







State of art: Thymbra spicata L. -Zahter-

Zahter is of the important economic wild plants grown in Kilis and its district. All the locally consumed and economically traded materials have been supplied from wild harvesting from nature. The annual amount of the zahter has been gradually decreased by the years depending on climate change, uncontrolled gathering, excessive grazing, soil erosion, field openings etc.

Every year, wild harvesting of Zahter by villagers around Kilis starts in early spring and lasts during the summer. In the first fresh sprouts of Zahter are collected and used as fresh salads as non-commercially in houses, and traded in local bazaars for producing zahter pickles. Before flowering fresh buds are collected for the meaning purposes, as well. All the developmental stages until June when the plants are set up seeds, zahter plants are wild harvested for dry zahter leaves production.





State of art: Thymbra spicata L. -Zahter-

In the recent years, all the people living Kilis and its district has realized that there is considerable decrease in Zahter populations on he mountains around Kilis. They have even difficulties to meet their own home zahter needs.

Furthermore, wholesaler and retailers in Kilis have started to complaints about Zahter shortage. Thus, the prices started to increase and the quality of the dried zahter decrease.

So, Zahter is not only a wild plant but also a cultural heritage in Kilis and its district. In this point, someone should make something for the valuable economic wild plants of the region.



In this context, our project "Plant Wild" come to help of Zahter SOS !!!!. In scope of the project some the following activities were performed:

- Governmental and private sectors were informed about the project and Zahter status $\,$
- Training seminars for farmers, villagers, spice seller, collectors etc.
- Field trainings for sustainable wild harvesting techniques for Zahter were done.
- Technical brochures were prepared, published and hand out to local people for awareness about the status of Zahter
- Local and national press were informed about project and project activities
- New WEB page in Turkish was released under our university WEB. http://yabanibitki.projeler.kilis.edu.tr/

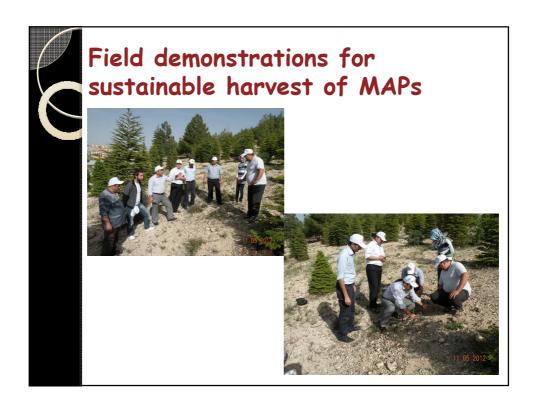


Existing training:

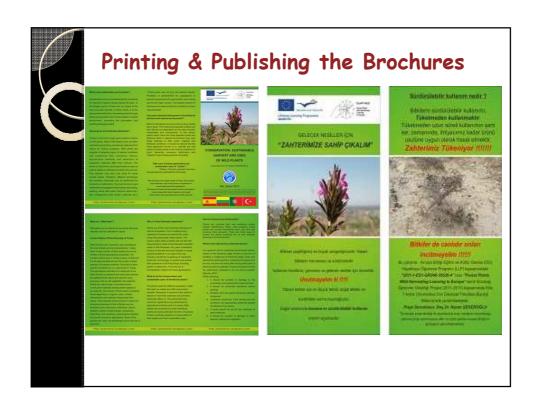
Thymbra spicata L. -Zahter-





















Mountain and unowned areas in Kilis and its district are public lands. Thus, control and management of these areas are not available. Wild harvesting of Zahter and other useful plants grown in these lands are not controlled.

So, it is to difficult to put in to practice some conservation and wild harvesting applications.

The easy way to make your application is to train the local people.

To publish some useful documents concerned with SWH of Zahter

Collaboration with governmental and private sector is compulsory.

Encourage the people to cultivate economic wild plants on fields

Thus, we started to the project by training local people and publish some useful documents related to wild harvesting of Zahter. We visited and discussed about the project with Local Agriculture and Forestry Affairs and private sector. Facilities for cultivation of Zahter were discussed, as well.



Future Trainings and Applications ???

- To keep on seminars for all stakeholders of Zahter's SWH
- To collaborate with local governmental and private sector about SWH applications
- <u>To establish quotas for collection of Zahter, to determine</u> optimum harvesting time for gathering (penalties could be imposed)
- To establish quotas for collection of Zahter, to determine optimum harvesting time for gathering
- To teach to farmers about good agricultural practices for Zahter



New Project Proposals ???

Domestication of wild economic plants in-situ cultivation in Europe

(From wild gathering to cultivation)

- Standardization of herbal products from wild harvesting in Europe

(Standardized high quality herbals)

 Learning of production process of traditional herbal products in Europe (Traditional herbals with high quality)

- Learning of ethnobonatic heritage for certain diseases in Europe

(Same diseases with different remedies)



