



Aid to Development of Traditional Medicine

No-governmental no-profit organisation

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Women and Plants - Mali 2014 - Bulletin number 2 - June 2014

The Aidemet NGO's activities in support of the Herbalist Women in Mali go on!

1. Introduction: the project and the funds:

The project "Women and Plants - Mali 2014" started its activities in February 2014, thanks to the funds that *Aidemet* NGO was able to gather in Italy and Switzerland. We recall that *Aidemet* NGO supports the herbalists of Mali from 2005. In the following table, we show the incomes and expenditures in the account of the project:

Activities	Date	Incomes		Outlays in XOF	Balance in XOF	Balance in €
		in €	in XOF			
Funds gathered	01/02/2014	3 750	2 456 250		2 456 250	3 750
Meeting in Segou	22/02/2014			53 000	2 403 250	3 669
Meeting in Bamako	15/03/2014			54 800	2 348 450	3 585
Soap by Cold (tools and ingredients)	June 2014			110 825	2 237 625	3 416
Soap by Cold (training herbalists)	14/06/2014			77 325	2 160 300	3 298
Visit to herbalist women in Bamako	26/06/2014			15 000	2 145 300	3 275
Totals		3 750	2 456 250	310 950	2 145 300	3 275

We've spent up to now 310,950 XOF amounting to € 475. The balance in the chest of the project is € 3,275, amounting to 2,145,300 XOF.

We remind our readers and our friends that the funds raising to support women herbalists in Mali is always open. If you want to help us, contact us, please: we will explain how to do it. Remember, no gift is too small if it is done with the heart!

In the bulletin n° 1 of March 2014 we noticed about the meetings with herbalist women held in Segou and Bamako. In this issue we speak about the activities undertaken during the month of June 2014.

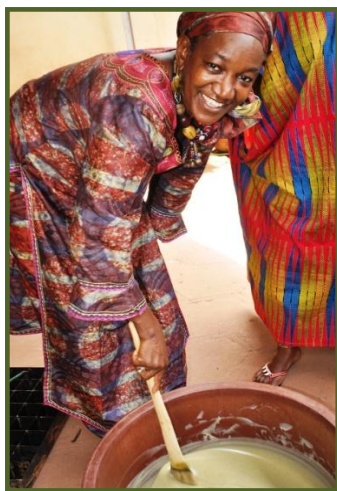


Photo n° 1: The soap manufacture

2. The demonstration of the production of soap with cold process:

Purchases of materials, selecting, searching and purchasing of ingredients, and preparation of training supports have been carried out during the months of April and May 2014. The demonstration of the preparation of soap by cold was held in June 14th, 2014 at *Aidemet* NGO headquarters in Badalabougou, SEMA I (Bamako). Ten herbalist women, who had benefited of the kiosks in 2011, were present, more than the President of the Malian Federation of Traditional Healers and Herbalists (FEMATH), and the full staff of *Aidemet* NGO. The training was conducted by Korotoumou Traoré, research assistant of *Aidemet* NGO. The training modules focused on the process of soap manufacture, the security measures, the necessary tools and their use, the raw materials, the saponification, the natural additives, the molds, the maturation and the pH control. To prepare the soap we used palm oil and shea butter. The olive oil and honey were used as additives, while a macerate of orange peel in oil was used as

perfume. Some fine powder of Baobab leaves has been added for its content in mucilages. The method of cold saponification has been chosen for several reasons: (i) the soap paste is not subjected to baking, so all the quality of the fat bodies are preserved, in particular the double bonds, unsaponifiables, glycerin and vitamins; (ii) the process does not require the addition of chemical additives; (iii) the preparation by cold consumes much less energy (gas or wood) and respects the environment.

At the end of the demonstration, the participants expressed their joy and their willingness to engage themselves in the production of soap: *"It is always a product made from plants and it integrates perfectly into our care activities with herbs, allowing us to increase our income"*.

3. The visit to Djikoroni-Para (Bamako) Market's herbalist women.

The visit was held in June 26th, 2014. *Aidemet* NGO's team was accompanied by Oumar Maïga, treasurer of FEMATH. The purpose of the visit was to meet the two herbalists who had been selected by FEMATH, and by the Association of Herbalists of Djikoroni-Para Market to receive the kiosks. There are Chita Diarra, 22 years old, married, and Samadjé Fané, 70 years old, widow. Both have learned with their parents and their grandparents; even their sons and their daughters are learning the job of herbalist. Both have a fixed space to the market, and they hope kiosks to improve their work and to increase their income. It should be emphasized that the herbalists who will receive the kiosks are committed to refund his value by monthly payments,



Photo n° 2 : Three generation of herbalist women

which will be agreed taking into account their ability to pay. Chita Diarra said: *"We do not regret to reimburse the cost of the kiosks, because our hope is that all the herbalists of our market can have their kiosk"*. Indeed, funds recovered in this way will be used to provide kiosks to other herbalists who will request it. During the visit, we also met with the President of the Market Herbalists, Bintou Traoré, who said: *"Before we often had problems with the Municipality, for the management of retail spaces, but since we've been together in association, the staff of the Municipality respects us and we have no longer problems"*.



Photo n° 3 : New model of Kiosk

4. Other activities.

The contacts with the artisans for the construction of the kiosks have already been made. In Bamako, we wait for the pro-forma invoices to determine the costs and launch the orders. In Segou, the selection of the women who will receive the kiosks is in progress, by the new Association of Herbalist Women.

In addition, *Aidemet* NGO continued to monitor remotely the issue of release of funds for micro-credit in Segou: The herbalist women, as expected, have organized themselves in an Association, but the problem of the signatures on the account in BNDA is not yet resolved. A mission of FEMATH is expected to clarify and resolve the situation. In Bamako, the recovery of microcredit activities is scheduled for July 2014.

Bamako, June 30th, 2014

Text of Sergio Giani and Korotoumou Traoré, Photo of Sergio Giani, © Archives of Aidemet NGO