



KDS - Delhi
(Kerala Development Society - Delhi)

Report

Workshop on 'Preparation of a White Paper on Ayurveda

8 May 2013

A workshop on “Preparation of a White Paper on Ayurveda” was organized by Kerala Development Society, Delhi (KDS Delhi) jointly with CARE KERALAM on 8 May at Kinfra Park, Koratty, Thrissur, Kerala. The workshop was organized as a part of a research project titled ‘Research on Innovation Systems and Social Inclusion in Emerging Economies and Beyond – RISSI’. The major objective of RISSI project is to carry out research activities to foster capacity building for improving the knowledge-base on how science, technology and innovation can contribute to reduce poverty and promote inclusive development. The project is sponsored by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. All the BRICS countries are covered in RISSI project, and Ayurveda in Kerala is selected as a Case of Local Innovation and Production System in Indigenous Medicine (LIPS-IM) from India. Members of Indian study team of this project are Prof. K J Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Prof.Dinesh Abrol, National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi and Dr.Harilal Madhavan, Azim Premji University, Bangalore.



Mr. P.R. Krishnakumar, Chairman, CARE Keralam addressing at the workshop



Mr. Rajeev Sadanandan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala delivering the Inaugural Address

The objectives of the workshop were to critically examine the status of Ayurveda system and practices in the state of Kerala, and prepare a white paper highlighting the problems and prospects. The workshop was attended by a total of 32 participants, which included practitioners, manufacturers, researchers, representatives of various associations, director and technical experts of CARE KERALAM, members of the study team and the representatives of KDS. Mr. Karimpuzha Raman, Managing Director, CARE KERALAM in his welcome address outlined the context and the objectives of the workshop. Dr. Jacob John, Director, Kerala Development Society, Delhi, in his address remarked that the outcome of the workshop would help in streamlining the development of Ayurveda in the country. Mr.P.R Krishnakumar, Chairman, CARE-KERALAM, in his presidential address, recalled that it was for the first time in the history of Kerala that such a well thought workshop was conducted. Mr. Rajeev Sadanandan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala, in his inaugural address pointed out that Ayurveda and Homoeo sectors have not taken initiatives during his tenure of the past two years while several landmarks in health development programmes have been launched successfully in Allopathic sector. He mentioned certain areas that require immediate attention. These are documentation, interdisciplinary research for proving efficacy of all Ayurveda treatments, proper quality control mechanism to ensure quality of products and services and to prevent spurious drugs, legal facilitation for exporting drugs to increase overseas market penetration, scale of manufacture and the packaging issues. He asked the participants to identify five areas where interventions are required and to constitute core groups to study the issues and formulate action plan.



Mr. Karimpuzha Raman, Managing Director, CARE KERALAM addressing the gathering

Three thematic presentations on different aspects of Ayurveda sector were made by representatives of three leading organizations. These are Mr. P.R. Krishnakumar , Chairman, CARE Keralam Ltd, Dr. TS Murali and Dr. PM Warriar, PSW Kottackal Arya Vaidya Sala, Dr. D. Ramanathan, Sitaram Ayurveda Pharmacy Ltd. Thrissur.



Dr. Jacob John, Director, KDS, Delhi, addressing at the workshop

Brief presentations on specific issues were made by delegates representing various segments of Ayurveda Sector. These are Mr. Ajay George Varghese Bipha Drug Laboratories

Kottayam, Dr. K. Anilkumar, Kerala Ayurveda Ltd. Aluva, Mr. AV Anoop, AVA Cholayil Health Centre P. Ltd. Chennai, Dr. AM Anvar, Punarnava Ayurveda Hospital Kochi, Dr. Baby Krishnan, General Secretary, Kerala Government Graduate Medical Officers Federation Thiruvananthapuram, Mr. M.C. Balachandradas, Sree Sankara Community for Ayurveda Ltd. Changanassery, Dr. PV Balakrishnan, President, Private Ayurveda Medical Practitioners Association, Dr. PP Bhaskaran, Secretary, Private Ayurveda Medical Practitioners Association, Dr. M.P Eswara Sarma, Principal, VPSW Ayurveda College Kottackal. Dr. J. Hareendran Nair, Pankajakasthuri Thiruvananthapuram, Mr. Hari N Namboothiri, Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Medicines Ltd. Koothattukulam, Dr. A. Jayan, Senior Med. Officer, Government Ayurveda Hospital Chandiroor Alappuzha, Mr. CK Jinan, Chandrika Soap Bangalore, Mr. Michael Joseph, Nagarjuna Herbal Concentrates Ltd. Thodupuzha, Dr. TS Murali, Head R&D, VPSW Kottackal Arya Vaidya Sala, Dr. E T Neelakandan Mooss, Vaidyaratnam Oushadha Sala Thaikkattussery Thrissur, Dr. Pradeep Jeothi, Vasudevavilasam Nursing Home Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. K. Prathapan, Mission Director, State Horticulture Mission Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. S Rajasekharan, Department of Ethnomedicine & Ethnopharmacology TBGRI Palode, Dr. C. Ratnakaran, Pro Vice Chancellor, Health University of Kerala, Thrissur, Dr. Rejith Anand, General Secretary Ayurveda Medical Association of India Angamaly, Dr. S. Sasikumar, Managing Director, Dhatri Ayurveda Private Ltd. Kochi, Dr. Sharmad Khan, Secretary Medical Officers Association Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Sheela Karalam, Oushadhi Thrissur, Dr. K G Sreekumar, CEO, Kerala State Medicinal Plant Board, Thrissur, Dr. Thodiyoor Sasikumar, President, Medical Officers Association Thodiyoor Kollam, Dr. Vasudevan Namboothiri, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. G. Vinod Kumar, President, AMAI, Mr. K P Wilson, Kandankulathy Vaidyasala Mala and Dr. Joy Varghese, Executive Director (Technical), CARE Keralam Ltd.



A section of the participants

Major points of discussions and issues raised in the workshop are as follows:

- Government of Kerala and other stakeholders should take certain initiatives as Ayurveda is receiving increasing attention nationally as well as internationally.

Expectations from Ayurveda sector are quite high and there is still scope for further development in the field of Ayurveda. Regular consultation process within Ayurveda sector is quite essential for popularizing Ayurveda.

- There is a need for academic - industry collaboration in Ayurveda sector.
- Contributions of Ayurveda and Yoga in addressing life style diseases and in the field of preventive health care should be popularized nationally and globally.
- There is a need for increased research and documentation of the innovative findings. The role of Ayurveda in treatments for various diseases including HIV positive cases should be popularized.
- There is a need for a proper quality control system in Ayurveda sector to address various issues in the health sector. These include legal issues which involve different countries.
- Ayurveda paramedical courses need a special attention by improving the syllabus as updation is not taking place at Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) level.
- Governments should include Ayurveda sector in the formulation of policy of public health.
- Hospital waste management under Ayurvedic sector needs special attention and there is a good scope for recycling effluents.
- Kerala has a good potential to be developed as global medical tourism destination for chronic illness. There is a need for setting up an independent university for Ayurveda in Kerala.
- Cultivate new medicinal plants and develop formulations.
- Identify the best practices in Ayurveda and carry out documentation of the same



A section of the Audience: Also seen from R to L: Prof.Dinesh Abrol, NISTAD New Delhi and Dr. Harilal Madhavan, Azim Premji University, Bangalore and Dr. Joy Varghese, Executive Director (Technical), CARE Keralam

Major recommendations of the workshop are listed below:

- Creation of an Ayurvedic Research and Promotional Council of Kerala (ARPCK) with headquarters in CAReKERALAM Ltd, Kerala.
- Initiate standardization of about 10 classical drugs or procedures and develop protocols
- Strengthen Public health care initiatives in Aayurveda
- Integrative health care model incorporating Ayurveda with modern medicine, homoeo, yoga and siddha.
- Carry out basic research activities in Ayurveda with participation of scientists from modern science
- Ensure adequate and proper representation of Ayurveda in official website
- Set up specialty hospital and health clinics for Ayurveda
- Start clinical research initiatives with models suited for Ayurveda
- Simplify the licensing process in Ayurveda sector
- Introduce an accreditation process for hospitals and nursing, panchakarma and yoga centres
- Ensure strong regulatory enforcement to prevent mushrooming of spurious drug manufacturing
- Ensure Insurance coverage for Ayurveda treatment
- Provide priority status sector to Ayurveda with adequate annual budgetary provision
- Conduct interdisciplinary researches for proving the efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines and treatments
- Ensure modernization of pharmacy
- Provide energy-saving support to Ayurveda manufacturers
- Regular revision of syllabus of undergraduate/postgraduate programmes, at least once in two years
- Documentation and retrieval of traditional knowledge and research findings
- Legal facilitation for export promotion
