



With a Bachelor's and Honours degree in Agriculture from the University of Venda, my academic focus delved deeply into pest management strategies, particularly in agricultural settings. My Honours dissertation explored the practical implications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* on *Plutella xylostella* and its parasitoid in field environments, while my Master's research project investigated the influence of cabbage cultivars on the fitness of *Plutella xylostella* and its biological control agent, *Cotesia vestalis*.

Throughout my academic journey, I've developed a keen interest in supporting smallholder farmers in their day-to-day agricultural activities, especially in implementing effective pest management strategies with limited resources. My passion lies in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application in the field.

Recognizing the challenges faced by smallholder farmers firsthand during my PhD research, I became motivated to work closely with organizations dedicated to supporting these farmers. My aim is to gain further insights into innovative pest management techniques implemented in other African countries and adapt them to suit the needs of smallholder farmers within our communities.

Engaging directly with farmers has highlighted the urgent need for scientific support and re-visitation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) protocols to ensure their applicability and efficacy at the grassroots level. While smallholder farmers possess valuable indigenous knowledge, many

of their pest control methods remain untested scientifically. My commitment lies in collaborating with these farmers to scientifically validate their methods and tailor IPM protocols to meet their specific needs and challenges.

In essence, my academic background, coupled with my hands-on experience and dedication to supporting smallholder farmers, positions me as a valuable asset in advancing sustainable agriculture practices and empowering local farming communities.

### **Publications:**

1. Nethononda, P.D., Nofemela, R.S. and Modise, D.M., 2016. Development, survival, body weight and oviposition rates of *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae) when reared on seven cabbage cultivars. *African Entomology*, **24**: 162-169.
2. Nethononda, P.D., Nofemela, R.S. and Modise, D.M., 2017. Bottom-up effects of cabbage cultivars on fitness of a larval parasitoid of *Plutella xylostella* (L.) (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae). *African Entomology*; **25**: 302-311
3. Elizabeth Njuguna, Phophi Nethononda, Karim Maredia, Ruth Mbabazi, Paul Kachapulula, Arielle Rowe, and Dennis Ndolo. 2021. Experiences and Perspectives on *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) Management in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Integrated Management* **12**: 1-9.

### **Conference paper**

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#### **Oral presentation**

Smallholder farmer's knowledge, perception and management practices of fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Limpopo. 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa 11-14 July 2023 -Stellenbosch University. Cape Town, South Africa