



## PROGRAMME

# 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TREE PROTECTION CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME (TPCP)

Venue: Future Africa Auditorium, University of Pretoria

## Collaboration 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 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

09:20-10:00 **GROUP PHOTO & 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

**Arne 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 Schröder**, 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**