

Report On A Day's Training Programme For Practitioners, Manufacturers Of Herbal Products And Traders Of Medicinal Plant Materials-Department Of Herbal Medicine, Knust



Introduction

The Department of Herbal Medicine, KNUST, in association with Universal Plant Medicine and Traditional Healers' Association (UPMTHA), Ashanti Region, organised a day's training programmed on the theme "Improving Herbal Products Quality and Patient Referral Procedures". The aim of the programme is to train herbal medicine practitioners and manufactures to understand the application of basic scientific methods, tools and guidelines that can make a significant contribution to better access quality, safe and effective medicines coupled with proper referral of patients to seek specialised care when the need be. The training programme was held on June 14, 2022, at the Faculty of Pharmacy Conference room.

Speaking at the training to welcome the practitioners, the Dean of The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (FPPS), KNUST, Prof. Berko Panyin Anto said it is estimated that the present size of the global market for traditional medicines has gone up tremendously due to the present trends. He explained that Ghana with opportunities in the traditional medicine industry, there is the need for unity among practitioners due to the enormous development of natural medicine products for experts' promotion.



Figure 1: Picture of Prof. Berko Panyin Anto, FPPS, KNUST,

Prof. Isaac Ayensu, the Head of the Department of Herbal Medicine addressing the practitioners on the purpose of the training, introduced them to the Basic Procedures for Assessing Efficacy and Safety of Herbal Medicine Products, and The Recommended Herbal Medicines list developed by the Ministry of Health. He emphasised the need to utilize these books as guide in herbal medicine practice in Ghana. it was indicated that the use of herbal products has given rise to various forms of abuse and adulteration of the products leading to consumers and some allied health practitioners' disappointment. This has in some instance caused fatal consequences. He intimated that, generally, all medicines, whether synthetic or of plant origin should fulfil the basic requirements of being safe and effective. Safety and quality of raw materials can determine the safety, quality and efficacy of the finished products. As a rule, all stages of drug preparation from the cultivation, collection of raw materials to finished

products must be standardised. Therefore, the Department of Herbal Medicine will ensure practitioner development as a strategic and critical mandate.

Prof. Ayensu encouraged the practitioners on the need to improve and build their capacity through such programmes.



Figure 2: Picture of Prof. Isaac Ayensu, HOD, Department of Herbal Medicine

Training Session

The training session was divided into three elective modules.

- Module 1 was Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Under this module topic discussed was:
 - Good Manufacturing Practices Role in Herbal Product Quality.
 - Herbal dosage forms and their preparations.
 - Good agricultural and collection practice

This topic was presented by Dr Nana Yaa Asantewaa Osei, Department of Pharmaceutics, KNUST.



Figure 3: Picture of Dr Nana Yaa Asantewaa Osei, Department of Pharmaceutics

- Module 2 was Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Herbal Products. Under this module, topics discussed were:
 - How to avoid contamination
 - Extraction techniques
 - Packaging materials, nature and types.

This topic was presented by Prof. Isaac Ayensu, Head of Department of Herbal Medicine.



Figure 4: Picture of Prof. Isaac Ayensu, HOD, Department of Herbal Medicine

- Module 3 was Patient referrals and procedures. Under this module, topics discussed were:
 - How to take proper history
 - Procedures in diseases diagnosis
 - When to refer
 - How to refer
 - Where to refer
 - Feedback after referral.

The topic was presented by Dr Bernard Kofi Turkson, Department of Herbal Medicine.



Figure 5: Picture of Dr Bernard Kofi Turkson, Department of Herbal Medicine



Figure 6a: Picture of Traditional Medicine Practitioners at the Training



Figure 6b: Picture of Traditional Medicine Practitioners at the Training



Figure 7: Picture of Traders of Medicinal Plant Materials



Figure 8: Picture of Traditional Medicine Practitioners having lunch