

Dr Uljana Hesse
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Dr Uljana Hesse is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape (UWC, Cape Town, South Africa). She is a specialist in genomics (h-index 14, C-rated by the National Research Foundation) with extensive hands-on expertise in crop production, microbiology, biotechnology and bioinformatics acquired in nearly 25 years of agriculture-related research.

Her particular interests are plants and plant-microbe interactions, and the study of their genomes. She conducted her research at leading institutions in the field, including the Plant Pathology Department at the University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY, USA), the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC, Canada), Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre (Vancouver, Canada), SANBI-UWC and IMBM-UWC.

To date, she has published 21 scientific papers (14 leading or last author publications) in peer-reviewed journals (including Nature, PLOS Genetics, PNAS and BMC Genomics), 4 book chapters and numerous conference proceedings. Since 2016, she is establishing the Medicinal Plants Genomics Program at UWC, focusing on the analysis of the genome and diverse transcriptomes of rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*).