

## Information Leaflet and Informed Consent

TITLE OF STUDY: Developing Outcomes for a First-Year Plant Science Module: A Case Study (Provisional)

Dear Volunteer

### Introduction and Background

You are invited to participate in a research study. The following information will help you decide if you want to participate in the study. Before you agree to take part please read through this short document to fully understand what is involved. It is important to emphasize that you are being asked to participate because you are considered an expert in the field of Plant Sciences and your opinion is considered highly valuable by the team of experts dealing with curriculum development.

### Nature and Purpose of the Study

In light of the need for curriculum transformation, we have set out to improve the learning outcomes of the first-year plant science module offered at the University of Pretoria. Using the ideals set out in the "Vision and Change" document, our objective is to develop appropriate learning outcomes for a first-year plant science course that are locally applicable and of an international standard. Our research questions will specifically revolve around both content and competency outcomes that learners should have acquired upon completion of the module. We will also be probing deeper into the potential barriers and predispositions to change within the group of experts.

### Explanation of Procedures

Prior to the interview you will be supplied with the list of questions that will be discussed with you during the interview. The interview will be scheduled at a time and date preferable to you, it will be conducted over the Google Meets platform, and will take approximately one hour. During the interview there may be follow up questions that lead to discussion points not listed in the supplied document. With your permission the interview will be recorded and later transcribed. After the transcription and analysis of the data, you will be sent a document containing a summary of the interviews which you will be asked to review.

### Risk and Discomfort

Your opinions will remain anonymous to the participants of the study and in any publications that may arise from the study, however due to the methods used in the study you will not remain anonymous to the research team. No data from the study will be shared. The initial interview will take approximately an hour, however there may be follow up interviews.

### Benefits of the study

You will not benefit directly from this study, however the results obtained from this research will allow the research team to develop learning outcomes that are of an international standard and locally applicable and ultimately improve the first-year Plant Science curriculum at the University of Pretoria.



Faculty of Natural  
and Agricultural Sciences  
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

## Your Rights as a Participant

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. Your withdrawal will have no consequences in anyway. You have the right to ask questions at any point during the study. Your opinions will remain anonymous to fellow participants throughout the study as well as in any publications that may follow the study.

## Ethics Details

This study has received written approval from the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria (reference number: NAS093/2020).

## Contact Details

If you have any questions about the study or your role as a participant please contact myself, Megan Roberts, at [SLObjectiveProject@gmail.com](mailto:SLObjectiveProject@gmail.com) or my supervisor Dr Angelique Kritzinger at [angelique.kritzinger@up.ac.za](mailto:angelique.kritzinger@up.ac.za).

## Confidentiality

All information that you provide will only be available to the research team members. Your opinions will be recorded anonymously in any publications that might follow this study.

**If you would like to participate in this study, please complete the attached consent form and email it to [SLObjectiveProject@gmail.com](mailto:SLObjectiveProject@gmail.com). The deadline for accepting participation to this study is [TBC].**

## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY

I confirm that the person asking my consent to take part in this study has told me about the nature, process, risks, discomforts and benefits of the study. I have read this form and I understood the information regarding the study. I am aware that the results of the study, including personal details, will be anonymously processed into research reports. I am participating willingly. I have had time to ask questions and have no objection to participate in the study. I understand that there is no penalty should I wish to discontinue with the study and my withdrawal will not affect any treatment in any way.

I have received a signed copy of this informed consent agreement.

Participant's name ..... (Please print)

Participant's signature: ..... Date:.....

Investigator's name: Megan J Roberts ..... (Please print)

Investigator's signature: ..... Date: .....

Witness's Name ..... (Please print)

Witness's signature: ..... Date:.....