

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS



science, technology
& innovation

Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CSIR
Touching lives through innovation



Our Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) research programme focuses on the scientific validation and commercialisation of products rooted in South Africa's rich biodiversity. We develop safe and high quality products that are compliant with national and international regulations, while upholding fair benefit-sharing principles with indigenous knowledge holders.

OUR IKS INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES:

- **IKS and health innovation laboratory:** Our bench-scale facility is equipped for the measurement, extraction, upscaling, filtration, and distillation of traditional health products.
- **Advanced screening and omics platforms:** Through these platforms we conduct safety and mechanism-of-action tests to identify therapeutic concepts and validate traditional claims.
- **Supercritical CO₂ extraction facility:** We use green, solvent-free technology for the selective extraction of high-value compounds from indigenous plant species.
- **Capsule laboratory:** We support research and pilot-scale manufacturing of plant-based capsule products for the nutraceutical and pharmaceutical sectors.

OUR CORE FOCUS AREA

- **Complementary medicines:** We develop safe, standardised herbal remedies, such as those used for HIV/AIDS management and respiratory diseases like asthma (African ginger).
- **Regulatory compliance:** We ensure our products align with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act and the IKS Act of 2019.
- **Benefit sharing:** Our pioneering agreements that ensure indigenous communities receive fair compensation and recognition for their traditional knowledge.

OUR OFFERING TO INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITIES

We assist traditional healers and enterprises in standardising and commercialising products across the medicine, food, beverage and cosmetic sectors. By demonstrating the safety and quality of traditional medicines, we ensure these products reach wider and formal markets.



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WORK WITH US:

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**LET'S COLLABORATE AND TOUCH LIVES
THROUGH INNOVATION.**