



# ***Role of Traditional Healers Association in strengthening Traditional Health Practices in Chhattisgarh, India***



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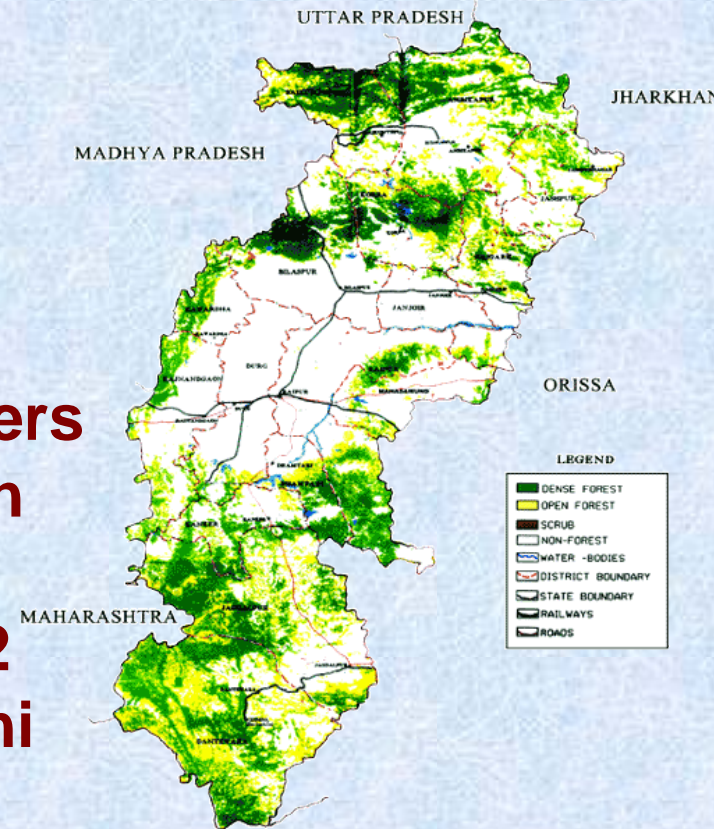
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## **FOREST COVER MAP OF CHHATTISGARH**

( Based on IRS-1B LISS-II data , Dec 1998 )



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- ❖ I have understood the lifestyle and traditional knowledge of *Vaidhya* communities, by living with them for the last 12 years, in the distant dense forest and remote village areas of the State.
- ❖ The THPs are mostly from the Baiga, Gond and Pando communities who have immense knowledge of Medicinal Plants occurring in the forests around them
- ❖ In order to maintain a continuous supply of Medplants from the wild they have devised traditional practices to conserve and protect the Medplants in the wild
- ❖ Village women return back to their work after 2 days of delivery because they know the medicinal herbs which they can rejuvenate them.
- ❖ Their children do self treatment on getting hurt and they get well because they have inherited this traditional health knowledge from their ancestors.



- ❖ In the remote villages both humans and animals are treated with the medicinal plants which are very effective.
- ❖ Baiga tribes of the state use several vegetation such as tikhur, mahua, charota, Patal kumhada etc. as an alternative for food in times of stress and also as a food supplement.
- ❖ In the state of Chhattisgarh the TH Association has till now identified more than 1100 traditional Health Practitioners and experienced folklore *Vaidhya*.



❖ They have a great knowledge of the properties and importance of the medicinal plants and can provide an effective treatment of bone disease, Asthama, jaundice, fever, malaria, disease of the fair sex, stomach ailments.

❖ In order to provide a platform and recognition to these THPs, I along with my colleagues formed the Chhattisgarh traditional *Vaidhya* Association

❖ Our organization is working towards popularising the TK of the THPs of Chhattisgarh and ensure the rights of village *Vaidhyas* and Baigas are protected.



## A word of Caution :

❖ Due to unavailability of this medicinal plants Ayurvedic drug manufactures are using adulterations and ultimately our market is full with low quality medicines.



❖ There is a need to formulate solid policy framework to conserve these natural life saving medicinal plants, so that we can protect and conserve them for our future generations. These are all possible only when we plan our work involving *Vaidhyas*, Baigas and Villagers and; also help them in getting their forest rights.





## Our Request :

- Several herbal hunters, drug companies and organisations have exploited and misused these THPs and their knowledge in the past. They have derived huge profits without passing even a fraction of these profits to these poor people. We kindly request all those present here to help us in our endeavor of ensuring that the knowledge of these Vaidyas is duly recognized and protected under Law and they are ensured benefit sharing in any profitable venture that is based on their traditional practices.



## Our Request :

- We also request you to help us in the conservation and propagation of the medicinal plants and involve local *Vaidhyas* and Baigas in any development scheme that is undertaken.
- Such work plan should ensure direct benefits to the people holding the TK and the middle men should be done away with.
- Therefore, such areas should be identified where the important medicinal plants are in the stage of extinction or they are extracted in an unsustainable and improper way.
- The THPs, who have quite an influence in the local communities can help the government in getting the local communities involved in the conservation and protection of the forests medicinal plants, their development and sustainable extraction and proper value addition to ensure supply of quality material according to the demand by the endusers.
- This will need capacity building of the communities and ensuring that various rights of the THPs and the communities endowed under various laws and rules are properly implemented and we request both the International and National community to help us.

**Keep Healthy With Our Traditional  
Knowledge**

**Thank You**