

Dr. Lukeshni Chetty

Short Biography:

Lukeshni Chetty is the General Manager of the South African National Seed Organisation (SANSOR), since October 2012.

Her tertiary qualifications are as follows:

B.Sc. in Genetics and Biochemistry, B.Sc. (Hons.) in Genetics with distinction, M.Sc. in Genetics, with distinction her thesis entitled: "The impact of pollen movement on identity preservation of maize (*Zea mays*)" and a Ph.D. in Genetics, thesis entitled: "Managing gene flow: a prerequisite for recombinant DNA biotechnology".

Over her academic career, she has been recognised with numerous awards and scholarships from industry as well as NRF.

In 2008 she was appointed as Deputy Director: GMO Monitoring and Research at the South African National Biodiversity Institute. She was tasked with developing a GMO monitoring framework for South Africa. She managed National and International scientists in a R7 million research programme between South Africa and Norway. Through this programme the first national post-commercial monitoring framework for GMO maize for South Africa was developed and presented in a glossy report titled, "Monitoring the environmental impacts of GM maize in South Africa". This project was the first largest biosafety research project globally and was also successful in training 11 postgraduate students.

She is currently the General Manager of the South African National Seed Organization. As General Manager of SANSOR, she is the first female, person of colour and the youngest General Manager in the history of SANSOR. She is tasked with representing the seed industry's interests nationally and internationally on all seed trade and policy related matters. SANSOR is a leading seed trade association in Africa.