



Medicinal and Aromatic Plants – Our Heritage,  
Health, and Livelihoods

**Jena Herbals Limited**  
Home of Safe Herbal Medicines

# Keynote message

- Dear Hon Minister and distinguished invited guests in your respective capacities am greatly honoured and pleased to speak to you all in this conference of National Wildlife Conservation with the theme ‘ Medicinal and Aromatic Plants conserving heritage, health and livelihoods.
- Am honoured and pleased because I am the chief herbalist and the chief beneficiary of our heritage, health and livelihood derived from MAPS.



- Five years ago, nobody knew me especially as a chief herbalist but when Corona viral Disease attacked the world especially Uganda the hidden Chief Herbalist in me was unveiled.



COVIDEX gave me the chance to be called by HE YKT Museveni not once, not twice, not thrice but daily to see that we had no challenge in producing COVIDEX which was saving lives of Ugandans and other nations

- Where did we get COVIDEX? COVIDEX came from our heritage on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, plants that my mother used to treat us whenever we were sick from viral diseases such as measles, cough, flu, diarrhoea etc



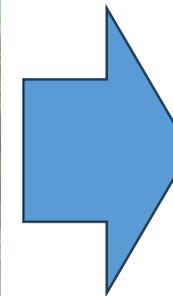
Zanthoxylum spp



Warburgia spp



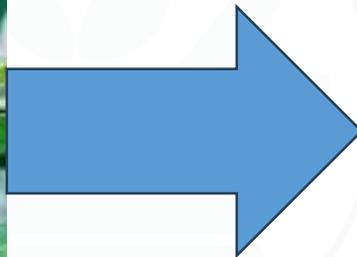
Cymbopogon spp



- Long before the advent of modern laboratories, our communities diagnosed, treated, and prevented disease using carefully selected plants, guided by observation, experience, visions, dreams, prayers, experimentation with animals, trial and error as well as serendipity
- But when western culture came to Africa we were intentionally and systematically made to hate and ridicule our heritage as witchcraft, backwardness and even the practitioners were arrested and imprisoned in Uganda using the law called the witchcraft act of 1957
- Some elites in Uganda call me witchdoctor but I just smile back



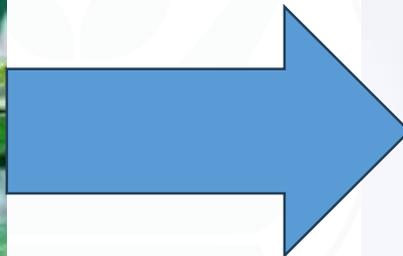
- May be they are right to call us witchdoctors because some times herbal medicines do what modern medicine fails to do



A lady from soroti sent me her testimony by audio even the husband came looking for me in Entebbe. The lady had had four miscarriages due to high blood pressure and her doctors told her not to conceive again. But she decided to conceive and use Jena HT and a miracle happened she carried the baby to full term and produced her healthy happy baby



- May be they are right to call us witchdoctors because some times herbal medicines do what modern medicine fails to do



Last week I received a call from Mbarara city that another lady who has had 3 miscarriages due to high blood pressure opted to use Jena HT to control her pressure has conceived and wanted to know if she can continue using Jena HT I just gave her the testimony of the lady from soroti city may God help her too

- Medicinal and Aromatic plants are not just our heritage but are and should be the backbone of our healthcare and economic progress
- MAPS are the sources of 25% of Pharmaceutical drugs worldwide
- MAPS give us herbal drugs such COVIDEX, Health supplements, cosmetics and natural insecticides

Demand for green products is surging, with searches for sustainable options rising by up to 158% (2013–2023) and eco-friendly cleaning products up 810% (2014–2024)

<https://ecofriendlyweb.org/client/banc/>



- The global herbal drugs, health supplements, and cosmetics market is experiencing robust growth, estimated to reach over **USD 478 billion by 2032 due to rising demand for natural remedies and wellness products**. Key drivers include increased interest in [adaptogens](#) (Ashwagandha, Ginseng) and [botanical extracts](#) (Turmeric, Elderberry), with significant opportunities in both local and international trade.
- <https://www.fao.org/4/af285e/af285e00.htm>
- The global coffee market is projected to reach approximately **USD 223 billion to USD 227 billion by 2032**
- **As some people plant coffee am planting MAPS**



To unlock the potential of MAPS, we must:

- Invest in farmer training and domestication
- Promote value addition rather than raw exports
- Strengthen regulatory and quality infrastructure
- Support SMEs and local manufacturers like Jena, Kazaire, BIGGI, Aloesha, Safe Organic etc
- Integrate traditional medicine education into our curricula including medical schools
- Strengthen research in African Traditional medicines



# Jena Herbals Ltd

- Temporay Factory Located at Luzira Industrial Park & Laboratory in Akright City Entebbe Road
- **Company Vision:**
  - The world leader in research, development & manufacture of quality natural health products to serve humanity
- **Company Mission:**
  - To research, develop, manufacture and provide quality natural health products based on **Indigenous African knowledge, science and technology**, applying modern scientific approaches to address global health challenges eg COVIDEX for COVID-19.



# Structure and Organization

- Founded in 2006 (but incorporated on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007) by Prof. Dr. Ogwang Patrick Engeu, aka Dr. Malaria, Prof. Covidex.

- Directors

Directors (4)

## Employees

Direct employees ( 109)  
Indirect (1000)

- Legal firm

Omongole & Company Advocates

## Audit firm

Danon Consulting

- Licensure

National Drug Authority Approved Facility

84 local suppliers to JHL



# The Problem JHL Is Addressing

- Jena Herbals Limited is addressing **National, Regional and International Health Challenges** such as COVID-19, Diabetes, High blood Pressure, Prostate diseases, Hormonal imbalances in females, sickle cell Diseases, Arthritis, cancers among others
- Through Research, Develop, Manufacture and Provision of quality natural health products based on **Indigenous African knowledge, science and technology** driven by modern scientific approaches



# Jena business case: Green Manufacturing

- We focus on Green products (medicines, cosmetics & Health supplements ) developed by us not copied from books or other companies.
- The company is founded purely locally driven Research since 2004 enabling us to have unique drug formulas which give us an edge in the pharmaceutical market
- All Jena products are from locally sourced materials we do not import any active pharmaceutical Ingredient or excipients
- We use water, acetic acid and ethanol in extraction—no petroleum products---environmentally friendly



# Jena business case—challenge

➤ To be globally competitive the following challenges have to be overcome;

1. Adequate scientific evidence published in local, regional and international peer reviewed journals and proceedings
2. Robust clinical trials especially for prescribable products
3. GMP and GLP certifications
4. Quality Raw materials supply and sustainability
5. Favourable national and regional laws and policies



# Steps towards overcoming the challenges

1. Adequate scientific evidence published in local, regional and international peer reviewed journals and proceedings

## Collaboration with other scientists in universities

Full Length Research Paper Preclinical immunomodulatory activity of COVIDEX® herbal product developed for supportive treatment of COVID-19 in Uganda Patrick Engeu Ogwang<sup>1 \*</sup>, Silvano Samba Twinomujuni<sup>2</sup>, Casim Umba Tolo<sup>3</sup> and Francis Wasswa<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, P. O. Box 1410 Kabale Road, Mbarara, Uganda. <sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Science, Faculty of Medicine, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, P. O. Box 1410 Kabale Road, Mbarara, Uganda. <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Mbarara University of Science and Technology. P. O. Box 1410 Kabale Road, Mbarara, Uganda. <sup>4</sup>Department of Immunology and Molecular Biology, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062 University Road, Kam



Prenatal Developmental Toxicity of ARVIDEX® Herbal Medicine in Albino Wistar Rats  
Patrick Engeu Ogwang , Kiprotich Joshua , Philbert Katende , Theola R. Arisinga , Sarah Kyomugisha , Timothy Neeza , Swase Dominic Terkimbi , Tadele Mekuriya Yadesa , Daniel Chans Mwandah 1. Pharmacy, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, UGA 2. Pharmacy, Kampala International University, Ishaka-Bushenyi, UGA 3. Pharmacology and Toxicology, Kampala International University, Ishaka-Bushenyi, UGA 4. Biochemistry, Kampala International University, Ishaka-Bushenyi, UGA 5. Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, UGA  
Corresponding author: Daniel Chans Mwandah, danielchanskiu@gmail.com



# Steps towards overcoming the challenges

## 2. Robust clinical trials especially for prescribable products

Effectiveness of Jena DM® Herbal Formulation as Complementary Therapy to Conventional Oral Hypoglycemic Agents in Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Quasi-experimental Study Joshua Kiptoo , Tadele Mekuriya Yadesa , Clement Olusoji Ajayi , Oliver Kushemererwa , Adellah Kantengwa , Anthony Muyingo 1. Pharmacy, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, UGA 2. Pharmacy, Kampala International University, Ishaka, UGA 3. Diabetes & Endocrinology, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Mbarara, UGA 4. Internal Medicine, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, UGA Corresponding author: Oliver Kushemerer

CONAT IN MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED AND FUNDED UNDER SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS TAKING ON JENA DM FOR A ROBUST BIGGER CLINICAL TRIALS



# Steps towards overcoming the challenges

3. GMP & GLP certifications ----construction of GMP compliant facility is ongoing in Soroti City Industrial park funded by GOU &JHL



# Jena business model-Expansion & future

Completion of factory in Soroti will enable us get GMP/GLP certifications to

- Secure EAC and AU markets
- Explore EU and US markets for organic products



# Current facility in Luzira industrial park



# Following trees planted in Schools in April 2022 to assess survival



# Conservation and Sustainability of MAPS

- What medicinal and Aromatic plants will earn you money for generations in you plant now;
  1. *Zanthoxylum gillettii/chalybeum*
  2. *Rauwolfia species*
  3. *Warburgia species*
  4. *Kigelia africana*
  5. *Prunus africana*
  6. *Eucalyptus globulus*
  7. *Nauclea latifolia*
  8. *Cassia occidentalis*



# Policy recommendations

- University Researchers–Industry partnership be strengthened funded by government through PPP to solve specific industry challenges
- Herbal products approved by National Drug Authority with clinical evidence should be used in government facilities purchased through National Medical Stores
- Insurance policies should cover herbal medicines approved by National Drug Authority
- Long term research programs and Research Teams be started funded by government—such as development of cures for HIV, Cancers, Sickle cell, et
- Conservation and large scale cultivation of MAPS





GOD BLESS YOU ALL