

Traditional Medicine and Health Care in Peru

Summer student/faculty collaborative research

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Goals

- Evaluate the EsSalud complementary medicine program, specifically the phyto-therapy component
- Explore options for establishing a supply chain from the mountains to the clinic on the coast
- Support collaboration between traditional healers and conventional health providers
- Community Outreach

Círculos de Salud

- **Health promotion and education**
- **Nutrition and group exercise**
- **Promotores de salud**
- **Maintain demonstration garden of medicinal plants**



History of the project

- Community garden at Chan Chan in 2009
- Comunidad Campesina Juan Velasco Alvarado
- Work in 2012
 - Demonstration Garden at EsSalud
 - Assessment of Huamachuco project and botany work
 - Study of patient attitudes and knowledge of traditional herbal therapy
- Findings



Benefits

- Holistic approach
- Centralized care
- Community outreach
- Personalized Plan
- Low cost
- Reduced dependence on pharmaceuticals



Main Recommendations of EsSalud CAMEC Assessment

- **Research:** Formalize a collaborative research and publishing relationship with UNT.
- **Education and Outreach:** Cooperate with the Ministry of Culture's Chan Chan site museum in developing a docent program for their demonstration garden.
- **Supply Chain:** Develop a sustainable bio-agronomy medicinal plant garden run by the Comunidad Campesina Juan Velasco Alvarado to supply the Natural Pharmacy at EsSalud-CAMEC in Trujillo.
- **Curandero Interface:** Build on a long-standing Trujillo tradition of collaboration between practitioners of modern medicine and Traditional Medicine in phyto-therapy, ethnobotany, pharmacy, psychology and community outreach.