

## Minutes of the Meeting on Traditional Healer's Meeting North-East Region of India-2018 held on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 @ NIPER-Guwahati

“Traditional Healers Meet 2018” was an interactive event held at NIPER Guwahati on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018. This meeting provided an ideal platform for thought exchange between the traditional medicine practitioners and research scientists. Total 72 Nos of Traditional Healers were participated from six states i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. They actively participated in the display of their products openly without hiding any useful information which is the quite highlight of the workshop.



A panel of scientific experts addressing the traditional healers from different states of North East India in “Traditional healers meets 2018” at NIPER Guwahati, Assam. From the left: Dr. USN Murthy (Director, NIPER Guwahati), Dr. S. Tamilvanan (Faculty, NIPER Guwahati), Dr. R.K. Sarma (Vice Chancellor, USTM), Dr. Pavan Kaushik (Regional Director CFLE), Dr. GN Qazi (Director General HIMSAR), Dr. PG Rao (Former Director CSIR NEIST Jorhat), Sri Lanka Srinivas, Advisor (NIPER Guwahati).

This occasion was also seen as a starting point towards a healthy collaboration between indigenous healers and modern science. It was a successful event in multiple aspects, as it focused on many of the important areas which can be considered for future drug discovery. The following deliberations have emerged after discussions / presentations and visit to exhibitions:

1. An Association of Traditional Healers of North-East is required to be found with two representatives from each State wherein one coordinator for each State.
2. The objectives of the Association is to interact with Research institutes both of Academic and other Scientific institutes to provide Scientific validation to their best products. The Office of the Association is proposed to be set up in NIPER-Guwahati.

#### **Action Points for 1 & 2**

- Action to be taken by Dr. Prakash, RA, NIPER-Guwahati
  - Representatives of Traditional Healers
3. An EXPO was organized and the following people put their stalls and showcase their products for treatment of various ailments, which are highly successful in their area of operation. The themes exhibited 20 to 30 best samples only while each one of them have at their location more than 100 to 200 herbal products for treating different ailments.
  4. The following are the Teams :
    - i. **Kanchanpur – Stall-1** - Vaidyaraj Herbal, (Galbladder stone, Elergy, stomach pain, gastric, etc.)



- ii. **Assam – Stall-1** (Kidney stone), Milena, Jaundice treated 1053 patients)



- iii. **Assam – Stall-2** (Treatment for blood cancer and Diabetic control)



- iv. **Assam – Stall-3 - Majuli** (Treatment for Diabetes and veterinary problems)



- v. **Assam – Stall-4 - Jorhat** (Multipurpose herbal stick for diabetic plus many other ailments plus bone fracture treatment)



- vi. **Assam – Stall-5 – Barpeta** (Treatment for Epilepsy) contact Mr. Amulya Choudhury, M : 8133893297 (5 people treated for Epilepsy so far)



- vii. **Assam – Stall-6 – Dhemaji-1** (Treatment for hiju plant – liver enlargement, liver water accumulation, etc)



- viii. **Assam – Stall-7 – Dhemaji-2** (Theirs is hereditary business for treatment of respiratory problems, gastric)



- ix. **Assam – Stall-8 – Dhemaji-3** (Sri Roi Baba Srivastav). They have effective product for anti-malaria with a joint Patent with DRDO. They have products for 30 diseases with 1000 plant products.



- x. **Assam – Stall-9 – Lakhimpur** (Sri AmbeswarChetia, M : 9678147380) (Treatment for Piles)



- xi. **Sikkim – Stall-1** (Bering herbals, 200 diabetic patients were treated, others hypertension, gastric)



**xii. Mizoram – Stall-1 (Diabetic and liver related)**



**xiii. Meghalaya – Stall-1 – Ms. Laloo – presented video.**



**xiv. Arunachal Pradesh – Stall-1 (Treatment for Malaria with 50 nos plant material, (Synergic effect), treated 6000 patients with 600 only this year. (Mr. ChouliKomong, Treatment for Synus))**



- xv. A session of discussion with traditional healers from different states of North East India.



- xvi. The audience attending the Traditional Healers Meet 2018 at NIPER Guwahati campus



5. Dr. P.G.Rao, Advisor, NIPER-Guwahati suggested the following strategy to move forward with the Traditional Healers of North-East:

**A.**

- i. Traditional Healers should identify a very critical and best product of theirs and a list with District wise product like no. of Patients treated, etc should be prepared.
- ii. For these products, each of them have to document stabilized data like collection of the herbs, time, season, part of the plant, etc to be prepared for each of the herbs for different treatments. With these data in background, the Association or the individuals can enter into Agreement with NIPER-Guwahati defining the scope of work. The idea of the Agreement is for translating their best products of herbal healers to reach to society through scientific evidence.
- iii. The role of NIPER-Guwahati is to Mentor and guide them for the exploitation of their products in a logical manner in order to protect their IPR for which they readily agreed.
- iv. NIPER-Guwahati or its authorized institute will carry out chemical characterization, in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies.
- v. NIPER-Guwahati or its authorized institutes will guide the Association, to conduct clinical studies to support their a traditional data in a scientific manner.
- vi. NIPER-Guwahati will guide the Healers Association in making market acceptable product like in finishing of the product, packing, presentation and required documentation.
- vii. The Healers Association will make a technology package of their product under the guidance of NIPER-Guwahati.
- viii. Whenever the technology is released to third party, royalty, fees etc will be shared by the Association to the individual healer who provided the basic information.
- ix. NIPER-Guwahati will recover its expenditure spent on the development.
- x. NIPER-Guwahati and its authorized institutes will guide Healers Association to get funding for their projects from different Funding sources.



**B.**

- i. Traditional Healers should identify the plants that are in extinct or likely to extinct and which are in potential for treatment of ailments successfully.
- ii. NIPER-Guwahati will assist for establishing tissue culture protocols for such plants either by themselves or through other collaborating institutes.
- iii. The Association or the individuals can obtain this protocol at the minimal cost for propagating the plants.

A panel discussion was organized at the end of the program keeping the following members as panelists.

1. Dr. GN Qazi, Director General, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (HIMSR), New Delhi
2. Sri Lanka Srinivas, Advisor, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati
3. Dr. PG Rao, Distinguished Scientist, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) New Delhi (former Director of CSIR NEIST Jorhat)
4. Dr. USN Murty, Director, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati
5. Dr. Ravichandiran, Director, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Kolkata
6. Dr. Pavan Kaushik, Regional Director, Centre For Forest-Based Livelihoods & Extension (CFLE), Agartala
7. Dr. Chandana Baruah, Professor, College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara

The following points have been suggested by the panelists for its possible implementation.

- I. Disease based conference/meetings: This thought was proposed to have a detailed discussion about one disease at a time, with special emphasis on traditional medicine approach.
- II. Licensing of traditional drugs has to be prioritized, in order to have a proper accountability of medicinal plants.
- III. The idea of association of one student per traditional healer was put forward in the meeting.
- IV. Materializing of “Traditional Healers production cluster” like small or medium scale industry
- V. Establishing medial tourism in North East India with the help of government aided funds should be done for the benefits of the local people.
- VI. Proper steps to be taken for restoration of endangered medicinal plants of North east India.
- VII. A therapeutic approach using ayurvedic, modern and traditional medicine can be established as combination treatment strategy that can show beneficial results.