

# AAINews

APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURE INTERNATIONAL  
CO., LTD

1-2-3-403 Haramachida, Machida, Tokyo, 194-0013 JAPAN.  
TEL/FAX:+81-42-725-6250 Email: aai@koushu.co.jp

## Land of Frankincense - Dhofar

Dhofar region in Oman is famous for producing high quality frankincense. According to some articles, local people call the trees from which frankincense have been produced "Magarah" and the ones from which frankincense have not been produced "El teys". The Producing district of frankincense is located on the slope of the seacoast near Yemen and the area covers 300km (east-west) x 70km (south-north). Trees of frankincense grow very well under moderate humidity and lime soil and do not grow in dry area. Direct rainfall is not preferable, however mist or thick fog in the mountain seems necessary to obtain high quality frankincense.

Maximum height of the trees is about 3m and the shape looks like a fan, similar to *Acacia tortilis*. Leaves start growing in May or June. A leaf is 5-10cm in length, and has the shape similar to a radish leaf curled due to disease. Leaves also have slight fragrance.



Oman and its surroundings

The quality is different by area and classified into 4grades. (Grade 1 is the best and the rest follows in order.)

- 1) El Hojari (east area)
- 2) El Najdi (north & Central mountain area)
- 3) El Shazri (west & rainfall area)
- 4) El Shabi (coast & valley area)

In El Hojari, the best frankincense is produced mainly at Hojar and Samhan on Sadar Mountain, in east of Salalah, where a lot of frankincense trees are planted.

At harvest time in April, various positions on the trees are cut and the resin is collected from those cuts. Nowadays resins are sold in towns in the area, but they used to be all exported by ships.



A tree of frankincense (*Boswellia sacra*)



Qara mountain in Dhofar region