

AN “ENGAGING PLANT SCIENTISTS” INITIATIVE

During the March school holidays, the Plant Pathogenic Bacteria Research Programme hosted Mbali Mogashwa, a Grade 10 learner at Kwa-Manala Secondary School in Allemansdrif, Mpumalanga, and a third year BSc Microbiology student, Rose Shabangu for a day. Under the supervision of FABI PhD candidate Khumbuzile Bophela, the pair participated in various experiments to learn techniques commonly used by members of our research group.



The experiments included isolating for single colonies using the streak-plate technique, Gram staining and DNA extraction from an onion. The students were also exposed to our other group activities. They sat in and listened to Valery Moloto, a PhD candidate at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) affiliated with FABI, give her mock seminar to the group.

“Mentorship is more than just transferring of knowledge, it’s also about transforming the lives of those mentored,” said Khumbuzile.