

OPERATION OF NATURUB DISTILLING MACHINE

I am Renson Mboya, the operator of the Muliru Farmers' Conservation Group distilling machine.

This is a hydro-distillation machine. It is used to distill *Osmum kilmandschumcum* dry leaves.



The leaves are packed into 10kg, then I fill the chamber. After filling the chamber, I soak with 80 litres of water. Then I stir thoroughly. After stirring, I close the machine.

After closing the machine, I switch on. This is the burner that is down here. The burner is used to heat the cylindrical basin. Through conduction process, the fire does not reach the material directly. Then the process takes 6 hours.





The pipe on top is the connector, it connects the condenser, or the heat exchanger. In the heat exchanger there are 19 tubes inside, whereby the steam mixed with water passes through and reaches the separator.



The plastic jerrycan here is for collecting the water from the separator. The water might be called water of evaporation. The process takes 6 hours. After this 6 hours I switch off the burner and the gas cylinder.



The small pan here is the separator. It is used to separate the oil and water.



After switching off, I switch on the discharge valve on the pipe down here. It is for discharging the water that is mixed with the material. Now after switching off the pipe, I take the used material out. The used material is a waste product which is now used for manure.

After finishing the process, I put the oil into glass bottles. I fill them with the oil and then transport the oil to Nairobi for purification and packing.



NATURUB - the final product

The NATURUB project is for Muliru Farmers' Conservation Group.



(This information is a transcript of an interview recorded with Mr. Renson Mboya at the Muliru Farmer's NATURUB Factory in December, 2004, by Elizabeth Riddiford, UK)

