PROJECT NAME	**CULTIVATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF YOUNG PLANTS OF ENDANGERED MEDICINAL PLANTS FOR THE BASIC MEDICAL CARE OF PEOPLE IN THE LUGAZI REGION IN UGANDA**
REPORTING PERIOD	**APRIL - JUNE, 2023**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	**LUGAZI RURAL FINANCE DEVELOPMENT TRUST [LRFDT]**
BENEFICIARIES	**THE PEOPLE IN LUGAZI REGION IN UGANDA**
FUNDED BY	**GENINSA**

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants have played a significant role in many ancient traditional systems of medication and still do today in both developed and developing countries. Medicinal plants are one of the most sensitive commodity areas of research today. In Uganda less than 10 % of the medicinal plants traded in the country are cultivated, about 90% are collected from the wild, very often in a destructive and unsustainable manner.

In Africa and particularly Uganda, traditional medicine involves a diverse range of practices, including herbalism and spiritualism, where some diseases are believed to be "African" since it is believed that they can only be traditionally treated.

Indigenous knowledge on the management of "African" diseases using medicinal plants is to some extent still handed down orally from one generation to another and with the rapid westernization, there is a pressing need to record local knowledge before it is lost forever.

Aim: This project therefore aims at cultivation, conservation, distribution and documentation of endangered medicinal plants for the people in Lugazi region.

Methods: A cross-section of endangered medicinal plants were selected using the local community of Lugazi and by assistance from technical people in the same field i.e. Dr. Ivan Kahwa and Dr. Hilda Ikirize from Mbalala University of Science and Technology.

The data collected on the endangered medicinal plants included names of plant species, plant parts used, diseases treated, methods of preparation, and mode of administration of the herbal remedies. A total of 10 commonly used and u plants were selected and these were;

S/No	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LOCAL NAME
1.	*Plectronthus barbatus*	Ekibwankulaata
2.	*Oregano sp*	Mubiri
3.	*Tetradema riparia*	Kyewamala
4.	*Physalis peruviana Gooseberry*	Entuntunu
5.	*Mentha piperita Mint*	Pepper Mint
6.	*Rosemarinus officinaris*	Rosemary
7.	*Justicia betonica*	Nalongo
8.	*Ocimum basilicum Basil*	Mujaaja
9.	*Symphytum officinale*	Russian comfrey
10.	*Hoslundia opposita*	Kamunye

Assumption: Local communities of Lugazi in Buikwe district, use a rich diversity of medicinal plant species in the management of various diseases. Therefore, collaboration between users of medicinal plants, sellers and scientists is paramount, to help in the discovery and conservation of new drugs and uses based on indigenous knowledge and research.

ACTIVITIES DONE

In this reporting period, a series of the following activities have been done as per the workplan

1. **Plant Selection**

   As earlier discussed, by the use of the local community which is considered to be the primary user of these medicinal plants, we were able to come up with all the above medicinal plants. Having implemented and completed the first project on medicinal plants titled "**pharmacological characterization and cultivation of selected traditional medicinal plants from Uganda in preparation for rational application in a standardized form"**, we were already convinced that the first four medicinal plants considered had the following characteristics;

   - Commonly used and
   - Wound healing

Conyza sumatrensis
Local Name: Kafumbe

Justica betonica L.
Local Name: Nalongo

Centella asiatica (L.)
Local Name: Kabbo kamuwala

Hoslundia opposite Vahl
Local Name: Kamunye

On these already selected four, we dropped one (*Conyza sumatrensis*) and added seven to have 10 medicinal plants which are;

- Endangered
- Facing extinction

Symphytum officinale – Russian Comfrey

Ocimum basilicum Basil - Mujaaja

Rosemarinus officinaris – Rosemary

Mentha piperita Mint - pepper mint

Physalis peruviana Gooseberry - Entuntunu

Tetradema riparia - Kyewamala

Oregano sp - Mubiri

Plectronthus barbatus - Kibwankulata

Justica betonica L. - Nalongo

Hoslundia opposite Vahl - Kamunye

The following fields were a baseline for the selection of the medicinal plants and they were locally translated to the community members to necessitate right and timely responses;

COMMON NAME	It is the name known to the general public/community
ECOLOGY	Where the plant in question is mostly found and how it relates with the surroundings
USES	Apart from being a medicine, what other alternative uses does the community embrace from the same plant.
DESCRIPTION	If not physically available/present, how does the community describe it for one to understand.
PROPAGATION	If one wishes to multiply that medicinal plant, what part of it is planted e.g. roots, seeds, stems, etc.
SEED	How does that propagation part look like, small, fragile, colour, etc.
TREATMENT	How is it applied if one wishes to use it for treatment
STORAGE	How best can it be stored to prevent it from damage
MANAGEMENT	Field practices

2. Propagation of individual Plants

It is clear that there is overexploitation of these plants in nature and relatively less efforts have been made to conserve this valuable natural resource for its sustainable use.

Habitat destruction is the major threat for the survival of medicinal plants. The conventional propagation method is the principal means of propagation and takes a long time for multiplication because of a low rate of fruit set, and/or poor germination and if available growth is affected due to unfavorable conditions.

It is important that improvement efforts should be taken **(use of a shed net)** in order to ensure availability of genuine raw materials of these species for distribution when the right time comes. Therefore, a clear

understanding of propagation by a shed net is necessary for increased cultivation of all these selected medicinal plants.

CONSTRUCTED SHED NET READY FOR USE

Medicinal plants address not only the need for access to medicine as a component of health services but also to the need for increased income for farmers and as a significant contribution to the national economy. Medicinal plants offer alternative remedies with tremendous opportunities. They not only provide access and affordable medicine to poor people but also generate income, employment and foreign exchange for developing countries, Uganda in particular.

Many traditional healing herbs and plant parts have been shown to have medicinal value, especially in the rural areas and that these can be used to prevent, alleviate or cure several human diseases. WHO estimates that more than 80 percent of the world's population rely either solely or largely on traditional remedies for health care?

Continuous exploitation of several medicinal plant species from the wild and substantial loss of their habitats have resulted in the decline of population of many high value medicinal plant species over the years.

propagation of endangered medicinal plant species in the shed net

The selected medicinal plants seedlings were sourced from the community specifically from those people with domesticated gardens of the same.

From the beginning, this project has been identified and initiated to prepare an account of state-of-the-art knowledge of propagation of the selected medicinal plant species.

Below are the 10 selected endangered medicinal plants in the shed net under propagation.

3. Obtaining of seeds and seedlings from the mother plants

The seeds and seedlings obtained from the mother plants will be distributed to already selected and sensitized beneficiaries. By the time of seed distribution, a series of trainings for all seed and seedling multipliers would have taken place preparing them with all the skills necessary for domestication of medicinal plants.

To increase the germination rate of all the medicinal plants to be distributed, we have resolved to supply already germinated materials to already prepared multipliers. We have practically observed that some medicinal plants like *Physalis peruviana (Gooseberry), Rosemarinus officinaris, and Ocimum basilicum Basil* need a lot of care/attention and time for them to germinate and such qualities are not guaranteed from the selected multipliers.

4. Propagation Records

Such information is very useful for further research and for more engagements in the same field. This information will as well be a guide for a good market plan because this project embraces the economic side of its beneficiaries.

S/No	PLANT NAME	LOCAL NAME	PROPAGATION RATE	PROPAGATION CONDITIONS	EVALUATION OF RESULTS
1.	*Plectronthus barbatus*	Ekibwankulaata	35%	Potted and Under a shed net with irrigation	Results not yet obtained because the process is still going on
2.	*Oregano sp*	Mubiri	95%	Potted and Under a shed net with irrigation	Promising results and seedling will be ready for distribution in the next one month
3.	*Tetradema riparia*	Kyewamala	25%	Potted and put in a propagator under a shed net with irrigation	Results not yet obtained because the process is still going on
4.	*Physalis peruviana Gooseberry*	Entuntunu	40%	Initially used tray beds for germination and later transferred to the mother garden	Still under observation
5.	*Mentha piperita Mint*	Pepper Mint	TBD	Potted and Under a shed net with irrigation	Results not yet obtained because the process is still going on
6.	*Rosemarinus officinaris*	Rosemary	71%	Potted and Under a shed net with irrigation	Promising results and seedling will be ready for distribution in the next one month

7.	*Justicia betonica*	Nalongo	99%	Potted and Under a shed net with irrigation	Promising results and seedling will be ready for distribution in the next one month
8.	*Ocimum basilicum Basil*	Mujaaja	TBD	Potted and put in a propagator under a shed net with irrigation	Results not yet obtained because the process is still going on
9.	*Symphytum officinale*	Russian comfrey	99%	Planted directly in a mother garden under a shed net	Still in the mother garden waiting for further multiplication
10	*Hoslundia opposita*	Kamunye	TBD	Potted and put in a propagator under a shed net with irrigation	Results not yet obtained because the process is still going on

Challenges and Solutions

For seed selection, it was difficult to get all the planting materials from one place. It costed us more time and money to get them.

Transportation of some seedlings was rather hard because of the distance and being fragile. This reduced their population for planting since some could not germinate and they were eliminated.

Much as some seedings were cared for with all the necessary requirements, still germination failed due to being affected during transportation.

Way forward

The same activities are to continue up to the end of the project and a sustainable plan is under way to have the project fully useful to the beneficiaries and implementors.

Note:
Financial Statistics not attached but available separately.

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