

Presentation of the books: "The War of Women" and "Men and Plants."

Saturday, March 13th 2010, in the Conference Room of Point Sud in Bamako, Prof Rokia Sanogo and Dr Sergio Giani submitted to a numerous and attentive specialized audience and to the press two books of capitalization and dissemination of the activities undertaken in Kadiolo and elsewhere in Mali for the valorization of resources of traditional medicine. The books have been published by *Aidemet* Ngo at Edimco, with the technical and financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Mali - Agency for Development and Cooperation.



Photo n° 1 : The chairmans of the conference

After some words of welcome and presentation of the authors by Dr. Moussa Sissoko, Co-Director of Point Sud, Dr. Brahim Koné, a former Regional Director of Health in Sikasso, situated the activities described by the authors in the context of the Program of Health and Social Development of Mali and in the Partnership Program for Health and Social Development of Swiss Cooperation in the region of Sikasso.

Dr. Fatoumata Binta T. Diallo, the WHO representative in Mali, who wrote the foreword to one of books, underlined the importance of traditional midwives in promoting low-risk maternity and of traditional healers in strengthening local health systems. Dr. Diallo called on the Swiss Cooperation to continue to support the promotion of traditional medicine.

After the greetings of Mrs. Genevieve Fedelspiel, Resident Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Mali, Prof. Rokia Sanogo presented the book "The War of Women". The book reports the experiences carried out since 1999 for involvement of traditional midwives in the management of obstetric emergencies. The activities have shown that this involvement has facilitated women's access to services for monitoring pregnancy, childbirth assistance, post-natal control, and vaccination of children, thus contributing to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality. Reflections and specific actions have been brought forward in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation, integrated in the promotion of low-risk maternity.

Then, Dr Sergio Giani presented the book "Men and plants", which documents the activities carried out on valorization of the resources of traditional medicine in Kadiolo (Sikasso Region) from 2001 to 2003. The activities focused on supporting the associative dynamic of traditional healers, their involvement in the preservation and restoration of medicinal plants, and the creation of a framework of exchanges between practitioners of traditional and modern medicine. The ambition was to participate in building an African and social vision of health of the community, based on solidarity, to turn into measurable and concrete actions the WHO's recommendations for the integration of best practices of traditional medicine in Primary Health Care.

Both books are available in French in the bookstores in Bamako and on the site of *Aidemet* Ngo in electronic version.