I joined FABI in 2011 as part of the Fruit Tree Biotechnology Programme, with the research component of my BSc. (Hons) degree focussing on the population genetics of the avocado pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi.* I continued with a MSc in the Fruit Tree Biotechnology Programme, concentrating on protoplast production, transformation and variation in pathogenicity of *Phytophthora cinnamomi.* I will commence with a PhD on the seasonal carry-over of soybean blotchy mosaic rhabodovirus in 2014 under the supervision of Prof Gerhard Pietersen. Infection with this virus, thus far only reported in South Africa results in significant yield losses in soyabean annually.