

# Phytopharmaceuticals and herbal drugs: prospects and safety issues in the delivery of natural products

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## 1. Introduction

Herbal drugs and their derivatives have been used for centuries in various therapeutic systems worldwide, including the Indian medicinal system, Chinese medicinal system, African medicinal system, Sowa-Rigpa, and others. Natural products have long been an imperative source of novel medications. It may also be supported by the fact that about 506 of the 1881 new approved medications between January 1, 1981, and September 30, 2019, are either natural products, a natural product derived/derivatives, natural product botanicals, or natural product pharmacophores [1]. According to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), preservation of biological diversity and sustainable utilization are significant for meeting the world population's health, food, and other needs.

People's confidence in superstitions, folklore, or scientific wisdom guides the traditional use of various medicinal plants. Some herbal medicine treatments have been transferred from generation to generation. Ancient physicians like Charaka and Sushruta received heavenly medicinal wisdom, opening up new paths to treat complicated ailments in current times. Natives, particularly tribes, have a solid commitment to traditional herbal therapy since they are obligated to maintain their traditions while also unable to acquire contemporary medicines. Natural ingredients or their derivatives are used in a vast number of allopathic

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