



For Immediate Release

To: All Media

Date: 26th August 2024

Embargo: None

THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE TO HOST A MAIDEN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM.

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) together with the University of Western Cape (UWC) will host its maiden mini-symposium on 30th August 2024 at ARC-Infruitec-Nietvoorbij in Stellenbosch. The mini-symposium will be held under the theme: Healing through food. The mini-symposium will be another milestone between the two ARC and UWC to bring together their research expertise to foster collaboration on issues of interest and food security. The symposium will also focus on collaboration research on soil and water science and the Biotechnology platforms.

Crop biotechnology has become one of the most researched areas in recent years, largely due to the impact of global climate change, which has intensified both abiotic and biotic stresses, and reduced crop production by more than 50% globally.

ARC-Infruitec-Nietvoorbij and UWC Biotechnology Department have joined forces to drive and promote excellence in agricultural-biotechnology research, through leveraging various resources and application of different disciplines in science. "Through this collaboration, we aim to enhance student training and knowledge acquisition on modern biotechnological and sustainable agriculture practices," said Prof. Takalani Mulaudzi the Associate Professor of Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape.

"Subsequently, the ARC is benefiting from the UWC's expertise in the use of biotechnological aspects, which involves the use of Molecular and Biochemical tools to understand the mechanisms underlying plant nutrition, growth, development, and responses to various stresses," said Dr Mulidzi a senior researcher at ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij campus in Stellenbosch. This information is translated to enhance tolerance and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses which ultimately results in improved crop yield, quality and nutritional value of crops to curb food insecurity.

Members of the media are cordially invited to attend the historic mini-symposium. This momentous event marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to drive innovation and sustainable development between the institute of higher learning and research.

Venue: Agricultural Research Council –Nietvoorbij: Corner of Helshoogte Road R44,
Stellenbosch, Cape Town

Date: 30th August 2024

Time: 09h00-15h00

Please follow the ARC social media platforms for more information.

Issued by:

ARC Marketing and Communications

For further information, please contact:

Media Inquiries

Ms. Nomkhosi Ngcobo
Public Relations Officer
Tel: 021 809 3018
Cell: 071 734 5329
E-mail: Ngcobn@arc.agric.za

Technical Inquiries

Dr Reckson Mulidzi
Research Team Manager Soil and Water Science
Tel: 021 809 3070
Cell: 082 448 4937
Email: MulidziR@arc.agric.za

Prof. Takalani Mulaudzi
Associate Professor of Biotechnology at University of the Western Cape
Tel: +27 (0)21 959 2557/2215
Email: tmulaudzi@uwc.ac.za

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, and agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation, advisory and food processing technology services, and various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: www.arc.agric.za.

Ends