

## The TUKLAS LUNAS Program

The Tuklas Lunas R&D Program envisions to produce world-class medicines derived from Philippine biodiversity, leveraging on local expertise.

The program pursues a parallel track of drug development: (1) the development of standardized herbal drugs, and (2) the identification and characterization of high-value purified active compounds derived from marine and terrestrial sources for specific therapeutic indications.

Potential products from the program can be in the form of standardized herbal supplements, herbal drugs and drug candidates.



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# TUKLAS LUNAS

THE PHILIPPINE DRUG DISCOVERY  
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



## Philippines as a biodiversity hotspot

The Philippines, being one of the megadiverse countries in the world in terms of species thriving, makes it favorable for the discovery of novel compounds from indigenous/endemic terrestrial and marine species.

## Comprehensive Drug Discovery Program

The country needs a comprehensive drug discovery and development program to respond to the growing health needs of the Filipinos, and to harness the potential of Philippine biodiversity.

With available technical expertise and collaborations in place, limited resource may be maximized and drug discovery cost may be minimized without compromising the quality of the products developed from natural sources.

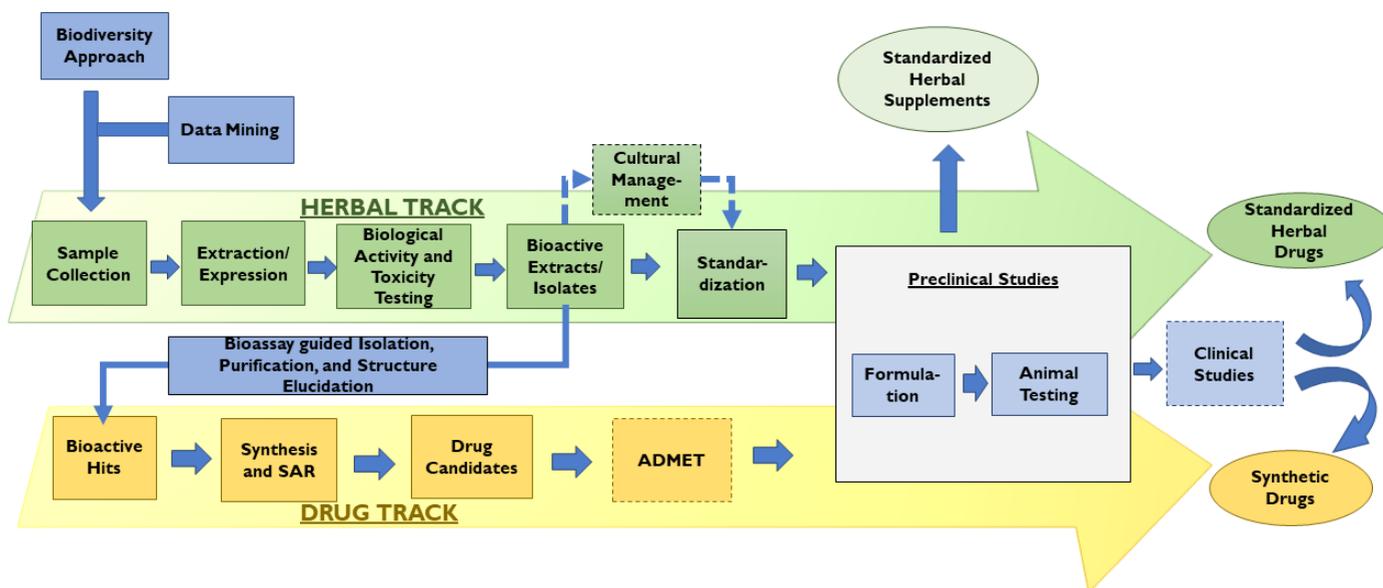
## Natural products as a drug source

Of the total New Chemical Entities (NCEs) approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) from 1981 to 2002, 52% are natural products, natural products-derived, or natural products-mimics. Even some of the important drugs that are currently in the market are derived from natural sources.

## Specific R&D Priority Areas for funding

- Development of standardized herbal drugs
- Cultural management/propagation of organisms that reached at least pre-clinical development
- Discovery of new drugs from local natural sources for development up to the pre-clinical stage
- Development and/or validation of standard processes and protocols for various stages of drug discovery and development

## Program Framework



## Why Tuklas Lunas?

- One of the health R&D priorities under the agenda thrust of DOST for 2017-2022 is developing health products and technologies to address pressing health problems.
- Drug discovery and development especially those coming from natural sources was identified as one of the priority areas under the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA).