

UFS' pharmacology department looks into high levels of inulin in Witlof root

Director of pharmacology at the University of the Free State, Dr Motlalepula Matsabisa, believes that the rich supply of inulin in the Witlof root may play an effective role in managing diabetes. The UFS is currently also testing inulin's effects on cancer cells as it is thought to have a slowing effect on tumour growth.

To conduct the research on inulin found in Witlof root as well as the potential commercial production of inulin, Matsabisa contacted local Witlof farmer Fanie van der Merwe of Bronaar Farm.

In addition to its medicinal benefits, inulin is also used as a sugar substitute in the confectionery industry. Witlof is available throughout the year at select delis and supermarkets in South Africa.

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