

# RETROSPECTIVE OF PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL PLANTS IN GEORGIA

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The non-governmental organization "Institute of Medical Plants" is actively working on the problems of development of the infrastructure of medical plants' production in Georgia. One of the main goals of the NGO in this sphere is to create a system model of the development of the infrastructure and its realization in Georgian practice. This task requires a lot of organizational work, establishing contacts and comparatively frequent appearance in public. We don't think it is ethical, especially when Georgian NGOs are so active, to forget the work of different medical groups, that have existed in Georgia historically and laid ground for development of this field in Georgia. For known reasons we rely on works of American and European schools while working on the problems of planning and development of the infrastructure, but while planning the research of local breeds of the plants we naturally try to use the experience of past generations of Georgian scientists. Main precondition of development base of pharmaceutical vegetative raw materials in Georgia, on ground of previously conducted researches consist of four main factors.

- The results of researches conducted by the Georgian pharmaceutical-chemical school
- The results of researches conducted by the Georgian pharmaceutical-botanical and botanical school
- The works of the ВИЛП (Research Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Former Soviet Union)
- Folk and historical experience in this spheres

**Georgian pharmaceutical science school** was established in 1920s. The initiators of creation of this school were the small group of active scientists, led by Professor Ivel Kutateladze. When time passed, two main scientific and scientific - learning centers were formed:

- I. Kutateladze Institute of Pharmaceutical chemistry of the Georgian Academy of Sciences
- Pharmaceutical department of Georgian Medical University

Fragmentary (local) problems are researched also in other centers, but these two structures have remained the main research centers for decades.

First works of the Georgian pharmaceutical school were dedicated to researches of Georgian medical flora. The medical flora had been researched well enough for that time. On the next stage researches were conducted towards biologically active substances produced by these plants and creation of new medicaments. Several new substances were produced and several new medicaments were made. In the former Soviet Union Georgian pharmaceutical centers were the leading ones in the country. The hardships of the post-Soviet period were reflected negatively on their activities but now, we think, rebuilding process has begun.

Research of these centers was not directed towards planning of the infrastructure of production of medical plants, because during the planned economy it was not held necessary. Also, in Georgia no system work was conducted in the sphere of selection and production of medical plants, but Georgian centers worked together with Moscow institutes (ВИЛП) on the local problems, on problems of cultivation of medical plants. Mainly plants grown outside the USSR flora were researched, because pharmaceutical production was oriented towards the plants found in nature.

We try to use these results while planning and developing the infrastructure.

## **Georgian botanical and pharmaceutical-botanical schools**

It is natural, that the platform of pharmaceutical researches of medical flora is botanical research. From the same period, in the twenties, Georgian botanical school developed intensively, Georgian flora was researched and systemized. Today there is a lot of academic works in Georgian, consisting of many volumes, in which practically every plant found in Georgia is systemized and described. Specialists of pharmacobotany were the great help in preparing these works. They arranged the expeditions to study the Georgian medical flora for decades. The Georgian Pharmacobotanical School revealed several pharmaceutically valued plants in Georgian flora.

ВИЛП (The Institute of Medical Plants of the former USSR) also played great role in development of the infrastructure of medical plants' production in Georgia (Georgia was the part of the totalitarian communist state called the Soviet Union). As we see from the scientific works from that time, ВИЛП was methodically coordinating all the works conducted in the Soviet Union and also in Georgia in direction of researches of medical plants. Besides, in one of the regions of Georgia it was functioned a zonal station and production enterprise of ВИЛП. It is natural, that ВИЛП had great impact on the theoretical and practical preconditions of development of vegetative base of raw materials in Georgia. There were conducted important academic researches and the Institute will influence on Georgian pharmacy in the future for decades too.

Today new generation of Georgian pharmacists, the author of the article among them, are making active contacts with pharmaceutical centers of Europe and America but are lacking of resources to restore cooperation with the daughter structures of ВИЛП which is not good. We need to restore the contacts with pharmaceutical centers of the former USSR and with the market of pharmaceutical raw materials.

**The experience of historical and folk medicine is also an important factor for development of production of medical plants.** In the problems of the historical medicine we rely on works of professor of medicine Mikheil Sheshelia and while studying the folk experience of plants' cultivation – on works of professor of botany Zurab Shengelia.

In the end, we want to remark once again, that the NGO "Institute of Medical Plants" didn't start on bare ground. Together with American and European experience we actively use the experience listed above.

We think, that the "Institute of Medical Plants" slowly takes its place in Georgian pharmacy. The scientific research is not goal of our organization, but the main aim, to develop the infrastructure of production of medical plants and put it into level of real business, forced us to study several problems from scientifically point of view, and that was reflected in following publications (see the reference).

**ღალი დათეშიძე. სამედიცინო მცენარეთა წარმოების რეტროსპექტივა საქართველოში** (ინგლისურ ენაზე). ავტორი გამოთქვამს სიფრთხილეს, რომ არასამთავრობო ორგანიზაციებისათვის დამახასიათებელი აქტიურობის ფონზე ინგლისურენოვან მკითხველს არ შეეკნას შთაბეჭდილება, რომ საქართველოში სამედიცინო მცენარეთა კვლევა ეხლა იწყება. ავტორი მოკლედ მიმოიხილავს ამ სფეროში ი. ქუთათელაძის სკოლის, ქართული ბოტანიკური სკოლის, ВИЛП-ის და ხალხური გამოცდილების როლს. ავტორი მიუთითებს შედარებით ვრცელი (ავტორისეული) ნაშრომებზე ინგლისურ ენაზე, რომლებშიც რეტროსპექტიული მიმოხილვა შედარებით ვრცელადაა მოცემული. აღნიშნავს, რომ სამწუხაროდ, ქართველ ფარმაცევტთა ახალი თაობა, რესურსების უკმარისობის გამო, კარგავს ВИЛП-თან და საერთოდ

ყოველ სსრკ-ს ფარმაცევტულ ცენტრებთან თანამშრომლობის ტრადიციებს. იგი თვლის, რომ ევროპისა და ამერიკის ფარმაცევტულ ცენტრებთან თანამშრომლობა, რისკენაც ფარმაცევტთა ახალი თაობა კანონზომიერად მიისწრაფის, სასურველია, მოხდეს კონტაქტების გაფართოების და არა ძველად არსებული კონტაქტების ახლით ჩანაცვლების ხარჯზე. ეს არარენტაბელურია როგორც სამეცნიერო, ასევე ეკონომიკური და მარკეტინგის თვალსაზრისითაც.