

GERHARD C DU PREEZ

Associate Professor | Deputy Director: School of Agricultural Sciences
North-West University

NRF-rated Scientist | Professional Natural Scientist

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

NRF -rated soil ecologist and nematologist specialising in soil health, nematode-based bioindication and the ecological functioning of agricultural systems. His research focuses on conservation and regenerative agriculture, soil biodiversity, ecosystem assessment and the development of practical diagnostic approaches for sustainable crop production.

He leads interdisciplinary, stakeholder-linked research involving universities, government, industry and producer organisations. As Deputy Director of the School of Agricultural Sciences, he also contributes to academic strategy, programme development, postgraduate training, staff and resource management, and the development of research and teaching infrastructure.

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RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Nematode ecology and bioindication
Soil health diagnostics
Conservation and regenerative agriculture
Agricultural systems ecology
Applied agroecology

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

36 peer-reviewed journal publications
5 scholarly book chapters
Co-editor of international academic book
14 completed and 12 current postgraduate students
R17.7 million in external project funding as Principal or Co-Investigator

SELECTED DISTINCTIONS:

- Co-editor, Nematodes as Environmental Indicators: *From Theory to Practice*, 2nd edition, CABI, 2025
- Associate Editor, *South African Journal of Plant and Soil*
- Invited speaker at the 2024 World Congress on Conservation Agriculture and 2025 Society of Nematologists Annual Meeting
- Reviewer for leading international journals and NRF funding and rating processes
- Faculty Teaching Award, NWU, 2022

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & IMPACT

- Deputy Director, School of Agricultural Sciences, NWU
- Former Subject Chair, Agricultural Sciences
- Leads the development and operation of the NWU Living Lab for Sustainable Agriculture
- Executive Board Member, Nematological Society of Southern Africa
- Builds partnerships linking research, postgraduate training and practical agricultural innovation

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Environmental Sciences, NWU, 2018

MSc Environmental Sciences, cum laude, NWU, 2015

BSc Hons Environmental Sciences, cum laude, NWU, 2013