



PROGRAMME

35th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TREE PROTECTION CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME (TPCP)

Venue: Future Africa Auditorium, University of Pretoria

Partnerships for Sustainable and Productive Plantation Forestry

TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2024

08:00-08:15 **Sign-in and systems check**

Session 1: Partnerships for a competitive and productive forestry sector

08:15-08:25 Welcome from the University of Pretoria

Prof. Sunil Maharaj, Vice-principal, University of Pretoria

08:25-08:40 What does the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT offer forestry in partnership with FABI

Prof. Wynand Steyn, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT

08:40-09:00 A current perspective on the state of Forestry in South Africa

Mr Gerald Stolz, CEO of York Timbers

09:00-09:20 The TPCP in 2023

Prof. Bernard Slippers, Director of the TPCP and FABI

09:20-09:30 **SIGNING OF CAMCORE-FABI MOU & GROUP PHOTO**

09:30-10:00 **COMFORT BREAK**

Session 2: Connecting resources and capacities for sustainable and productive forests

10:00-10:20 **Guest speaker:** Using Camcore data and climatic information for site species matching

Prof. Juan José Acosta, North Carolina State University, Camcore Director

10:20-10:40 The importance of partnerships to implement a national forest pest management programme

Prof. Brett Hurley, FABI, University of Pretoria

10:40-10:55 ICFR-FABI links around GIS, data science and remote sensing for plantation health

Dr Ilaria Germishuizen, ICFR

10:55-11:05 Using the Information Hub to connect data on monitoring and surveillance

Arné Schreuder and Hannes Strydom, EPIUSE and FABI, University of Pretoria

11:05-11:15 Building a Satellite Lab for Remote Sensing of Plant Health

Dr Michelle Schroder, FABI, University of Pretoria

11:15-11:45 Tea

Session 3: Advancing diagnostics and monitoring/surveillance

11:45-12:05 **Opening talk:** Developing world class molecular diagnostic tools based on the TPCP foundation

Prof. Emma Steenkamp and Prof Tuan Duong, FABI, University of Pretoria

12:05-12:15 The Diagnostic Clinic as a key service for monitoring and discovery of pests and diseases.

Dr Wilma Nel, FABI, University of Pretoria

12:25-12:45 **5 minute speed talks**

Ms Sandisiwe Jali: TPCP extension services and its connection to national surveillance

Mr Siphephelo Phungula: An update on *Elsinoe masingae*

Ms Kira Lynn: Developing qPCR tools for *Ceratocystis* species

Mr Phumlani Nzuza: Remote sensing of *Gonipterus* sp. n. 2

- 12:45-13:00 Questions and discussion
- 13:00-14:00 **LUNCH** (Future Africa Dining Hall)
- Session 4: Advances in screening, sensing and phenotyping**
- 14:00-14:20 Plant phenotyping and disease resistance screening at FABI
Prof. Almuth Hammerbacher, FABI, University of Pretoria
- 14:20-14:40 Progress in understanding and applying the genetics of tree-pathogen interactions
Prof. Sanushka Naidoo, FABI, University of Pretoria
- 14:40-15:00 IMPACT Open Air Laboratory: Opportunities for collaboration
Prof. David Drew, Stellenbosch University
- 15:00-15:20 **Mr Lihan Esterhuizen**: Hyperspectral sensing for pathogen screening and monitoring
Mr Christoff Joubert: Chemical resistance in *Eucalyptus* to *Gonipterus* sp. n. 2
Ms Lente van Zyl: Chemical defences of Pine against Pitch canker
Nigel Kombora: Artificial defoliation trials to understand impact of defoliating insects
- 15:20-15:45 Comfort break
- Session 5: New perspectives on old problems in a changing pest and pathogen landscape**
- 15:45-16:05 Keeping an eye on emerging pathogens locally and globally
Prof. Irene Barnes, FABI, University of Pretoria
- 16:05-16:20 **Guest speaker**: Endophytes and mycorrhizae can help confer resistance to disease in Pines
Prof. Diana Six, University of Montana, USA
- 16:20-16:40 **5 minute speed talks**
Dr Tanay Bose: Understanding the soil microbiome for sustainable forest management
Ms Rosa Knoppersen: The potential of using insect gut microbiomes for sustainable pest management
Mr Christiaan Grobler: *Diplodia sapinea*: A closer look
Ms Ginna Granados: Pine needles diseases on South African Pine in Colombian trials
- 16:40-17:10 **Panel discussion**: Partnership opportunities
Dr Ronald Heath: Forestry South Africa, South Africa
Prof Martin Hill: Rhodes University, South Africa
Dr Dave Drew: Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Prof Zander Myburg: University of Pretoria, South Africa
Dr Yolandi Ernst: University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Prof JJ Acosta: NCSU, Camcore, USA
Prof Simon Lawson: University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia
- 17:10-17:30 Questions and discussion
- 17:30-18:00 **Cocktails** (Future Africa gardens)
- 18:00-late **Dinner** (Future Africa dining hall)

WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2024

- Session 6: Biological Control and Mitigation**
- 08:15-08:35 **Guest speaker:** Parasitoid-host interactions for the enhancement of biological control of pest insects in *Eucalyptus* plantations
Dr Andy Howe, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia
- 08:35-08:45 Progress with developing gene editing tools for pest management
Dr Gudrun Dittrich-Schröder, FABI, University of Pretoria
- 08:45-09:25 **5 minute speed talks**
Dr Firehiwot Eshetu: Exploring opportunities to improve *Sirex noctilio* biological control
Dr Privilege Makunde: *Euproctis* biological control: Exploring local options
Mr Innocent Rakubu: Entomopathogenic nematodes for forest pest management
Ms Marizanne Jones: Importance of understanding diversity in *Beauveria* as a biocontrol agent
Ms Samantha Bush: Rearing *Gonipterus* sp. n. 2 for biological control development
Mr Harmen Barten: Factors influencing the efficacy of biological control of *Gonipterus* sp. n. 2 by *Anaphes nitens*
Ms Zimazile Jazi: Dispersal of *Anaphes nitens*
Mr Garyn Townsend: An update on PSHB biological control
- 09:25-09:45 Panel discussion: Advancing local biological control options in SA forestry
Prof Brett Hurley, FABI, University of Pretoria
Prof Jolanda Roux, SAPPI and FABI, University of Pretoria
Ms Izette Greyling, Mondi
Ms Jacqui Meyer, TIPWG
Ms Elelwani Ramabulana, DALRRD
- 09:45-10:15 Questions and discussion
- 10:15-10:30 Closing of the meeting and final comments
- 10:30-11:00 **TEA**
- 10:30-14:30 **TPCP Board meeting** (Future Africa Conference Room 2)
- 10:30-13:00 **FABI facilities tours**