

GACP and Cultivation of Japanese Medical Plants

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Summary

WHO has been proposing efficient use of traditional medicines, particularly herbal medicines since the 1970's and preparing guidelines for quality control in accordance. In 2003, WHO published a booklet "WHO Guideline on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) for medicinal plants".

This is intended to solve problems resulting from expansion of use of herbal medicines throughout the world. One of the obstacles is ignorance of quality control for medicinal plants causing adverse events by the misuse of these products. Another obstacle is that production of wild medicinal plants is being reduced due to environmental and artificial destruction and so making it difficult to obtain herbal medicines. GACP provide a detailed description of the techniques and measures required for the appropriate cultivation and collection of medicinal plants and for the recording and documentation of necessary data and information during their processing.

In present situation of Japan medicinal plants cultivation is facing with various problems, activation of the domestic cultivation of medicinal plants which utilized WHO/GACP is desired.