

OLWETHU LOKI

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION & RURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT,
AGRI-BUSINESS, SKILLS TRANSFER & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT |

PhD. | Email: olwethuloki@yahoo.com | Cell phone: +27 79 420 3251

Gender: Male | Drivers licence: C1 | Nationality: South African

| ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4187-3345>

Professional Summary

Olwethu Loki is a vibrant agricultural researcher whose career goal is to be a research expert in Agricultural Extension, Rural Development and Sustainable Resource Management, Food Security and Agri-Business. Olwethu holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resources Management; his research focused on the privatisation of agricultural extension services: the perceptions and willingness of smallholder farmers to pay for extension services in eastern cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa.

Olwethu was a lecturer at the University of Fort Hare and Fort Cox College of Agriculture and Forestry. Teaching agricultural extension from 1st-year student to honours level, also supervising seminars and honours mini dissertation. He is also an external examiner for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension of the North West University and a reviewer for the South African Journal of Science. Dr Loki has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, including the South African Journal Agricultural Extension. Olwethu is a professionally trained and Agri-seta accredited assessor, facilitator and moderator that conducts outcome-based assessments. He was also trained by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on land Acquisition, Recapitalisation, and restitution expertise. His proficiencies include qualitative and quantitative research and an understanding of statistical software such as SPSS and STATA.

Dr Loki has five (5) years at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), conducting research and training to develop farmers, research experts and advisors in collaboration with multiple stakeholders in the industry, private sector, government departments and academic institutions. Olwethu is a results-oriented, independent leader with excellent interpersonal and communication skills and an ability to work under pressure. Dr Olwethu Loki currently serves as compliance and technical Manager at African Greeneurs (AG) (PTY) LTD; he is responsible for training and development, a farm manager and AG strategic and operations management team. He creates tailored production database, systems, reports, and a dashboard that provide end-to-end business production performance visibility across the group. Moreover, he produces knowledge that supports technical excellence within the organisation by developing strategy, people, tools, and learning.

Key competencies include, ***Qualitative and quantitative Research, Report writing, Project management, Coordinate and Organise programs and Training, and Capacity development***

Key Achievements

Academic

- Completed a PhD degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, **2020**

Training conducted

- Trained farmers on value Chain Production within communities in Midvaal, Gauteng province. **2019**
- Trained smallholder farmers on biosecurity and primary animal healthcare in 3 District municipalities for the ARC, collaborating with the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture in Eastern Cape province. **2018**
- Trained agricultural advisors and researchers on extension big five skills program in Mpumalanga and North-West provinces, respectively **2017**

Community survey

- Lead survey for seed business development project for ARC and GrainSA, which aimed to explore various innovative avenues for increased legume seed production and production among smallholder farmers in South Africa. **2019**
- Privatisation and farmers' willingness to pay for extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. **2018.**

Professional Experience

Enterprise African Regional Network

Year: 2021 – date

Compliance and Technical manager
African Greeneurs, Centurion, Pretoria
Reports to the Managing Director: African Greeneurs

African Greeneurs (Pty) Ltd ("AG") is EARN's Agriculture subsidiary that operates in line with the 17 United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). AG adopted the SDG 2, which seeks to achieve zero hunger in the world without destroying natural resources

- Leads the Training and Development in African Greeneurs, responsible for various functional areas across the operating teams, including compliance and technical, training, material development, project.
- Works with various functional areas across the AG operating teams to create tailored production database, systems, reports and dashboard that provide end-to-end business production performance visibility across the group.
- Produce knowledge that supports technical excellence within the development of our approach, people, tools and learning.
- Responsible for skills transfer and training for graduates, farmworkers, and trainers.
- Manages a 2-ha farm with 25 tunnels, a shade net, and a worm farm

North West University

Year: 2021 - 2022
Period (2 months)
Contract

Lecturer (time on task)
Department of agricultural economics and extension
Reports to the Head of Department

Institute of higher learning and training: Teaching and learning

- Responsible for teaching and assessment of Agricultural Extension to postgraduate and undergraduate students.
- Supervise of Postgraduate students (Masters)
- Actively involved in community engagement programmes

Agricultural Research Council

Year: 2017 – 2021
Period (4 years)

Professional Development Programme (Researcher and Training coordinator)
Smallholder Agricultural Development / Training Services, Pretoria
Reports to the Senior Research Manager: Tropical and Subtropical Crops Institute

The Smallholder Agricultural Development / Training Services is responsible for capacity development towards a transformed agricultural sector. This is achieved by training internal researchers and external stakeholders from varied departments/institutes with extension skills critical to the development of farmers and agribusiness communities.

- Conducts qualitative and quantitative research to improve smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.
- Responsible for skills transfer and training of ARC researchers and agricultural advisors/officers from other departments and farmers.
- Organise and coordinate surveys for community engagement and feasibility studies.

University of Fort Hare

CV: *Olwethu Leki*

Year: 2015 - 2017
Period (2 years)
Contract ended

Lecturer
Department of agricultural economics and extension
Reports to the Head of Department

Institute of higher learning and training: Teaching and learning

- Responsible for teaching and assessment of Agricultural Extension to postgraduate and undergraduate students.
- Supervise Postgraduate students on dissertations and seminars
- Actively involved in community engagement programmes

Fort Cox college of agriculture and forestry

Year: 2015
Period (1 year)
Contract Ended

Lecturer
Agriculture and forestry
Reports to the Head of Department

Institute of higher learning and training: Teaching and learning

- Responsible for teaching and assessment of Agricultural Extension to postgraduate and undergraduate students.
- Actively involved in community engagement programmes

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

Year 2014 - 15
Period (1 year)
Contract ended

Project officer (intern)
Reports to Senior project officer

- Responsibilities: Land acquisition - Farm assessment and asset verification
Land recapitalisation – Funding for farmers
Land restitution – Tenure rights and disputes

Education and Qualifications

- **PhD in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management, 2020**, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- **Masters in Agricultural Extension, 2016** University of Fort Hare
- **Honours in Agricultural Extension, 2013**, University of Fort Hare
- **Bachelor of Agricultural extension and production, 2012**, University of Fort Hare

Papers published/ under review

- **O Loki**, M Mudhara, Y Pakela-Jezile, TS Mkhabela: Factors influencing land reform beneficiaries' willingness to pay for extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, South African. The manuscript has been **published** by the South African Journal of Agricultural Extension, **2019**, Vol. 47, Page 29-45.
- **O Loki**, M Mudhara, Y Pakela-Jezile: Factors influencing smallholder farmers' use of different extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, South African. The manuscript has been **published** by the South African Journal of Agricultural Extension, **2020**, Vol. 48, Page 84-98.
- O Loki, M Aliber, MM Sikwela: Assessment of socioeconomic characteristics that determine farmers' access to Agricultural Extension Services in Eastern Cape, South Africa. The manuscript has been **published** by the South African Journal of Agricultural Extension. **2021**, Vol. 49, Page 198-209
- **O Loki**, M Mudhara, Y Pakela-Jezile: Factors influencing smallholder farmers' willingness to pay for extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa. The manuscript has been submitted for review to the journal of human ecology
- **O Loki**, M Mudhara, Y Pakela-Jezile, M Aliber, S Mazwane: Factors influencing smallholder farmers' perception towards privatisation of extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa

manuscript has been submitted for review by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology journal

- **O Loki**, M Mudhara, Y Pakela-Jezile: Factors influencing smallholder farmers' use of pluralistic sources for Agricultural information in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa, the manuscript has been submitted for review to the Agricultural research journal

Student supervision and co-supervision

- LC Ndlazilwana, Dissertation title: Perceptions, coping strategies and welfare impact of drought among small stock farmers in Amathole District Municipality, Eastern Cape, 2021. Masters Student, North West University.
- S.S Ngubane, Thesis title: Investigating market opportunities of smallholder farmers in KwaZulu-Natal, 2022. PhD candidate University of Free State.

- **O Loki, M Aliber:** Factors influencing the accessibility of extension services and implications to the performance of communal farmers in Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality, Eastern Cape, the manuscript has been submitted for review to the South African Journal of Agricultural Extension

Conferences and posters presented

- Paper presented “Factors influencing land reform beneficiaries’ willingness to pay for extension services in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, on the 53rd conference of the South African society for agricultural extension (SASAE) 8 -11 July 2019. Loki, O., Mudhara, M., Pakela- Jezile, & Y., Mkhabela, T.S.
- Poster presented “Accessibility of extension services, role, and implications to smallholder farmers’ performance in two communities of Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality, Eastern Cape” on the 53rd conference of the South African society for agricultural extension (SASAE) 8 -11 July 2019. Loki. O, Aliber. M & Christian M.
- Poster presented “The effect of corruption on land accessibility by women: Evidence from developing countries” on the 53rd conference of the South African society for agricultural extension (SASAE) 8 -11 July 2019. Christian M, Loki. O, Mdoda, L

Hobbies

- **Sport; soccer and rugby, reading**

Referee	Position	Email	Contact number
Dr Yolisa Pakela-Jezile	Senior Research Manager: ARC	PakelaY@arc.agric.za	+27 84 318 2219
Prof Michael Aliber	Acting Dean: UFH	maliber@ufh.ac.za	+27 83 439 0426
Prof Maxwell Mudhara	Associate Professor: UKZN	Mudhara@ukzn.ac.za	+27 84 804 3729
Mr Kobang Maluleka	Managing Director: AG	kobang@earninternational.net	+27 76 577 6439