

**WHO BACKS ARTEMISIA?**

The World Health Organisation (WHO), after several years' delay, has officially recognised artemisia as the most effective (and rapid) cure for malaria. Previously its scientists were inclined to dismiss the possibility of an effective herbal remedy, and they still advocate the extracted main compound artemisinin, especially in combination with various drugs. The whole leaf however contains a number of other related anti-malarial ingredients; it seems easier for us to be trying an unknown lock with a bunch of keys rather than one! Apart from reinforcing the action of artemisinin, the other compounds make it more difficult for the malarial parasite to develop resistance to the treatment. Recrudescence in the drug method is markedly higher (up to 50%) than in the herbal tea.

**MEETING WITH ANAMED 10 JANUARY 2004.**

Sachlan North and Hardin Tibbs met with Dr. Keith Lindsey and Dr. Mark Alix at Lewes, Hardin chairing, to discuss the possibilities of working together to expand and speed up the use of *Artemisia annua* anamed A-3 as a frontline antimalarial treatment. The anamed A-3 is a hybrid developed in a Swiss laboratory that is many times more effective than other varieties of artemisia – more potent and with lower side-effects.

Keith is a researcher with the German organisation anamed (Action for Natural Medicine). He also conducts seminars in many African countries, as does his colleague Dr. Hans-Martin Hirt. Keith is interested in working with SDB - and also with Dr. Mark Alix (Uni of Kent). Mark runs a micro-propagation unit in Canterbury, which produces huge numbers of Phragmites reeds for the Oceans-ESU water purification enterprise. He has experimented with artemisia and says he could produce 10,000 plants at a time. This would accelerate the spread of the cure at a much greater rate, and avoid the problems of early growth.

Keith felt that the first step should be to hold a seminar either in Kalimantan or in England (his preference) in order to form a resource base of medical, technical and organisational people. Sachlan said that SDB's Kalimantan project TSLICK was looking into starting a project there. At the end of the meeting the consensus was that TSLICK would continue to work towards a pilot project in Rungan Sari and the surrounding villages, while the matter of an anamed seminar as a basis for a wider project was being developed.

**PROPOSAL FROM KALIMANTAN.**

In March, Sachlan received a proposal for from KUB, a Subud enterprise in Kalimantan, for KSG to fund a low-cost artemisia project, initially at Rungan Sari. The KUB committee consists of Daniela Bustillo (the landscaping manager there), her husband Bachrun and Sara Ramirez, a Colombian member doing a dissertation in environmental studies. The proposal was accepted by KSG, and the funds have now been sent to KUB.

**EAST TIMOR**

A chance meeting at the Uni of London with East Timorese diplomat Jose Amorim, who it turned out had recently been opened at Central London, led Sachlan (as SDB representative) to suggest artemisia for combatting the malaria which is rife in ET. Jose seems to have informed the President, and he in turn has approached Imron Comey, who is working with the UN in ET. As a result, the President has now made some land available in the highlands there, and Anamed is sending Imron a complete kit for growing the herb, funded by SDB.

**INTERNATIONAL FUTURE SKILLS SEMINAR.**

This event, to be run by Prof. Lucian Gill in Bradford at the end of March, will feature a presentation on artemisia. Dr. Herbert Jack, Lorna and Sachlan are taking part in the event.