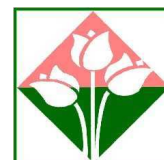




WESTERN AFRICA NETWORK OF NATURAL PRODUCT RESEARCH SCIENTISTS (WANNPRES)

with the partnership of *Aidemet Ong*



Aidemet Ong

1st Scientific Day of WANNPRES Mali

Theme: "Medicinal plants and fight against sickness"

The 1st Scientific Day of WANNPRES Mali took place on Saturday, December 17, 2011 in the Conference Room of INRSP. The symposium, whose theme was: "Medicinal plants and fight against sickness", was organized and animated by prof. Rokia Sanogo, WANNPRES Mali coordinator. The goal of WANNPRES is to participate in the development of a critical mass of researchers from different institutions, working in

network, in order to promote the use of research findings on natural substances at national, regional and international levels. The purpose of the Scientific Day of WANNPRES Mali was to create a space for young researchers on natural substances to ensure the visibility of their work and to exchange ideas and experiences with other researchers, thus strengthening their enthusiasm for research. The Day has been realized thanks to the technical and financial support of the Swiss Cooperation in Mali.



Photo 1: The Presidium

The opening ceremony, chaired by Dr. Chiaka Diakite on behalf of Prof. Flabou Bougoudogo, Director General of INRSP, was attended by Prof. Amidou Doucouré, Dean of FAST, and Mr. Mohamed Fall, President of the Malian Federation of Traditional Healers and Herbalists. Were present at the Scientific Day more than 40 participants, including young and old teachers and researchers, young pharmacists, trainees in thesis and students of different masters on natural substances.

Later, Prof. Rokia Sanogo presented two preliminary conferences on the themes: "Exploitation of the results of research in Traditional Medicine: From the plant to the drug" and "Traditional Medicine and plants against malaria in Mali". The selected scientific researches were focused, among others, on medicinal plants used in the treatment of malaria, HIV-AIDS, and chronic diseases, like as diabetes and hypertension. The papers presented were discussed in plenary into three sections: ethnobotany, phytochemistry and biological activities. The concluding communication of Prof. Rokia Sanogo had as theme: "Introduction to Good Laboratory Practices". A book with all the abstracts of lectures and selected communications was distributed to participants.

The closing considerations were pronounced by prof. Amidou Doucouré, who praised the initiative of the 1st Scientific Day of WANNPRES Mali and expressed the hope of making a next activity on Good Laboratory Practices.

The Scientific Day got the desired results. Thirteen communications out of seventeen abstracts selected were submitted to the public. The young researchers have shown for the first time in a national scientific meeting the results of their research. The exchanges between researchers of different structures has allowed the identification of possible synergies and collaborations, to enhance research on natural substances in general, and medicinal plants in particular. The discussions are underway, on the one hand, to accompany the publication of the most interesting results, and, secondly, to use research findings to develop new safe, effective and quality controlled drugs, based on medicinal plants.



Photo 2: The group's photo

Text compiled by Dr Sergio Giani, Program Officer, *Aidemet Ong*.

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