



KNOW-HOW 3000

Experience

AT A GLANCE

Traditional Health in Bougainville schools

What is it about?

Integration of traditional medicine knowledge in formal education.

Why an intervention?

Indigenous traditional medicine provides relief for a substantial portion of the population in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Nevertheless, this knowledge is currently being eroded as more and more persons are relying on modern medicines. In order to keep the precious indigenous health knowledge alive and to enhance the preservation of the extraordinary biodiversity of the flora in Bougainville, the Traditional Health Project started to integrate the teaching on traditional medicine knowledge into formal education and to install medicinal plant gardens at schools.

What does it change?

- Medicinal plant gardens at schools improve awareness for environmental issues
- Cultural heritage of PNG is kept alive
- Knowledge about traditional health practices is preserved.

How does it work?

- One-week training workshops at Primary Schools including background knowledge, the set-up of a compost pile and a nursery, as well as the layout for a medical plant garden
- Teaching guide (utilised as workshop handout) and teachers' resource book (including the outline of a syllabus)
- Follow-up visits

Who are the beneficiaries?

- Students of grade 6-8 in Primary Schools
- Teachers at Primary Schools
- Traditional Medicine Practitioners

Who could use that approach?

- Education Departments in other provinces of PNG
- Traditional Medicine Practitioner Associations
- Other remote islands and areas in the Pacific
- Other areas in the world, where traditional medicine has a potential of being revitalised and contributing to community health

Who is already using it?

Catholic Diocese and Primary Schools of Bougainville

HORIZONT 3000

AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Sector: Education
Period: since 2011
Organisation: Catholic Diocese of Bougainville
Further material: Publications on Plants for Health and Healing and Medicinal Herb Gardens; Workshop Documents
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