

STAFF PROFILE CONTENT BRIEF

https://www.dut.ac.za/faculty/applied_sciences



DESIGNATION

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Title & Name: Prof John Jason Mellem

Qualification & Institution: DTech (DUT)

Contact Number: 031 373 5592

Email Address: johnm@dut.ac.za

Campus: Steve Biko

Area of Expertise: Bioactive peptides,
Nutraceuticals/functional foods, Starch functionality

Short Bio: Prof John Mellem is an Associate Professor within the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). His role at DUT focuses on capacity development through teaching, research, and postgraduate supervision, and is one of three leading researchers within a relatively newly created research focus area in DUT, “Food and Nutrition Security”. Furthermore, he is also involved in collaborative projects with various members of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) with research focused around the use of indigenous underutilized food crops for innovative product development in the form of value addition, technology transfer and market improvement. He has been involved in the area Food Technology/ Plant Biotechnology research since 2004 with projects that have been based on the use of an indigenous food crop for phytoremediation of heavy metals, production of wine from indigenous palms, and the use of indigenous grains/legumes to address non-communicable diseases. Currently, his research focuses on the characterization of biomolecules for the development of functional foods or nutraceuticals to address non-communicable diseases [viz. diabetes, cancer, CVD (cardiovascular diseases)], and malnutrition. Specific interests include the health benefits of antioxidants/ phytochemicals in fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes against oxidative stress, and the development of bionanomaterials for the delivery of bioactive compounds.

Academic Interests: Food science and Technology, Biology, Food Safety and Toxicology, Food Process Engineering

Research Links: Orcid - <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4784-699X>

Scopus - <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=41361686800>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=w9MIhQUAAAJ&hl=en>