



# Te Niwha

## Research Project Impact Case Study

### Project Title

Exploring new anti-microbial agents sourced from taonga herbal remedies with functional immune health benefits to prevent infectious transmission

### Short Research Title

Exploring new anti-microbial agents

### Key researchers

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### Introduction

The team aims to support the infectious disease preparedness of our partners Te Hiku Rongoā and Rangitāne o Manawatū and their networks by collaborating with them to identify and affirm the immune health benefits of taonga herbal remedies within rongoā rākau using scientific research approaches whilst being guided and led by existing mātauranga.

Because of the early stage of this project, this impact case study focuses on how researchers have strengthening collaborations with kaitiaki partners through informed consent and co-development of framework (s) to guide scientific analysis of rongoā rākau by researchers and practitioners.

### Results

Researchers and Te Hiku Rongoā and Rangitāne o Manawatū (and representative rongoā practitioners in their networks) have agreed on key principles and approaches that will form the basis a framework (s) to guide harvesting, processing, traceability and scientific analysis of rongoā rākau by researchers and practitioners in this project. Through wananga, researchers and kaitiaki partners discussed scientific approaches and the associated ethical and data sovereignty considerations as well as risks and benefits with the proposed research. The scope of research was then adjusted to reflect needs of kaitiaki partners and researchers.

### Impact

By developing processes for informed consent and co-development of a framework (s), we have increased knowledge and interest in science from our partners and their networks. We have been successful in demonstrating how science research has the potential to affirm existing knowledge of rongoā rākau as well as uncover new knowledge that can inform future access to rongoā rākau for whānau, hapu and broader communities.

Secondly, our approach has increased capability of researchers in co-developing research activity with partners, particularly with culturally significant rongoā rākau in mind. Importantly, this is has enabled the development shared approaches for exploring indigenous knowledge through science and innovation.