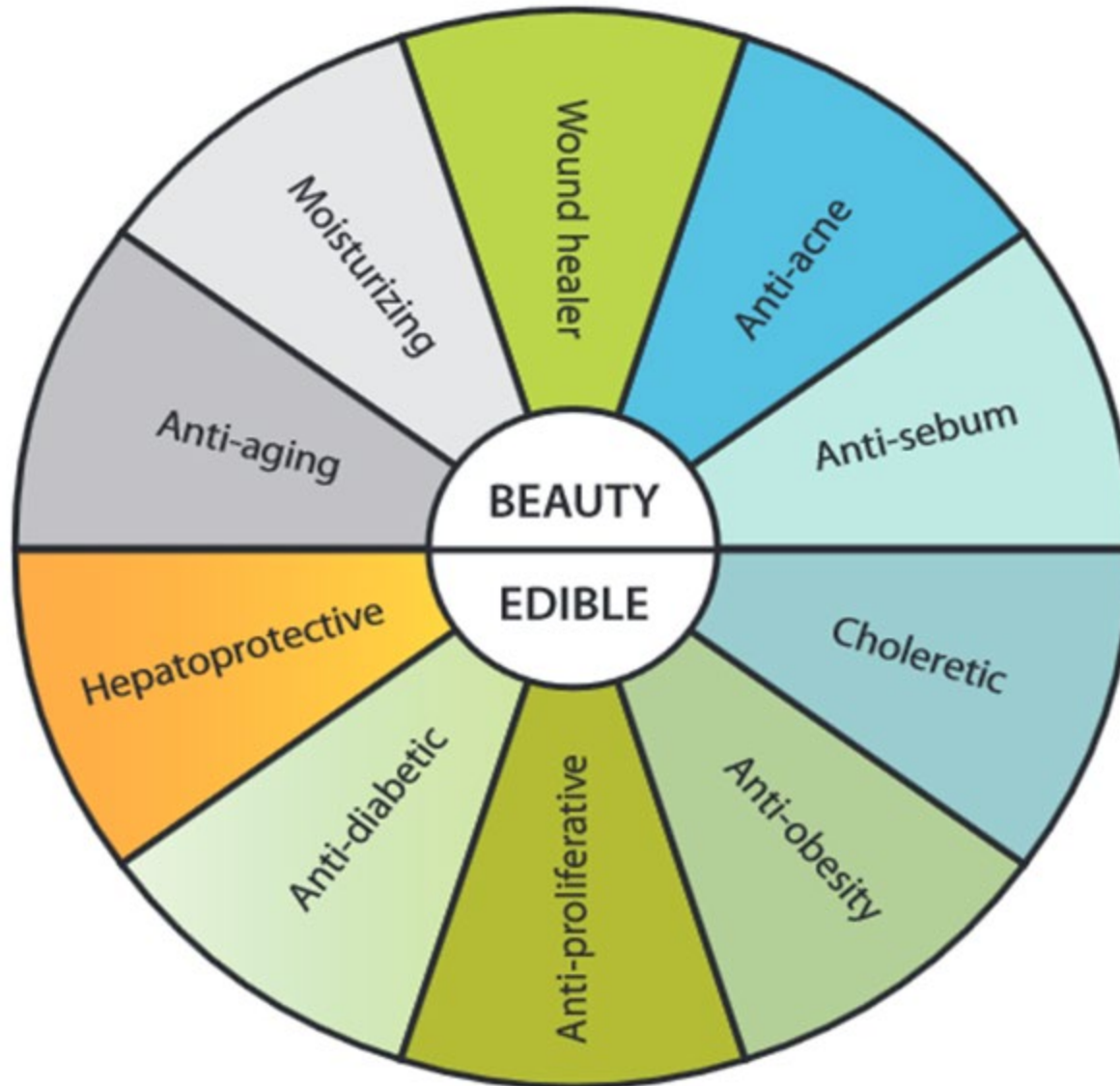
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Safety assessment

- Patch tests (contact allergy testing) : Non irritant
- Assessment of sensitizing potential : No significant reaction
- *Assessment of photosensitizing and phototoxic potential* : ARGAN OIL, was not associated with any photoirritation or phototoxic response





Research – action : Ibn Al Baytar association

Argan oil processing: creation of cooperatives



Organizing the producers into cooperatives,
· train them to use the new technology,
· train them also so they know how to run the cooperatives (administration, management, marketing, all aspects

Economic Benefits

More than 300
women
cooperatives (5000
femmes)
More than 100
SMEs

Exportation of 1400 tonnes/year
Exportation : 30 MILLIONS EUROS en
2016

Social and economic benefits



Actually : 300 coops, 100 SMEs

Socio-economic integration of women by improving
their standard of living

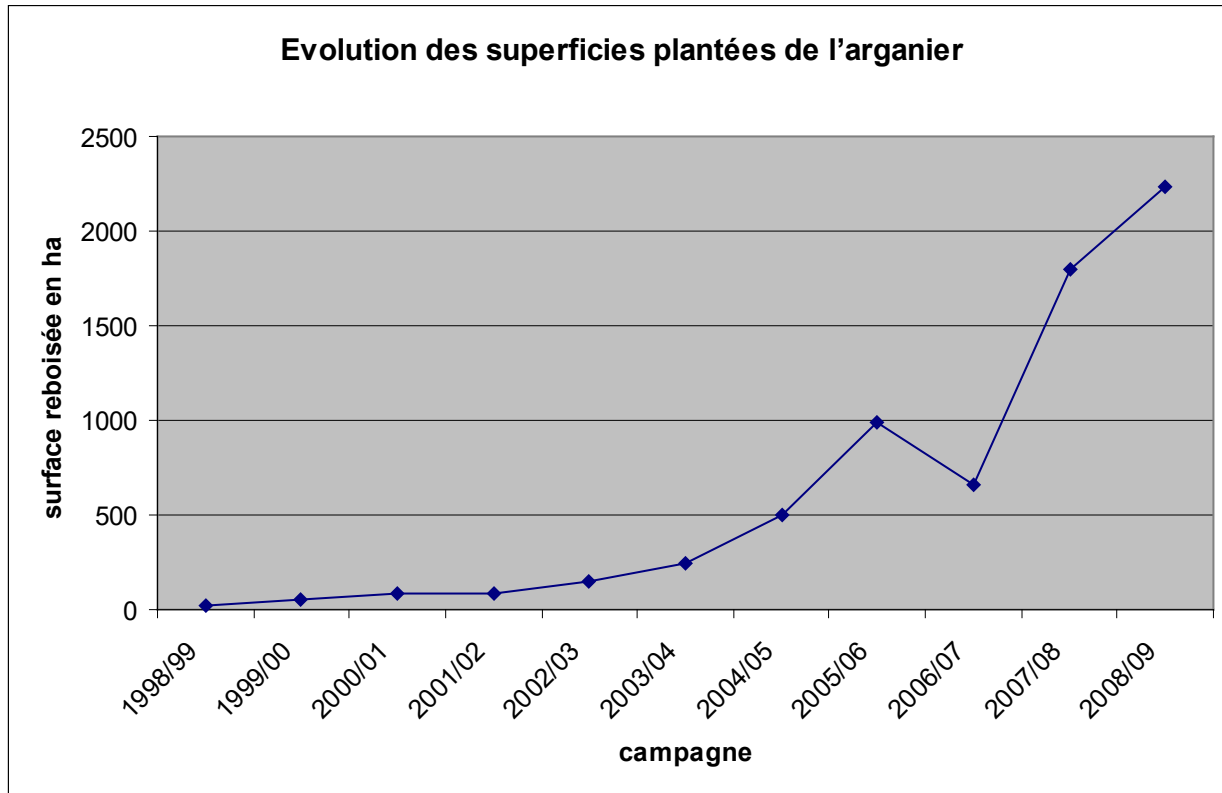
Women and marginalized acquire recognition and
dignity (a woman was elected to parliament)

Improving women's skill levels and status

The women have the possibility to decide how to
manage their income

Environnemental Impact

Reforested areas are growing exponentially



Source : HCEFLCD

200 000 ha will be reforested by the gouvernement 2014-2020

Pressed Cake Benefits:

- 55% goes to a social fund/benefit-sharing fund to be used for the women – the women decide how to spend.
- 45% goes to the cooperatives (indirectly to the women). Some paid to women and some reinvested in coop and to assure quality etc

Social fund expenses:

- Literacy programs (Arabic)
- Health insurance fund (for under 65 year old)
- Medical expenses for the women and families (and surgeries)
- School supplies for children (books, pens, furniture)
- Doctor checkup for women and children.
- Distribution of food
- Optometry and eye glasses
- Cushions and air conditioning for coop rooms
- Pharmacy products
- Washing machines
- Sewing classes
- Blankets for a cold winter
- Planting argan trees

Agenda 2030 : Investing in biodiversity to achieve sustainable development, the SDGs and their targets





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Investing in biodiversity for people and planet.
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Thank you for your attention

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