

September 11-12
2026



ODISHA
RESEARCH
CENTRE



केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेद अनुसंधान संस्थान, भुवनेश्वर
Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Bhubaneswar

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 2026



**National Conference
on
cultivation, harvesting,
and sustainable utilization
of
medicinal plants
for
farmers and traditional healers
(CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS)**

Organising Partners
VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar
ORC Bhubaneswar
CCRAS-CARI Bhubaneswar

VK-AICYAM



'ARISE, AWAKE AND STOP NOT
TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED'
- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Conference Location:

VK-AICYAM

(Vivekananda Kendra – Academy for
Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management)

Jagamara - Sundarpada Road
Gandamunda, Pokhariput
Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030

Table of Contents (TOC)

	Table of Contents	Page No.
1	Purpose of this Conference	3
2	Conference Schedule & Agenda	4
3	Events Proceedings	8
	<i>Inaugural Session</i>	
	<i>Keynotes</i>	
	<i>Panel Discussions</i>	
	<i>Closing Session</i>	
	<i>Core Essence of the Conference</i>	
	<i>Consolidated Key Learning from the Conference</i>	
	<i>Major Challenges Identified</i>	
	<i>Emerging Action Points</i>	
4	Conference Certificate (Template) and Banner	22
5	Conference Participants' List	23
6	Conference Photo Gallery	24
7	Base Information Sheet (Template in English and Odia)	29

Conference Knowledge Partners:

[Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences \(CCRAS\), New Delhi](#)
[National Research Development Corporation \(NRDC\), New Delhi](#)
[Traditional Knowledge Digital Library \(TKDL\), New Delhi](#)
[National Medicinal Plants Board \(NMPB\), New Delhi](#)
[State Medicinal Plants Board \(SMPB\), Bhubaneswar](#)
[Council of Analytical Tribal Studies \(COATS\), Koraput](#)
[Indian Institute of Technology \(IIT\), Bhubaneswar](#)
[Institute of Health Sciences \(IHS\), Bhubaneswar](#)
[SOA University, Bhubaneswar](#)
[KISS University, Bhubaneswar](#)
[MSCB University, Baripada](#)
[GM University, Sambalpur](#)
[OUAT, Bhubaneswar](#)

Purpose of this Conference

(National Conference on cultivation, harvesting, and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants for farmers and traditional healers, Sept 11-12, 2026)

India possesses an unmatched heritage represented by its ancient systems of medicine - a treasure house of knowledge for both preventive and curative healthcare, which is embedded in the beliefs and practices of a wide section of the people. Our collective and collaborative focus must contribute towards the social integration of this traditional healthcare knowledge and procedures into the healthcare delivery system and national programs leading to the true well-being of mankind.

Traditional healing practices face several challenges such as erosion of knowledge; the risk of extinction of oral traditions due to generational change; credibility deficit due to inadequate scientific validation; limited opportunities for collaboration with modern healthcare providers; and untapped commercial pathways for herbal remedies and local products.

The conference deliberated on these challenges. It provided a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform where practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and representative communities discussed the need, issues, and opportunities for the recognition and integration of traditional healing practices into the healthcare delivery system and development of innovative healthcare practices.

କୃଷକ ଏବଂ ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସାକାରୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଔଷଧୀୟ ଗଛର ଚାଷ, ଅମଳ ଏବଂ ଛାୟା ବ୍ୟବହାର ଉପରେ ଜାତୀୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ, ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୧୧-୧୨, ୨୦୨୬: ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ

ଭାରତରେ ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ଔଷଧ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀର ଏକ ଅତୁଳନୀୟ ଐତିହ୍ୟ ରହିଛି । ମାନବଜାତିର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ପାଇଁ ଜାତୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଏହି ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ସମ୍ବୃଦ୍ଧି ଛାନ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟାର ସାମାଜିକ ଏକୀକରଣ ଦିଗରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ହବା ଉଚିତ ।

ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ପଦ୍ଧତି ସମ୍ବୃଦ୍ଧି ଛାନର କ୍ଷୟ; ପିଢ଼ିଗତ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ମୌଖିକ ପରମ୍ପରାର ବିଲୁପ୍ତ ହେବାର ବିପଦ; ଏବଂ ଆଧୁନିକ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନକାରୀଙ୍କ ସହ ସହଯୋଗ ପାଇଁ ସୀମିତ ସୁଯୋଗ ଭଳି ଅନେକ ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଅଛି ।

ଏହି ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ସମସ୍ୟା ଉପରେ ବିଚାର ବିମର୍ଶ କରିଅଛି । ଏହା ଏକ ବହୁ-ଭାଗୀଦାର ଆଲୋଚନା ପ୍ଲାଟଫର୍ମ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଅଭ୍ୟାସକାରୀ, ଗବେଷକ, ଏବଂ ନୀତି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରକ ମିଳିତ ଭାବରେ ଆଲୋଚନାକରି ସମସ୍ୟାଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସମାଧାନ କରିପାରିବାର ପ୍ରୟାସ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ଏବଂ ଆଲୋଚନାରେ ଅଂଶଗ୍ରହଣ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀକୁ ଫଳପ୍ରସ୍ତ କରିଛି ।

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026: Schedule & Agenda

(ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ, ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୧୧-୧୨, ୨୦୨୬)

Conference Theme: National Conference on cultivation, harvesting, and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants for farmers and traditional healers (ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦର ଚାଷ, ଅମଳ ଏବଂ ନିରନ୍ତର ବ୍ୟବହାର ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଚାଷୀ ଏବଂ ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଜାତୀୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ)

Organising Partners (ଆୟୋଜନ ସହଭାଗୀ):

- Vivekananda Kendra – Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management (VK-AICYAM)
- Odisha Research Centre (ORC), Bhubaneswar
- Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Bhubaneswar

Conference Venue: VK-AICYAM, Jagamara- Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar – 751030.

Conference Chair: Air Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik, Former AOC-in-C, Eastern Air Command

Conference Program Lead: Shri Biranchi Narayan Panigrahi, VK-AICYAM

Conference Location: VK-AICYAM (Vivekananda Kendra – Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management), Jagamara – Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030

Location Route Map: <https://share.google/9LtGue8UOXvQMWZrm>

Day 01 (Friday, September 11th 2026) Schedule: (ଶୁକ୍ରବାର, ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୧୧, ୨୦୨୬ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ)

Time	Activities
9:15 AM - 10:10 AM	Registration
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Inauguration and Keynote Address (ଉଦଘାଟନୀ ସମାରୋହ ଏବଂ ଅଭିଭାଷଣ) Lighting the Lamp (ଦୀପ ପ୍ରଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳନ) Welcome (ସ୍ୱାଗତ) and Address by the Secretary (Shri Laxminarayan Panigrahy) Conference Chair's Address (ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷଙ୍କ ଅଭିଭାଷଣ) Address by the Director, COATS (Dr. P C Mohapatra) Address by the Chief Speaker (Prof. Basant Panda, Advisor, Odisha Research Centre, Bhubaneswar) (ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବକ୍ତାଙ୍କ ଅଭିଭାଷଣ)
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Networking and Tea
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Subject Keynote: Overview of Medicinal Plants in Eastern India with special reference to Odisha (ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତରେ ଔଷଧୀୟ ବୃକ୍ଷ (ବିଶେଷ କରି ଓଡ଼ିଶା) - ସଂକ୍ଷିପ୍ତ ବିବରଣୀ) Speaker: Dr Prabhat Kumar Das, Research Associate, Centre for Biotechnology, SOA University, Odisha
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Session - I Panel: Discussion & Experience Sharing on Common Medicinal Plants of Odisha - Harvesting Practices, Value Addition, Supply-Chain/Trade, and Cultivation (ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସାଧାରଣ ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ - ଚାଷ ଏବଂ ଅମଳ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ, ଗୁଣବତ୍ତା, ଯୋଗାଣ ଏବଂ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ଏବଂ ଅଭିଜ୍ଞତାର ଆଦାନପ୍ରଦାନ)

	Moderator: Dr. Kshirod Kumar Rath, CARI Bhubaneswar. Panellist: Dr. Subash Chandra Swain, Professor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar Dr. Vimal Pandey, Associate Professor, KISS University, Odisha Dr. Subrat Kumar Senapati, Assistant Professor, SOA University Shri Hari Pangji, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Koraput) Shri Bibhuti Mund, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Bargarh)
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Networking and Lunch
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Yoga for Healthy Living (ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନଯାପନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ): Shri Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, VK-AICYAM
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Session - II Panel: Discussion on Musculo Skeletal Disorders – Bone Setting, Joint Diseases, and Osteoarthritis (ହାଡ଼ ଭଙ୍ଗା ଏବଂ ଆଂତୁ - ଗଣ୍ଠି ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣାର ପ୍ରତିକାର) Moderator: Dr. Purnendu Panda, CARI Bhubaneswar. Panellist: Shri Bhagabata Mohanta, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Mayurbhanj) Shri Tularam Challan, Traditional Healer (Koraput) Shri Daitary Mahanta, Traditional Healer (Kendujhar) Shri Amarsingh Gond, Traditional Healer (Nabarangpur)
4:15 PM – 6:15 PM	Demonstration & Consultation: Medicinal Plants and Healing Practices based on six treatment areas (Open to Public) (ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ଏବଂ ପରାମର୍ଶ: ଛଅଟି ଚିକିତ୍ସା କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ଏବଂ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ (ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା))
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Vivekananda Kendra Public function on the occasion of Universal Brotherhood Day (UBD) – All conference participants are invited. (ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ସାର୍ବଜନୀନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ) Chief Speaker: Ma. Nivedita Bhide, VP, Vivekananda Kendra Chief Guest: Prof. Kishor Basa, Advisor, Odisha Research Centre
Day 02 (Saturday, September 12th 2026) Schedule: (ଶନିବାର, ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୧୨, ୨୦୨୬ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ)	
Time	Activities
09:15 AM – 09:30 PM	Prayers (ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା)
09:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Keynote: Understanding of Local Health Traditions is key to the Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (ଆୟୁର୍ବେଦିକ ବିଜ୍ଞାନରେ ଗବେଷଣା ପାଇଁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରାର ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱ) Keynote Speaker: Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, DG CCRAS
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Subject Keynote: Conservation and Sustainable Practices of Local Health Traditions - Current Practices & Future Prospects (ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରାର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଏବଂ ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ - ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଏବଂ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ସମ୍ଭାବନା)

	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mahesh Dadhich, CEO, NMPB
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Session - III Panel: Discussion on Digestive System Ailments (ପାଚନ ତନ୍ତ୍ର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଉପରେ ଆଲୋଚନା) Moderator: Dr. Susmita Otta, CARI Bhubaneswar. Panellist: Prof. Satya Mahapatra, Director, Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) Shri Mangal Chandra Marandi, Traditional Healer (Mayurbhanj) Shri Parabasia Naik, Traditional Healer (Kendujhar) Shri Kartik Batra, Traditional Healer (Nabarangpur)
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Networking and Tea
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Session - IV Panel: Policy Level Understanding & Intervention – Medicinal Plant, Traditional Healing, and Integrated Healthcare (ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ, ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଏବଂ ସମନ୍ୱିତ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର ନୀତି ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ବିମର୍ଶ) Moderator: Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri, Scientist H and Head of CSIR – TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) Panellist: Dr. Bijay Kumar Sahu, Outreach Program Head, NRDC Shri Bhagabata Mohanta, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Mayurbhanj) Shri Bibhuti Mund, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Bargarh) Shri Harekrushna Mahanta, Local Healthcare Provider (Kendujhar)
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Networking and Lunch
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Traditional & Geographical Indication (GI) Foods for Health: (ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଏବଂ ଭୌଗୋଳିକ ସୂଚକ (GI) ଖାଦ୍ୟ) Dr. Anita Sabat, Researcher & Cultural Advocate; Odisha GI & Community Representative
2:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Session - V Panel: Discussion on Key Action Points for Research, Innovation, Propagation, and Commercialization (ଗବେଷଣା, ନବସୃଜନ, ପ୍ରଚାର ଏବଂ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟକରଣ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରମୁଖ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟବିନ୍ଦୁ ଉପରେ ଆଲୋଚନା) Moderator: Dr. Sudhanshu Meher, CARI Bhubaneswar. Panellist: Shri Hari Pangti, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer (Koraput) Dr. Priya Ranjan Debata, Professor, MSCB University, Baripada Dr. Madhusmita Das, Senior Asst. Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar Dr. Swetaleena Tripathy, Assistant Professor, GM University, Sambalpur
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Felicitation and Closing Ceremony (ସମ୍ବର୍ଦ୍ଧନା ଏବଂ ସମାପନା ଉତ୍ସବ) Anchor: Dr. Biswajit Mohapatra, VK-AICYAM Karyakarta Address by Conference Chair (Air Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik) Address by VK-AICYAM Secretary (Shri Laxminarayan Panigrahy) Address by ORC Leadership (Prof. Kishor Basa)

	Address by CARI Leadership (Dr. Sudhanshu Meher) Address by Ma. Nivedita Bhide, All India Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari Felicitation of All Traditional Healers (Certificate & Memento) Vote of Thanks by the Conference Program Lead (Shri Biranchi Narayan Panigrahi, VK-AICYAM Karyakarta)
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Departure Formalities (ପ୍ରସ୍ଥାନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା)

Knowledge Partners:

CCRAS New Delhi, COATS Koraput, GM University Sambalpur, IHS Bhubaneswar, IIT Bhubaneswar, KISS University Bhubaneswar, MSCB University Baripada, NMPB New Delhi, NRDC New Delhi, OUAT Bhubaneswar, SMPB Bhubaneswar, SOA University Bhubaneswar, and TKDL New Delhi.

Special Note: VK-AICYAM team conducted 7 Regional Workshops (one-day event) at different locations to interact with the traditional healers/farmers in understanding their prime treatment areas and experiences. Participating traditional healers were given opportunity to speak for 4-5 minutes and were guided to submit a Base Information Sheet (BIS) at the end of the workshop. They were given certificate for participating in the conference. The following table provides a summary of participation statistics at each of the location.

Date	Venue	Workshop Partner	BIS Received
July 13, 2026	Deobandha, Kendujhar	VK Odisha Seva Prakalpa	17
Aug 22, 2026	DD University, Kendujhar	DD University	57
Aug 01, 2026	MSCB University, Baripada	MSCB University, PM USHA	55
Aug 01, 2026	COATS, Koraput	COATS	56
Aug 02, 2026	Pragati Institute, Bhawani Patna	Pragati Group, Kalahandi	58
Aug 09, 2026	SSNAC&RI, Paikamal, Bargarh	SSNAC&RI	49
Aug 18	Paderu, Andhra Pradesh	Bharateeya Vidya Kendram	29
Total Number of Traditional Healer participated and received certificates			321

We deeply appreciate the support of the workshop partners in enabling, facilitating, and providing local logistics for the smooth conduct of the regional workshops.

There are **69** (sixty-nine) traditional healers joined the National Conference. These participants are short-listed from the Regional Workshop participants' list and from the districts not covered under Regional Workshops.

Besides traditional healers, there were another **63** (sixty-three) participants registered and attended the conference with professional background as policy makers, medicinal practitioners, researchers, social workers and Vivekananda Kendra karyakartas.

Conference Location: VK-AICYAM (Vivekananda Kendra – Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management), Jagamara – Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751030

VK-AICYAM Website: www.vkaicyam.org

VK-AICYAM Mail-ID: vkaicyam@vkendra.org

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITIONAL HEALING – Event Proceedings

Conference Theme: Cultivation, Harvesting, and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants for Farmers and Traditional Healers.

Dates: 11–12 September 2026.

Venue: VK-AICYAM, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

Traditional healing is among the oldest holistic systems of healthcare. In India, the heritage of healing is associated with ancient knowledge traditions and eminent contributors such as **Charaka and Sushruta**. While some knowledge was documented under royal patronage, a large body of indigenous and community-based knowledge remained outside formal documentation.

Among Janajati/Adivasi and other indigenous communities, knowledge of **medicinal plants, their identification, collection, preparation and therapeutic application** have traditionally been transmitted orally from one generation to another. Elders and experienced healers function as living repositories of community wisdom. Storytelling, repetition, songs, demonstrations, participatory learning and direct observation have helped preserve this knowledge.

However, the rapid expansion of modern healthcare, inadequate documentation, declining community patronage and limited interest among younger generations have created a serious risk of **loss or extinction of valuable traditional knowledge**.

The conference therefore sought to create a bridge between **traditional knowledge, biodiversity conservation, scientific research, sustainable agriculture, healthcare and community livelihood**.

VK-AICYAM had already undertaken **seven regional workshops in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh during 2026** to interact with traditional healers and farmers and understand their treatment areas, experiences and challenges. The national conference was conceived as a further step towards consolidating these experiences and building a wider platform for knowledge exchange.

2. CORE OBJECTIVES:

1. Bring together **traditional healers, farmers, researchers, academicians, healthcare practitioners and other stakeholders**.
2. Promote conservation, cultivation, sustainable harvesting and utilisation of medicinal plants.
3. **Document and preserve traditional knowledge and local health traditions.**
4. Provide traditional healers an opportunity to share their field-based knowledge, experiences and challenges.
5. Build collaboration among traditional knowledge holders, universities, research institutions, farmers and healthcare organisations.
6. Encourage **research, scientific documentation, validation and responsible innovation**.
7. Explore value addition, propagation, supply chains, markets and responsible commercialisation.
8. Discuss policy and institutional support for medicinal plants and traditional healing.
9. Increase public awareness through demonstrations and direct interaction with healers.
10. Develop practical action points for preservation, sustainable utilisation and responsible promotion of traditional knowledge.

3. INAUGURAL SESSION:

Inaugural proceedings established a broad philosophical and practical framework for the conference.

Invocation of **Omkara and Shanti Mantra**, followed by ceremonial lamp lighting, symbolised knowledge, wisdom and auspicious beginnings. Reference to **Swami Vivekananda's message of universal brotherhood and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** provided a larger social and civilisational context. An important message emerging from the inaugural discussion was that **tradition and modernity need not be viewed as opposites; they can complement each other**.

Traditional knowledge as a living heritage:

Speakers emphasised that medicinal plants constitute a **living heritage of Bharat**, preserved through generations by communities and practitioners.

Knowledge should not merely remain within a small group of specialists. It needs to reach **farmers, women, youth and society at large**.

At the same time, preservation should not mean freezing tradition in the past. Traditional knowledge needs to be:

Observed → Documented → Understood → Researched → Validated → Preserved → Responsibly Transmitted → Appropriately Applied.

Practical relevance:

Importance of traditional healing was also illustrated through the example of survival situations in remote or forest areas. Knowledge of locally available plants and traditional remedies may have practical relevance in emergencies such as snake bites, scorpion stings and other situations where immediate modern medical assistance may not be available.

Key Takeaway:

Traditional knowledge must be respected and preserved. However, it has to be systematically documented and responsibly connected with contemporary knowledge.

4. MEDICINAL PLANTS – IDENTITY, BIODIVERSITY AND SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION:

A subject keynote focused on the medicinal-plant diversity of Eastern India, particularly Odisha. One of the most important learning points was the necessity of **correct identification of medicinal plants**.

Local names can vary from place to place, and different plants may appear similar. Therefore, relying only on appearance or local terminology may create confusion.

The keynote stressed the importance of connecting:

Local Name + Traditional Knowledge + Botanical Identity + Proper Documentation.

Participants were encouraged to observe and identify trees and leaves from their own surroundings. This shall make scientific identification a practical and participatory learning experience.

Key Takeaway:

Odisha possesses rich biodiversity of medicinal plants and community knowledge about their uses. Both aspects must be studied together and research should **support traditional knowledge**.

5. CULTIVATION, HARVESTING, VALUE ADDITION AND MARKET LINKAGES:

First panel discussion brought academic experts and traditional healers together to examine the complete medicinal-plant chain:

Cultivation → Collection → Sustainable Harvesting → Processing → Value Addition → Quality Maintenance → Supply Chain → Market → Livelihood.

Cultivation:

Although government subsidies and promotional schemes exist, medicinal-plant cultivation remains limited among farmers. One important reason is inadequate technical guidance and uncertainty about markets. Experience shared during the conference showed that cultivation projects may fail when there is insufficient maintenance, follow-up or market linkage.

Sustainable harvesting:

Traditional healers emphasised that harvesting must not destroy the plant. Different plant parts—flowers, bark, branches, fruits, leaves and roots—must be collected carefully and responsibly.

Principle should be **“Use the plant without unnecessarily destroying the plant.”** This is essential both for conservation and for future availability.

Seeds and propagation:

The experience of traditional healers showed the importance of collecting, drying and preserving seeds and maintaining seed resources for future cultivation. This can support both **conservation and propagation**.

Value addition:

Medicinal plants should not merely be sold as raw materials. Appropriate processing, preservation and value addition can increase their usefulness and economic value.

Market linkage:

One of the strongest concerns emerging from the discussion was the need to connect:

Farmers ↔ Traditional Healers ↔ Research Institutions ↔ Processors ↔ Markets ↔ Government/Support Agencies.

Without reliable markets, farmers may be reluctant to invest in medicinal-plant cultivation.

Documentation:

Documentation emerged as one of the **most important cross-cutting themes of the conference**.

Traditional healers possess valuable experiential knowledge relating to plant identification, collection, harvesting, preparation, combinations of ingredients, methods of application, treatment experiences, and community practices. Much of this knowledge remains undocumented. One of the panellists mentioned the institutional effort in creating a database of approximately **5,000 traditional healers**, of whom around **877 were identified as actively practising**.

Need for Scientific validation:

Conference highlighted that systematic scientific validation can strengthen genuine traditional practices, establish credibility, distinguish genuine practitioners from pseudo-healers, support responsible use, encourage research and innovation, and help traditional knowledge gain wider recognition.

Key Takeaways:

Message was not to discard traditional experience because it is not yet scientifically validated, but to create mechanisms through which **valuable experiential knowledge can be systematically studied and appropriately validated**.

6. TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO MUSCULO-SKELETAL DISORDERS:

The second panel discussion explored traditional approaches to bone setting, joint disorders, osteoarthritis, Vāta-related conditions, and musculoskeletal complaints.

Traditional healers from **Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Kendujhar and Nabarangpur** shared field experiences.

Traditional understanding of Vāta:

Healers described Vāta-related conditions through their own traditional understanding and discussed factors such as diet, physical activity and other causes associated with joint and bodily discomfort.

Traditional approaches mentioned included herbal preparations, tree barks and leaves, medicated oils, massage, steam therapy, warm fomentation ('seka'), external applications, and dietary practices.

Plants and ingredients mentioned during the discussion included **Nirgundi, Arakha, Basang, Kochila, Haldi, Gaja Pippali, Bhalia and Dahi Pani**, among others.

Traditional bone-setting:

Traditional fracture management practices were also described, including the preparation of herbal pastes and external application, followed by support and immobilisation using bamboo sticks. Specific plant materials, including Dahimal and Datura leaves, were mentioned as part of the healer's traditional practice.

These descriptions represent **field-based traditional knowledge as shared by the healers during the conference** and underline the need for proper documentation, research and responsible practice.

Major learning:

The session strongly reinforced that traditional musculoskeletal practices deserve:

Respect + Documentation + Research + Scientific Validation + Safe and Responsible Practice.

Key Takeaways:

Healers were encouraged to document and validate their practices so that genuine knowledge can be preserved and responsibly transmitted.

7. YOGA AND HOLISTIC HEALTH:

Session on “**Yoga for Healthy Living**” broadened the conference perspective from treatment to prevention and holistic well-being.

Yoga was explained through its root meaning “**Yuj**” – **to join or unite**, highlighting harmony among **body, mind and prana**.

Session emphasised on preventive health, healthy lifestyle, mental balance, psychosomatic relationships, the traditional concepts of **Adhi-Vyadhi**, and the **Pancha Kosha** understanding of human existence.

Simple practical exercises were also demonstrated.

Key Takeaways:

Health is not merely absence of disease. Physical, mental, vital and deeper dimensions of human well-being need attention. Thus, yoga and traditional healing were presented as complementary components of a broader preventive and holistic approach to health.

8. MEDICINAL PLANT DEMONSTRATION AND CONSULTATION:

An important practical component of the conference was the **Medicinal Plants and Traditional Healing Demonstration and Consultation Program**, conducted as an open-to-public activity. It enabled the participants and public to directly interact with traditional healers and learn about their practices.

The consultation was facilitated across six treatment areas:

1. Bone setting, joint diseases, arthritis and Vāta-related conditions
2. Gastric, stomach and digestive ailments, piles, fissure, fistula and related diseases
3. Kidney ailments, including kidney stones
4. Diabetes and other lifestyle-related diseases
5. Asthma and respiratory ailments
6. Women-related diseases

Two traditional healers representing different regions and communities of Odisha were associated with each treatment area to facilitate and guide the public interaction.

This created an important bridge:

Conference → Traditional Healer → Community → Public Awareness.

Bhubaneswar City DFO office also setup one ‘staircase booth’ and demonstrated a variety of medicinal plants for public awareness and knowledge assimilation.

Key Takeaways:

Programme demonstrated that traditional knowledge can be brought out of closed community settings and presented to society in an accessible manner, while retaining the need for responsible use, documentation and research.

9. UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD AND SOCIAL DIMENSION:

Universal Brotherhood Day programme associated the conference with the broader ideals of **social harmony, universal brotherhood and service**. This strengthened the philosophical foundation of the conference. Traditional healing was therefore viewed not merely as a collection of remedies but as part of a larger relationship among:

Humanity – Nature – Community – Knowledge – Service.

10. CONTEXT SETTING FOR SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE:

Second day of the National Conference sought to move beyond the sharing of traditional healing experiences towards a deeper examination of how local health traditions can be understood, documented, researched, conserved, validated, promoted and responsibly integrated with contemporary knowledge systems.

The day's deliberations brought together traditional healers, farmers, researchers, academicians, healthcare professionals and representatives of institutions dealing with medicinal plants, research, intellectual property and policy. The central concern was that India's traditional health knowledge represents a vast living heritage, but much of it remains embedded in families and communities and is transmitted orally. Principal objectives were therefore to:

- Understand local health traditions as valuable resources for Ayurvedic and allied research;
- Conserve medicinal plants and the knowledge associated with them;
- Promote sustainable cultivation and harvesting;
- Address documentation, authentication, research and validation;
- Develop institutional and policy support;
- Encourage innovation, propagation and value addition;
- Explore responsible commercialisation; and
- Strengthen collaboration among healers, communities, researchers, government and healthcare institutions.

The day began with three Omkars and the Shanti Mantra, establishing an atmosphere of peace, concentration and spiritual harmony.

11. LOCAL HEALTH TRADITIONS AS A FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH:

The keynote on 'Understanding Local Health Traditions for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences' by Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) established one of the most important propositions of the conference – **Local health traditions are valuable knowledge resources for serious research in Ayurvedic sciences.**

Communities have preserved knowledge about medicinal plants, preventive health, disease management and traditional practices through generations. Such knowledge should therefore not be dismissed as merely customary practice. It needs to be understood, documented and scientifically studied, while respecting the communities and knowledge holders who have preserved it.

A particularly significant feature of the session was its interaction with traditional healers. Around 15 participants reported that their families had been practising traditional medicine for more than 50

years, while some traditions had continued for seven to ten generations. This demonstrated the extraordinary depth of intergenerational transmission.

Examples involving plants such as Nirgundi and Begunia, as well as traditional applications of other plants, illustrated the detailed experiential knowledge held by practitioners.

The keynote raised a fundamental question for the healers – Are you and your family prepared to carry this knowledge forward to the next generation? This placed intergenerational transmission at the centre of preservation.

Key Takeaways:

Traditional experience → Documentation → Scientific understanding → Validation → Transmission to future generations.

12. CONSERVATION OF KNOWLEDGE, PLANTS AND THE ECOLOGICAL BASE:

Keynote: Conservation and Sustainable Practices of Local Health Traditions

Dr. Mahesh Dadhich, CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), addressed the relationship between traditional knowledge and the natural resources upon which it depends. His concern was that conservation of traditional healthcare cannot be separated from conservation of medicinal plants, forests, biodiversity and ecological systems. He emphasised on conservation of medicinal plants, sustainable cultivation, responsible harvesting, long-term utilisation, livelihood opportunities for farmers and communities, and preservation of traditional knowledge.

He also emphasised the need for scientific validation and systematic documentation, particularly to protect valuable knowledge from being lost or inappropriately appropriated.

Traditional knowledge hidden in everyday traditions:

One important dimension of the address was the argument that traditional knowledge is not confined to medicinal formulations. It may be embedded in food habits, festivals, seasonal practices, trees, rituals and community customs. Examples discussed included:

- Peepal and its traditional significance
- Sattu as a seasonally appropriate food
- Vat Savitri and the traditional significance and medicinal associations of the Banyan tree
- Traditional use of 'dhoop' stick/incense
- Seasonal food practices
- Dietary habits associated with different months

Twelve-month cycle was discussed as a traditional framework in which food, season, health and lifestyle are interconnected. Deeper message was that society should learn from the customs and discover the knowledge embedded within it. Thus, traditional practices can represent an integrated knowledge of:

Food + Health + Nature + Season + Culture + Community Well-being.

13. DIGESTIVE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY-BASED KNOWLEDGE:

The third panel discussion was on Digestive System Ailments, moderated by Dr. Susmita Otta, brought together a medical expert and traditional healers from Mayurbhanj, Kendujhar and Nabarangpur.

The session demonstrated the value of bringing together Contemporary health understanding, traditional field experience, and community knowledge.

Traditional healers shared their experiences in dealing with digestive and related health problems. The discussion also expanded into the area of de-addiction, including traditional approaches to problems associated with substances such as *nisha*, ganja, and alcohol.

Traditional formulations such as Asava and Arishta were discussed in relation to controlled fermentation and therapeutic use. Ingredients mentioned included Kochila (*Strychnos nux-vomica*), Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*), Panasa leaves and curd, along with references to Datura.

An important caution emerged from this discussion – Where plants contain biologically active or potentially toxic substances, the correct identification, appropriate processing, dosage, and expert supervision become essential.

A claim concerning honey and bay leaves for diabetes was also mentioned, but the proceedings appropriately treated it as traditional knowledge rather than clinically established treatment.

Key Takeaways:

Traditional claims should be documented faithfully and then subjected to appropriate scientific study rather than being automatically accepted or rejected.

14. POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE:

The fourth panel discussion on Policy-Level Understanding and Intervention was moderated by Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri, Scientist H and Head, CSIR–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL). She addressed how traditional healing can be supported through appropriate institutional and policy mechanisms. Discussions highlighted the need for systematic documentation, supporting policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, scientific research, capacity building, conservation, authentication and validation, community participation, and collaboration among healers, farmers, researchers, government and healthcare providers.

Dr. Bijay Sahu (Outreach Program Head, NRDC) shared his experience while growing up in Kalahandi and highlighted the important issue related to standardisation of documentation. Traditional formulations that currently remains within family may be transmitted with important details such as ingredients, quantities, preparation method, processing time, dosage, preservation, application, and therapeutic indication.

Therefore, traditional healers need appropriate documentation formats, technical guidance and institutional support.

Parampara and documentation:

Shri Harekrishna Mahanta emphasised Parampara, explaining how knowledge can move through:

Family → Guru–Shishya tradition → Community → Successive generations.

He shared an example of documentation developed from a case, recording the patient, health problem, medicine and preparation method. He also referred to the traditional use of Turania Mula for respiratory ailments, including asthma, as an example of knowledge requiring proper documentation and scientific study.

Discussion also highlighted the value of introducing children to medicinal plants, including efforts to promote medicinal-plant cultivation through schools.

Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri emphasised a three-way balance:

Human Health ↔ Medicinal Plants ↔ Natural Environment.

Excessive harvesting must be avoided. Plant authentication and scientific validation are important for ensuring:

Identity + Safety + Efficacy + Responsible Use.

15. TRADITIONAL AND GI FOODS: HEALTH, CULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD:

Session on Traditional and Geographical Indication (GI) Foods for Health, delivered by Dr. Anita Sabat, expanded the conference theme from medicinal plants to traditional food heritage.

Traditional foods were presented as part of an interconnected system involving:

Food + Health + Agriculture + Biodiversity + Culture + Community Livelihood.

GI recognition can help protect products associated with a particular geographical region and distinctive qualities or reputation. It can also support preservation of traditional knowledge and create livelihood opportunities.

Examples discussed included:

- Khandua
- Fuluri oil and its traditional association with the Anasara period
- Odisha Rasa Gola
- Kandhamal Haldi
- Koraput Coffee
- Kendrapara Rasabali
- Kewda/Keora-related products

Session highlighted the importance of protecting local products against misappropriation while creating opportunities for recognition, promotion, livelihood generation and responsible commercialisation.

Key Takeaways:

Broader message was aligned with “Vocal for Local”—not simply as a commercial slogan, but as an invitation to recognise, protect and strengthen India's community-based knowledge and products that will spread from a local footprint to global acceptance.

16. FROM TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND VALUE CREATION:

The fifth and final panel focused on Research, Innovation, Propagation and Commercialisation.

This session attempted to convert the broad deliberations of the conference into a forward-looking action framework. The panel emphasized on systematic documentation, research partnerships,

scientific validation, technological innovation, wider propagation of useful knowledge, capacity building, value addition, responsible commercialisation, and protection of community interests.

Important principle was that innovation should strengthen traditional knowledge without stripping it of its cultural and community context.

Scientific identification of active constituents:

Dr. Priya Ranjan Debata highlighted an important aspect for study and research – It is not enough to know that a plant is traditionally considered medicinal. Scientific investigation must determine which active constituents are present, their concentration, appropriate quantity, scientifically validated dosage, and suitable application.

Turmeric/haldi and curcumin (*curcuma longa*) were used as an example of how a traditionally recognised plant can be investigated through modern scientific methods. The speaker strongly advocated collaboration among Vaidyas, Scientists, Botanists, and Taxonomists.

Traditional healers possess experiential knowledge; scientists can investigate active compounds; botanists and taxonomists can authenticate the species. Together, these competencies can produce stronger documentation and validation.

Traditional knowledge must come out of isolation:

Dr. Swetalana Tripathy encouraged Vaidyas and knowledge holders not to keep their knowledge confined within themselves. They should actively engage with researchers so that traditional practices can be:

Shared → Documented → Studied → Validated → Recognised → Innovated.

She also emphasised conservation of medicinal plants and trees and suggested that scientifically validated traditional knowledge could, where appropriate, provide opportunities for innovation and intellectual property. The important principle was 'Take traditional knowledge from the knowledge base to the field through research, validation and responsible application'.

Traditional Healers as Conservators:

An important insight came from Dr. Madhusmita Das, who reflected on her earlier assumption that villagers might destroy trees while using medicinal plants. Her research led her to a different understanding – many rural communities and traditional healers actually contribute to cultivation, regeneration and conservation of medicinal plants and forest resources.

She emphasized that Traditional healers must champion:

Users of medicinal plants + Custodians of medicinal plants + Conservators of biodiversity.

However, conservation is complex in practice. It therefore requires systematic research, documentation and validation of community practices.

A Model of Study, Research, Documentation and Community Knowledge Promotion:

Shri Hari Pangti, Subject Expert and Traditional Healer from Koraput, presented an important field-based experience citing the activities of 'Sri Gupteswar Herbal Medicine and Traditional Technology Research Centre'.

He cited that his team has collected and documented knowledge relating to more than 1,100 medicinal herbs and trees, studying their traditional applications and recording practices through books and other materials. The study extends beyond treatment and covers traditional agriculture, medicinal plant conservation, women's health, children's health, community knowledge; and development of traditional formulations.

He cited a number of plants (such as Rajma, Patalgarud, Parsukedar, Satavari, Kanta Saru, Kalija Kanda, Savimada and Mararupini), the medicinal usage, and the associated traditional practices.

The example demonstrated the potential of combining community-held knowledge with systematic documentation and research. His work demonstrates an attempt to connect:

Paramparik Gyan + Healthcare + Research + Documentation + Conservation + Agriculture + Community Well-being.

17. CLOSING CEREMONY AND RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL HEALERS:

Closing ceremony brought together conference leaders, experts, researchers and organisers.

Concluding discussions once again emphasised on documentation, scientific research, validation, responsible use, sustainable utilisation, preservation of medicinal-plant resources.

Every participating traditional healer was felicitated with each healer receiving a certificate and memento. This symbolically recognised traditional healers as custodians of community-based knowledge and local healthcare traditions, rather than merely as informal practitioners.

Conference concluded with the Shanti Mantra, reinforcing the underlying aspiration of peace, harmony and collective well-being.

18. CORE ESSENCE OF THE CONFERENCE:

Most profound message emerging from the proceedings is that traditional healing should neither be romanticised without validation nor dismissed as obsolete.

It should be approached with respect, curiosity, scientific discipline and responsibility.

- Traditional healing is not merely a collection of old remedies. It is a living knowledge system rooted in the relationship between people, plants, nature, community and experience.
- Medicinal plant is simultaneously a natural resource, a source of health, a repository of community knowledge and a potential livelihood resource.
- Traditional healer is not merely a person who administers a remedy. He or she is also a custodian of experiential knowledge that may have been preserved through generations.
- Therefore, the task before society is not simply to “preserve old practices”. It is to create a responsible continuum:
- RESPECT → DOCUMENT → CONSERVE → RESEARCH → VALIDATE → DEVELOP → TRANSMIT → RESPONSIBLY UTILISE.

Traditional healers have inherited a body of experiential knowledge developed through generations of observation, experimentation and community practice. At the same time, modern scientific methods provide tools for accurate identification, documentation, authentication, safety assessment, validation and innovation.

Future therefore lies not in choosing between “traditional” and “modern”, but in building a meaningful bridge between them.

Complete knowledge cycle may be represented as:

PARAMPARA → DOCUMENTATION → AUTHENTICATION → RESEARCH → VALIDATION →
CONSERVATION → INNOVATION → VALUE ADDITION → RESPONSIBLE APPLICATION →
INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION.

At the heart of this cycle are people and nature. The medicinal plant cannot be separated from its ecosystem. The healer cannot be separated from the community. The knowledge cannot be separated from its cultural context. Research cannot be separated from ethics. Commercialisation cannot be separated from sustainability and community benefit.

Thus, the conference ultimately proposed a holistic ecosystem in which:

- Traditional Healers are respected as Knowledge Custodians
- Farmers become partners in Cultivation and Conservation
- Scientists provide Authentication and Validation
- Institutions provide Research, Capacity and Policy Support
- Innovation creates Value
- Markets create Livelihood
- Communities remain the rightful participants in the preservation and responsible development of their knowledge.

Conference's concluding reflection therefore carries a powerful message:

Traditional healing knowledge is not merely a legacy of the past, it is a living knowledge system with potential relevance to contemporary health, biodiversity conservation, sustainability and community well-being. Conference demonstrated that the future of traditional healing will depend upon successfully connecting **traditional wisdom with scientific inquiry, biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihoods, and community knowledge with public health and social responsibility.**

In this sense, the conference was not merely a meeting of traditional healers. It was a step towards building an ecosystem in which **knowledge is preserved, nature is protected, healers are recognised, farmers get benefit, research is encouraged, and communities remain connected with their own living heritage.**

Responsibility now is to ensure that this knowledge does not remain locked in memory, disappear with its custodians, or become disconnected from nature. It must be documented without exploitation, researched without disrespect, validated without destroying its context, promoted without commercial excess, and transmitted so that future generations can inherit both the knowledge and the natural resources that sustain it.

The purpose is not merely to preserve traditional healing. It is to build a sustainable bridge between PARAMPARA, PRAKRITI and SCIENCE—so that traditional knowledge can continue to serve PEOPLE, PROTECT NATURE and BENEFIT FUTURE GENERATIONS.

19: CONSOLIDATED KEY LEARNING FROM THE CONFERENCE:

- Medicinal plants are a major component of India's traditional knowledge heritage.
- Local health traditions are valuable knowledge resources for Ayurvedic and scientific research.
- Odisha possesses diversity of medicinal plants and community-based healing knowledge.
- Traditional knowledge is living knowledge, often preserved through families, guru–shishya relationships and communities over several generations.
- Traditional healers possess significant experiential knowledge concerning plant identification, collection, preparation and application. It deserves recognition and systematic documentation.
- Conservation of medicinal plants and traditional healing knowledge are inseparable.
- Sustainable cultivation and harvesting are key to long-term availability of medicinal plants.
- Farmers can become important custodians and cultivators of medicinal plants when supported with technical knowledge and assured markets.
- Oral knowledge must be converted into systematic documentation without disconnecting it from its community context.
- Scientific identification, research and validation can strengthen the credibility and responsible use of traditional practices.
- Scientific validation requires collaboration between traditional healers, researchers, botanists, taxonomists and healthcare institutions.
- Value addition and organised supply chains can create livelihood opportunities.
- Traditional foods, festivals, seasonal practices and GI products may contain valuable knowledge connecting health, culture, biodiversity and livelihood.
- Public demonstrations can increase awareness and appreciation of local health traditions.
- Research, innovation, value addition and responsible commercialisation can create wider benefits—but must protect quality, ethics, sustainability and community interests.
- Policy and institutional mechanisms are necessary to convert traditional knowledge into a recognised, documented, researched, conserved and responsibly utilised knowledge system.
- Traditional knowledge, modern science and contemporary healthcare should be approached through **dialogue and complementarity rather than confrontation**.
- The younger generation must be actively involved in learning, caring and carrying forward traditional knowledge.

20. MAJOR CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED:

- A. Loss of traditional knowledge:** Oral transmission alone is vulnerable to loss when younger generations become disconnected from traditional practices.
- B. Inadequate documentation:** Large bodies of community knowledge remain undocumented or inadequately organised.
- C. Plant identification difficulties:** Differences between local and botanical names can create confusion and require scientific identification.
- D. Limited cultivation:** Despite available support, relatively few farmers are actively cultivating medicinal plants.
- E. Weak market linkages:** Uncertain markets discourage farmers from investing in medicinal-plant cultivation.

- F. **Lack of scientific validation:** Traditional practices require systematic research and validation to strengthen credibility and responsible application.
- G. **Sustainability concerns:** Improper collection of bark, branches, roots and other plant parts can damage or destroy valuable medicinal resources.
- H. **Recognition of genuine healers:** There is a need for mechanisms that help recognise genuine, experienced traditional healers and distinguish them from pseudo-healers.
- I. **Weak institutional linkages:** Greater cooperation is needed among healers, farmers, researchers, universities, healthcare institutions, industry and government agencies.

21. EMERGING ACTION POINTS:

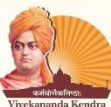
- **IDENTIFICATION:** Identify medicinal plants correctly through local knowledge and scientific/botanical methods.
- **DOCUMENTATION:**
 - Create a system of records covering
 - Healers and knowledge holders
 - Medicinal plants
 - Local and botanical names
 - Plant parts used specific to a treatment with detail on other ingredients, quantities, preparation processes, processing time, dosage, preservation, application options, field experiences (results of treatment), and safety considerations
- **AUTHENTICATION:** Ensure correct identification of plants through collaboration with botanists, taxonomists and scientific institutions.
- **SCIENTIFIC VALIDATION:** Study traditional practices scientifically to understand active constituents, therapeutic potential, dosage, safety, efficacy, and appropriate applications.
- **CONSERVATION:** Protect both the medicinal plant and the knowledge associated with it.
- **SUSTAINABLE CULTIVATION AND HARVESTING:** Promote cultivation and responsible harvesting so that use does not lead to depletion.
- **INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION:** Encourage families, communities, schools and institutions to ensure that traditional knowledge reaches younger generations.
- **RESEARCH COLLABORATION:** Create active partnerships among Traditional Healers ↔ Farmers ↔ Researchers ↔ Universities ↔ Government ↔ Healthcare Institutions.
- **INNOVATION AND VALUE ADDITION:** Use appropriate science and technology to develop better products, applications, packaging, and livelihood opportunities without losing traditional context or community interests.
- **INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL PROTECTION:** Document and protect traditional knowledge and locally distinctive products against misappropriation, while exploring appropriate intellectual-property mechanisms.
- **RESPONSIBLE COMMERCIALISATION:** Commercial opportunities should be pursued with attention to 'Quality + Sustainability + Ethics + Community Benefit + Cultural Integrity'.
- **BUILD MARKETS:** Develop transparent and reliable supply chains and market linkages.
- **CONNECT STAKEHOLDERS:** Build sustained networks among traditional healers, farmers, researchers, universities, government, healthcare institutions and industry.

Conference Certificate and Banner

The conference participants received the certificate for participation and a memento from the Organiser as a token of remembrance of this national conference.

	 ODISHA RESEARCH CENTRE	
National Conference on Cultivation, Harvesting and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants for Farmers and Traditional Healers		
ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦର ଚାଷ ,ଅମଳ ଏବଂ ନିରନ୍ତର ବ୍ୟବହାର ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଚାଷୀ ଏବଂ ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଜାତୀୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ		
<i>Organised by</i>		
Vivekananda Kendra AICYAM, Odisha Research Centre and Central Ayurvedic Research Institute Bhubaneswar		
<i>Certificate of Participation</i>		
This is to certify that Sri/Smt.....of has participated in the conference.		
Director VK-AICYAM	Director Odisha Research Centre	Director CARI Bhubaneswar

(Certificate for attending the Conference: Template)

	 ODISHA RESEARCH CENTRE	National Conference on Cultivation, Harvesting and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants for Farmers and Traditional Healers		
11th & 12th September, 2026				
Venue: VK-AICYAM Auditorium, Bhubaneswar				
<i>Organising Partners</i>				
ORC, Bhubaneswar and CARI, Bhubaneswar				
Medicinal Plant Exhibition: 4:15 PM - 6:15 PM, Sept 11 th , VK-AICYAM Basement Area				
Universal Brotherhood Day Celebration: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Sept 11 th , VK-AICYAM Auditorium				
VK-AICYAM, Gandamunda, Khandagiri - Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar - 751030, www.vkaicyam.org				

(Conference: Main Banner)

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Participants' List)

District & State: Balangiri, Odisha		District & State: Koraput, Odisha		District & State: Nabarangpur, Odisha	
Participant	Contact	Participant	Contact	Participant	Contact
Baba Jaysalal	7894956827	Bali Naik	8260389576	Amarsingh Gond	7489328243
Brahma Naik	8457042372	Debdas Majhi	9178821468	Banmali Jani	9348218259
Satyanarayan Bariha	5455013309	Hari Pangi	9692404569	Budhachand Bhatra	9178198753
District & State: Bargarh, Odisha		Malti Jani	7855930744	Gopinath Bhatra	8018936703
Participant	Contact	Manoj Kumar Pujari	7008975277	Kartik Bhatra	6371033486
Bibhuti Bhusan Mund	9668422365	Puraspati Dhurua	8455032868	District & State: Nuapada, Odisha	
Gopinath Suna	6372823167	Raghuram Pujhari	9938243721	Participant	Contact
Nilakantha Sa	9178235849	Ramabhadra Durua	8457970240	Lalit Majhi	8018117885
Samaru Amri	8249803681	Sukhadev Jani	7978133780	Omkar Majhi	9077742011
District & State: Kalahandi, Odisha		Tularam Challan	8658981047	District & State: Rayagada, Odisha	
Participant	Contact	District & State: Malkangiri, Odisha		Participant	Contact
Saroj Kumar Majhi	8456902947	Participant	Contact	Niranjana Kumuruka	6371072600
District & State: Kandhamal, Odisha		Dunga Khabasi	9561072899	Chaturbhuj Dhangad Majhi	7855956108
Participant	Contact	Guru Bhumia	7854031838	Dhimaraj Pidika	8895077386
Gutu Majhi	8895477693	Raju Khillo	8895980291	District & State: Sundargarh, Odisha	
District & State: Kendujhar, Odisha		Ramchandra Hantal	6372482604	Participant	Contact
Participant	Contact	Sahadev Pangi	9078874691	Jaydish Pasayat	9338021649
Baikuntha Mahanta	9937959319	District & State: Mayurbhanj, Odisha		District & State: ASR, Andhra Pradesh	
Bankanidhi Singh	9438628178	Participant	Contact	Participant	Contact
Budharam Mahanta	8658168571	Bhagaban Soren	9777155454	B. Rangarao	7569621376
Chhota Nayak	8018879661	Bhagabata Mohanta	8658117501	Bindu Atiram	9491910428
Daitari Mahanta	9938557822	Dulal Chandra Mohanta	7381580221	V. Ramanna	9494130562
Ghanashyam Maharana	6372258304	Kalicharan Si	9937442550	Vanagu Laxman Dora	8985502146
Harekrushna Mahanta	9337752803	Mangal Chandra Marandi	9178041705	V. Ramarao	9492967034
Jogeswar Mahanta	9337392506	Motilal Mohanta	9668711789	Participants' Statistics 02 States, 13 Districts 69 Traditional Healers 75% from Janajatis Sort Listed for Participation from Regional Workshops and Last Conference All participants submitted Basic Information Sheet (BIS)	
Kalicharan Mohant	9439117101	Purushottam Mohant	8280465005		
Mitrabhanu Mahanta	8480710584	Rabiram Mohanta	7608874145		
Murlidhar Mahanta	8658149743	Ramachandra Nayak	9040205655		
Parabasia Naik	6370042736	Rathi Naik	7653058161		
Priyadarshan Mahanta	9090888097	Ratikanta Dhal	9668537379		
Rakesh Roshan Mohant	6371286863	Tarani Behera	9437726670		
Rangadhar Mahanta	9938384517				
Satyananda Mahanta	9078093277				
Surendranath Barik	8637278442				

There are **69** (sixty-nine) traditional healers joined the National Conference. These participants are short-listed from the Regional Workshop participants' list and from the districts not covered under Regional Workshops.

Besides traditional healers, there were another **63** (sixty-three) participants registered and attended the conference with professional background as policy makers, medicinal practitioners, researchers, social workers and Vivekananda Kendra karyakartas.

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Photo Gallery – A)



Inaugural Session – Lighting of Lamp



Address by Laxminarayan Panigrahy, Secretary, AICYAM



Address by Dr. P. C. Mohapatra, Director, COATS



Felicitation of Dr. Prabhat Kumar Das (Keynote Speaker), Research Associate, SOA University



Session – I Panel: Medicinal Plants of Odisha – Harvesting and Practices



Session – I Moderator: Dr. Kshirod Kumar Rath, CARl, Bhubaneswar



Felicitation to Panelist Dr. Subash Chandra Swain, Professor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar



Felicitation to Panelist Dr. Subrat Kumar Senapati Assistant Prof. SOA, University

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Photo Gallery – B)

	
Felicitation To Moderator Dr. Kshirod Kumar Rath, CARI, Bhubaneswar	Yoga for Healthy Living: Shri Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, Yoga Lead, VK-AICYAM
	
Session – II Panel: Discussion on Musculo Skeletal Disorders	Session – II Panelist
	
Felicitation to Session – II Moderator: Dr. Purnendu Panda, CARI, Bhubaneswar	Medicinal Plant Exhibition
	
Medicinal Plant Stall – Forest Department	Stall for Demonstrates of Medicinal Plant - Products

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Photo Gallery – C)



Universal Brotherhood Day Celebration (Sept 11th 2026 Evening)



Keynote Speaker: Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, DG CCRAS



Keynote Speaker – Dr. Mahesh Dadhich, CEO, NMPB



Felicitation of Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, DG CCRAS by Padmashree Nivedita Bhide, VP VRMVK



Felicitation of Dr. Mahesh Dadhichi, CEO, NMPB by Padmashree Nivedita Bhide, VP VRMVK



Session III – Panel Discussion on Digestive System Ailments



Felicitation to Session III Moderator: Dr. Susmita Otta, CARI Bhubaneswar



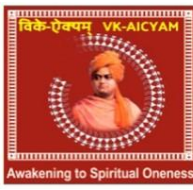
Session – IV Panel Discussion on Policy Level Understanding & Intervention

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Photo Gallery – D)

	
Session – IV Panel Moderator: Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri, Scientist – H, Head of TKDL	Felicitations of Dr. Bijay Kumar Sahu, Outreach Program Head, NRDC
	
Dr. Anita Sabat, Researcher & Cultural Advocate, Odisha GI & Community Representative	Felicitations of Dr. Anita Sabat
	
Session – V Panel Discussion Moderator: Dr. Sudhansu Meher, CARl, Bhubaneswar	Session – V (Discussion on Research, Innovation, Propagation and Commercialization) Felicitations
	
Closing Ceremony Anchor: Dr. Biswajit Mohapatra, VK-AICYAM, Karyakarta	Address by Prof. Kishor Kumar Basa, Advisor, ORC, Bhubaneswar

Traditional Healing Conference, Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar (Photo Gallery – E)

	
Felicitation of Traditional Healers	Felicitation of Traditional Healers
	
Felicitation of Traditional Healers	Felicitation of Traditional Healers
	
(Traditional Healing Conference - A Group Photo of the participants with Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya, DG CCRAS and Prof. Mahesh Dadhich, CEO NMPB)	(Traditional Healing Conference - A Group Photo of the traditional healers with speakers and VK-AICYAM Organising Team)



Traditional Healer – Base Information Sheet

Name: _____ Age: _____ Year

Profession (Tick the Right Profile): Herbal Plant Farming / Traditional Healer

Mobile Number: _____ Email-ID: _____

Postal Address: _____

Education (Provide a copy of the Certificate): _____

Where he/she learnt the treatment: _____

How many generations of practice: _____

Treatment for Diseases (List best three) and the Medicinal Plants Used:

Sl. No.	Disease Name	Medicinal Plants Used
1		
2		
3		

Area of collection of medicinal plants: Shop / Forest / Own Farm Yard

In last one year (12 months), how many patients treated: _____

List the Name, Contact, Treatment Type of three persons whom you treated:

Sl. No.	Person Name	Mobile No.	Disease Treated and Cured
1			
2			
3			

Any additional information you would like to provide? _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା - ମୂଳ ସୂଚନା ପତ୍ର

ନାମ: _____ ବୟସ: _____ ବର୍ଷ

ବୃତ୍ତି (ସଠିକ୍ ବୃତ୍ତିରେ ଚିହ୍ନ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ): ଭେଷଜ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ଚାଷ/ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ

ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ନମ୍ବର: _____ ଇମେଲ୍: _____

ଡାକ ଠିକଣା: _____

ଶିକ୍ଷା (ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ରର ଏକ ନକଲ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତୁ): _____

କେଉଁଠାରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଶିଖିଥିଲେ: _____

କେତେ ପିଢ଼ିର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଅଭ୍ୟାସ: _____

ରୋଗ ପାଇଁ ଚିକିତ୍ସା (ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ତିନୋଟି ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ) ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହେଉଥିବା ଔଷଧୀୟ ବୃକ୍ଷ:

କ୍ରମାଙ୍କ	ରୋଗର ନାମ	ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହେଉଥିବା ଔଷଧୀୟ ବୃକ୍ଷ
1		
୨		
୩		

ଔଷଧୀୟ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ସଂଗ୍ରହର କ୍ଷେତ୍ର: ଦୋକାନ/ଜଙ୍ଗଲ/ନିଜସ୍ବ ବଗିଚା _____

ଗତ ଏକ ବର୍ଷ (୧୨ ମାସ) ରେ, କେତେ ଜଣ ରୋଗୀ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରିଥିଲେ: _____

ଆପଣ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରିଥିବା ତିନି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କର ନାମ ଏବଂ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ଠିକଣା ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ:

କ୍ରମାଙ୍କ	ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ନାମ	ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ନଂ	ଚିକିତ୍ସା ହୋଇଥିବା ରୋଗ
1			
୨			
୩			

କୌଣସି ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଆପଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଛନ୍ତି? _____

ଦସ୍ତଖତ: _____ ତାରିଖ: _____

National Conference
on
cultivation, harvesting, and sustainable utilization
of
medicinal plants
for
farmers and traditional healers

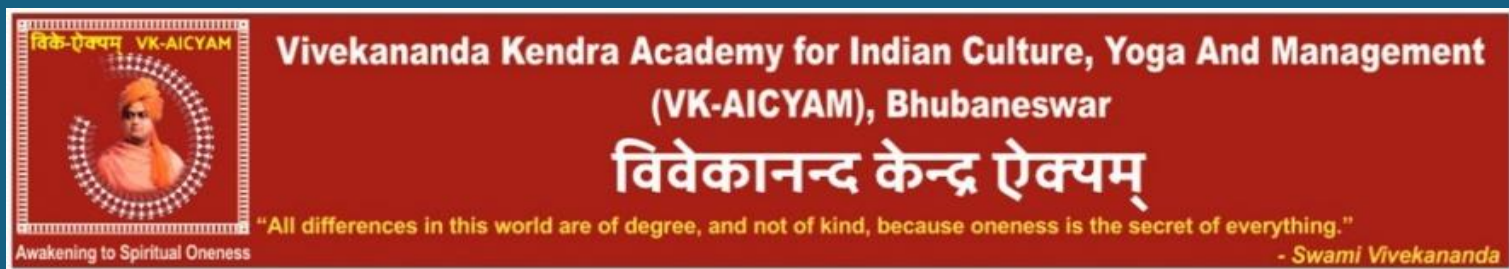
Sept 11-12, 2026, VK-AICYAM Auditorium, Bhubaneswar



**ODISHA
RESEARCH
CENTRE**



Organising Partners
VK-AICYAM Bhubaneswar
ORC Bhubaneswar
CCRAS-CARI Bhubaneswar



Knowledge Partners

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi
National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), New Delhi
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), New Delhi
National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), New Delhi
State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Bhubaneswar
Council of Analytical Tribal Studies (COATS), Koraput
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar
Institute of Health Sciences (IHS), Bhubaneswar
SOA University, Bhubaneswar
KISS University, Bhubaneswar
MSCB University, Baripada
GM University, Sambalpur
OUAT, Bhubaneswar