

Step 3: Set Up Processing and Packaging Space

Objective:

To establish a small, hygienic, and efficient facility where you can extract, bottle, label, and store natural colorants safely and in compliance with food and cosmetic standards.

A. Decide on Your Setup Type

Option 1: Home-Based Micro Lab

- Ideal for proof-of-concept and early production
- Use a clean, enclosed kitchen or shed space
- Must be well-ventilated, pest-free, with washable surfaces

Option 2: Rented Commercial Space

- Rented container or small building (e.g., converted shop)
- Closer to markets, may attract easier certification
- Can be shared with another agro-processor to cut cost

Option 3: Use of Shared Processing Facilities

- **Scientific Research Council (SRC)** offers shared lab space for agro-processing
 - **JBDC Incubator & Resource Centre** also provides co-working manufacturing facilities
 - Contact:
 - SRC: <https://www.src.gov.jm>
 - JBDC: <https://www.jbdc.net>
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B. Equipment List for a Basic Setup

Equipment	Use	Est. Cost (JMD)
Stainless Steel Tables	Clean workspace	40,000
Food Processor or Juicer	Pulping produce	25,000–40,000
Fine Mesh Filters/Sieves	Filtering pigments	5,000

Equipment	Use	Est. Cost (JMD)
Glass Beakers & Measuring	Accurate mixing & measuring	10,000
Gas stove / Hotplate	Heat extraction (if needed)	12,000
Dehydrator (optional)	Drying roots/peels	25,000–40,000
Sanitizer spray & gloves	Sanitary handling	5,000
Bottles/Jars + Labels	Packaging	60,000+
Small fridge/freezer	Storing perishables	40,000
Total Estimate: J\$250,000–J\$350,000 (starter)		

C. Regulatory Compliance (Basic)

1. **Register your food/cosmetic operation** with the **Ministry of Health & Wellness**
2. Comply with **Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ)** food safety requirements
3. Ensure you:
 - Label clearly
 - Use safe materials (e.g., food-grade bottles)
 - Follow hygienic practices

You can get help from SRC to meet these standards affordably.

D. Packaging Tips

- Use **amber glass** or PET bottles to prevent light degradation
- Apply **tamper-proof seals**
- Add attractive **labels** with:
 - Product name
 - Ingredients
 - Net contents
 - Batch # and expiry date

- Producer info (you)

E. Storage & Inventory

- Use **dry, cool, dark space** for pigment concentrate
- Track batches with a simple logbook or spreadsheet
- Consider using **desiccant packs** for dried powder products

Summary Checklist

- Choose a space (home, rented, or shared facility)
- Acquire basic equipment and storage units
- Set up labeling, cleaning, and safety supplies
- Register with local health authority
- Keep sample inventory and production logs

Prepared by Quality Solutions Limited