



**BUSITEMA
UNIVERSITY**
Pursuing excellence



**NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION CENTRE**
"Traditional medicine for all"
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Busitema University is leading pharmaceutical Innovations in Uganda.

Established in 2007 in the rural communities of Eastern Uganda, Busitema University is a multi-campus public institution specializing in science and technology. The University comprises six faculties: Engineering (Busitema Campus), Science and Education (Nagongera Campus), Agriculture and Animal Sciences (Arapai Campus), Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (Namasagali Campus), Health Sciences (Mbale and Kabwangasi Campuses), and Management Sciences (Pallisa Campus). The University also operates a Maritime Institute at Namasagali Campus and a Clinical Research Institute in Mbale.

Busitema University Natural Products Research and Innovation Centre (BUNaPRIC) is a multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence dedicated to producing high-value, scientifically validated natural therapeutics derived from Uganda's rich biodiversity and indigenous knowledge for commercialization.

The Centre, located within Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, has developed several pharmaceutical products, some of which have already been approved by the National Drug Authority and are currently being commercialized.



The President declaring the results of the Clinical trial of Tazcov that was conducted by Makerere Lung Institute under the CONAT Program. This was during the tarehe sita celebrations in Kyotera on 6th February 2025.



SCIENCE

Vision: "A Centre of academic and professional excellence in science, technology and innovations.

Mission: To provide high standard training, engage in quality research and outreach to support industrialization and sustainable development."

Busitema University Natural Products Research and Innovation Centre (BUNaPRiC) is a multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence focusing on producing high value, scientifically validated natural therapeutics from our rich biodiversity and indigenous knowledge for commercialization. The Centre, located within Mbale Regional Referral Hospital has innovated the following pharmaceutical products with some already approved by National Drug Authority and are being commercialized.

TAZCOV is a herbal remedy formulated from selected Ugandan Medicinal for symptomatic management of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) like COVID-19, common Cold, influenza (flu), sore throat, Parainfluenza, Respiratory syncytial virus infection, rhinitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia and bronchiolitis. It has scientifically proven antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and immunomodulation properties. TAZCOV underwent a rigorous preclinical evaluation and was notified by the National Drug Authority (THA1087). It successfully completed an independent Phase II clinical trial conducted at Makerere Lung Institute under the Clinical Trial on Natural Therapeutics (CONAT) programme supported by the Government of Uganda through the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation. It's at a stage of commercialization.



GLUCOTAK is a herbal remedy formulated from selected Ugandan medicinal plants for symptomatic management of Diabetes mellitus. Glucotak has undergone a rigorous preclinical evaluation in in vitro and animal models and was found to be safe and efficacious and notified by the National Drug Authority (THA1338). It's currently undergoing an independent clinical trial conducted at Mulago National Referral Hospital under the Clinical Trial of Natural Therapeutics (CONAT) programme supported by the Government of Uganda through the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation. It's a stage of turning a prototype into a

viable product (clinical trials).

Hericorp is a herbal soap formulated from herbal plants for symptomatic management of skin bacterial and fungal infections. The plant extracts in hericorp have a proven record of use in traditional medicine and have exhibited antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. HERICOP has been shown to have very good inhibitory effects against skin bacteria and fungi. Therefore, formulation in HERICOP is specially made to ensure that the soap has antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties as well as wound healing and skin smoothing effects; thus, it is a skin master! Its available for commercialization.

Trichos is a Trichoderma-based product with three formulations: foliar spray, soil amendment, and seed coating developed to enhance plant growth, reduce pest and disease damage and improve soil microbiome. The product has already undergone a one-season multi-location field trial in which we compared individual and combined applications of TRICHOS with conventional fertilization and controls. Plant performance (biomass, roots, yield), pest suppression, and soil microbial shifts were assessed. All TRICHOS treatments improved growth, with the combined application showing the greatest gains. Foliar and seed treatments significantly reduced pest incidence. Soil analyses showed increased beneficial microbial taxa, with correlations linking microbiome shifts to improved plant



traits and reduced pest incidence. Further field trials are on-going in collaboration with NARO at NASARRI in Serere and AbiZARDI in Arua to assess TRICHOS performance under diverse agroecological conditions. TRICHOS is an eco-friendly solution to enhance crop production.

Carienil is a herbal toothpaste designed from carefully selected herbal plants for treatment of dental caries. The plants extract in carienil had proven antibacterial activity against bacterial involved in dental caries and the prototype have

SCIENCE



been rigorously studied to ensure safety and efficacy. It's at the stage of notification with National Drug Authority and certification by Uganda National Bureau of Standards

PROVIRID: is an investigational herbal drug formulated from Ugandan indigenous medicinal plants and is currently being evaluated for latency reversal in non-B HIV-1 viral subtypes in Uganda. PROVIRID has demonstrated significant therapeutic effects in Wistar Albino rats by lowering the blood levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL or bad fats) that increases cholesterol levels in blood and a recipe for non-communicable diseases but increased high-density lipoprotein (HDL or good fats) that lowers blood cholesterol levels. These observations imply that it can be utilized in the HIV/AIDS treatment and care to reverse HIV latency but also to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases among PLWH. It's at the

stage of notification by National Drug Authority.

All these products have a great potential for scalability and will impact our community through promoting good health and wellbeing but also bring in revenue and contribute to economic growth.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Uganda for the financial support received through the Science, Technology and Innovations Secretariat, Office of the President (STI-OP) and Busitema University Research and Innovation Fund (BURIF).

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The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Waako and entire Busitema University community congratulate Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni upon his swearing in ceremony as the President of the Republic of Uganda 2026 - 2031