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**Current research activities and experience**

My research focus is on applied ecological research with regard to Arthropoda in agro-ecosystems. Principle research responsibilities include the study of the effects of GM maize on non-target organisms and the environment, and the use of ecological models to identify arthropod species that could be at risk due to introduction of GM crops. Other projects include the study of insect-plant interactions and development of integrated pest management (IPM) systems for crops.

I am closely involved in biosafety research on genetically modified maize in South Africa, through research funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the National Research Foundation and Biosafety South Africa. This research involves biodiversity studies in agro-ecosystems, as well as studies on non-target organisms and the possible effects that reduction in biodiversity, caused by GM crops, could have.

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