

## AgriCAREERConnect goes virtual

Recruitment of agricultural graduates with appropriate skills is under normal circumstances a challenge, not to mention the struggle for graduates to get access to internships or first jobs. Add a pandemic such as Covid-19 to the equation, and the challenges escalate at an alarming rate. Fortunately, the agricultural industry is known for its resilience and ability to rejuvenate itself, under difficult circumstances. However, this will require, more than ever, talented and skilled human capital, with fresh minds and energy.

In response to these challenges, AgriCAREERConnect (ACC) events have been established as a unique platform where students and graduates can get a glimpse of exciting careers in a vibrant industry, and the industry can spot talent by connecting with students and graduates.

Following the success of ACC events last year and considering the restrictions on public events due to Covid-19, ACC Virtual 2020 will be taking place at universities of Pretoria on 8 October and Stellenbosch on 15 October this year. The target is undergraduate and postgraduate students in the fields of agriculture, food & consumer sciences, as well as first year BSc Biological Science students, BEng (Industrial), IT and BCom students.

ACC Virtual 2020 events comprise of short pre-recorded talks/presentations by participating companies, showcasing the company and the industry, and career opportunities. Presentations are compiled in three different industry tracks, running simultaneously, in webinar format, followed by pre-organised virtual meetings between companies and students & graduates. Students can switch from one track to another or view tracks afterwards. The following three industry tracks are applicable:

- Horticulture, Crops, Viticulture, Plant Science (technical and commercial)
- Technology, Innovation, Data management, Agricultural Economy, Agri-food processing, Engineering.
- Animals (Animal feeds, breeding, production, processing, animal health)

Virtual speed-meetings between companies, students and graduates create a space where companies meet fresh young minds, for possible employment, internships, and even holiday work. Agricultural students and graduates, as well as prospective students, can gain more information on new generation careers in agriculture and food, careers that they do not even know exist.

The organisers are encouraged by the industry's enthusiastic response and emphasise that these are great opportunities to identify bright graduates for internships or junior positions. Due to the nature of virtual events and pre-recording of talks, there are deadlines involved to allow sufficient time to compile the respective tracks. Companies and organisations who would like to participate, should contact the organisers in due course.

### Education Partners



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