

CTHB DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR VISIT STELLENBOSCH TEAM MEMBERS



Members of the CTHB team based at the University of Stellenbosch and Rhodes University together with Profs Mike Wingfield and Emma Steenkamp

Though the Department of Science and Technology (DST)/ National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB) is based in FABI it funds researchers at various universities and institutions in South Africa. To maintain connections and promote collaboration in the field of tree health biotechnology, CTBH director Prof Mike Wingfield and deputy director Prof Emma Steenkamp attended an annual research feedback symposium with core team members and CTHB students from Rhodes University and the University of Stellenbosch in November (2014). The symposium highlighted some outstanding research covering diverse topics such as symbiotic relationships between fungi, mites, insects and birds in *Protea* flower heads, insect damage to *Acacia* seeds, the relationships between mites and fungi in plant leaf domatia, damage to trees arising from harvesting of bark for medicinal purposes and various aspects of the physiology of nitrogen fixation in native legume trees in South Africa. This outstanding example of collaboration has been active for four years and the outputs in terms of student education and research results continue to be impressive.