



*Media Release*

**For Immediate Release**

**To: All Media**

**Date: 13 June 2024**

**Attention: News Editors / Agricultural writers**

**The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to hosts its inaugural Bush Encroachment Colloquium.**

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) is set to host the inaugural Bush Encroachment Colloquium from June 18th to 20th, 2024, at the ARC-VIMP in Pretoria Roodeplaat. The colloquium aims to bring together stakeholders from the South African Development Community (SADC) to address pressing issues related to bush encroachment. Gathering leading experts from science councils, academia, farming communities, policymakers, researchers, and government officials, the colloquium aims to devise a roadmap for tackling this significant challenge.

Bush encroachment is a phenomenon in which trees and shrubs proliferate at the expense of herbaceous vegetation, leading to the degradation of rangelands and adversely affecting a multitude of ecosystem services. In light of this, the colloquium aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of the causes, impacts, and management strategies associated with bush encroachment. Renowned researchers, farmers, and practitioners will share their insights, latest findings, and challenges related to bush encroachment, including its ecological, economic, and social impacts.

Dr. Julius Tjelele, Research Team Manager at the ARC's Animal Production division, emphasised the importance of the colloquium: "Bush encroachment is a pressing local and global challenge that demands a coordinated and multifaceted response. The ARC is committed to facilitating dialogue and collaboration among all stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions that benefit our agriculture, environment, and farming communities."

Media is invited to the Bush Encroachment Colloquium as follows:

- Date: June 18th-20th, 2024
- Venue: ARC-VIMP Training Centre

- Time: 09:00-16:00

Members of the media are requested to confirm their attendance with Sello Tshipi at 0734986722 or [tshipia@arc.agric.za](mailto:tshipia@arc.agric.za).

***Issued by:***

ARC Marketing and Communications

***For further information, please contact:***

***Media inquiries***

Ms. Joy Nonzukiso Peter

Senior Manager: Marketing and Communications

Tel: 012 427 9700

Cell: 060 572 0792

E-mail: Joy Peter [PeterJ@arc.agric.za](mailto:PeterJ@arc.agric.za)

***Notes to the Editors***

**About the Agricultural Research Council**

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za)