

Internal speaker profiles



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Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CSIR

Touching lives through innovation

Agribiologics Workshop

Master of Ceremony: Frances O'Brien

Process Engineer: Bioprocess Technology
Development, CSIR

MEng (Chemical), University of Kwazulu-Natal

Frances O'Brien works within bioprocess development, focusing on the development of biochemicals from biological agents.

She develops processes for microorganisms to produce chemicals of interest and determines the process unit operations required to obtain them in the product form.

She leads the Bioconversions Platform, and has knowledge within the following areas: process development, analytical development, process simulation and modeling, agro-processing and downstream Processing.



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Speaker:

Yrielle Roets-Dlamini

Platform Lead: Agribiologics, CSIR

MSc (Biotechnology), Durban University of Technology

PhD candidate, University Pretoria



Yrielle Roets-Dlamini operates within bioprocessing, specializing in the development of biobased solutions such as biofertilizers, biocontrol agents and other sustainable solutions for use in agriculture.

Her responsibilities include: developing biobased technologies and formulating them into market-ready products.

As a platform lead, expertise encompasses Bioprocessing, Agribiologics and Biotechnology,



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Speaker:

Dr Veshara Ramdas

Senior Researcher: Bioprocess Technology
Development, CSIR

PhD (Microbiology), University of Kwazulu-Natal

Dr Ramdas works in bioprocess development, focusing on the development of biobased coatings and films for post harvest pathogen control and prolonged shelf life (fruit and vegetables).

She develops bioprocesses for microorganisms of interest and formulating them into market-ready products.

She is a platform lead for Medical Laboratory Science, Microbiology, Industrial Biotechnology, Bioprocess Development and Biomanufacturing



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**Panel Discussion Chairperson:
Dr Ghaneshree Moonsamy**

Principal Researcher: Bioprocess Development, CSIR
PhD, Biotechnology, Durban University of Technology

Dr Moonsamy is skilled in bioprocess technology development and has expertise in upstream and downstream production processes. She also has biomanufacturing competence for various bio-based products.

She leads a bio-based research and development platform, and current R&D portfolio, which consists of the development of production process for probiotics for human and animal use as well as mycelium-based technologies.



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Speaker:

Lara Kotzé-Jacobs

Programme Manager: Future Production Chemicals, CSIR
MSc Chemical Engineering, Stellenbosch University

Lara is a seasoned programme manager in the CSIR Future Production: Chemicals cluster with several years of experience in leading multi-stakeholder programmes that strategically support the development of the South African bioeconomy on behalf of the CSIR, Technology Innovation Agency, the Jobs Fund and the Department of Science and Innovation.

These programmes involve technology, product and process development by the CSIR, in partnership with start-ups, SMMEs and established companies towards commercialisation.

Several training initiatives that support biomanufacturing workforce development also form part of her responsibilities.



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