



Aidemet Ong

Aid to the Development of the Traditional Medicine

Non-Governmental No-Profit Organization

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Training Herbalist Women of Missira Market.

The training workshop of Herbalists of Missira Market was carried out in September 2008 from 25th to 27th, in the frame of the Support Project to the Malian Federation of Associations for Sanitation and Environmental Protection (Project FAMAPE - MLI/009) with the financial contribution from the Luxembourg's Cooperation. It was directed by the Ngo "Aid to Development of Traditional Medicine" (*Aidemet Ong*) in collaboration with the Amadou Hampâté Bâ Center, and the Bamako District Traditional Healers and Herbalists Association (*ATTHDB-Keneya Yriwaton*).



Photo n° 1: The Senior Herbalist Woman of Missira Market

1. Aim.

The main objective of this training was that participants, herbalist women working in Missira Market and elsewhere, have acquired sufficient information on the rational use of medicinal plants, on the good presentation of plants based

products, and on better management of space to develop a process of change in their daily work.

2. Participants.

The training was addressed mainly to herbalist women who are already present in Missira Market, to improve their working style, according to the renovation of the market. So, two herbalists who currently work at Missira Market have participated in training, plus others, selected in collaboration with *ATTHDB-Keneya Iriwaton*, in order to promote exchanges and broad-mindedness. Each old herbalist was asked to be accompanied by young girls or boys, who work or undertake to cooperate with them in procurement, processing, and



Photo n° 2 : Old women and young people.

sale of medicinal plants in the market. Other people interested in medicinal plants, in the neighborhood, also attended the workshop.

3. Training Team.

The training team was composed by Dr. Sergio Giani, Pharmacist, senior expert in development of resources of Traditional Medicine and Mr. Mamoutou Diarra, Agronomist, expert in the accompaniment of rural organizations and intercultural communication (*Aidemet* Ong). Livening up of Workshop was provided by Mr. Salif Traoré, President of the ATTHDB-*Keneya*



Photo n° 3: The Training Team.

Iriwaton. Mr. Diadie Yacouba Dagnoko of FORAM attended the opening session, while Ms. Aminata Dramane Traore closed the workshop.



Photo n° 4 : The Participants.

frank and open discussion and enhancement of skills and experiences of participants. Most of the workshop was held in plenary, to encourage exchanges between trainers and participants and between participants of different ages and provenances.

The modules were axed on: (i) Importance of Medicinal Plants for Health and Beauty, (ii) Biodiversity and Medicinal Plants, (iii) Introduction to Plant, (iv) Forester Legislation, (v) Recognition and Identification of Medicinal Plants, (vi) Good Harvesting of Medicinal Plants (vi) Procedures àfor the proper conservation of Medicinal Plants, (vii) Sale of Plant Derived Products.



Foto n° 5 : Visit to *Keneya Iriwaton*.

Each module was opened by a speech of trainers and followed by a session of dynamic exchanges. The presentations were accompanied by the use of visual aids, including a training manual with images that had been adapted to the specific aims of this training. Field visits,

including the headquarters of the ATTHDB-*Kenya Iriwaton* and Fadjiguila Market, where some kiosks are installed for some herbalists, completed the content of presentations and allowed participants to make the link between theory and practice. At the end of training, a copy of the manual was provided to each participant, to serve as an aide-memoire. The training was carried out in *Bamanankan* language. Simultaneous translation was provided for interventions in French.



Photo n° 6 : Visit to Kiosks

5. Self-Evaluation.

At the conclusion of the training, trainers asked participants to evaluate the work done during the three days of exchanges. *"We have seen a lot, and heard a lot, and learned a lot." "We were able to improve our knowledge on the conservation and presentation of herbal drugs." "The visits liked much more to us all." "The exchanges have been very fruitful." "I have greatly*



Photo n° 7 : The closing session.

appreciated the work of the mill". "It is important that young people have expressed the desire to focus on traditional medicine." "We've appreciated the kiosks and we'd like to have ones". "It should extend such training to other women activities".

6. Conclusion.

We believe that the training has achieved the expected outputs: participants have understood the importance of the valorization of traditional knowledge about plants and of the involvement of herbalists in the conservation of biological diversity. So, they feel involved in a process to improve the quality and presentation of herbal products sold at the market. Young pledged to hand old herbalist women in this process. The supplying of kiosks could be a good starting point for a concrete support and for consolidate the trend of expected improvements. It is however important to ensure local accompaniment and operational synergies to achieve a lasting scaling up in the work of herbalists, with special attention to the whole chain of medicinal plants.

Text compiled by Sergio Giani and Mamoutou Diarra

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