

Background:

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), is the second oldest public University in Uganda established by an Act of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda in 1989.

The Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC) at MUST is providing a regional platform for innovative drug development, including exploring the use of traditional medicine in the region.

The goal of PHARMBIOTRAC is "to build a critical mass of specialized and skilled human resource that can advance traditional medicine and Pharm-Biotechnology for socio-economic development of Africa".

Vision is "to be a leading African Centre of Excellence for training and research in traditional medicine and pharm-biotechnology",

Mission "to contribute to documentation, validation and value chain development of traditional medicine and biotechnology products for use in pharmaceutical and nutraceuticals industries in the region through training, research and community services for sustainable development".

To this end, PHARMBIOTRAC will provide financial support to selected highly motivated, research-focused and qualified candidates to pursue their MSc and PhD Study Programmes aimed at achieving the goal of the centre.

Teaching and supervision will be provided by a joint team of faculty from MUST, faculty from partner Universities as well as senior technical personnel of industries and research institutes coming from India, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, USA, etc.

Framework



Objectives

The main objective of PHARMBIOTRAC is to build a critical mass of specialized and skilled human resource that can advance traditional medicine and Pharm-Biotechnology for socio-economic development of Africa, and the specific objectives include to;

- Strengthen capacity in the region to train highly skilled and specialized professionals in traditional medicine and Bio-pharmaceuticals,
- Strengthen capacity in the region to engage in cutting edge research in TM and systems biology for health products development,
- Create capacity in collaboration with private sector industry for development, production and commercialization of TM, biopharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals from research outputs.

Thematic areas of focus:

- i. Understanding Traditional Medicine Philosophy of Health and Disease Prevention and Control
- ii. Traditional/Herbal Medicine Quality and Safety Standards
- iii. Herbal Medicine Production/Manufacturing and Quality Control Standards
- iv. Traditional/Herbal Medicine Knowledge and Material Conservation and Propagation - in-situ, ex situ
- v. Traditional/Herbal Medicine/ Clinical Validation Protocols and Standards
- vi. Pharmaco-Biotechnology-Application of Biotechnology to Drug Discovery, and Drug Production
- vii. Pharmaceutical Business Management/Regulation

Key academic programs

A: PhD by Research (thematic areas above)- Duration 3 years

B: Current Masters programs offered (by course work and research) - Duration 2 years

- Master of Science in Pharmacology (M.Pha)
- Master of Science in Pharmacy (Clinical Pharmacy) (M.Sc. Clin. Pharm.)
- Master of Science in Pharmacognosy and Natural Medicine Science (M.Sc. PNMS)

