



Ethiopian Indigenous Medicine Research Centre

Summary

Ethiopia is known for its ancient history, civilization, and wisdom in different sectors; and the country has its own language with the writing characters and also numerals of old times. It is rich with indigenous knowledge and skills in different fields, ranging from cattle rearing to comprehensive agriculture, and from healthcare to space science among others. These indigenous knowledge and wisdom in different areas have been recorded in manuscripts and passed down from generation to generation since the oldest time. In the health sector, the country, with its immense resources of varied flora species and wisdom of ancient times, has been practicing traditional medication and healthcare practices that have been proved to be effective even to date. In addition to creating value locally, the indigenous medication and healthcare practices that have been passed down since ancient time and that are being implemented even today are believed to have global significances. Though the country has rich resources and manuscripts that are about indigenous and traditional medicines and healing practices that could be used for larger community, little has been done in this regard. For various reasons and factors, though implemented in a very small scale effectively, these indigenous medication and healthcare practices have been far from reaching the huge mass locally and beyond to provide medical solutions. Hence, the gap in the area calls for committed initiatives which provide support of coordination and mobilization of resources for researches and development to get indigenous traditional medication and healthcare practices implemented effectively to tackle shortage of effective medicines and related problems at home and abroad.

This project primarily aims at securing funds to support the establishment of research and development center towards coordinating and mobilizing the existing natural and human resources in Ethiopia towards creating value of common good, by ensuring the availability of marketable medicines and healthcare products out of the indigenous and traditional knowledge and wisdom of ancient time.

Statement of Need and Project Significance

Ethiopia with a population of about 100 million, and 80% of the population heavily depending on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare system, according to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (2015). The country is rich with variety of plant and animal species that have significant relevance to medicine and healthcare practices. There are also manuscripts of ancient knowledge and wisdom on indigenous medicine and healthcare practices. In addition, there are traditional healthcare practitioners and healers of different human and animal illnesses, who have maintained and been implementing the ancient wisdom at some level, and whose potential should be properly exploited with the support of outcomes through scientific research and studies. All these combined prove that there is great potential in the country in the utilization of indigenous medicine and healthcare practices to heal illnesses, even those diseases for which solution has not been found yet. And it will have also global significance in searching, developing, promoting and making available indigenous medicinal and healthcare products. Generally, the project is set for the promotion and development of indigenous traditional medicine also facilitate the utilization of its beneficial aspects at national, regional and international levels.

Project Activity, Methodology and Outcomes

Major Activities

- Designing strategic plan with defined objectives and detailed activities
- Securing a designated venue or project site with lab equipments
- Collecting relevant documents and manuscripts that have contents about medicinal and healthcare practices from different sources;
- Having scholars and practitioners who have inherited from fore fathers and mothers the ancient wisdom of traditional medicine preparation and healthcare practices
- Identified potential sites or places of important species
- Holding workshops and related events with key stakeholders, most importantly traditional medicine and healthcare practitioners and healers
- Developing through plantations, nurseries and other activities those species identified critical for traditional medicine preparations
- Conducting consultations with relevant stakeholders, particularly with those who are in the area of pharmaceuticals

Methodology

- Through facilitations of workshops, discussion events
- Through collection of relevant documents
- Through organization of platforms that bring together of relevant stakeholders
- By planting species of significant relevance for herbal

Outcomes

- Realizing visible contribution to the sector exploiting indigenous knowledge and wisdom
- Empowering traditional medicinal practitioners and healers by combining their indigenous knowledge and wisdom with that of contemporary scientific findings
- Developing marketable medicinal and healthcare products, even for those illness which do not have solution

- **Budget**

To have the project implemented effectively and efficiently towards achieving the desired goals and specific objectives, the budget requirement has been set to amounting 350,000 US Dollar.