



21th Traditional Healers' Meet
(Drugs from Nature: Exploring ancestral medicine)
“In the memory of respected Dr. Shekhar Dutt”

Date & Venue:

31 October 2025 | 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

COE - Auditorium

Jamia Hamdard New Delhi, India

Organized by:

SOCIETY FOR ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY

Shaktigarh, Jadavpur, Kolkata, India

www.ethnopharmacology.in

Centre of Excellence in Unani Medicine

(Pharmacognosy & Pharmacology),

Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

www.jamiahamdard.ac.in

12th International Convention of the

Society for Ethnopharmacology

(SECON 2025)

www.bnpl.org.in



SFE- India Exploring Ancestral Medicine Promoting Drugs from Nature



Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, PhD, FRSC

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**Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Technology, Jadavpur University,
Kolkata-700032, India**

www.pulokmukherjee.com

Dear Esteemed Traditional Healers, Scholars, and Members of SFE India,

“Science gives vision to tradition, and tradition gives roots to science.”

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all the participants to the *Traditional Healers' Meet* on “Drugs from Nature: Exploring Ancestral Medicine,” organized by the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India) at SECON 2025, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. We dedicate this year event in the memory of respected Dr. Shekhar Dutt, who inspired us for developing the society and its activities. This program provides a unique and timely platform to celebrate and strengthen India's living heritage of healing, bringing together traditional healers, scholars, and scientists to co-create pathways for evidence-based advancement of ancestral medicine.

India is home to one of the world's richest repositories of medicinal plants and traditional health practices. For millennia, these systems have sustained community health through their holistic understanding of nature and the human body. Today, as global healthcare increasingly turns toward safe, natural, and sustainable solutions, our traditional healers continue to serve as living custodians of invaluable knowledge. The *Traditional Healers' Meet* is a tribute to their wisdom and contribution and a step toward integrating this experiential knowledge with modern scientific validation, translational research, and global healthcare innovation.

At its core, the Healers' Meet embodies SFE-India's belief that traditional knowledge and scientific research are not parallel paths but complementary forces. By facilitating this dialogue, the program aims to ensure that ancestral medicine continues to evolve not as an artefact of the past, but as a living, adaptive science for the future.

The meet also underscores the importance of sustainability and ethical stewardship of bio resources. As global demand for natural and plant-based products grows, it

becomes imperative to protect the ecosystems and communities that sustain them. Through this initiative, SFE-India seeks to promote conservation, transparency, and empowerment of healers as key stakeholders in the bio economy.

The Traditional Healers' Meet 2025 thus serves not only as a celebration of India's cultural and medicinal diversity but also as a movement to globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies. It reaffirms SFE-India's commitment to transforming traditional wisdom into evidence-based, ethically guided, and globally recognized healthcare solutions.

Since its inception in 2012, the Society for Ethnopharmacology has been committed to bridging traditional knowledge with contemporary science. Through national and international conferences, workshops, policy dialogues, and capacity-building initiatives, SFE-India has worked tirelessly to promote ethnopharmacological research and strengthen India's position as a global leader in herbal and natural product science. The *Healers' Meet* continues this mission by fostering collaboration among healers, ethnobotanists, pharmacologists, clinicians, academicians, and policymakers creating an inclusive space for mutual learning and recognition.

This program also highlights the importance of sustainability, ethical stewardship of bioresources, and community participation. By documenting, validating, and preserving traditional knowledge, we ensure that our natural heritage is used responsibly while benefitting the communities that have safeguarded it for generations. The meet encourages dialogue on biodiversity conservation, clinical validation, intellectual property protection, and fair benefit-sharing; ensuring that ancestral medicine continues to evolve with integrity and global relevance.

The Traditional Healers' Meet aims to transform India's ethno pharmacological legacy into a living, evolving, and globally recognized system of healthcare. It seeks to ensure that the voices of healers often marginalized yet profoundly knowledgeable are heard, respected, and empowered within the scientific, academic, and policy landscapes. The vision extends beyond commemoration; it is a movement to globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies for a healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable world.

As we celebrate this convergence of ancient wisdom and modern science, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to empowering traditional healers and nurturing India's contribution to global health. Together, we can transform ancestral knowledge into safe, effective, and scientifically credible healthcare solutions for the world.

On behalf of SFE-India, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all traditional healers, researchers, collaborators, and the organizing team at Jamia Hamdard for their unwavering dedication. May this gathering inspire new ideas, partnerships, and innovations that honour our heritage while shaping the medicine of tomorrow.

— Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee
Founder, Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India)

Traditional Healers' Meet : "Drugs from Nature: Exploring Ancestral Medicine"



Prof. Sayeed Ahmed
Organizing Secretary,
SECON 2025
Jamia Hamdard, New
Delhi



Prof. D. Chattopadhyay
Coordinator,
Traditional Healers'
Program SFE- India

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all the distinguished guests, traditional healers, researchers, academicians, policy makers, and industry representatives to the Traditional Healers' Meet organized as part of SECON 2025, under the theme "Drugs from Nature: Exploring Ancestral Medicine."

This unique platform is dedicated to celebrating the timeless wisdom and healing traditions that have been nurtured through generations. Our traditional healers are the custodians of invaluable ethnomedicinal knowledge, rooted in local biodiversity and cultural heritage. Their experiential insights have served as the foundation for many modern drugs and therapeutic interventions. At a time when global health systems are seeking sustainable and holistic solutions, the wisdom preserved by these healers has never been more relevant.

The theme reflects our collective vision to rediscover, document, and validate the rich diversity of traditional practices across regions. This Meet aims to create a meaningful dialogue between traditional knowledge holders and modern scientific communities — to bridge the gap between indigenous wisdom and evidence-based research. It is through this collaboration that we can ensure the integration of ancestral medicine into mainstream healthcare in a scientifically validated, ethically respectful, and culturally inclusive manner.

The Traditional Healers' Conclave serves not only as a forum for knowledge sharing but also as a tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to serving humanity through natural remedies and traditional healing systems. Their contribution to primary healthcare, especially in rural and remote areas, continues to be indispensable. Recognizing and empowering these healers is essential for the conservation of both biological and cultural diversity — the twin pillars of sustainable health traditions.

Through SECON 2025, we seek to encourage scientific validation of traditional formulations, foster intellectual property protection for indigenous knowledge, and promote equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms. I sincerely hope that this Meet will strengthen the bridge between tradition and modernity, generating new pathways for research, innovation, and collaboration.

Once again, I warmly welcome all participants to this enriching event and wish SECON 2025 and the Traditional Healers' Meet grand success.

– Prof. Sayeed Ahmed
Organizing Secretary, SECON 2025

– Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay
Coordinator, Traditional Healers' Program

**It's hard to forget someone
who gave you so much to remember**

In the Remembrance of



SHRI SHEKHAR DUTT

DECEMBER 20 1945 – JULY 02, 2025

**WE LOST A GREAT SOUL, TRUE SFE ADVISOR
A GREAT PERSONALITY WHO
INSPIRES US A LOT**

**WE WILL MISS HIM AND WILL LIVE
WITH US FOREVER**

**SFE FAMILY WILL NEVER FORGET HIS
CONTRIBUTION AND DEDICATION**

**OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES
ON HIS DEMISE
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE**



www.ethnopharmacology.in



*We will miss
you a lot*

"अनित्यं जगत् — सर्वं क्षणभङ्गुरजीवनम्।
शान्तिं च सद्गतिं चास्मै प्रभुः दद्यात् प्रियो जनः॥"



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Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India)



The Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India) is a not-for-profit scientific organization established in 2013 under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act (1961). It is officially affiliated to the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE), Switzerland. For more details please visit: www.ethnopharmacology.in

Vision & Mission

- **Vision:** *To globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies, fostering sustainable development and ethical innovation in traditional medicine.*
- **Mission:** To promote the scientific validation, documentation, and dissemination of traditional medical knowledge and to strengthen India's leadership in the global herbal industry by creating frameworks for research, regulation, and responsible commercialization.

Core Objectives

- ✚ **Scientific Advancement** – Encourage interdisciplinary research in ethnopharmacology, pharmacognosy, phytochemistry, and translational herbal sciences.
- ✚ **Knowledge Dissemination** – Organize international and national conventions, thematic symposia, and training programs to bridge academia and industry.
- ✚ **Capacity Building** – Empower young scientists, students, and entrepreneurs through mentorship, scholarships, and skill-development initiatives.
- ✚ **Ethical Standardization** – Advocate for quality, safety, and efficacy standards aligned with global guidelines.
- ✚ **Sustainability & Biodiversity** – Promote conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs).
- ✚ **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem** – Facilitate innovation, incubation, and start-up creation based on validated ethnomedicinal knowledge.

National Footprint and Global Engagement

From its headquarters in Kolkata, SFE-India coordinates 18 regional chapters and more than 2,000 active members across India. These chapters collaborate with universities, AYUSH and other government organizations, research laboratories, NGOs, and industries to promote training, research, and societal outreach. Internationally, SFE-India partners with organizations and universities in the USA, Europe, and Asia, enabling exchange programs, collaborative projects, and participation in ISE's global conferences. Through these networks, the Society

advances India's role as a knowledge partner in global ethnopharmacology, aligning indigenous traditions with modern scientific frameworks.

International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE)



The International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) was established in 1990 and is headquartered in Switzerland. It serves as a worldwide network of scientists, researchers, health-care professionals, and policy leaders dedicated to advancing knowledge on traditional medicines, natural products, and ethnobiological resources.

ISE's vision is to foster responsible, ethical, and evidence-based use of traditional medical knowledge through interdisciplinary research and global cooperation. ISE is dedicated to the study of the pharmacological actions of plants, animals, insects, and other organisms used in medicines of indigenous and modern, past and present cultures. The society encourages cultural respect, sustainability, and benefit-sharing between knowledge holders and scientific institutions.

The major objective of the ISE is to promote Ethnopharmacology as a scientific field of research. The society is dedicated to the exchange of information and understandings about people's use of natural products and their bio-prospecting. For more details please visit: www.ethnopharmacology.org

Jamia Hamdard University



Founded in 1989 under the visionary leadership of Hakeem Abdul Hameed, Jamia Hamdard (Deemed to be University) has emerged as one of India's foremost centers of excellence in health sciences, traditional medicine, and biomedical research.

The Centre of Excellence in Unani Medicine (Pharmacognosy & Pharmacology) at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, is a premier hub for advanced research and innovation in Unani medicine. Supported by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, the Centre focuses on the standardization, validation, and scientific evaluation of Unani formulations and natural products.

It integrates traditional wisdom with modern pharmacological approaches to ensure evidence-based healthcare solutions. Through collaborative research, training, and technological advancements, the Centre continues to strengthen the global recognition of Unani medicine as a safe, effective, and sustainable healthcare system. For more details please visit: www.jamiahamdard.ac.in.



The Traditional Healers' Meet

“Drugs from Nature: Exploring Ancestral Medicine,”

The Traditional Healers' Meet is one of the key highlights of the 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India), to be held at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, from 30–31 October 2025. This special session is designed to bring together traditional health practitioners, healers, and knowledge holders from diverse regions of India to share their invaluable experiences, healing practices, and community-based wisdom in healthcare.

The event provides a unique and inclusive platform for dialogue and mutual learning among traditional healers, researchers, academicians, policy-makers, and students fostering the exchange of indigenous knowledge and promoting the documentation, validation, and integration of traditional healthcare systems with modern science. It reflects SFE-India's long-standing commitment to building bridges between the oral traditions of the past and the evidence-based healthcare of the future.

For centuries, India's healing traditions have embodied the spirit of harmony between humankind and nature. Long before the advent of modern medicine, traditional healers served as the foundation of healthcare across diverse communities preserving local knowledge, biodiversity, and cultural identity. Their wisdom, rooted in experience and observation, continues to provide safe, accessible, and holistic healthcare solutions to millions. The Traditional Healers' Meet, is a flagship platform dedicated to honoring these knowledge holders and integrating their ancestral wisdom into the framework of modern scientific research.

Since its inception in 2012, SFE-India under the visionary leadership of Professor Pulk Kumar Mukherjee, former Director of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and Professor at Jadavpur University, has been actively engaged in translating the wisdom of India's traditional healers into the language of modern science. This journey began with SFE-India's first international congress in 2012 and has evolved into a nationwide movement to recognize, document, and scientifically validate indigenous healing practices.

The 21st edition of this meet, themed “Drugs from Nature: Exploring Ancestral Medicine,” carries this legacy forward. It seeks to provide an inclusive and participatory platform where traditional healers, ethnobotanists, pharmacologists, clinicians, and policymakers can:

- Exchange experiences and demonstrate ancient healing practices.
- Document medicinal plants and formulations used in indigenous systems.
- Discuss strategies for validation, standardization, and responsible utilization.
- Explore models for community participation, benefit-sharing, and livelihood enhancement.

At its core, the Healers' Meet embodies SFE-India's belief that traditional knowledge and scientific research are not parallel paths but complementary forces. By facilitating this dialogue, the program aims to ensure that ancestral medicine continues to evolve—not as an artifact of the past, but as a living, adaptive science for the future.

The meet also underscores the importance of sustainability and ethical stewardship of bioresources. As global demand for natural and plant-based products grows, it becomes imperative to protect the ecosystems and communities that sustain them. Through this initiative, SFE-India seeks to promote conservation, transparency, and empowerment of healers as key stakeholders in the bioeconomy.

The *Traditional Healers' Meet 2025* thus serves not only as a celebration of India's cultural and medicinal diversity but also as a movement to globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies. It reaffirms SFE-India's commitment to transforming traditional wisdom into evidence-based, ethically guided, and globally recognized healthcare solutions.

This journey began with SFE-India's first international congress in 2012 and has evolved into a nationwide movement to recognize, document, and scientifically validate indigenous healing practices.

Over the past decade, SFE-India has:

1. Prepared and continually updated a comprehensive database of traditional healers from nearly all Indian states.
2. **Categorized healers' areas of expertise**, covering herbal, mineral, and ritual-based healthcare traditions.
3. **Documented thousands of indigenous formulations and recipes** used for treating a wide spectrum of ailments among India's diverse communities.
4. **Developed reproducible ethnographic and scientific methods** to accurately capture knowledge on these traditional formulations.
5. **Identified and prioritized select formulations** for scientific validation through robust, evidence-based methodologies.
6. **Collaborated with universities, public and private research institutes, and pharmaceutical industries** to conduct validation studies through academic programs such as M.Pharm, M.Tech, and PhD dissertations.

Professor Mukherjee's laboratory, in association with experienced healers, has already initiated several validation studies of traditional formulations. These collaborative efforts not only contribute to academic advancement leading to doctoral research but also create potential pathways for drug discovery and development based on ancestral wisdom.

The 2025 edition of the Traditional Healers' Meet continues this mission. It will feature interactive sessions with selected healers from across the country, allowing them to showcase their expertise, medicinal plants, and formulation practices before scientists, industry leaders, and government representatives. The meet will serve as a dynamic platform for recognizing healers' contributions, exploring opportunities for joint research, and identifying formulations suitable for translational development and commercialization.

Through this initiative, SFE-India reaffirms its dedication to preserving, promoting, and protecting the rich heritage of Indian ethnopharmacological traditions, while ensuring their alignment with global standards of safety, efficacy, and sustainability. It marks a renewed step toward realizing the Society's vision of transforming India's traditional knowledge systems into scientifically validated and socially inclusive healthcare models that can benefit communities worldwide.

Vision

The Traditional Healers' Meet envisions a future where the ancestral wisdom of India's traditional healers is scientifically recognized, ethically protected, and seamlessly integrated into the nation's evolving healthcare ecosystem. It represents the living spirit of ethnopharmacology a bridge connecting the timeless art of healing with the rigor of modern biomedical science.

The core vision of this initiative is to preserve, promote, and protect India's living heritage of traditional medicine, while ensuring that healers and knowledge holders are recognized as vital contributors to public health, community well-being, and the nation's bioeconomy. Rooted in the belief that ancient wisdom and modern innovation are not competing paradigms but complementary forces, this program reaffirms the Society for Ethnopharmacology's mission to unite all stakeholders under one inclusive and knowledge-driven platform.

Purpose and Guiding Objectives

- **Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge**
 - o Safeguard the oral traditions and experiential wisdom of traditional healers by promoting documentation, archiving, and digital recording of indigenous healthcare practices across India's ethnolinguistic and ecological diversity.
- **Scientific Validation and Standardization**
 - o Facilitate collaborative research to validate traditional formulations and practices using modern pharmacological, toxicological, and clinical methodologies - thereby ensuring global scientific credibility and patient safety.
- **Integration of Traditional and Modern Systems**
 - o Promote dialogue between traditional healers, AYUSH practitioners, biomedical scientists, and policymakers to co-develop frameworks that integrate indigenous practices into national healthcare models through evidence-based approaches.
- **Empowerment and Ethical Recognition of Healers**
 - o Recognize healers as equal partners in scientific discovery and innovation. Encourage fair benefit-sharing, intellectual-property protection, and economic inclusion of healer communities through transparent partnerships with academia and industry.
- **Sustainability and Conservation of Medicinal Bioresources**
 - o Advocate sustainable harvesting, cultivation, and conservation of medicinal plants to ensure the ecological integrity of India's natural heritage. Encourage community participation and women's empowerment in value-chain development.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Transmission**
 - o Build a national framework for training, mentorship, and intergenerational transfer of traditional healing knowledge through regional workshops, university collaborations, and community education initiatives.

- **Policy Advocacy and Global Engagement**

- o Support evidence-based policy formulation that strengthens traditional medicine within the national health agenda. Foster international collaborations to project India's ethnopharmacological strengths in global forums.

Through these objectives, the Traditional Healers' Meet aims to transform India's ethnopharmacological legacy into a living, evolving, and globally recognized system of healthcare.

It seeks to ensure that the voices of healers often marginalized yet profoundly knowledgeable are heard, respected, and empowered within the scientific, academic, and policy landscapes.

The vision extends beyond commemoration; it is a movement to globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies for a healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable world.

Key Highlights and Features

Traditional Healthcare Practices – Exploring Ancestral Medicine

- Showcasing authentic healing systems practiced by traditional health practitioners from various regions of India.
- Live demonstrations and storytelling sessions highlighting community-based health practices, plant usage traditions, and holistic therapeutic approaches.
- Recognition of traditional healers as knowledge custodians and frontline healthcare providers in rural and tribal settings.
- Exploring ways to safeguard oral traditions through documentation, mentorship, and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened visibility and recognition of healers at national and international platforms.
- Preservation of localized healing wisdom for inclusion in community health initiatives.

Scientific Validation and Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge

- Collaborative sessions between healers, ethnobotanists, pharmacologists, and clinicians to record, analyse, and scientifically validate indigenous formulations.
- Inclusion of newly documented formulations in the SFE-India National Healers' Database, with systematic cataloguing of plants, preparation methods, and clinical observations.
- Discussions on laboratory partnerships and academic research pathways for ethnomedicine-based dissertations (M.Pharm, M.Tech, PhD).
- Emphasis on evidence-based evaluation and publication of validated outcomes to ensure credibility, safety, and reproducibility.

Expected Outcomes:

- Compilation of scientifically documented traditional formulations.
- Formation of multi-institutional collaborations for validation and standardization studies.

Globalization of Traditional Medicines in Healthcare

- Panel discussions on internationalization of Indian traditional medicines, regulatory convergence, and global trade opportunities.
- Presentations on the role of SFE-India and allied institutions in aligning Indian herbal products with WHO, OECD, and pharmacopoeial standards.
- Interaction with global experts and representatives from partner organizations to share success stories of ethnopharmacology-driven innovation.
- Deliberations on ethical commercialization, intellectual-property protection, and benefit-sharing mechanisms to promote global trust.

Expected Outcomes:

- Roadmap for positioning Indian herbal formulations in global healthcare systems.
- Enhanced collaboration between Indian healers, scientists, and international research networks.

Translational Research Approaches for Promotion and Development of Medicinal Plants

- Showcasing bench-to-field models for developing value-added products from medicinal plants through translational research.
- Case studies on bioactive compound identification, extraction technologies, and preclinical validation of traditional formulations.
- Interactive sessions with scientists and industry experts on bridging laboratory research with community knowledge.
- Exploration of funding and incubation opportunities for ethnopharmacology-based start-ups and projects.

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of priority medicinal plants for translational research.
- Development of joint research proposals linking healers, universities, and industries.

Promotion and Development of Local Health Traditions

- Recognition of local health traditions (LHTs) as vital pillars of India's primary healthcare.
- Demonstrations of community-led preventive and curative practices using locally available herbs and foods.
- Workshops on cultivation, sustainable sourcing, and conservation of medicinal plants used in LHTs.
- Empowering healers through training on quality assurance, documentation, and entrepreneurship in herbal product development.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened community participation in healthcare and resource management.
- Framework for integrating local health traditions with mainstream AYUSH and public-health systems.

Collective Outcome and Legacy

Together, these five thematic pillars embody the true spirit of SECON 2025 — *to globalize local knowledge and localize global technologies.*

The Traditional Healers' Meet will serve as a living bridge between tradition and innovation, community and science, and heritage and modern healthcare, ensuring that India's ancestral medicine continues to guide the journey toward a sustainable and inclusive future.

Target Audience

The Traditional Healers' Meet 2025 welcomes a diverse and dynamic community of participants united by a shared passion for traditional medicine, ethnopharmacology, and medicinal plant research. The program is designed to foster interdisciplinary learning, mutual respect, and meaningful collaboration among all stakeholders in the field of natural product-based healthcare.

The event is open to registered delegates from across academia, industry, and traditional systems of medicine, including:

- Students and Research Scholars - pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, or postdoctoral studies in pharmacognosy, phytochemistry, ethnobotany, ethnopharmacology, Ayurveda, and allied disciplines.
- Faculty Members and Scientists- from universities, research institutions, and laboratories engaged in medicinal plant research, drug discovery, and validation of traditional formulations.
- Traditional Health Practitioners and Healers - representing local health traditions, community medicine, and ancestral healing practices from diverse regions of India.
- Healthcare Professionals and AYUSH Practitioners - interested in integrating traditional knowledge into modern therapeutic frameworks.
- Industry Professionals and Entrepreneurs - from the herbal, nutraceutical, and natural product sectors seeking opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based product development.

The Traditional Healers' Meet encourages active participation, dialogue, and partnership among all delegates. By connecting traditional wisdom with modern research and industrial innovation, the program aims to cultivate a holistic ecosystem for knowledge exchange and capacity building in ethnopharmacology.

Together, this diverse audience will help shape the roadmap for ethical documentation, scientific validation, and global promotion of India's medicinal heritage.

Legacy of the Traditional Healers' Meet: A Decade of Preserving India's Living Knowledge

The Traditional Healers' Meet has been one of the most visionary and impactful initiatives of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE-India) since its inception. Conceived under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Pulk K. Mukherjee, the meet was first introduced during the early years of the Society's formation to provide a national platform where *grassroots healers and modern scientists could share a common stage*, bridging ancestral wisdom with contemporary scientific research.

Since the first International Congress of SFE-India held in Kolkata (2012), every edition of the Healers' Meet has reflected the Society's unwavering commitment to recognizing

traditional healers as custodians of invaluable community health knowledge. These gatherings have celebrated the wisdom of practitioners from remote tribal regions, forest communities, and rural areas who have safeguarded centuries-old therapeutic traditions. Over the years, the Healers' Meet has evolved from a modest dialogue forum into a structured knowledge-exchange movement - inspiring ethnopharmacologists, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to jointly document and validate ancestral formulations for modern use.

Highlights from Past Editions

Year / Edition	Venue	Key Themes & Achievements
2012 – 1st International Congress, Kolkata	Jadavpur University	Foundation laid for a national network of traditional healers; creation of the first <i>Directory of Healers of India</i> .
2014 – 2nd Congress, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong	Meghalaya	Emphasis on ethnomedicine of the Northeast; inclusion of tribal healers from over 25 indigenous communities.
2016 – 4th Congress, Nagpur	Maharashtra	Discussions on biodiversity conservation, bioresources management, and intellectual property protection.
2018 – 6th Congress, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	Delhi	Integration of Unani and Ayurvedic traditions with modern pharmacology; launch of SFE-India's <i>Herbal Validation Initiative</i> .
2019 – 7th Congress, Dhaka (Joint SFE-Bangladesh Meet)	International Edition	Promoted South Asian cooperation on traditional medicine and knowledge-sharing.
2021 – Virtual Edition	Online (Post-pandemic Reconnect)	Focused on sustainable healing practices during the pandemic; creation of a <i>Digital Healers' Repository</i> .
2023 – 10th International Congress, Manipur (Imphal)	IBSD, Govt. of India	Strengthened collaboration between SFE-India, IBSD, and local healers; introduced <i>Community Knowledge to Clinic</i> translational framework.

- **Traditional Healers Meet:** program organized by Society for Ethnopharmacology, India during Annual congress and convention of SFE – success stories

Some Glimpses of Traditional Healers meet during the 12th International Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology, India 2025 (SFEC 2025)

Theme: "Traditional Healthcare Practices - Exploring Ancestral Medicine"



Focus & Objectives:

- Explore ancestral and community-based healing systems.
- Bridge traditional knowledge and contemporary science.
- Promote validation, recognition, and integration of traditional healing practices.
- Encourage knowledge sharing between generations of practitioners.
- Strengthen the role of ethnomedicine in the national healthcare framework.



- The meet successfully celebrated the heritage of traditional medicine.
- Reinforced the importance of traditional knowledge in achieving sustainable health and economic growth.

Some Glimpses of Traditional Healers meet cum exhibition of Traditional Medicine during the 11th International Convention of SFE, India 2024 (SECON 2024)

Theme: "Bioeconomy from Bioresources: Promoting Traditional Resources of NER for Viksit Bharat"



- Focused on showcasing traditional knowledge systems and their role in sustainable healthcare.
- Aimed to bridge traditional wisdom and modern science.
- Promoted the bioeconomic potential of traditional medicine from the Northeastern Region (NER) of India.
- Over 50 traditional healers participated from various NER states
- Enhanced awareness of traditional health systems in the academic and public domain.

- The meet successfully celebrated the heritage of traditional medicine.
- Reinforced the importance of traditional knowledge in achieving sustainable health and economic growth.



Some Glimpses of Traditional Healers meet during the 11th International Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology, India 2024 (SFEC 2024) at CSIR-IIIM in Jammu, India



- Reinforced the importance of traditional knowledge in achieving sustainable health and economic growth.
- The meet successfully celebrated the heritage of traditional medicine.

- The Traditional Healers' Conclave was one of the most significant and inspiring segments of the congress.
- Focused on exploring ancestral medicine and linking traditional wisdom with scientific innovation.
- Reflected SFE India's mission of "Globalizing Local Knowledge and Localizing Global Technology." Served as a dynamic platform for dialogue between traditional healers and researchers.

Some Glimpses of Traditional Healers meet during the 10th Convention of Society for Ethnopharmacology November 28-30, 2023 at CSIR - NEIST, Jorhat, Assam, India.



- Reinforced the importance of traditional knowledge in achieving sustainable health and economic growth.
- The meet successfully celebrated the heritage of traditional medicine.

- The Traditional Healers' Conclave was one of the most significant and inspiring segments of the convention
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Traditional Healer's Meet Program

Traditional Healers Meet @ 10th World Ayurveda Congress 2024 - Dehradun, India



Traditional Healers Meet @ ISESFEC 2023 at IBSD, Imphal, Manipur, India



Ethnopharmacology Conclave
8th WAC & AROGYA Expo – 2018 ,
Gujarat University, Ahmedabad



Ethnopharmacology Conclave @7th World
Ayurveda Congress -2016, Science City, Kolkata



7th World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya Expo 2016

International Ethnopharmacology Conclave on

"Ethnopharmacology, Ethno-medicine and Traditional Health Practices: Learning from the Nature: Tradition to Innovation"



December 3-4, 2016

Science City, Kolkata, India



Program Overview: Traditional Healers' Meet 2025

The Traditional Healers' Meet 2025 is structured to encourage meaningful dialogue between ancestral knowledge holders and the modern scientific community. The program blends storytelling, scientific presentation, live demonstrations, and policy dialogue to create an immersive learning experience that honors India's healing heritage while aligning with contemporary research priorities.

Engagement Formats

- **Plenary Talks & Case Presentations** – Contextual insights from eminent scientists and traditional practitioners.
- **Healer–Scientist Dialogues** – Moderated exchanges enabling cross-learning.

Guests, Speakers and Panelists



Dr Mahesh Dadheech
Chief Executive Officer,
National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)



Dr. Arun Bandyopadhyay
Director
Gujarat Biotechnology University, Gandhinagar



Dr. Narayanam Srikanth
Deputy Director General
CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India
New Delhi



Dr Raghu Arackal
Deputy Director General (Ayush)



Dr. Subhra Chakraborty
Former Director,
National Institute for Plant Genome Research



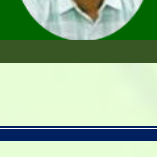
Dr. Charu Lata
Principal Scientist, Head, Traditional Knowledge Division
Editor, Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge
(CSIR–NIScPR), New Delhi, India



Dr. Sharad Srivastava,
Chief Scientist
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Lucknow, India



Dr. Prakash R Itankar
Coordinator, Nagpur Local Chapter, SFE &
Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, India



Prof. Pallab Kanti Halder
Executive Committee Member, SFE-India
HOD & Professor
Jadavpur University

**Dr. Pramod HJ**

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