

# **CHHATTISGARH CERTIFICATION SOCIETY, INDIA FOR FORESTRY & AGRICULTURE (CGCERT)**

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## **Certification of Traditional Community Health Practitioners under Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Health Practitioners (VCSTCHPs)**

### **1. Introduction of CGCERT:**

Chhattisgarh Certification Society, India for Forestry & agriculture (CGCERT) is an autonomous organization and it is running in State Forest Research & Training Institute, Vidhan Sabha, Zero Point, Baloda Bazar, Raipur (C.G). The Chhattisgarh Certification Society, INDIA (for Forestry & Agriculture) for certification was registered (Registration no. 405) on 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2003 as an autonomous and independent society under the Chhattisgarh Society Registration Act, 1973 (serial no. 44 of year 1973). Chhattisgarh Certification Society (for Forestry & Agriculture) is financially supported & working under administrative control of Forest Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. CGCERT provides the services for various Forestry & agricultural produce including the Organic Certification as per the National Standards for Organic Production (NSOP). Recently, CGCERT has been provisionally approved for Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Health Practitioners (VCSTCHPs) & Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Products (VCSMPs) by Quality Control of India, New Delhi.

### **2. VCSTCHPs background:**

Herbal Medicinal Plant Based Traditional Community Health Practitioners (TCHPs) play a vital role in meeting the health care needs, especially of the far flung, unreached rural & tribal populations. As of now, while there is a clear AYUSH Policy and other Government of India Policy documents which provide official recognition to the existence of the TCHPs, there is no national or state level program that involves them as Community Health Workers. This neglect inhibits the continuity of the great healthcare tradition of TCHPs of our country. In order to fulfill this need to identify and certify the TCHPs, a pilot project for Accreditation and Certification of prior learning of the TCHPs was launched by Indira Gandhi National Open

University (IGNOU) in collaboration with Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi and Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore mentored by the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2010 - 2012. The TCHPs were assessed for their knowledge and skill. 517 TCHPs were certified from one district each of the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

In the state of Chhattisgarh 62 Herbal Medicinal Plant Based Traditional Community Health Practitioners (TCHP) from district Korba were Certified under Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Health Practitioners (VCSTCHPs) program from 2010 to 2012 which need review. The Traditional Healer Association of Chhattisgarh has worked with the Chhattisgarh State Medicinal Plant Board Raipur, to develop a directory of more than 1,200 traditional herbal healers identified and working in rural & remote areas of Chhattisgarh.

There are total numbers of approximately 2000 Traditional Healers serving with their traditional knowledge of herbal medicinal practices but they are neither identified nor are their practices documented. The documentation of traditional knowledge of Traditional Community Health Practitioners (TCHP) is yet not done completely.

### **3. Objectives of the Certification of Herbal Medicinal Plant Based TCHPs:**

The interest in bio-dynamic phytotherapy has been increased manyfolds all over the world because of reasonably safe and affordable remedies for many diseased conditions. In developing country like india, the indigenous system of medicines together with folkfore medicine continue to play significant role in the health care system of population.

In order to fulfill the above objective a pilot, project to identify and certify the TCHPs, a pilot project for Accreditation and Certification of Ethnic Practices of the TCHPs was launched by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in collaboration with Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi and Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore mentored by the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2010 - 2012. The TCHPs were assessed for their knowledge and skill. 517 TCHPs were certified from one district each of the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

## Ethnic Objectives:

1. Identification of Herbal Medicinal Plant Based Traditional Community Health Practitioners (TCHP) in Rural & Remote areas of Chhattisgarh.
2. Documentation of Herbal Medicinal Plant Based Traditional Knowledge of Traditional Community Health Practitioners (TCHP).
3. Certification of Herbal Medicinal Plant Based TCHPs under VCSTCHPs program and linking them to main stream of scientific medication.

## 4. List of Herbal Medicinal Based Traditional Community Health Practitioners in Forests Divisions of Chhattisgarh

S. No.	Forest Circle	District	Place	Total Traditional Healers
1.	<b><i>Surguja</i></b>	Koriya	Koriya, Manedragarh	73
		Surguja	Surguja, Ambikapur	145
		Jashpur	Jashpur, Bagicha, Pathhalgaon	145
2.	<b><i>Bilaspur</i></b>	Bilaspur	Bilaspur, Marwahi, Mungeli	216
		Korba	Korba, Katghora	166
		Raigarh	Raigarh, Dharamjaigarh	17
		Janjgir-Champa	Janjgir-Champa, Akaltara	137
3.	<b><i>Durg</i></b>	Durg	Durg, Bemetara, Dhamdha	142
		Kabirdham	Kabirdham	41
		Rajnadgaon	Rajnadgaon, Manpur, Mohla	55
4.	<b><i>Kanker</i></b>	Kanker	Kanker, Bhanuptarappur	170
5.	<b><i>Bastar</i></b>	Bastar	Bastar, Bakawand, Lohandiguda	127
		Bijapur	Bijapur, Bhairamgarh	84
		Dantewada	Dantewada	50
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1568</b>

(Source: *Traditional Healers Booklet 2016, SMBP Raipur CG*)

This scheme will focus on documentation of previous beneficiaries (who were treated by traditional healers called “Vaidays”) and their experience gained from traditional healing methods. Under this scheme herbal medicinal plant based traditional community health practitioners shall be legally identified and will be trained regarding scientific healing practices which are recognized by the Govt. This scheme shall give them assistance for working as a registered Gram Vaidya and this project will aid traditional community healers to provide basic

health care facilities in remote forest areas of Chhattisgarh, where regular Govt. medical facilities are unapproachable.

1<sup>st</sup> meeting was done for getting provisional approval for VCSTCHPs Certification as PrCB (Personnel Certification Body) on 05.05.2018. As per the decision Quality manual & Operating was sent to the Quality Control of India, New Delhi. CGCERT has found competent as PrCB and its been provisionally approved on 26.07.2019 for Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Health Practitioners (VCSTCHPs).

**5. Steps of certification of Traditional Community Health practitioners are as follows:-**

- Submission of application alongwith the enclosures (contains requited documents)
- Scrutiny of TCHPs application
- Intimation to TCHPs about incompleteness of his/her application
- Press note or publication about selection place for TCHPs evaluation in regional news paper (where evaluation is to be started)
- Selection & engagement of evaluator for evaluation of TCHPs
- Evaluation of TCHPs as per Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Health practitioners standard
- Monitoring (on-site evaluation and document verification of TCHPs against the issued certificate within 02 years
- Suspension / issuance of certificate (re-submission of application before 03 months from expiry of issued certificate at 5<sup>th</sup> year)

**6. Required documents for Traditional Community Health practitioners (TCHPs) certification are follows:-**

- Complete application alongwith annexure
- Copy of Aadhar card of applicant
- 03 colored photograph of applicant
- Self declaration by the TCHPs regarding not to misuse of previous issued certificate (if any), status of previous registration in other certification agency for the same

purpose, at least 10 years practice experience in relevant stream and any judicial or pending case against the practice / negative impact / serious damage / paralyses within last 02 years by the TCHPs

- Selection of language, applicants want to be evaluated
- Get approval letter from the Gram Panchayat / Local Government of his / her relevant stream and practice area
- Submission of complete application in CGCERT office by hand or by speed post / registry

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