

## EMERGENCY TREE PLANTING AT FABI

A small group of FABI researchers assisted in an “emergency transplant” of a consignment of pine tree seedlings on 20 March. The seedlings are hybrids used for *Fusarium circinatum* screening trials in a joint project between SAPPI’s Professor Jolanda Roux, and FABI’s Prof. Emma Steenkamp and Dr Almuth Hammerbacher. The seedlings were delivered to FABI on Friday 13 March prior to the imposition of a National State of Disaster on 15 March that also saw the suspension of all contact classes at the University of Pretoria and restrictions imposed on the presence of non-essential staff on campus.



It is imperative that these seedlings were replanted as they would not otherwise survive in the trays and it would be a significant setback for the project if they died. The inoculation trials will be done once access restrictions are lifted again at UP. Currently, general access to facilities has been curtailed to only allow essential research and maintenance of microbial and insect cultures and plants.

