

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE DIRECTORS MEET IN DURBAN



The annual meeting of the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Foundation Centres of Excellence was hosted by the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal on 25 and 26 August. Directors of the Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB), Profs Emma Steenkamp and Mike Wingfield together with team members Ms. Heidi Fysh (Programme Manager) and postdoctoral fellows Drs Awelani Mutshembele and Alistair McTaggart represented FABI and the CTHB at this meeting.

The gathering included presentations by the Director-General Dr Phil Mjwara and Deputy Director-General (Dr. Thomas Auf de Heyde) of the DST as well as Prof. Albert van Jaarsveld (Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal) and the Deputy CEO of the NRF (Dr. Gansen Pillay). Some 300 learners from Kwa-Zulu Natal Schools visited exhibitions presented by the 15 CoE's and to learn more about key research being undertaken in South Africa. Directors of CoE's visited the facilities of the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) in Durban led by Prof. Salim Abdool Karim. Prof. Mike

Wingfield made a presentation on behalf of the first six CoE's entitled "Beyond 2019: Options and Opportunities" that focused on the long-term sustainability of the DST-NRF CoE's

