TRAMIL
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE USE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
TRAMIL

partly supported by
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME UNEP
& GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY GEF
Background

♦ A region of strong biological and cultural diversity
♦ With high floristic diversity and unique concentrations of plant species
♦ A mosaic of traditional knowledge about medicinal plants from African, European, and Indigenous cultures
♦ Threatened by loss of cultural systems and conversion of local agricultural and forest ecosystems
What is the TRAMIL Program?

♦ An applied research programme about traditional popular medicine of the Caribbean basin that started in 1982 in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

♦ Based on ethnopharmacological surveys all over the Caribbean basin and Central America

♦ Followed by a collective validation process by members of the TRAMIL network (regional and international specialists in the fields of ethnobotany, pharmacy, medicine and social fieldwork) at the occasion of periodic scientific workshops

♦ With a feedback of the information to the scientific community and to the local communities in order to promote health education programs in the area
TRAMIL TARGET GROUP
TRAMIL NETWORK
Caribbean Basin medicinal plants
SOME SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO TRAMIL

University of Antilles / Guyane - Guadeloupe
Autonomous University of Santo Domingo - Dominican Republic
Central University of Venezuela
University of Antioquía (Medellin) - Colombia
Universities of Haití, Panamá, Costa Rica, Honduras
University of San Carlos - Guatemala
State University of Campinas, São Paulo - Brasil
National Autonomous University of León - Nicaragua
Ministry of Health and Health Faculty - Cuba
Botanical Garden Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso – Dominican Republic
Scientific Research Center of Yucatán - Mérida, México
The TRAMIL Program

Goals and objectives of TRAMIL (2002 - 2005)

Scientific validation of traditional health practices based on criteria for safety and efficacy

Assessment of the conservation status and development of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* management strategies for medicinal plants in selected sites of the Caribbean Basin

Contribution to the development of national health and education policies, and primary healthcare delivery that integrates safe and effective traditional remedies

L. GERMOSEN-ROBINEAU & S. LAGOS-WITTE
IMPACT

Fac. Med. Dr. S. Allende, Pharmacology, Habana, Cu

RESEARCH: for example:

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS:
for example: TRAMIL 10
LAYTON, Canal Zone
ANAMA, March 2001
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE TRAMIL PROGRAM


- Dissemination of information through community education and public awareness programs using radio, didactic manuals, newspapers, video, posters, electronic forum and Web pages.

- Evaluation of the legal status of traditional remedies in national health systems and promotion of national legislation to protect biodiversity property rights.
Ethnobotanical inventories
TRAMIL survey particularities

TRAMIL analysis system does not rest only on the qualitative, but also on the quantitative approach.

The primary tool of the analysis is participative ethnopharmacological survey. Its starting point is not in the plants but in the health symptoms or problems.

TREATMENTS USED FOR: (local name of the problem)

- Illness description:

- First treatments (the last time the problem has come out):
  ___ traditional plants
  ___ healer
  ___ medical officer
  ___ witch doctor

- Description and way of preparation of the remedy:
  Etc...
TRAMI L (TRIGS) scientific work has taken place in the following Caribbean countries:

- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Guadalupe
- Guatemala
- Guyana Francesa
- Honduras
- Haití
- Nicaragua
- Panamá
- República Dominicana

139 specific biological tests had been realized up to 2003.
218 specific biological tests are currently being realized from 2004 to 2005.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESPECIE</th>
<th>USOS SIGNIF. TR</th>
<th>TRIG SOLICITADO A</th>
<th>TRIG</th>
<th>Tipo de ensayo</th>
<th>Parte usada</th>
<th>Modo de Preparación</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acalypha arvensis Poepp. &amp; Endl.</td>
<td>CIFLORPAN, Pa</td>
<td>fitoquímica (con derivados cianogénicos post decocci—n)</td>
<td>hoja</td>
<td>decocci—n</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpinia zerumbet (Pers.) B.L. Burtt &amp; R.M. Sm.</td>
<td>ISCM-H, Cu (planta)</td>
<td>antipiretica</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>flor</td>
<td>decocci—n</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpinia zerumbet (Pers.) B.L. Burtt &amp; R.M. Sm.</td>
<td>ISCM-H, Cu (planta)</td>
<td>antitusiva</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>flor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternanthera tenella Colla</td>
<td>CIFLORPAN, Pa</td>
<td>fitoquímica</td>
<td>hoja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allium schoenoprasum L.</td>
<td>INF, CR</td>
<td>broncodilatadora (antiasmática)</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>bulbos tostados-machacados</td>
<td>infusión</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allium schoenoprasum L.</td>
<td>INF, CR</td>
<td>toxicidad crónica</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>bulbos tostados-machacados</td>
<td>infusión</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allium schoenoprasum L.</td>
<td>INF, CR</td>
<td>antibacteriano Gram Neg</td>
<td>in vitro</td>
<td>corteza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anacardium occidentale L.</td>
<td>CIFLORPAN, Pa</td>
<td>antiinflamatoria</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>hoja</td>
<td>decocci—n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annona reticulata L.</td>
<td>LEBI, CR</td>
<td>tránsito intestinal</td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>hoja</td>
<td>decocci—n</td>
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</tbody>
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THE USE OF SAFE AND EFFECTIVE MEDICINAL PLANTS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Conclusions of the consultative process between the TRAMIL Network and Health Officials / Rectors from Central America, Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Workshop held in Panama City, January 1999
The TRAMIL Program

- Collaboration between the Health Ministers, the Universities and the Health related NGOs in order to promote Health Policies for Regulation and adequate Use of Medicinal Plants

- Development of Joints Programs and Actions for the Use of safe and effective Medicinal Plants in support of Primary Healthcare

- Case studies to evaluate acceptance of recommended remedies by doctors and other health practitioners

- Provision of multidisciplinary training and curriculum development in health science programmes
AN ENGLISH VERSION IS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES.
Setting technical guides for the culture of Caribbean medicinal plants
Traditional Knowledge and conservation of Medicinal plants in Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic

Local communities participating in the project
Community Gardens of MP
With Participation of the Ministry of Health in Panama and local Communities in Colon, Panama
IMPACTS

EDUCATION MATERIAL FOR THE DISSEMINATION COMPONENT

Remedios naturales para la Diarrea y Parásitos

USOS POPulares DE PLANTAS MEDICINALES

PLANTAS QUE PUEDEN SER TOXICAS
CAPACITY BUILDING IN GUATEMALA

- Training in herbarium techniques
- Identification of species in-situ
- Scientific validation
Résumé de la démarche scientifique

**Atelier scientifique TRAMIL**

- **Classification de chaque usage**
- **Monographie préliminaire**
- **Documentation scientifique**
- **Enquête ethnopharmacologique**

**Politiques de SSP**
- **Ministères de la Santé**
- **Facultés médecine, pharmacie**

**Publications**
- (Pharmacopée végétale, revues scientifiques & Internet)

**Diffusion & Formation**
- **scientifique directe**
- **adaptations culturelle pour diffusion populaire**
- **ONGs**
- **éducation pour la santé**
- **Soins de santé primaire**

**Comité éditorial**
- **pour usages REC & TOX**
  - élaboration de monographies pré-finales
- **pour usages INV**
  - détermination recherches nécessaires
- **identification des labos compétents**

**Conventions, financement, réalisation des travaux (toxicité et validation)**
SOME ANSWERS TO FAQ
The TRAMIL Program

TRAMIL is not:

...related to any international pharmaceutical company
...a profit making program
...self sustainable at present
...only scientific research
TRAMIL is not:

...ethnomedicine or ethnobotany (but applied ethnopharmacology)
...expandable out of a uniform regional ecological context
...limited to any particular ethnic group
...exhaustive (it only deals with the most common health problems)
The TRAMIL Program

**TRAMIL is not dealing with:**

- identification of active molecules
- new medicines (new drugs)
- industrial production
- taking advantage of the knowledge of traditional healers
- solutions for very serious and complex health problems
- the preparation of an *analytic* vegetal pharmacopoeia properly speaking.

L. GERMOSEN-ROBINEAU & S. LAGOS-WITTE
ALTHOUGH TRAMIL IS POPULAR, IT IS ALSO SCIENTIFIC

ALTHOUGH TRAMIL IS SCIENTIFIC, IT IS ALSO POPULAR
CONTACTS

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