

PRODUCTION OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS IN SERBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION¹

Nada Mijajlovic²

Abstract

The development chance of sustainable agricultural production in Serbia lies in expanding the production of medicinal and aromatic herbs. Serbia's advantage in the production of medicinal plants is also reflected in the favorable geoclimatic situation and plant biodiversity at its disposal. The collection and cultivation of medicinal plants in the context of sustainable agriculture has its own important place. Individual cultivated medicinal plants can, on a relatively small area, very quickly, with an organized and safe market placement, provide a return on invested funds with a solid profit. In the plans at the level of Serbia as a country, funds are foreseen for the expansion of this production in the context of diversifying the income of agricultural producers. In addition to production, more and more manufacturers decide to process medicinal raw materials and, in this connection, preparations are placed on the market, both domestically and internationally. The aim of this paper is to review the purchasing and production possibilities and capacities of the Republic of Serbia in terms of medicinal plants. The range of medicinal and aromatic herbs and purchase prices on the domestic and foreign markets will be considered.

Key words: *medicinal and aromatic plants, diversification of agricultural production, sustainable development.*

1 The paper is the result of scientific research funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia, based on the decision no. 451-03-68/2022-14 from 17.01.2022.

2 Nada Mijajlović, M.Sc., Expert Associate, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Volgina no.15, 11060 Belgrade, Serbia, Phone: +381 11 69 72 854, E-mail: nada_m@iepg.bg.ac.rs