Traditional Medicine production in Champasak Regional Hospital.

Phaiboun Sythamala  1, Elizabeth Elliott 2

1: Traditional Medicine Department, Champasak Regional Hospital

Pakse, Lao PDR

2: University College London, Department of Anthropology, UK

Champasak Regional Hospital in Pakse has a Traditional Medicine Department with a staff of 6 people (a doctor, pharmacist, acupuncturists and gardeners) which offers treatment and produces medicines. The department creates herbal remedies in the form of capsules, decoctions and teas. Seven principal medications are manufactured on-site and sold in the hospital pharmacy.

In capsule form:

* ‘Eleu-Cur-Zing' for treatment of digestive disorders: *Zingiber cassumunar* Roxb., *Curcuma longa* L.*, Eleutherine bulbosa* [(Mill.) Urb.](http://www.tropicos.org/NamePage.aspx?nameid=16600032" \t "_top)
* ‘Lasabi' for the treatment of diabetes: *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. f.) Wall.
* ‘Cu-ma-xan' for treatment of uterine bleeding: *Curcuma zanthorrhiza* Roxb.

As a decoction:

* *Stemona tuberosa* Lour., for treatment of liver inflammation.
* *Orthosiphon stamineus* Benth., for treatment of kidneys.
* *Ochna integerrima* [(Lour.) Merr.](http://www.tropicos.org/NamePage.aspx?nameid=22800744" \t "_top), *Pterygota alata* [(Roxb.) R.Br.](http://www.tropicos.org/NamePage.aspx?nameid=30401507" \t "_top), *Aganosma marginata* [(Roxb.) G.Don](http://www.tropicos.org/NamePage.aspx?nameid=1804053" \t "_top), for post-partum use and lactation.

As a tea:

* *Thunbergia laurifolia* [Lindl.](http://www.tropicos.org/NamePage.aspx?nameid=102966" \t "_top) for detoxification.

All of the medicines are prepared manually. The plants are sourced from the hospital garden, a medicinal plant reserve in Pakse, or collected in the wild from forests in Champasak Province. In the future, the staff hopes to produce tablets and to expand production of herbal products for sale, as well as increasing the capacity for traditional medicine use within the hospital.