



The Southern African Macadamia Growers' Association
Die Suider Afrikaanse Maġadamiaprodusentevereniging

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**LAUNCH OF THE MACADAMIA PROTECTION PROGRAMME AT THE FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL
BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE**

The Southern African Macadamia Grower's Association (SAMAC) and The Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) have established a collaborative research partnership, the Macadamia Protection Programme (MPP). This programme will address the threats posed by pests and diseases to macadamia farming in South Africa.

South Africa is the second largest macadamia nut producer in the world and the industry is arguably the fastest growing tree crop industry in the country. This industry is, however, threatened by a number of pests and diseases that can cause significant economic losses. In addition, the continuous build-up of resistance towards commercially available pesticides and chemicals is of concern to growers.

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the macadamia industry, growers need to move towards alternative control and management strategies.

The overall focus of the MPP will be to assist in the development of commercially viable biological control options, as well as alternative management strategies. More specifically, this research programme will focus on the development of biologically relevant information on important pests and pathogens of macadamias in order to improve integrated pest management systems. The programme will also aim to contribute to the development of biological control agents and natural products, as well as to conduct research that assists in the selection of resistant or tolerant cultivars.



The newly established MPP will also collaborate with existing research groups within FABI including the Tree Protection Co-Operative Programme (TCP) and the Avocado Research Group. This will provide substantial synergy for all of these programmes focused broadly on promoting tree health.

About FABI

Based at the University of Pretoria, FABI is a post-graduate research institute that was established in 1997, based on a recognition that the future of forestry and agriculture in South Africa will strongly depend on the incorporation of new and emerging technologies into these industries. Major opportunities for these industries have emerged in recent times, from the application of biotechnology and bioinformatics, amongst many others. FABI scientists undertake goal-directed research, in partnership with major players in the forestry and agricultural sectors in South Africa and in so doing promote both human capital and industrial development in the country.

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