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GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state - partner country

Saxony - Uganda



Title

Improving the use of traditional medicinal plants in Uganda

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

Promoting Rural Development in Uganda (PRUDEV)

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	576,041 EUR
Saxon contribution	411,720 EUR



* This project is co-financed from tax funds based on the budget passed by the members of the Parliament of the Free State of Saxony.

Duration

01.07.2023 - 31.12.2026

Responsible ministry

State Chancellery of Saxony

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Scientific analysis of plant material at the University of Leipzig by experts from Pharmbiotrac

Making traditional medicine commercially viable

Local situation

For most of the Ugandan population, traditional natural medicine (TNM) is the most commonly accessed and only affordable form of primary healthcare. Medicines derived from plants play a prominent role in TNM. The purity of the species used, as well as advice on their application and effects, are based on oral tradition. Despite high demand, there is only a limited amount of scientific data available on this topic.

Cooperation arrangements

The implementation of the project is a cooperative effort between the State Chancellery of Saxony, the Institute for Drug Discovery at the University of Leipzig, the Society for International Development Saxony e.V. (Geninsa) and the Saxony-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) arche nova e.V., in collaboration with the Ugandan civil society organisations Lugazi Rural Financial Development Trust (LRFDT), Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) and the Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC) at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda (MUST). For its implementation, the project cooperates closely with the GIZ project 'Promoting Rural Development in Uganda (PRUDEV)'.

What we are doing - and how

The aim of the project is to improve the use of medicinal plants and to create new sources of income for

“In Uganda, there is only one doctor for every 25,000 people or more, and the limited supplies of medication that hospitals do have very rarely include the drugs necessary for treating patients. Most people use traditional remedies obtained from wild plants to treat the different illnesses they experience. I see an urgent need to cultivate medicinal plants to improve health care in rural Uganda and create new income opportunities.”

Olivia Makumbi

Chair of the Lugazi Rural Finance Development Trust and research biologist at Ndejje University in Uganda



A women's cooperative in Uganda beside their field of traditional medicinal plants

the rural population, especially women, through the cultivation and sale of plants for production of traditional medicines.

As part of the project, based on an ethnobotanical survey, three medicinal plants will be selected, cultivated under standardised conditions, and scientifically evaluated pharmacologically. Building on this, a pilot value chain for commercial use will be established for a wound spray produced from these plants, including product development/design and the approval process, from the producers of the plant material to (intermediate) traders to end customers. The phytochemical analysis and pharmacological testing of the plants will be carried out by PHARMBIOTRAC and the University of Leipzig.

Through training courses conducted on site by the University of Leipzig suitable analysis methods will be established at MUST University for the long term. A research stay by Ugandan scientists in Leipzig will consolidate the exchange of experience and knowledge and the cooperation between the two universities.

Local women's cooperatives are trained by local NGOs in the cultivation, drying and commercial exploitation of medicinal plants. PHARMBIOTRAC will produce an initial pilot series of the wound spray and apply for registration with the National Drug Authority Uganda. Arche Nova e.V. is supporting the commercial marketing of the wound spray and coordinating the creation of a handbook containing the

lessons learned from the project for other Ugandan entrepreneurs to follow suit.

Useful links

- Information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/projects/german-government-and-federal-states-programme-iii>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- GIZ Programme “Promoting Rural Development in Uganda” (PRUDEV):
<https://www.giz.de/en/projects/promoting-rural-development-northern-uganda-0>
- Institute for Drug Discovery at the University of Leipzig <https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/en/science-research/faculty-of-medicine/institutes>
- Society for International Development Saxony e.V. (Geninsa): <https://www.geninsa.org/en/about-us/>
- Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre der Mbarara University of Science and Technology: <https://pharmbiotrac.must.ac.ug>
- Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) <https://katosi.org/>
- Lugazi Rural Financial Development Trust (LRFDT): <https://lrfdt.org/>
- Arche Nova: <https://arche-nova.org/en>