



WANDILE NGCAMPHALALA

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPEMENT CO-ORDINATOR

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MScAgric (Genetics)

WHAT IS THE FUTURE of the field in terms of opportunities?

There are so many opportunities in agricultural research over the next few years. There are many challenges that the industry has to contend with including climate change, as well as the growing costs of production and all of these require innovation from researchers. Technology is also presenting a lot of opportunities for research as technological innovations are being adapted to the field.

WHAT PART OF THIS CAREER DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING?

I enjoy a good balance between field work as well as office work and this position allows me to do that very well. We also have a cultivar management wing to the parent company, so I enjoy being involved in those assessments as well as conducting cultivar-rootstock trials to find what combinations work best for opportunities for research as technological innovations are being adapted to the field.

WHAT TYPE OF PERSON / PERSONALITY WOULD ENJOY THIS KIND OF CAREER?

TO START WITH, ONE HAS TO HAVE PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE WHICH WILL THEN GIVE YOU ALL THE OTHER SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES THAT A PERSON NEEDS TO SUCCEED SUCH AS RESILIENCE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

CHALLENGES

Being a black person in the South African agriculture space, one has to always contend with the language barrier as it is still a field dominated by Afrikaans-speaking people. This culture differs from company to company, with some willing to be accommodating of those that cannot or are still learning Afrikaans, and others not willing to.

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

Persue passion with all your might, everything comes easier after that.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I have always loved agriculture, because without it there is no survival of the human race. It is also one of the cornerstone's of Africa's potential and once maximized, our continent will never want for anything but will be providing to the rest of the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

Completing my Masters degree, Getting to travel the country and Chairing my first research feedback session

