

Prof Lise Korsten

Prof Korsten is a Plant Pathologist / Microbiologist who specialises in postharvest technology, fresh produce food safety and bio-control. Her research team has developed rapid diagnostic methods for detection of the most important *Penicillium* spp in the litchi, citrus and stone fruit export chains. This technology is also used in forensic phytopathology to address and solve global fruit trade disputes. Prof Korsten believes that fresh fruit losses incurred during production, packaging and at the market, result in huge economic losses to farmers, negatively impact on government revenue, and the erosion of consumer confidence. In order to reduce food waste, it is essential to first develop a strategic approach to rapidly identify the pathogen, determine the point of contamination, establish the reason for spoilage and develop a more effective food management system. More recently, Prof Korsten has also included a project focussing on the link between contaminated irrigation water and food safety.

Her vision as Research Theme Leader for Food **Safety, Biosecurity, Public Health and Regulatory Control** is to bring together existing expertise in plant-, animal- and human health under a uniting focus on *One Health*. This will provide a unique opportunity for researchers from different fields of study to integrate complementary research activities and strategically position the University as one of the leading institutions in Africa focussing on challenges related to food safety, biosecurity, public health and regulatory control.