



Science Forum SOUTH AFRICA

6 – 8 DECEMBER 2023, PRETORIA

Join SACNASP at Science Forum South Africa 2023

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD: PATHWAYS FOR NATURAL SCIENCE GRADUATES IN THE LABOR MARKET IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (STI) DECADAL PLAN

5 December 2023 | 09:00 - 12:00

CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa

The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) is implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Decadal Plan. The STI Decadal Plan 2022-2032 serves as a roadmap for STI policy and programs for the next 10 years, and it places a particular emphasis on targeted sectors of advancement and growth. The implementation plan also seeks to align education and work with societal and economic needs, ensuring individuals have the requisite skills and knowledge for future success. Youth unemployment presents a substantial challenge in South Africa, underscoring the importance of understanding the experiences of natural science graduates within the economic landscape. In light of the escalating rates of graduate and youth unemployment in the country, SACNASP commissioned a study conducted in collaboration with the HSRC and financially supported by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), to explore the labour market dynamics pertinent to natural scientists, with the ultimate aim of providing valuable information for shaping policy and facilitating informed decision-making processes. SACNASP, responsible for overseeing and regulating the natural science profession in South Africa, considers this understanding a priority. Addressing the future of education, skills, and work requires a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders such as government, educational institutions, industry, and individuals. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and prioritizing inclusivity, we can navigate the changing landscape and create a future where everyone has access to quality education, relevant skills, and meaningful work opportunities – thus leaving no one behind. The outcome of the panel discussion is intended to have a significant impact on addressing the gap between employers' skills demands and the skills provided by training institutions. By elucidating strategies and exploring government interventions, the discussion aims to bridge this divide and equip young graduates and entrepreneurs with the necessary skills to succeed in the workforce. Additionally, by emphasizing inclusivity in terms of gender and youth responsiveness, the panel discussion aims to promote equal opportunities and create a more inclusive environment. Ultimately, the panel aims to provide key policy recommendations to further enhance and promote inclusivity and bridge the skills gap in these areas.

For more information on Science Forum South Africa 2023 please visit <https://sfsa.co.za>

