







Tea
Camellia sinensis



Kew Gardens under Banks and afterwards began to be a center for research in economic botany, the raising of plants as economic resources. The greenhouses of Kew housed specimens from around the world; botanists at Kew researched best practices for raising specific plants, and their possible applications as food, fiber, timber, dye, or medicine. Species that seemed promising as plantation crops would then be brought to the colonies to be cultivated on a larger scale.

