IPPS Presentation for:

Wenza Ngubeni

HORTICULTURIST (GROWER)

Who am I

- Wenza Ngubeni
- From Mpumalanga, Piet Retief (Mkhondo)
- Full time in Muldersdrift, Krugersdorp
- Love for Agriculture
- Back yard farming Maize, Potatoes etc
- Encouragement for farming & business owner

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Background of Horticultural interest

- My interest inspired by my hometown
- Exposure to agriculture (livestock, forestry production etc.)
- My interest is in Ornamental plant
- During my schooling in Piet Retief
- Sent to buy compost (something new)
- My life was changed

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Background of Horticultural interest

- Saw something I've never seen
- Overhead sprinklers, drip irrigation, greenhouse roof
- To colourful pot plants
- From there and then I knew
- Wanted to do this work
- I didn't know it was Horticulture

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My Horticulture Journey

- Started in 2019 (Accepted at Tut)
- Decision to study Horticulture
- My journey as a Horticulture student
- Not only was I at Tut
- All I had in mind
- Applying for weekend jobs at nurseries

Gordon et al.2022

My Horticulture Journey

- 2020 Eckard's Garden Pavillion (Salesperson)
- I helped customers and gave advices
- Suggesting solution for sicknesses and diseases
- During the same year
- Invited to work at SANA trade fair
- Assisted in preparing the show

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My Horticulture Journey

- I met a lot industry giants/employers
- 2021 applied for WIL at TuberFlora
- Did nursery work (Irrigation, cuttings, Planting, IPM ect)
- Managed to get 7 distinctions/ 17 subjects
- 2022 employed at TuberFlora as Grower/Junior Manager
- Focusing on IPM, fertilization, scouting, management

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My Horticulture Journey

- 2023 doing Advanced Diploma in Horticulture
- Wrote my first research proposal
- The effect of Gibberellic Acid concentration on the flowering of *Spathiphyllum*
- Top student in presentation

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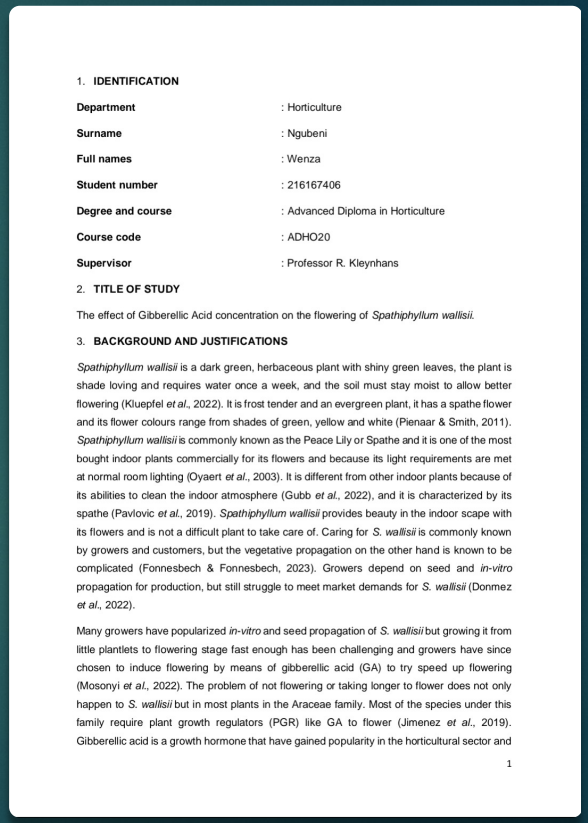
My hopes for Australia/ New Zealand experience

- I wrote a research proposal
- A research I intend on doing in 2026
- International expo could help give inside,
- Not a research to stay in archives
- Understanding how we can use growth regulators
- Helps growers like me and you



1. **IDENTIFICATION**

Department	: Horticulture
Surname	: Ngubeni
Full names	: Wenza
Student number	: 216167406
Degree and course	: Advanced Diploma in Horticulture
Course code	: ADHO20
Supervisor	: Professor R. Kleynhans

2. **TITLE OF STUDY**

The effect of Gibberellic Acid concentration on the flowering of *Spathiphyllum wallisii.*

3. **BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATIONS**

Spathiphyllum wallisii is a dark green, herbaceous plant with shiny green leaves, the plant is shade loving and requires water once a week, and the soil must stay moist to allow better flowering (Kluepfel *et al.*, 2022). It is frost tender and an evergreen plant, it has a spathe flower and its flower colours range from shades of green, yellow and white (Pienaar & Smith, 2011). *Spathiphyllum wallisii* is commonly known as the Peace Lily or Spathe and it is one of the most bought indoor plants commercially for its flowers and because its light requirements are met at normal room lighting (Oyaert *et al.*, 2003). It is different from other indoor plants because of its abilities to clean the indoor atmosphere (Gubb *et al.*, 2022), and it is characterized by its spathe (Pavlovic *et al.*, 2019). *Spathiphyllum wallisii* provides beauty in the indoor scape with its flowers and is not a difficult plant to take care of. Caring for *S. wallisii* is commonly known by growers and customers, but the vegetative propagation on the other hand is known to be complicated (Fonnesbech & Fonnesbech, 2023). Growers depend on seed and *in-vitro* propagation for production, but still struggle to meet market demands for *S. wallisii* (Donmez *et al.*, 2022).

Many growers have popularized *in-vitro* and seed propagation of *S. wallisii* but growing it from little plantlets to flowering stage fast enough has been challenging and growers have since chosen to induce flowering by means of gibberellic acid (GA) to try speed up flowering (Mosonyi *et al.*, 2022). The problem of not flowering or taking longer to flower does not only happen to *S. wallisii* but in most plants in the Araceae family. Most of the species under this family require plant growth regulators (PGR) like GA to flower (Jimenez *et al.*, 2019). Gibberellic acid is a growth hormone that have gained popularity in the horticultural sector and

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My hopes for Australia/New Zealand experience

- Australia & New Zealand countries with highly developed Horticultural industries
- With cutting-edge greenhouse technology
- Learn new ways of applying growth regulators
- Will not only help me as an individual
- Young up coming Horticulturists
- Currently I'm part of a whatsApp group of Horticulturists

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Thank You

THOSE INTERESTED IN READING MY RESEARCH PROPOSAL ARE WELCOME TO ASK FOR IT AND I WILL SEND IT VIA WHATSAPP.