



National Science and  
Technology Forum

# Plastics – substitutes vs recycling

15 November 2019, Kempton Park, Gauteng

#plastics  
#recycling  
#plasticssubstitutes  
#biodegradable

## Biographies of Speakers

### Dr Sudhakar Muniyasamy



Dr Sudhakar Muniyasamy is working as a senior researcher and technical leader in the field of bioplastics and biodegradable products at the CSIR Chemical Cluster, Polymer and Composites Research group. He is a research associate at the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He has earned his PhD in Chemical Science from University of Pisa, Italy and subsequently he worked as postdoc at University of Guelph, Canada before joining the CSIR in 2013.

He has published 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and book, and holds a patent. He has attended and presented more than 50 research papers in various international conferences and meetings. He has been actively involved as scientific member and reviewer for various international journals & scientific meetings which relate to degradable and bio/environmental polymers. His R&D excellence has helped in developing various industrial bio-products and biomaterials manufacturing.

He is a recipient of various prestigious awards:

- Eco-Logic Awards 2018 - Ecological Innovation from Enviropeadia;
- New Industrial Bioproducts award – 2013 from University of Guelph, Canada; and
- International Galileo Gallei Fellowship for top three young researchers in chemical sciences at the University of Pisa – Italy (2007-2010).

### Ms Annabe Pretorius



Annabé studied Polymer Science at Stellenbosch University and subsequently gathered 3 decades of experience in the South African plastics industry. After CSIR, AECI and the Plastics Federation of SA, she formed her own company, Plastix 911 in 2007 – general consultation including some fault finding, optimum material selection and assisting new entrants into the industry. She was contracted to SAPRO (the South African Plastics Recyclers Organisation) for a couple of days a month from their inception in 2008 till earlier this year. She also assists Plastics|SA with technical enquiries. The *SA Initiative to end plastics waste in the environment* is headed by the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa and Annabe sits on two of the Working Groups. She completed a number of surveys on plastics recycling and plastics converting. Annabe often participates on judging panels as her theoretical knowledge, underlying experience and passion for anything plastics adds value to the evaluation process in general.

To summarise – anything to do with Plastics, from the making thereof to getting rid of it at its end of life.