

## **Survey and identification of honeybush diseases in the areas of plantations**

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Honeybush is an indigenous crop in South Africa and it is estimated that approximately 30 000 ha grows sporadically in mountainous land, in the Eastern Cape and spreads down along the Langeberg and Swartberg mountains into the Western Cape towards the coast as far as Bredasdorp. The Honeybush industry is a very young industry with cultivation mostly from wild harvest in the field, which is currently not enough for the demand. The harvesting of field honeybush put an unsustainable pressure on Honeybush populations.

With the increasing of honeybush nurseries and plantation, disease start to show, but there is no information available on the diseases occurring on Honeybush and the control of it. This project will gather information on the biodiversity of diseases in Honeybush. All diseases will be identified morphological and on molecular level. Information will be transferred to farmers and the research community.