

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Research and Innovation Day

27 May 2026

“Unisa’s Catalytic Niche Areas: Powering Change”

Transforming lives through innovation in biotechnology, marine studies, health, energy and digital advancement.

Venue: Thamsanqa Auditorium, GJ Gerwell Building, UNISA, Florida Campus, South Africa

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Time	Programme item
08:00 – 09:00	Registration, tea/coffee
09:00 – 09:10	Opening and welcome: Dr Pabalelo Radingoana and Dr Anisah Deen-Pather <i>Programme Directors</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Official welcome remarks Prof Ntanganedzeni Mapholi (<i>online</i>) <i>Acting Executive Dean</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Introduction of keynote speaker Prof Monnye Mabelebele <i>Head of College Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote address Dr Maphuti Madiga <i>Deputy Director: Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSTI)</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Dr Bathabile Ramalapa <i>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR): Biotherapeutics Formulation and Delivery platform</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Mr Frank Mazibuko <i>National Research Foundation (NRF): Strategic Investments, Innovation and Impact (SIII)</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Mrs Melissa Govender <i>National Research Foundation (NRF): Strategic Investments, Innovation and Impact (SIII)</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Dr Siya Ntutela <i>UNISA Directorate of Innovation, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation (DITTC)</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Comfort break, tea and industry interaction

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11:30 – 11:35	Session 2: Overview and showcase of CAES Research Dr Anisah Deen-Pather / Dr Pabalelo Radingoana
11:35 – 11:45	Prof Vhahangwele Masindi <i>Department of Environmental Sciences</i> Research Theme: Water Research
11:45 – 11:55	Prof Tlou Julius Tjelele (online) <i>Department of Agriculture and Animal Health</i> Research Theme: Rangeland
11:55 – 12:05	Prof Sifiso Xulu <i>Department of Geography</i> Research Theme: Geospatial applications
12:05 – 12:15	Prof Monde Ntwasa (online) <i>Department of Life and Consumer Sciences</i> Research Theme: Drug discovery and development
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, networking and industry interaction All attendees / Exhibitors

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13:30 – 13:35	Session 3: Postgraduate Student and Researcher Innovation Showcase Programme Director: Matshego Njumbuxa
13:35 – 13:40	Emmanuel O. Njoga
13:40 – 13:45	Nomsa Thabethe
13:45 – 13:50	Iviwe Notununu
13:50 – 13:55	Martie-Helena Oosthuizen
13:55 – 14:00	Sanet Carow
14:00 – 14:05	Sinenhlanhla Nonhle Nsele
14:05 – 14:10	Bridget Nwovhe
14:10 – 14:15	Olasunkanmi Stephen Olawuwo
14:15 – 14:20	Refilwe Given Kudumela
14:20 – 14:25	Peter Schmitz
14:25 – 14:35	Judges deliberation and industry interaction All attendees / Exhibitors
14:35 – 14:45	Announcement of winners and awarding of prizes Prof Khomotso Semanya <i>Director: School of Ecological and Human Sustainability</i> Pictures: Judging Panel / Sponsors/ Keynote/ Prof Mabelebele
14:45 – 14:50	Closing remarks Prof Sogolo Lucky Lebelo <i>Director: School of Agriculture and Life Sciences</i>