African Traditional Medicine is one of the oldest forms of healthcare systems that has stood the test of time. The advent of COVID-19 and other epidemics such as Ebola and Marburg call for urgency for Africa to meet its increasing need and demand for pharmaceutical products and tackle persistent lack of access to essential medicines.

In pre-colonial African society, health problems were resolved using African Traditional Medicine. However, the coming of Europeans marked a turning point of this age-long tradition and culture. Colonial states used both civil and criminal laws to challenge and marginalize most African therapeutics. Medical pluralism became the norm even when colonial services received the lion’s share of resources.

In post-independence, concerted efforts are being made to recognize traditional medicine as an important aspect in healthcare system. Recently there has been a resurgence in use of traditional therapeutics coupled with calls for Africa to develop capacities in pharmaceutical manufacturing and integration of traditional medicines to improve access to medicines.

The study was conducted in 2022 using a case study design focusing on a local indigenous pharmaceutical manufacturer start-up in Uganda. Qualitative methods were used. Reflexivity and positionality were applied to improve the sensitivity of the researchers to the political and social context.

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Africa needs to transform its traditional and complementary medicines into a frontier for pharmaceutical innovation and production to meet its ever-growing needs for sustainable access to medicines. This will be achieved through targeted investments across the pharmaceutical value chain with emphasis on regional collaborations.

**Key words:** African Traditional Medicine, Pharmaceutical manufacturing

**Methods**

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**Results**

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**Conclusion**

Africa needs to transform its traditional and complementary medicines into a frontier for pharmaceutical innovation and production to meet its ever-growing needs for sustainable access to medicines. This will be achieved through targeted investments across the pharmaceutical value chain with emphasis on regional collaborations.

**Presenter:**

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