

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IMPROVING NUTRITION, UNLOCKING POTENTIAL AND ACCELERATING CHANGE (PRESENTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SAAFOST))

Professor Mohammed Naushad Emmambux

Prof Emmambux is currently a full professor in the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences, University of Pretoria. He holds a C2 rating from the NRF and is the research leader for food processing at the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security. He is also the principal investigator for InnoFoodAfrica EU project.

He obtained his MSc (cum laude) and PhD in Food Science at the same department and subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology (SIK), as well as a second postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pretoria. He lectures in food chemistry, plant food science and technology and food rheology.

His research is broadly on African food biomolecules for nutrition and functional use. The main focus is on the chemistry of starch modification with lipids for clean label starches used in the production of nano-materials, non-gelling high viscosity starches for stabiliser and fat replacers, low glycaemic index foods, encapsulation of nutraceuticals, and biocomposites with other biopolymers. His research interests include food chemistry, food rheology, spectroscopy, microscopy and nanotechnology. He is currently working with six MSc, nine PhD candidates and 4 postdoctoral fellows.

Prof Emmambux has several publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, books, conference proceedings and non-refereed journals. He has also attended and presented posters and papers at several local and international workshops and conferences. During his PhD studies he received two best poster awards at the International Associations for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) Conference and the Dreosti Award for the best oral presentation at the SAAFoST Conference. In 2009 he received a young scientist award from IUFOST (the International Union for Food Science and Technology). In 2015 he also received the Exceptional Young Researcher Award from the University of Pretoria.

Linda Drummond RD (South Africa), APD (Australia)

Linda has almost two decades of experience in the field of nutrition. She has worked for the South African Department of Health as a clinical dietitian, worked for a private food service management organisation and has owned her own part-time private practice. In 2007, she joined the corporate world and has held various nutrition, corporate communications and public affairs-related roles at a leading food company. In order to gain business experience, she has also worked as a brand manager and a product marketing manager in two multinational organisations.

Linda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical, Molecular and Cellular Sciences and a Bachelor of Science Medical (Honours) degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, both from the University of Cape Town (UCT). She also has a Programme & Project Management certificate, which she obtained through the University of the Witwatersrand Business School. She is currently a Master of Medical Science candidate at UCT.

Linda is the Nutrition Consultant to the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa's Food Safety Initiative on a part-time basis, where she focuses on compliance to food & nutrition-related regulations and industry-wide public health initiatives.

Nigel Sunley

Nigel has a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Leeds and an MSc in Food Science from the University of Natal. He spent 32 years in the food industry with both South African and multinational food companies, mainly in R&D but also in manufacturing & manufacturing support functions. He then started his own business, Sunley Consulting, in 2007, based in Johannesburg but conducting consultancy work both in South Africa and in many other parts of the world and specialising in the commercial food science / nutrition interface and the regulatory management of food.

Nigel is a past president of the South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) and chaired the organising committee for the 15th World Congress of Food Science & Technology held in Cape Town in 2010. He currently chairs the joint liaison committee for food science and nutrition in South Africa on behalf of the ISC (International Scientific Council).