



MY STORY

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

Science as a general field of study has always been my passion. Agricultural science combined two things I loved most; being outdoors and doing scientific work. The agricultural sector is a great environment to challenge yourself and interact with people from all walks of life. It can be tough at times but the reward is far greater.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

1. I am responsible for conducting and managing agricultural trials on a wide variety of crops such as wheat, citrus, vines and even weeds.
2. Testing new pesticides.
3. Generating marketing material.
4. Presenting and conveying important information gathered from trials to industry partners.

CHRISTO EKSTEEN

TECHNICAL BRAND OFFICER

AT CORTEVA

MSc Agric (Agronomy)



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER LEARNERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THIS CAREER?

1. Work hard in your studies and go to the field as much as you can.
2. Not everything can be learnt from a book. Seeing and experiencing things in the field is the most valuable resource at your disposal.
3. Also put yourself out-there and be as active as you can be at industry events.
4. Lastly, don't be intimidated by the unknown, knowledge and skills can always be acquired in the work place and is usually much easier to get than you think.



DO I FIT THE PROFILE?

SCIENTIFIC MIND



OUT GOING



FREE THINKING



COMFORTABLE WITH TRAVELLING



CAN WORK INDEPENDENTLY



IS THERE A FUTURE in this career?

TOP PRIORITY

Introducing new and innovative products to assist producers with management of pests in a safe and responsible manner. **Environmental conservation and safe usage of pesticides are a top priority of agrochemical companies.** There is always room for improvement and new ideas to benefit not only the companies but also the producers, consumers and the environment.

CHALLENGES

Having come from a BSc Molecular Biology and Biotechnology degree background to become an Agronomy Master's student was a challenge to adapt to and to learn about a whole new field.

Having to work hard and look for opportunities to get a foot in the door in the industry.

Being consistent with my work ethic and always being available for assistance and working where I can, to open-up new doors for myself.