



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP POSITION IN FABI:

Evaluation of insect pests and their biological control agents, associated with *Eucalyptus* spp., *Acacia mearnsii* and *Moringa stenopetala*, in Ethiopia

We seek to hire a Postdoctoral Fellow to conduct research on the identification, distribution and prevalence of insect pests and their biological control agents, associated with *Eucalyptus* spp., *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle) and *Moringa stenopetala*, in Ethiopia. These trees have an important role in Ethiopia's social and economic development, providing fuelwood, construction timber, food and other services. Most forest operations are in rural areas where more than 90% of the population reside. However, the sustainable use of these trees is threatened by insect pests and pathogens.

This position is part of a larger project, 'Management of Pests and Diseases of Forest Crops in Ethiopia', funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) through the University of Sunshine Coast in Australia. The successful candidate will work with researchers in different fields, including plant pathology, agricultural economics, forestry, and biosecurity, from the Ethiopian Department of Forestry, the University of Sunshine Coast, the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR, South Africa), and the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI, University of Pretoria, South Africa). The candidate has the opportunity and will be expected to contribute to deciding on specific deliverables and research outputs within the broad objectives of the project. The project thus allows a degree of exploration that will require an independent researcher.

Required qualifications: Ph.D in Entomology or a related field. The ideal candidate will have a background in one or more of the following: entomology, biological control, insect taxonomy, molecular diagnostics or insect-plant interactions. Experience in field surveys will be a substantial advantage, as will demonstrated analytical abilities and writing skills. The ideal candidate must be able to work independently and as part of a large team.

Where: The successful candidate will be based at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI, www.fabinet.up.ac.za), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. The candidate will also be required to spend time in rural Ethiopia (likely 2-3 trips per year) for field work.

Compensation: R300 000 per annum, and negotiable for candidates with previous Postdoctoral experience (2+ years) and a good publication record.

Duration: 24 months, full-time initial appointment with the possibility of additional support, conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

Application process: Email the following documents to Prof. Brett Hurley (brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za): (1) A cover letter that includes your research interests and motivating your suitability for this position (2) CV, including contact information for three references.

The deadline for application is **3 November 2024**. The applicant will be expected to start in January 2025.

Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted, and interviews will be scheduled before 30 November 2024.