

BIOGRAPHY

Henry Joseph, PhD



Henry JOSEPH holds a Doctorate in Pharmacy, a DEA (Diploma of Advanced Studies) in Chemistry and Agronomy, and a PhD in Pharmacognosy.

Upon completing his studies, he returned to Guadeloupe in 1992 and worked for 12 years as a licensed pharmacist in his own pharmacy. He also served as president of the Guadeloupe Pharmacists' Union. In 2004, he sold his pharmacy and, in 2005, co-founded the company *Phytobôkaz* with Professor Paul BOURGEOIS, his former chemistry professor. He currently manages the company.

Phytobôkaz is the first medicinal plant processing unit in Guadeloupe, producing both cosmetic and phytomedicinal products. It contributes to the development of local sectors for aromatic, medicinal, oilseed, cosmetic, and dye-producing plants in Guadeloupe.

Dr. JOSEPH is one of the founding members of the Caribbean network TRAMIL (*Traditional Medicine for the Islands*), which includes 30 countries and more than 200 researchers focused on traditional medicine in the Caribbean, Central, and South America.

He is also a member of the Scientific Council of the Guadeloupe National Park, a UNESCO-recognized biosphere reserve.

He has actively educated the population on the nutritional value of local and tropical foods for the prevention of metabolic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disorders.

Dr. JOSEPH is the author of around twenty scientific publications and holds five patents, including two international ones.

For ten years, alongside Paris Bar attorney and Doctor of Health Law Maître Isabelle ROBARD, he fought for the official recognition of medicinal plants from the French overseas territories. Their efforts led to the inclusion of more than 70 of these plants in the French Pharmacopoeia in 2013, after 200 years of prohibition. Following a twelve-year legal battle, he successfully lobbied the French government to amend Article L5112-1 of the French Public Health Code through the LODEOM (*Overseas Economic Development Law*), thereby ensuring the recognition of overseas medicinal plants in the French Pharmacopoeia.

Since 2013, he has been working with international experts on Guadeloupe's dye-producing plants, including *indigofera*, producing what is considered the world's finest indigo due to its unparalleled high indigotin (blue pigment) content.

In 2022, he filed an international patent for an extract of *Neurolaena lobata* (known locally as *herbe à pik*), a Caribbean plant, which he developed and demonstrated to have virucidal and antiviral activity against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, responsible for COVID-19.

He is also conducting research on Guadeloupean medicinal plants with healing and antibacterial properties, which, in 2024, became the basis of a new collaborative project with Cuban researchers, including Professor Georges BERLANGA.