

Inst. of Wood Science confirms diabetes control with kokum on mice

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INSTITUTE of Wood Science and Technology, Chemistry of Forest Produce Division, Bengaluru which comes under the umbrella of the Indian Council of Forest Research Education (ICFRE) has now proven data that *Garcinia indica* commonly referred to as kokum is efficacious in controlling diabetes following its extensive animal study. The Institute is now in talks with the Union govt funding agencies for its next round of research aid to take the study forward. The research which was funded by its parent body ICFRE which is part of the Ministry of Environment & Forests had the Institute of Wood Science and Technology to rope in the Al Ameen Pharmacy College and the PES College of Pharmacy in Bengaluru to conduct the study at its laboratories.

Kokum or the Goa butter tree, also known as Mangosteen is used as an edible fat because it is nutritive and antiseptic.

In the animal study, kokum rind extract was used with different sequential extracts. The rind has antioxidant property.

For the initial study on mice, the researchers adopted the Alloxan model which is a diabetes inducing drug and then controlled with a another medication after which *Garcinia indica* or kokum was administered. In an effort to validate further, the researchers also adopted the Streptozotocin model to verify and provide additional evidence on the reduction of sugar levels in mice with kokum fruit rind extract against the Alloxan model. Both the models demonstrated excellent results, Chandrashekar BS scientist, Chemistry of Forest Produce Division, Institute of Wood Science and Technology who led the study told Pharmabiz. ◆