



1st ECHO West African Networking Anglophone Forum

**Organised by Wings for Crossover (GH) in Partnership with ECHO, Florida,
USA**

***“Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species (MAPs)
our culture and our heritage”.***

Dr. Yaw Ameyaw

***A herbal Consultant, Senior Lecturer and Ag.
Director of Externally Funded Projects Office,
University of Education, Winneba***

- ❑ Since ancient times, plants have been used to heal and cure diseases and to improve health and wellbeing.
- ❑ MAPs still form the basis of traditional or indigenous health systems as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❑ MAPs play a significant role in meeting the demands of the traditional medicine markets which are found domestically in the producing and in overseas markets.

- ❑ At present, 80 percent of the population in developing countries rely largely on plant-based drugs for their health care needs.
- ❑ WHO has estimated that in coming decades a similar percentage of the world population may well rely on plant-based medicines.
- ❑ Thirty percent of the drugs sold worldwide contain compounds derived from plant material.

- ❑ In Europe, North America and other industrialized regions, over 50% of the population have used complementary or alternative medicine at least once.
- ❑ In San Francisco, London and South Africa, 75% of people living with HIV/AIDS use TM/CAM.
- ❑ 70% of the population in Canada has used complementary medicine at least once.
- ❑ In Germany, 90% of the population has used a natural remedy at some point in their life.
- Between 1995 and 2000, the number of doctors who had undergone special training in natural remedy medicine had almost doubled to 10, 800.

- ❑ In the United States, 158 million of the adult population use complementary medicines.
- ❑ According to the USA Commission for Alternative and Complementary medicines, US \$17 billion was spent on traditional remedies in 2000.
- ❑ In the United Kingdom, annual expenditure on alternative medicine is US\$ 230 million.
- ❑ The last three decades have seen substantial growth in herb and herbal product markets across the world.

- ❑ Rapidly rising exports of medicinal plants during the past decade attests to worldwide interest in these products as well as in traditional health systems.
- ❑ Global and national markets for medicinal herbs have been growing rapidly, and significant economic gains are being realized.
- ❑ According to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, global sales of herbal products totalled an estimated US\$ 60, 000 million in 2000.

Why the success of TCM of the Peoples' Republic of China ?

□ *Traditional Chinese Medicine had made giant strides/gains and at the same time gone through massive transformation as a result of the following:*

- 1. Guidance and support provided by National Leaders - The Government of the People's Republic of China had, and continues to play pivotal role in the implementation of TCM.**
- 2. Laws and Regulations needed for the proper shaping or to iron-out impediments in TCM, since, its establishment.**

The following are some of the Laws and Regulations in place:

- a) Practicing Doctor Act of PRC**

- b) The Drug Administration Law of PRC
- c) The Provisions for New Drug Approval of PRC
- d) The Provisions for New Drug Protection and Transformation
- e) Regulations on the Protection of Types of TCM
- f) Regulations on Conservation and Management of Wild Chinese Medicinal Material Resources and many others.

❑ *Again, there are Laws and Regulations, when it comes to the protection of TCM intellectual property. Below are some of them:*

- a) Patent Law of PRC

- b) Brand Law of PRC
- c) Copyright Law of PRC
- d) Countering Unfair Competition Law of PRC
- e) Intellectual Property Law of PRC
- f) Customs Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Regulations of PRC
- g) Protection of New Plant and New Varieties of PRC
- h) Protection Law of Wild Animals, and
- i) Law of Seeds of PRC.

❑ Proper Management and Orientation of TCM

- a) Orientation of the Ministry of Health to bring on board an Administration Department for TCM.
- b) Established (1952) and re-establishment (1978) of the Bureau of TCM in the following:
 - Province
 - City, and
 - Ministries.

❑ TCM was hooked to fourteen Governmental Departments in order to achieve the following:

- a) Proper supervision to bring about development
- b) Development in terms of science and technology
- c) Good marketing procedure needed to bring about development and data acquisition.
- d) The required medical insurance for the healthy growth of the PRC
- e) Proper administration of import and export of TCM
- f) Ensuring good international co-operation with other countries.

- g) Ensuring that the required or needed protection and utilization is given to National Resources
- h) All parameters needed for Intellectual Property of TCM was also ensured, and finally
- i) Ensuring proper training and education of TCM

☐ The under listed Departments provided the needed support to TCM, in order to make the above achievable:

- a) National Development and Reform Commission
- b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- c) Ministry of Education

d) Ministry of Agriculture

e) Ministry of Health

f) Ministry of Commerce

g) Ministry of Labor and Social Security

h) State Environmental Protection Administration

i) General Administration of Quality Supervision

j) Inspection and Quarantine

k) State Forestry Administration

i) State Food and Drug Administration

m) General Administration of Customs

n) State Intellectual Property Office, and

o) State Administration of TCM

❑ ***Educational re-structuring to bring on board all apparatus needed for the growth of TCM***

- Building new academic institutions

- Creation of new departments of TCM in already existing academic institutions of Medical Sciences.

❑ *Vigorously implementing structures acceptable to the world through the World Health Organization.*

These were:

- Acupuncture
- Signing of agreements with other highly developed countries.

❑ Scientific studies of Chinese *Materia medica* were intensified by implementing the following:

a) Training of more professionals

b) Attachment of hospitals to about hundred (100) TCM universities and colleges.

- c) Making in-depth research into TCM ancient literatures.
 - d) Ensuring teamwork among professionals of TCM and other Para-medical staff.
 - e) Awareness creation through scientific publications and those of Ancient Chinese Medical Books.
- ❑ *Making further in-roads or probing into early achievements by adding values to them.*
- Publishing of ancient books, theories and philosophical ideas from, or based on the following:
- a) Classic book called *Nei Jing*
 - b) Zhongjng Thoughts

c) Thoughts of Four Scholastic Sects of Jin and Yuan Dynasties

d) Warm Disease Thoughts, and many others

f) Application of theories and philosophical ideas of their fore-fathers in TCM, for e.g. Yin and Yang theory.

□ Field study of Chinese Materia Medica was expanded to embrace the following:

a) Intensification of cultivation; thus, expansion of existing arboreta and the creation of new ones

b) Breeding of new plants and new varieties

c) *in-situ* and *ex-situ* cultivation of medicinal plant species

- c) Introduction of new equipment to improve the identification of MAPs
- d) Paying attention to pharmacological studies as well as the pharmacodynamics, thus, the mechanism of function and prescription.

From the above enumerations, one can say that Traditional Chinese Medicine has been developed wholistically by the People's Republic of China, and gained the needed global attention through the World Health Organization.

"As they reap benefits from the Great Wall, the Palace Museum, tourist sites in the Southern China and many more, which their ancestors established, so many years back. Traditional Chinese Medicine is another golden treasure; they had already dug their hands in, and reaping its benefits as a result of ancestral compilation of the values of their Materia Medica".

Ladies and gentlemen for us to be successful like the Chinese, there is the need to appreciate our culture and the heritage entrusted unto us.

THANK YOU, MERIC & KITOSCHI

***Griffonia simplicifolia* Baill**



An explosive pod of *Griffonia*



Bell-shaped flowers of the plant species

***Gardenia ternifolia* Schum. & Thonn.**



***Gardenia* with fruits showing short branches.**

Wine-coloured stem cuttings of the plant.