

Publication of

Traditional and Modern Medicine Research Directorate

Ethiopian Public Health Institute

Prepared By Ashenif Tadele

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Traditional and Modern Medicine Research Directorate

Introduction

Plants have been used as a source of medicine in Ethiopia from time immemorial to treat different ailments. This is often linked to ethnic and cultural diversity coupled with an array of unique flora and fauna that are employed as the prime-tools in the fight against numerous health problems. Even with the advent of modern medicine, this indigenous health care delivery system is the major source of care for an estimated 80% of the population. More than 95% of traditional medical preparations are of plant origin. The Ethiopian flora is estimated to contain between 6500 and 7000 species of higher plants of which about 12% are endemic. The Directorate of Traditional and Modern Medicine (TMMRD) within EPHI conducting operational and basic research on the quality, efficacy and safety of traditional and modern medicine including the factors affecting the rational utilization and factors determine drug resist stance for the major health problems of the country.

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision:

To be centres of excellence in Traditional and Modern Medicine research in Africa.

Mission:

Developing validated traditional medicine products and providing evidence based information on diseases of public health importance through research on traditional medicine as well as modern medicine to promote the health of the public.

Values:

The values of the TMMRD, and the keywords relating to each value, are:

- **Communication:** Transparency, Freedom to Challenge.
- **Accountability:** Responsibility, Teamwork, Leadership, Participation.
- **Respect:** Dignity, Honesty, Fairness, Integrity.
- **Excellence and innovation.**
- **Capacity development:** Reward and Recognition.
- **Efficiency:** Human, Facility, and Financial Resources
- **Collaboration:** Strong link with University, Industry and Traditional Healer
- **Equity**
- **Relevance**
- **Rule of law**

Strategic Themes of the Directorate

1. Enhance innovation and production of standardized plant based medicine products,
2. Generate evidence based research on traditional and modern medicine
3. Raise awareness of the community through appropriate mechanisms

Strategic results

1. Validated traditional medicine production packages for public use ;
2. Evidence on safety, efficacy and quality of traditional and Modern medicine for policy and programs implementers;
3. Community awareness, guidelines, manuals, pharmacopoeias and data base;

Research Areas of the Directorate

The Traditional and Modern Medicine Research Directorate has been conduct research on TM thereby develop plant based medicinal products for human and veterinary use as well as on Modern Medicine. The major scopes of the Directorate are:

- Document ethno-medical information of medicinal plants/practice,
 - Ethnobotanical survey of Medicinal Plants
 - Scientific review of publications and
 - prepare pharmacopoeias, monographs and data base on traditional medicine
- Research On communicable diseases - Assessing the Efficacy, Safety and Quality of traditional medicine
 - Antimicrobial activity (Antibacterial, Antifungal, Antiviral, Antimycobacterial, wound healing, ...)
 - Antiparasitic (Malaria, Helmenthic leshmaniasis, trypanosomiasis
 - disease of priority public health problems of communicable and Non-communicable Diseases
- Research On non-communicable diseases - Assessing the Efficacy, Safety and Quality of traditional medicine
 - Hypertension
 - Diabetics,
 - Mental Health
 - Cancer
 -
- Research On Insect control - Assessing the Efficacy, Safety and Quality of traditional medicine
 - Larvicidal activity
 - Repellant activity
- Research veterinary health:

- Antimicrobial activity,
 - helmenthics
 - Ectoparasite
- Preparation of production package for scientifically standardized traditional medicine products
 - Conducting Clinical Trial
 - Conducting Quality versus efficacy and rational utilization of modern medicine
 - Providing Information, Education, Communication and Training to the community and the researchers.
 - Disseminate research outputs to the scientific community, policy makers and Community through technical report, publication, policy briefing, workshops and media forums.
 - Survey surveillance of modern and Traditional Medicine
 - Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic and pharmacovigillane study on Modern and Traditional medicine
 - To collaborate with drug development and production companies in the promotion and production of established effective traditional medicines.

Deliverables of the Directorate

1. Evidence to scientific community through publication, mass media or workshops
 - 1.1 Ethno-botanical information
 - 1.2 Safety, efficacy, and phytochemical
- 2 Production packages of herbal medicines.
- 3 Education –communication to the community on the safety, efficacy and rational utilization of traditional and modern medicine
- 4 Conserved medicinal plants.
- 5 Pharmacopoea and Medicinal Data base ~ through documented ethno-medical use and scientific reports.
- 6 Herbarium and botanical garden.
- 7 Data about the therapeutic efficacy, quality and other aspects of pharmaceuticals.
- 8 Data on health seeking behavior of the community for traditional healers and Modern medicine professional services

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

1. Strategic planning for Five years based
2. Periodically research review meetings to discuss the implementation of planned activities.
3. Annual activity plan output base evaluation
4. Individual BSC performance reviews.
5. Building strong Drug research army
6. Review of projects periodically and at the end of project life in terms of timelines, outcome, impact, sustainability and effectiveness

Publications of

Traditional and Modern Medicine Research Directorate

Books:

- 1) Abebe D, Ayehu A: *Medicinal plants and enigmatic health practices of Northern Ethiopia*. B.S.P.E.; 1993.
- 2) Debella A Manual for phytochemical screening of medicinal plants 2002 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 3) Abebe D, Debella A, Urga K Check list of Medicinal and Other Useful plants of Ethiopia, Camerapix Publishers Pvt. Ltd. Co., Camerapix publishers international; 2003

Proceedings

- 1) Proceeding of the workshop on Development and utilization of herbal remedies in Ethiopia 1996 Nazareth, Ethiopia
- 2) Proceeding of national workshop on “Traditional medicine in Ethiopia”2003. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 3) Proceeding of the National workshop on Khat habit and other Psychotropic drugs in the spread of HIV/AIDS and their impact on health and Socio-Economic wellbeing, May 23-24, 2005
- 4) Proceeding of the scientific review forum and technical report on pyrrolizidine alkaloid (PA) induced hepatic veno-occlusive disease (Hepatic VOD) from Northwest and Central zones of Tigray, Ethiopia, April, 2013, Addis Ababa
- 5) Proceeding of the Scientific Review Workshop on the ongoing efficacy and safety of Traditionally Used Medicinal Plants in Ethiopia_November 2013, Ambo, Ethiopia
- 6) Proceeding of Consultative Workshop on *Moringa stenopetala* to Maximize Its Potential Uses, May 22-23, 2014, Bishoftu, Ethiopia;

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6. Lemma, H., Debella, A. Addis, G., Kunert, O., Geyid, A., Teka, F. and Yersaw, K. (2002). Anti-bacterial activity of *Plumbago zeylanica* L. roots on some pneumonia causing pathogens. SINET: Ethiopian Journal of Science 25(2): 155 - 175.
7. *Kelbessa Urga, Asfaw Debella, Yeshe W/Medihn, N Agata, Abebe Bayu, Wubalem Zewdie* Laboratory studies on the outbreak of Gangrenous Ergotism associated with consumption of contaminated barley in Arsi, Ethiopia Ethiop.J.Health Dev. 2002;16(3):317-323

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- 4) Eyob Debebe, Eyasu Makonnen and Asfaw Debella. Antinociceptive effect of the methanolic extract of roots of *Andrachne aspera* in three models of nociception, *Pharmacologyonline*, 2007, 1, 41-48.
- 5) Tadesse Egule, Getahun Telahun, Asfaw Debella, A. Fleke and Eyasu Makonnen, *Haemonchus contortus*: In vitro and in vivo anthelmintic activity of aqueous and

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 - 7) Tadesse Egule, Getahun Telahun, Asfaw Debella, Adey Fleke and Eyasu Makonnen. *In vitro* and *in vivo* anthelmintic activity of crude extract of *Coriandrum sativum* against *Haemoncontortus contortus*, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 2007, 110, 428-433.
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