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<https://www.nstf.org.za/>



# NSTF

*S.E.T. for socio-economic growth*

## Plant health in South Africa – threats to biosecurity, biodiversity and food security

### The role of natural science collections and biobanks in plant health

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is partnering with [Plaas/Farm TV](#) (YouTube channel) to broadcast a series of monthly talks during the year on the topic '[Plant health in South Africa – threats to biosecurity, biodiversity and food security](#)'.

Third up in the series is Prof Michelle Hamer talking to Plaas/Farm TV and RSG Landbou (Agriculture) about the role of natural science collections and biobanks in plant health. She is Director: Natural Science Collections Facility (NSCF), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). She also presented at the NSTF Discussion Forum on Plant Health in June 2021. Her presentation is available on video on the [NSTF YouTube channel](#).

***Tune in to this radio and TV interview with Prof Hamer, to hear more...***

#### **Plaas TV/Farm TV broadcast**

**Date:** Monday, 04 April at 08:00 am (GMT +2)

**Plaas TV YouTube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PlaasTVFarmTV>

*Plaas TV is an agricultural media house focusing on sound technical content across all media platforms.*

#### **RSG FM radio talk**

**Date:** Monday, 11 April at 05:00 – 05:30

**Frequency:** 100 – 104 FM

*Radio Sonder Grense (RSG) is a radio station broadcasting in Afrikaans nationwide. It belongs to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).*



**Biography of the speaker:** Prof Michelle Hamer holds a PhD in Zoology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She was employed as the Curator of Arthropods at the Natal Museum for five years, and as an academic at the UKZN for nine and a half years before being appointed in 2009 as Director, Biosystematics at SANBI. She has published 83 scientific papers and contributed to six book chapters, mostly focused on diversity of invertebrates. Her main research expertise is millipede taxonomy and conservation, and together with students she has described over 20 new species. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Bothalia: African Biodiversity & Conservation*. She is currently leading the implementation of two national research infrastructure projects funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (the Natural Science Collections Facility and the Biodiversity Biobanks SA).

**Background:** Plant health is intrinsically linked to the survival of our planet and all that live on it. While plant health is a broad topic, it is imperative we understand the latest research and dynamics in the South African context. The NSTF hosted a Discussion Forum on the topic over two days in June 2021 with 11 professionals in plant health, of which three are [NSTF-South32 Award Winners](#).

**Interviews in the series so far:**

1. Prof Mike Wingfield, Professor: Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria spoke about [tree and plant health](#).
2. Prof Wijnand Swart, Department of Plant Sciences, University of the Free State (UFS); and President: Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) on [‘Whither \(or wither\) plant pathology in the next 50 years’](#) (about 3:25 minutes into the broadcast).

**Follow the social media conversations on the following NSTF platforms:**

- Facebook: [@NSTFSA](#)
- Twitter: [@NSTF\\_SA](#)
- Instagram: [@nstf\\_sa](#)
- LinkedIn: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- YouTube: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- TikTok: [nstf\\_sa](#)

## About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

STEMulator.org attracts learners and students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It provides a virtual world full of stimulating content to excite and inform the youth, including STEM career guidance. Established under the auspices of the NSTF proSET membership sector (Professionals *in science, engineering and technology*).

### Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

### Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

### For more information

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