

## **Prospect of Utilizing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Improving the Competitiveness of Indonesian Herbal Medicine**

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Currently, only about 940 herbs of about 7500 species of identified medicinal plants are being used in Indonesia. Some herbs have even been clinically proven to treat certain diseases.

In the framework of optimization of these benefits, government and pharmaceutical industry should undertake bioprospecting activities on medicinal plants as an alternative to the use of drugs based on synthetic chemicals. However, the problem is that in our society, the lack of knowledge and the mastering of technologies associated with processing and developing of medicinal plants is affecting the quality and competitiveness of Indonesian herbal medicine.

Under these conditions, technology diffusion must be utilized to increase the competitiveness of Indonesian herbal medicinal products. It would be possible to accelerate the transfer of technology through the application of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The purpose of this study was to assess the prospects in utilizing IPR for promoting and accelerating the transfer of technology to the Indonesian herbal medicine industry and the possibility of industry to make use of the opportunities available from IPR to obtain technology information. Technology information is expected to be a driving force which could trigger the acceleration of technology transfer, especially in the field of herbal medicine and contribute to improve the competitiveness of Indonesian herbal medicinal products.