



STUDY OF THE TRADITIONAL HERBAL MEDICINE IN GHANA

DR. GEORGE OWUSU ESSEGBEY
DIRECTOR,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH
INSTITUTE, (CSIR-STEPRI)



Questions

- ❑ Who are the critical actors in the National Innovation System of traditional **herbal** medicine?
 - ❑ What are the drivers and inhibitors of innovation?
 - ❑ What is the intellectual property system of the traditional herbal medicine?
 - ❑ For improvement - what **policies**? what programs?
-

Methodology

- ❑ Systemic approach in the methodology – mapping critical actors
- ❑ 100 Traditional Medical Practitioners (TMPs), regulators, doctors, policy makers
- ❑ Ministry of Health (TAMD), Food and Drugs Authority, knowledge institutions.
- ❑ Consumers and sellers of TMP products.



Ghana's Health Challenges

- ❑ Inadequate **access** to health care delivery centres;
- ❑ Limited human resources: Doctor to patients ratio – 1:33,000; TMP to patient about 1:500
- ❑ Relative high cost of health care (National Health Insurance Scheme does not cover all diseases)





Ghana's Health Challenges

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2008</i>
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	77	66	57	64	50
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	155	119	108	111	80
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	44	41	30	43	30
Post-Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	33	26	27	21	21
Child Mortality	84	57	54	50	31
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	47	44	39	33	30.8
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	17	12.5	10	10	9.4
Life Expectancy at birth (in years)	54	55.7	57	58	NA
Total Fertility Rate	6.4	5.5	4.6	4.4	4.0

Traditional Medicine in Ghana



As in most of African countries...

Traditional medicine practitioners (TMP) are in a continuum of informal-formal



The Herbalists/ Entrepreneurs of the Ghana Study

<i>Groups (Micro)</i>	<i>Number of Employees</i>	<i>Number of TMPs in Group</i>	<i>Percentage of Sample (%)</i>	<i>Average of Employees in Group</i>
Group 1	1 – 5	73	68.2	2
Group 2	6 – 10	14	13.1	7
Group 3	11 – 15	4	3.7	13
Group 4	16 – 20	6	5.6	18
Group 5	21 – 30	3	2.8	25
Group 6	>=30	7	6.5	66
Total		107	100	

Key Findings – Actors and Drivers

- ❑ Key actors – TMPs and associations, Ministry of Health, regulators and research institutes;
 - ❑ Drivers of innovation –
 - **policies,**
 - **regulation,**
 - **competition**
-



Key Findings – Innovations



The **innovations** – boilers, bottling machines, encapsulating machines, laboratory tests for FDA approval and certification, improved packaging, advertisements and marketing.....

Key Findings - IP

- ❑ IP is mainly **secrecy** but TMPs are open to other forms of IP e.g. **trademarks**.
- ❑ **IP** can facilitate innovation and create market opportunities.
- ❑ However, if IP system is not efficiently done, it can impede.





Conclusion

- ❑ Ghana has shown how policy initiatives have impacted positively on traditional medicine to the extent that it is an integral component of the health care delivery system.
- ❑ Innovations have also contributed to the competitiveness of traditional medicine products. However traditional medicine can be raised onto an even more industrial level still taking account of its informal-formal character.
- ❑ The challenge however is to do this while still creating space for the informal practitioner to gainfully operate.

❑ **THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION**
