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**W13 CYTED-X.A: Iberoamerican network for collaborative research on medicinal natural products. Configuration, activities and results.**

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This Network was constituted at the beginning of the last decade and presently involves more than 1250 scientists belonging to more than 200 research groups of some 140 Institutions in 21 CYTED member countries.

The Network mainly focuses on the generation of multidisciplinary Cooperative Research Projects related to a number of diseases, the most significant by their mortality/morbidity within the Region, namely, infectious, parasitic, inflammatory and gastro-intestinal diseases, as well as on the organization of courses, workshops and scientific exchanges to improve the scientific and technological level of the scientists and to facilitate the knowledge transference among the participating research groups and industries.

This has resulted in many collaborative research publications related to chemical, and pharmacological aspects of medicinal plants and natural products, as well as many BS, MSc and PhD theses, data bases, tutorials and handbooks on research techniques.

A summary of the activities of the Network and some examples of collaborative investigations will be presented.

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**W14 Contribution of CYTED's herbal medicinal products network in the upgrading of phytopharmaceutical products in Iberoamerica**

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Within the framework of the Fine Pharmaceutical Chemistry Suprogram of CYTED, the Iberoamerican Network on Phytopharmaceutical Products (RIPROFITO) was started in 1996, with the aim to encourage international cooperation among industry, academic and regulatory sectors to stimulate cultivation and industrialization of medicinal plants and optimize the use of in health care. To date it has coordinated activities among 125 private and public institutions with 685 participants, which have resulted in the organization of 18 international training courses on agrotechnology, industrialization, quality control and phytotherapy involving 600 professionals, participation in 40 international meetings and workshops; various scientific exchanges, and initiation of monographs of regional plants, and over 20 publications.

Survey of status of phytopharmaceutical industry in Latin America has also been prepared. Selected cases of technology transfer will be presented.

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