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**North-South Partnership: An example of Academic and Research Collaboration between Mali and Norway** (University of Oslo, Institut National de Recherche en Santé Publique, Université de Bamako, Université des Sciences, des Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako).

Mali is a country situated in West Africa. Since 1989 Mali and Norway developed a north-south partnership based on academic and research collaboration.

This collaboration started with the Soudan Sahel Ethiopia (SSE) programme between University of Oslo and Malian Research institutions under the coordination of the National Centre of Scientific Research. This programme ended in 1992 with the starting of developing a NUFU programme. In 2008 NUFU programme in Mali ended. Two projects were funded by the National Research Council (NRC). Since 2011 University of Oslo and University of Bamako have been involved in a consortium programme of the European Union called Multi-disciplinary University Traditional Health Initiative (MUTHI) which ended in 2014. A meeting in Lucknow (India) in 1994 with Berit Smestad Paulsen was the starting point of the collaboration in Pharmacognosy between Mali and Norway.

This partnership aim was capacity building in both places by organizing: ethnopharmacology studies, phytochemical analysis, biological activities testing and toxicity studies of Malian medicinal plants-

In Mali, like most African countries, traditional medicine is contrasted with conventional medicine. Since 1978, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been calling for more cooperation, even integration, of traditional medicine and biomedicine. During this collaboration human capacity building was done with 9PhD (4 Malians), one Malian for maintenance of equipment, one Malian for Master degree in Management, 1 Malian for master degree in plant biology, more than 60 students in pharmacognosy and phytotherapy. Norwegian students visited Mali for fieldworks.

The Malian medicinal plants *Entada africana*, *Trichilia emetica*, *Vernonia kostchyana*, *Cochlospermum tinctorium*, *Biophytum petersianum*, *Glinus oppositifolius*, *Opilia celtidifolia*, *Terminalia macroptera*, *Ximenia americana*, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Combretum glutinosum*, *Sizugium guineense*, *Cola cordifolia* are, among others, used in traditional medicine against wounds and gastric ulcer and were investigated during this collaboration. Since 1998 the number of publications of Department of Traditional Medicine (DMT) was increasing with a maximum of 26 in 2006.

The technical equipment, chemicals of the DMT was improved and in 2005 the DMT has new laboratories and in 2014 the DMT was identified as Reference centre for Research in Traditional Medicine by the West African Organisation for Health (WAHO).

This partnership has contributed to improve health state and has developed collateral collaboration with traditional medicine practitioners in Bamako (FEMATH), Kolokani, health centre in Daoudabougou, school in N'tiobougou, Daoudabougou, Students cooperation (FUG) in Sido, Madina.