

# Beyond BRIC: Aromatic Ingredients of Paraguay

## Key materials, volumes and export figures

**B**eyond booming fragrance consumption, Latin America produces a great array of aromatic materials. During a presentation at the 2011 International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades meeting in Barcelona, Spain, Raul Amigo (Amigo & Arditi SA) outlined the ingredients of Paraguay. The country produces traditional essential oils such as *Mentha arvensis*, cabreuva wood oil, guaiacwood and petitgrain. In recent years, *M. arvensis* and cabreuva wood oil exports have declined. Current annual Paraguayan production totals are as follows, according to Amigo:

- Petitgrain: 190 tonnes
- Guaiacwood: 170 tonnes
- *Eucalyptus citriodora*: 40 tonnes
- *Mentha arvensis*: 38 tonnes
- Cabreuva wood oil: 16 tonnes
- *Eucalyptus globulus*: 10 tonnes

Petitgrain is grown by many small producers, typically family operations. Some distillation of wild material does occur. Distillation is typically “rustic,” according to Amigo. The resulting oil has no domestic market. Instead, Europe takes 69% of the total; North and South America, 23%;

and Asia, 8%. Some organic oil is available.

In Paraguay there are only three producers of guaiacwood, said Amigo. The material falls under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (commonly called CITES), and as a result, oil production and export was halted for some time. There is no domestic consumption of guaiacwood oil in Paraguay, according to Amigo. Europe imports 45% of the total production.

*Mentha arvensis* is produced by steam distillation in Paraguay. Production has declined in recent years, particularly as farmers are able to quickly switch to more lucrative crops. Cabreuva wood oil, Amigo explained, is produced from sawdust and branches. Europe consumes 60% of production. More recent materials produced in the country include *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, which boasts a 70% cineole content, and vetiver, 1.8 tonnes of which was produced in 2011.

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