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## Overview on the global spice and herbs market with a focus on Morocco's position

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### Abstract

Spices and herbs are botanical raw materials or ready-to-use products [1], that have a long history of usage in food preparation, traditional medicine, and cosmetic purposes for thousands of years [2].

The contribution of the market of herbs and spices in the global civilization is prominent, due to its role in leading to the discovery of new trade partners, indeed the spice trade led to the initial continuous exchanges between continents and contributed to shaping the foundation of the modern world [3].

The leading producers of spice and herbs are located in developing and least developed countries within the tropics, this industry encompasses 40 to 50 herbs and spices that hold significant economic importance worldwide[4]. India and China are the major producers and consumers of spices, providing 44% and 9% of the world spice production, respectively. Other leading producers comprise Indonesia and Thailand [3].

In term of import and export, about 80% of the global trade is allotted to approximately 12 countries with the predominance of Asian and European countries [5]. China, India, Germany, United States and Canada contribute to 60% of global export quantity, and the United States, China, Germany, Japan and Singapore responsible for 50% of worldwide import of these commodities [1].

Morocco is recognized as one of the richest Mediterranean countries in aromatic and medicinal plants and the development of this sector is considered one of the objectives privileged in the strategy "GENERATION GREEN", Thanks to its wide biodiversity, Morocco is positioned as the 12th global exporter of aromatic and medicinal plants and their extracts. Between 2015 and 2019, Morocco has exported almost 8M tons of spices for a value of 12 million USD and 26M tons of aromatic herbs for a value of 56 million USD [6].

The aim of this study is to underline the world leader's countries in the market of spices and herbs and to point out the evolution of this market in the world and in Morocco.

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