

Inaugural Function of the Project “Prioritization, Mapping and Identification of medicinal plants used in the Khasi and Garo Traditional Medicine Systems”

Date: June 6, 2011

Venue: Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong

The Martin Luther Christian University has received a grant for the project “*Prioritization, Mapping and Identification of medicinal plants used in the Khasi and Garo Traditional Medicine Systems*” from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. It is a 3 year project where it has four major objectives which are as follows:

1. To prioritize 100 most useful medicinal plants
 - a. Demographic and Practice profile
2. To map the distribution of the medicinal plants
 - a. Modeling probable areas of occurrence
 - b. Focused survey using the predicted maps
 - c. Map Distribution and sustainable harvesting regimes
3. To prepare User Friendly Maps and Fliers
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 - b. Train the healers for sustainable harvesting
4. To promote domestication and exsitu cultivation of medicinal plants
 - a. Identify highly endangered species
 - b. Promote cultivation



Prof. K N Ganeshaiyah from the School of Ecology and Conservation, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore was also present at the function. He is the Co-Investigator of the project as MLCU is collaborating with UAS, Bangalore. Prof. Ganeshaiyah said that any knowledge should be supported with the required resources so that it can be practiced and thus the knowledge can be transmitted from one generation to another. Thus this project would help in not only identifying important medicinal plants but also promoting its cultivation.

Mr. Antonio War, Executive Member, KHADC was also present as the Guest of Honour at the occasion. He stated that the forests of the state are depleting in a fast rate and traditional medicine can be one of the solutions to reviving the forests through the medicinal plants.

This project was inaugurated by Mr. Fabian Lyngdoh, Chairman KHADC who was the Chief Guest at the occasion. He said that Traditional Medicine has been in practiced in our communities since time immemorial.



Our forefathers have had the knowledge which has passed from one generation to another. He added that even youths today can acquire the skills of traditional medicine when they are in dire circumstances.

The project was formally inaugurated by lighting the Dongmusa (a traditional torch) as a symbol of inaugurating the project.

Other special guests present at the function were Dr. A.A.Mao, Regional Director, BSI, Dr. Don Syiem, NEHU, Mr. John Kharshiing, SPIKAP, Dr. G.C.Kharkongor, Vice Chancellor, MLCU, Dr. P.S.S. Sunder Rao, Visiting Professor, MLCU and also traditional healers from across the state.