

# Synergising Indigenous Knowledge Systems into Business Innovation through Knowledge Management

19 February 2010

National Botanical Gardens, Pretoria



## Mr. Rui de Carvalho

*Nena's plant, exposing the secret behind*

*African beauty*



Rui de Carvalho is an ethno medicine practitioner, a researcher and consultant on African medicinal plants.

He commenced his studies on African medicinal plants in 1991, with the emphasis on their cultural and medicinal uses. He was initiated as an Inyanga (African Herbalist) in Mozambique in 1995 and was registered as an African Traditional Healer in South African in 1997. In 2005, he was initiated in the Cape as a Thwasa (traditional healer). He was registered as an ethno medicine practitioner in 2007.

Rui signed a non-disclosure agreement with CSIR in 1995 to find and evaluate new medicinal plants with economic potential. He submitted an African plant that had been successful in the treatment of hypertension. Rui was also requested by SA Druggists to share his research on medicinal plants used for asthma. Chronic asthmatics have been treated successfully with an African medicinal plant. He has also indentified plants with anti-malarial properties and been involved in clinical trials for malaria. In 2005, he initiated a study on HIV using African medicinal plants.

Rui has developed various products based on African medicinal plants. He formulated and manufactured the first batch of malaria, gonorrhoea and liver capsules with African medicinal plants, a first for South Africa (1999). He developed a natural cosmetic and herbal range for Savannah African Medicines (2000). He launched a tincture range based on African medicinal plants (2004). He co-founded CentraPharm cc, a company manufacturing African herbal creams (2005). In 2001, he established Emingeni Herbals cc, a company that is currently distributing African herbal products under the trade name of Herbal Africa. It became the first company recognized by EPASA in 2006 and is regarded by this institution as a leader in Ethno medicinal products.

He has been a regular speaker on radio about African medicinal plants, and has contributed to various books and written course manuals on ethno medicine.