



Marie-Thérèse SOMBO officially opens the 2025-2026 academic year in Mbandaka

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO launches a national
data collection mission for the
implementation of the E.O.D.

Resurgence of Ebola cases: WHO continues
vaccination campaign

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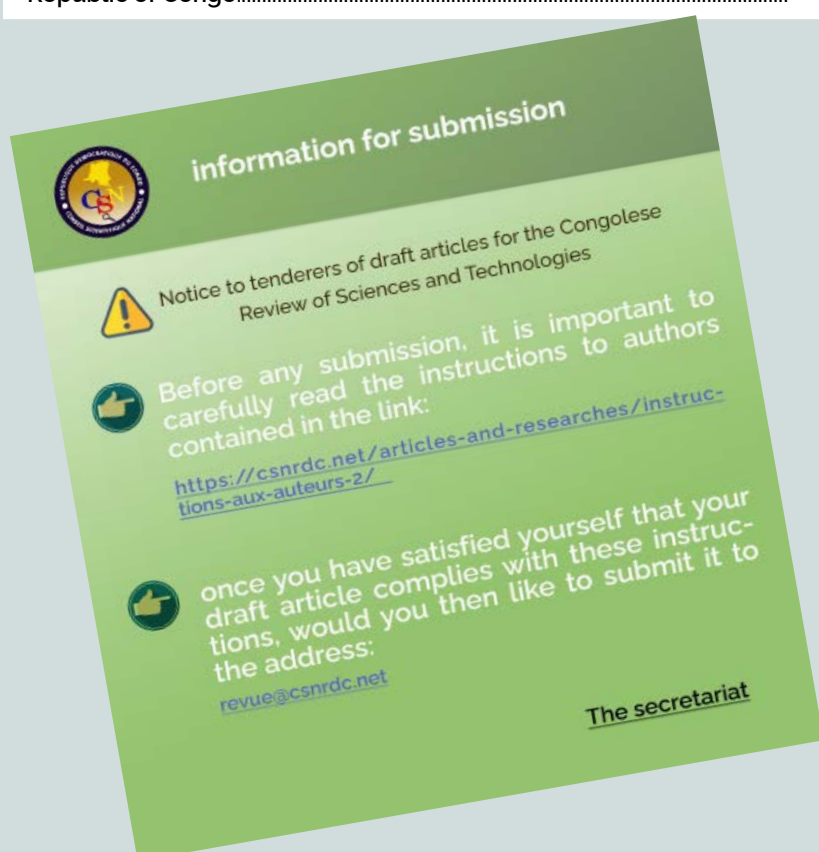
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The era of reform



Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President,

Considering reform has always been seen as bringing about change in the form of an establishment or institution in order to improve it and achieve better results. This exercise reflects a vision of the present, not as an unchangeable past, but as a malleable principle influencing the future.

This is illustrated by the structural reforms aimed at academic modernization and applied research in response to public health emergencies in the ESURSI sector, a dual dynamic supported in this issue. We see a rediscovered principle: that of reintegrating humanity into science and rigor into art.

This commitment, championed by the country's highest authority, His Excellency Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, and translated by the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Ms. Judith SUMINWATULUKA, places higher and university education on the list of national priorities as a major focus for the country's emergence. This has not remained a dead letter, because under the impetus of the Minister of ESURSI, Prof. Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, the higher and university education sector is resolutely embarking on a phase of profound change. For the first time,

an academic year (2025-2026) will be devoted solely to the LMD (Bachelor's-Master's-Doctorate) system in its first two cycles. The completion of this transition is an essential step towards international harmonization and improving the quality of education in the DRC. This transition is accompanied by a firm commitment to good governance and ethical conduct, which are considered essential for restoring institutional credibility.

At the same time, the launch of a national mission for Open and Distance Learning (ODL), with the support of UNESCO, is putting the DRC on the path to digital transformation. OD is the key to a more inclusive education system, capable of overcoming geographical and logistical constraints. The integration of traditional medicine into conventional healthcare is also a central theme of this edition. This topic, addressed by two university professors, illustrates this well. By exploring "fruitful ignorance," they demonstrate that the effectiveness of certain practices based on empirical wisdom derived from ancient traditions, complementary medicine, or simple clinical common sense can precede the understanding of their mechanisms by current scientific tools. This is a good source of inspiration for scientists.

Thus, faced with the national burden of sickle cell disease, for which the DRC ranks third in the world in terms of number of cases, the Institute for Health Sciences Research (RIHS) is committed to making the Center for Mixed Medicine and SS Anemia (CMMASS) a center of excellence in integrated medicine. This strategy aims to promote the immense wealth of Congolese pharmacopoeia, whose ancestral knowledge has been scientifically validated. The workshop held on October 21-22, 2025, outlined an ambitious roadmap focused on standardization, regulatory oversight, and capacity building to ensure the safety and

efficacy of improved traditional remedies.

It is clear that this fundamental shift is taking place in a context of acute health crises. The 16th Ebola epidemic in Kasai, with its heavy human toll and logistical difficulties, is a reminder of the urgency of public health challenges. The rapid response led by the Ministry of Health, MSF, and WHO, including ring vaccination and the deployment of resources, demonstrates the need to maintain epidemiological vigilance and cutting-edge response capacity.

Finally, initiatives aimed at strengthening research institutions, such as the inauguration of the ATSRC bus to improve working conditions, or the Minister's visit to the RCGM following the fire, demonstrate a commitment to preserving and motivating Congolese scientific personnel.

All in all, the 45th edition of the Science and Technological Innovations Bulletin illustrates a nation that, while responding to emergencies (Ebola), is laying the foundations for long-term scientific and academic sovereignty. The success of these endeavors will depend on the ability of researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to work closely together to transform laboratory discoveries into effective and accessible health policies, thereby ensuring the well-being and dignity of the Congolese people. Since reform requires a new intellectual stance, an ethic of knowledge that reconciles scientific rigor and empirical wisdom, may these pages inspire action!



Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO officially opens the 2025-2026 academic year in Mbandaka

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI), Prof. Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, officially launched the 2025-2026 academic year on October 22, 2025, in Mbandaka, the capital of Equateur Province.

Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, head of ESURSI, presented her general policy for an academic year focused on pursuing an effective, inclusive, and equitable education system.

She praised the involvement of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, who was keen to place education in general, and higher and university education in particular, as a major priority for the emergence of the Democratic Republic of Congo, before outlining the direction for the new year in these terms: "There is no need to remind you that the old PADEM education system has been phased out, and that the 2025-2026 academic year will be devoted for the

first time solely to the LMD system, at least in its first two cycles.

The aim will be to continue this major reform in order to consolidate the achievements and make the necessary adjustments in response to the shortcomings and weaknesses identified during the mid-term evaluation that the Ministry of ESU-RSI had to carry out over the period from 2021 to 2024, the results of which have already been made public."

Faced with moral depravity, the head of ESURSI remains categorical:

"...I would like to remind everyone, and especially the members of the various management committees, of the need to promote and strictly observe the moral and ethical values on which the process of building knowledge, know-how, and interpersonal skills is based, above and beyond strict compliance with the laws and regulations in force for our sub-sector.

"The promotion of educational interests alone should be the concern of each and every member of the academic and scientific community. There can be no justification for the rifts, dysfunctions, and disruptions caused within certain management committees of ESU institutions due to personal conflicts and poor governance.

Such behavior, rightly classified as professional misconduct, is therefore unacceptable and deserves to be severely punished. It is my firm intention to maintain the momentum gained in the effort to restore order and promote the image of the ESU sub-sector, which has been tarnished in the past," she concluded.

Communication Unit of the Minister of ESURSI and MAZONO Christian/NSC

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO launches a national data collection mission for the implementation of the E.O.D.

As part of the development of the National Strategy for Open and Distance Learning (E.O.D), the Ministry of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research, and Innovation (MESURSI), with the support of UNESCO, has launched a large-scale national data collection mission among public and private institutions.

This operation aims to provide the DRC with a reliable information base on the level of preparedness of higher education and university institutions to adopt and implement the E.O.D. system, in accordance with the Ministry's Roadmap.

To achieve this, two complementary approaches are being implemented. These are:

1. Digital collection: each institution is invited to complete the online questionnaire available via the link <https://minesursi.gouv.cd/?eva-eod>



2. Field data collection: teams of experts will visit provinces (Central Kongo, Tshopo, Haut-Katanga, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, etc.) to analyze local conditions and make recommendations.

MESURSI calls on all provincial conference presidents and school administrators to actively participate in this initiative as a sign of academic

patriotism and modernization of the Congolese education system.

This initiative marks a decisive step toward the digital transformation of higher education and the alignment of the DRC with international standards.

Communication Unit of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie Thérèse SOMBO opens the workshop on the challenges of integrating traditional medicine into the CMMASS (Center for the Management of Acute Care Services).

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Marie Thérèse SOMBO, opened the scientific workshop organized by the Institute for Health Sciences Research (RIHS) on the theme: "The challenges of integrating traditional medicine at the Center for Mixed Medicine and Anemia SS (CMMASS)," on October 22, 2025, in Kinshasa.

In her speech, Minister Marie-Thérèse SAFI SOMBO paid tribute to His Excellency the President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, for his commitment to promoting well-being, and to the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Judith SUMINWA TULUKA, for her commitment to implementing universal health coverage.



Continuing her speech, she emphasized that Africa, with its rich culture and heritage, has a veritable arsenal of

ancestral therapies at its disposal. The Minister noted that herbal medicine in particular has been at the heart of

Congolese discoveries: several medicinal plants identified by researchers have shown highly promising anti-sickle cell properties.

She also recalled Congolese pioneers such as Professors TONDELE, BATANGU, and NKEMBO, who developed traditional formulations based on these natural remedies, such as MEYAMICIN, DIAZOSTYMIL, MANADIAR, and MANACOVID, which have contributed to the fight against major diseases.

The head of ESURSI added to this by calling on researchers, experts, and stakeholders in the research sector to accelerate this momentum by promoting better integration of traditional medicine into national health strategies in the DRC, while respecting scientific rigor, ethics, and regulations.

She concluded by calling for greater collaboration between researchers, authorities, health professionals, and communities to remove the obstacles that hinder the practical integration of traditional medicine into the Congolese health system. It is imperative to overcome prejudices, remove regulatory



barriers, and work in a spirit of openness, scientific rigor, and enlightened patriotism, she concluded.

It should be noted that the workshop aimed to promote an integrated and scientific approach to traditional medicine in the fight against sickle cell disease in the DRC in general, and at CMMASS in particular. It took place on October 21-22, 2025, in Kinshasa.

Approximately 400 (four hundred) people participated in the meeting

(officials, researchers, scientists, traditional practitioners, and others). Various presentations were given by distinguished speakers, and several recommendations were made.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO visits the RCGM after the fire on October 2, 2025

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI) visited the Research Center Geological and Mining (RCGM) on October 2, 2025, following the fire on Monday, September 29, 2025.

The Director of ESURSI, Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, was accompanied by the Secretary General for Scientific Research and Innovation, NDAMBU Odon, and the President of the National Scientific Council, Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA.

Guided by the RCGM management team, the Minister visited the areas affected by the fire with the aim of assessing the extent of the damage, gathering



testimonies, and preparing a detailed report on the causes and consequences of the disaster.

This visit reflects the authorities'

commitment to placing the safety and enhancement of scientific spaces at the heart of their priorities.

Christian MAZONO/NSC



NSC Activities

Speech by the President of the NSC at the workshop on integrating traditional medicine into conventional care at the Center for Mixed Medicine and Anemia SS – Institute for Health Sciences Research

Your Excellency, Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation,

Members of the Management Committee of the Health Sciences Research Center,

Secretary General for Scientific Research and Innovation (represented here),

Members of the Management Committees of scientific research institutions;

Distinguished guests in your respective capacities and capacities ;

It is a privilege and a real pleasure for me to address you today at this major scientific workshop organized by the Institute for Health Sciences Research on the integration of traditional medicine into conventional care at the Center for Mixed Medicine and Anemia SS (CMMASS).

I would first like to express my deep gratitude

to Her Excellency the Minister for her presence among us, a vibrant testimony to her unwavering commitment to the promotion of scientific research and innovation. Your support is a source of inspiration and a call to responsibility for us: that of making science an instrument at the service of the people, their well-being, and their dignity.

I would also like to congratulate the Director General of the Institute for Health Sciences Research, the other members of the IRSS Management Committee, and the entire team that organized this workshop for this highly commendable initiative.

For centuries, African peoples have lived in harmony with nature. They have observed, experimented, and passed on, by word of mouth and from master to disciple, empirical knowledge about the therapeutic virtues of plants, the secrets of the forest, the power of roots, and the wisdom of leaves.

This ancestral knowledge has saved countless lives, long before the advent of antibiotics and modern hospitals.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 80% of the African population relies on traditional medicine and medicinal plants for their primary health care.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, home to nearly 47% of Africa's tropical forests, has one of the world's richest plant biodiversities.

It would therefore be inappropriate, even irresponsible, not to harness this immense natural wealth to meet the fundamental health needs of our population.

Indeed, it is well established that the majority of modern medicines originate from natural molecules derived from plants, or from their synthetic derivatives. However, our traditional medicine still faces several challenges: the lack of documented scientific evidence, the absence of standardized dosages, and doubts about the safety of certain plant extracts used.

The solution to these limitations lies in constructive collaboration between holders of traditional knowledge and the scientific community. This alliance between traditional and conventional medicine must be based on rigor, mutual respect, and innovation in order to provide our people with effective, safe, and culturally rooted care, similar to what is successfully practiced in several countries, notably China, a pioneer in the harmonious integration of modern science and traditional medicine.

Cheikh Anta Diop said, and I quote:
"A civilization that forgets its roots is a civilization doomed to disappear." End of quote.

Far from opposing the two systems, as I understand it, the approach in this workshop aims to build harmonious complementarity. Conventional medicine is based on clinical evidence, standardization of treatments, and health safety. Traditional medicine provides a holistic, human, and culturally rooted approach to health.

Biomedical science cannot be fully effective without being enriched by the diversity of cultural and traditional knowledge.

**Your Excellency, Madam Minister,
 Distinguished guests;**

Allow me to pause for a moment on an area to which I have devoted a significant part of my research over the past 20 years, alongside my multidisciplinary and inter-university research team. This is the study of medicinal plants used in the treatment of sickle cell disease or SS anemia.

As everyone knows, this hereditary disease is a real public health challenge in our country and across Africa. Conventional treatments, while valuable, are often expensive, difficult to access, and sometimes unsuited to local realities.

It is in this context that traditional Congolese pharmacopoeia represents a tangible source of hope.

Our work has identified more than 160 Congolese plant species throughout the country, whose extracts have remarkable biological and therapeutic properties.

I would like to emphasize that the information gathered from medicinal plant sellers in our markets, traditional healers, and ethnobotanical surveys has been confirmed by laboratory analyses to nearly 90%.

This is a clear demonstration of the empirical and scientific relevance of traditional Congolese knowledge.

These results are an eloquent example of how remedies derived from our local plants can complement, reinforce, and even surpass certain existing biomedical treatments.

Our research in this field has resulted in more than 300 scientific publications, constituting a unique database on anti-sickle cell plants in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Particular emphasis has been placed on food plants with therapeutic properties, with the aim of developing functional foods, i.e., foods with medicinal value. A presentation detailing these results will be given by a member of my research team during this workshop.

Our ambition, however, goes far beyond scientific production.

We want to transform this knowledge into concrete public health policies, creating a lasting bridge between science and medical practice.

The integration of traditional medicine into modern healthcare can only be conceived in the light of scientific rigor and professional ethics.

We must guarantee:

- The traceability of products derived from medicinal plants;
- Strict compliance with clinical protocols;
- The protection of traditional knowledge against any misuse;
- And the recognition of community intellectual property rights related to our natural resources.

To this end, the National Scientific Council is committed to playing a monitoring, support, and validation role in order to ensure the scientific and institutional credibility of the products and processes resulting from this integration.

Our hope, through this workshop, is to arrive at concrete recommendations that will enable the Center for Mixed Medicine and SS Anemia (CMMASS) to fully play its pioneering role in the field of integrated medicine.

Your Excellency, Madam Minister,

We hope that this experimental model developed by CMMASS can initially be replicated within university clinics before gradually being extended to other hospitals across the country.

It is time to leverage our endogenous knowledge in the medical field by incorporating it into a robust scientific approach with institutional support.

This initiative is perfectly aligned with the vision of "universal health coverage" advocated by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, Félix Antoine

TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, who continues to encourage innovation, the promotion of national resources, and the scientific sovereignty of our country.

**Your Excellency, Madam Minister
 Distinguished guests**

This workshop therefore aims to make the Center for Mixed Medicine and SS Anemia a model that we must replicate on a national scale: a place where science and tradition engage in dialogue and complement each other.

Our country must no longer be a mere reservoir of biological raw materials, but a scientific player in its own right. We have the resources, the knowledge, the intelligence; all we lack is the will to join forces. As Nelson Mandela said: "Everything seems impossible until it is done." "

Today, we are taking a step towards this possibility: that of an integrated, humane, effective Congolese medicine, rooted in nature and open to modernity. Healing without denying our origins, innovating without forgetting our traditions. May this workshop be a historic milestone in this march towards integrated and sustainable health for all. I wish all participants fruitful work.

May God bless our wonderful country and grant us all good health. Thank you for your attention.

Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
 NSC President



Echoes of Research Institutions

Speech by Director General Prof. Dr. NYEMBUE TSHIPUKANE Dieudonné at the workshop on the challenges of integrating traditional medicine into the mixed medicine center and anemia ss

Your Excellency, Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation,

Representative of the Denise Nyakero Tshisekedi Foundation,

Secretary General for Higher Education and Universities,

Secretary General for Scientific Research and Innovation (represented here),

President of the National Scientific Council,

Rectors and Directors General of Higher Education and University Institutions,

Directors General of Research Centers and Institutes,

Staff and Executives of the Institute for Health Sciences Research,

Distinguished guests, in your respective capacities and capacities,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this forum dedicated to the "Challenges of integrating traditional medicine at the Center for Mixed Medicine and Sickle Cell Anemia (CMMASS).

As a reminder, the Institute for Health

Sciences Research (IRSS) is a public scientific and technical institution. It houses the Center for Mixed Medicine and Sickle Cell Anemia, located in Yolo-Sud, recognized as the only official center specializing in the treatment of sickle cell disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The IRSS also has several branches throughout the country, some of which have medical centers.

I am aware that your schedules are particularly busy today, and it is therefore with particular gratitude that we welcome the presence of Her Excellency the Minister of ESURSI, whose VISION and constant SUPPORT contribute to the promotion of research and innovation in the service of public health.

ExYour Excellency, Madam Minister of ESURSI, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Institute for Health Sciences Research, I would like to express our deep gratitude for your presence here today.

Your participation demonstrates your interest in this crucial issue and reflects your commitment to promoting an integrated and scientific approach to traditional medicine in our healthcare system, particularly in the fight against sickle cell disease and other conditions treated at CMMASS.

It is important to remember that sickle cell disease is a real public health problem in the DRC due to its high prevalence and its major

impact on mortality and patients' quality of life.

After India and Nigeria, the DRC ranks third in the world and second in Africa in terms of the number of cases. Statistics indicate that 25 to 30% of the Congolese population are carriers of the sickle cell trait (S or AS gene) and that 2% of newborns are homozygous (or have major sickle cell disease), representing 50,000 affected births each year. Infant mortality linked to sickle cell disease remains very high in the absence of early screening and adequate care, and around 50 to 90% of affected children may die before the age of five.

Faced with this situation, our country must address several major challenges, namely:

- the absence of a national systematic neonatal screening program;
- and the limited availability of preventive treatments such as vaccination, antibiotic prophylaxis, hydroxyurea, and targeted transfusions.

Unfortunately, these shortcomings contribute to an avoidable mortality rate that is still too high.

Your Excellency, Madam Minister of ESURSI, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite advances in modern medicine, access to quality healthcare remains limited for a large part of the population due to economic

and geographical constraints. In this context, traditional medicine continues to play an essential role in the care of sickle cell patients.

It should be noted that several biblical passages show that God, from the beginning of creation, entrusted man with the plants and fruits of the earth not only for food, but also to preserve and restore health. The application of fig paste to heal ulcers is one example from the book of Isaiah 38:21. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 80% of the world's population, particularly in Africa, uses traditional medicine for their primary health needs. However, although widely practiced, traditional medicine remains insufficiently integrated into the formal health system, even though it is based on ancestral knowledge that has sometimes been proven, community proximity, and remarkable cultural relevance. This is why the World Health Organization (WHO) has been encouraging the rational, safe, and regulated integration of traditional medicine into national health systems for several years. During the two-day forum, several key topics will be addressed, including:

- defining the steps for integrating traditional medicine into the healthcare system, particularly in our Mixed Medicine and Anemia SS centers;

- approaches to collaboration between traditional practitioners, healthcare professionals, and researchers or experts;
- Finally, awareness-raising, training, and social acceptability of integrated care.

The aim of this forum is therefore to promote the SHARING OF EXPERIENCES, to strengthen knowledge and to propose concrete actions to address the challenges associated with this integration, particularly those relating to regulation, scientific validation, standardization, and the supervision of improved traditional remedies or medicines.

I therefore strongly encourage all participants, traditional practitioners, health professionals, researchers, experts, and decision-makers to actively contribute to the discussions.

It is through COLLABORATION, dialogue, and collective reflection that we will build SUSTAINABLE BRIDGES between modern medicine and traditional medicine.

In closing, I wish everyone every success and hope that this forum will be rich in learning and will yield concrete solutions for better integration of traditional medicine into healthcare, not only in the various medical centers of the Centre de Médecine Mixte

et d'Anémie SS, but also in other hospital facilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

May God be with each and every one of us, and thank you for your kind attention.

General Director of RIHS, Prof. Dr. NYEMBUE TSHIPUKANE Dieudonné

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Workshop on Integrating Traditional Medicine into Conventional Care at CMASS/RIHS RIHS Scientific Director Prof. Jean-Marie LIESSE IYAMBA: "Sickle cell disease is a major public health issue in the DRC."

« Sickle cell disease is a major public health problem in the DRC," said the Scientific Director of the Research Institute for Health in Science (RIHS), Professor Jean-Marie LIESSE IYAMBA, during the Workshop on the Integration of Traditional Medicine into Conventional Care at the Center for Mixed Medicine and Anemia SS (CMASS), organized by the IRSS from October 21 to 22, 2025, in Kinshasa.

According to him, sickle cell disease is a major public health problem with considerable prevalence and a significant impact on mortality, especially infant mortality, morbidity, and patients' quality of life.

He went on to emphasize that despite advances in modern medicine, available resources remain limited.

In this context, traditional medicine plays an important role in patient care.

Professor Jean-Marie LIESSE IYAMBA noted that traditional medicine, although widely practiced in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), remains poorly integrated into the formal health system. However, a large segment of the population continues to use it because of its availability, accessibility, and alignment with cultural beliefs. This is why the World Health Organization (WHO) encourages the rational and safe integration of traditional medicine into national health systems.

He added that the Workshop on the Integration of Traditional Medicine into Conventional Care at the Centre de Médecine Mixte et d'Anémie SS





Left: Deputy Chief of Staff to the Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Scientific Innovation, Prof. Nadège NGOMBE KABANGA; center: IRSS Chief Financial Officer, Ms. KATWADA Christine; right: RIHS Director of Studies, Prof. Jean-Marie LIESSE

(CMMASS) applied to sickle cell disease aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, policy makers, patient associations, and partners to explore the prospects for complementarity between traditional and modern medicine.

He further stated that the overall objective of the workshop is to promote an integrated and scientific approach to traditional medicine in the fight against sickle cell disease in the DRC, particularly at the Centre de Médecine Mixte et d'Anémie SS (CMMASS).

In the same vein, he outlined the specific objectives of the workshop, which are :

- Related to the integration of traditional medicine into a healthcare facility.
- Identify the challenges associated with integrating traditional medicine into conventional care at CMMASS.
- Highlight existing knowledge, practices, and outcomes of traditional medicine in relation to sickle cell disease,
- Promote exchanges (collaboration or teamwork) between traditional practitioners, researchers, physicians, pharmacists, and community actors in the holistic management of sickle cell disease.

- Identify avenues for standardizing and regulating existing traditional remedies.
- Develop recommendations for integrating traditional medicine into strategies to combat sickle cell disease at CMMASS/RIHS.
- It should be noted that the Institute for Health Sciences Research (RIHS) is a public scientific and technical institution covered by Ordinance No. 82-040 of November 5, 1982, on the organization of scientific and technical research in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and placed under the supervision of the ministry responsible for scientific research.
- Its main mission is to initiate and promote research with a view to preventing threats of all kinds to the quality of life and improving the health of the Congolese people, both in the field of modern medicine and traditional medicine.

It comprises two departments: the Scientific Department and the Administrative and Financial Department.

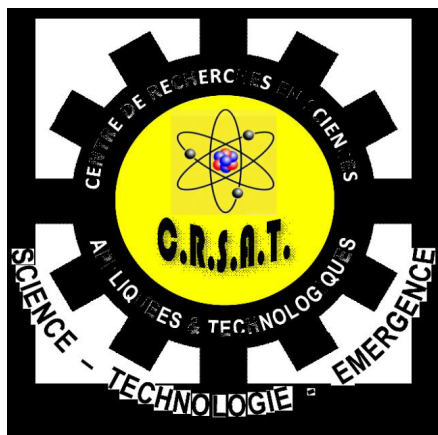
The Scientific Department consists of six divisions. :

- Department of Improved Traditional Medicines;
- Department of Clinical Biology (located at CMMASS) ;
- Department of Documentation and Publication
- Department of Mixed Medicine (located at CMMASS);
- Department of Sociocultural and Environmental Research ;
- Department of Paraclinical Sciences (located at CMMASS).

RIHS also has provincial branches.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

ATSRC inaugurates bus equipped for its staff



The Applied Science and Technology Research Center (ATSRC) inaugurated its staff transport bus on July 23, 2025, in Kinshasa.

With a view to combining business with pleasure, this event was coupled with a

tourist outing to the municipality of Maluku, to which some 70 ATSRC executives and staff were invited.

The bus left the Congo Geographic Institute (CGI) at 10 a.m. Its route began at Station Totale, not far from the Mandela overpass on the former Avenue du 24 Novembre, and continued to Boulevard Triomphal at the Centennial Protestant Cathedral. It then took Boulevard Sendwe to Boulevard Lumumba, passing through the municipalities of Limite, Matete, N'djili, Masina, Kimbaseke, and N'sele before arriving at its final destination in Maluku.

In Maluku, ATSRC executives and staff had the opportunity to visit the factories located in the Special Economic Zone, the port of Maluku, and the landscape along the Congo River. They then shared a family meal while discussing their experiences

in their careers at ATSRC, recalling many happy memories.

The visit also allowed ATSRC agents and executives to strengthen their professional ties. ATSRC staff thanked the members of the Management Committee for this initiative. They expressed their hope that such initiatives would be repeated on a regular basis. Finally, the bus left Maluku at 5:00 p.m. to begin the return journey.

Dieudonné ATITUNGU SANGOL/ATSRC

Report on the workshop on the challenges of integrating traditional medicine into the mixed medicine center and anemia ss/RIHS

In this report, STIB will present some images taken during the workshop on the challenges of integrating traditional medicine into the mixed medicine center and anemia ss/RIHS. These images will be described to give readers a clear understanding of the activity.



Members of the RIHS Management Committee and the Technical Director of the General Secretariat of the RSI singing the national anthem to close the workshop.



Panelists from Group 3 on awareness, training and social acceptability of integrated care in healthcare facilities. In the midst of a working meeting.



RIHS Director Jean-Marie LIESSE IYAMBA provided guidance on the workshop, emphasizing that sickle cell disease is a major public health issue in the DRC.



Panelists from Group 3 on awareness, training, and social acceptability of integrated care in healthcare facilities. In the midst of a working meeting.



Panelists from Group 3 on awareness, training, and social acceptability of integrated care in healthcare facilities. In the middle of a working meeting.



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Resurgence of Ebola cases: WHO continues vaccination campaign

In response to the resurgence of Ebola cases in Kasai province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Congolese health authorities are continuing their vaccination campaign, targeting health workers and people who have been in contact with confirmed cases.

According to the WHO, more than 760 of the 3,500 vaccine doses currently available have been sent to Bulape, the epicenter of the epidemic. Additional doses will be delivered in the coming days to affected areas in Kasai province.

In this race against time to combat this "highly contagious disease," priority is being given to those closest to the disease and their contacts.

45,000 additional doses in the coming days

"We have been able to vaccinate 500 healthcare workers and contact cases who are also high-risk personnel," said WHO Program Manager Patrick OTIM at a press conference.

The vaccine is administered according to the ring vaccination strategy, which involves vaccinating those most at risk of infection after coming into contact with a confirmed patient. It is also recommended for healthcare workers and frontline responders who may come into contact with Ebola patients.

The Ervebo vaccine is safe and protects against the Zaire ebolavirus species, identified as the cause of the current outbreak.

The International Vaccine Supply Coordination Group has approved the shipment of approximately 45,000 additional doses in the coming days as part of the ongoing response. WHO has supported health authorities in submitting the request for these additional doses and in developing the vaccination plan.

48 cases, including 31 deaths

The vaccination campaign is continuing as agencies fear the disease could spread rapidly in an area that is difficult to access and very remote. Two weeks after the Ebola outbreak began, 48 cases had been reported—38 confirmed and 10 probable—with 31 deaths as of September 17, 2025.

The outbreak, initially confined to two districts, has now spread to four. Details of the cases show three deaths among children under five, with a disproportionate number of women affected. Fifty-five percent of confirmed cases and 65% of deaths recorded so far are among women.

"This can be largely attributed to the role women play as caregivers in the community," said Mr. OTIM.

Healing of two patients

In addition, more than 900 contacts are being monitored to prevent further spread. Furthermore, an 18-bed Ebola treatment center has been set up at Bulape General Hospital with support from the WHO.

Congolese health authorities have announced that the first two patients treated in the Bulape health zone have made a full recovery and left the local treatment center. According to the WHO, these recoveries were made possible by the strengthening of clinical care and rapid response measures put in place over the past week.

However, in the fight against the epidemic, Congolese health authorities and WHO teams remain confident about the geographical spread of Ebola in Kasai province.

A geographically limited epidemic

The disease remains geographically limited, thanks to rapid interventions that have slowed transmission. Over the past five days, only one community has been affected, bringing the total number to thirteen.

According to the UN agency, treatment centers are fully equipped, health workers are protected, and neighboring countries are on alert. Thanks to vaccination, contact tracing, and well-equipped facilities, all efforts are focused on protecting lives and preventing further spread of the virus.

More broadly, the WHO assesses the overall risk to public health posed by the current outbreak as high at the national level, moderate at the regional level, and low at the global level. "No measures related to international traffic are currently justified," concludes the UN agency, insisting on strengthening surveillance at border posts.

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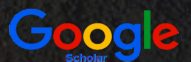
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