

Deirdre Holcroft

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

PRESIDENT: Holcroft Postharvest Consulting holcroftpostharvest.com

Sept 2011 to date (prior to July 2016 based in California; post July 2016 based in France)

- Provide horticultural, postharvest and food safety expertise and training to clients in the produce, ornamental and food industries.
- Designed, conducted and statistically analyzed studies for validating the use of new technologies.
- Clients include fruit, vegetable, and flower growers, fresh-cut processors, seed companies, tissue culture labs, packaging, technology providers, logistics resources, equipment suppliers, and trade groups.
- A founding member of the Global Fresh Technology Group; Board member of The Postharvest Education Foundation (www.postharvest.org); Ad hoc reviewer of proposals for the Center for Produce Safety, USA

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: AgroFresh Inc., Davis, California, USA

Feb 2006 - August 2011

- Managed research program including contract research and conducting 'in house' research on a wide range of fruits, vegetables and ornamentals. Research focused on produce quality, shelf life extension and commercial value creation.
- Provided technical support to the commercial team, including meeting with customers, conducting demonstration trials and technical presentations.
- Transitioned research projects to commercial applications and filed patents to support new business.
- Coordinated with other departments to commercialize proprietary technology, including registration in California.
- Managed all aspects of the Davis facility including hiring and supervision of all staff, site and environment, health and safety (EHS) requirements.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SCIENTIST, Dole Fresh Vegetables, Soledad, California, USA.

June 2003 - October 2005

- Research and development on fresh-cut fruit from concept to commercial production.
- Postharvest projects on process optimization, packaging and handling of fruits and vegetables as commodities and value-added products.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University, USA

Jan 2002 - May 2003

- Supervised and conducted research on postharvest physiology and handling of vegetable crops including potato, carrot and asparagus.
- Taught undergraduate and graduate students (60% teaching appointment).
- Consultant on US AID project on fruits and vegetables.

SENIOR LECTURER: Department of Horticultural Science, Stellenbosch University

January 1999 - December 2001

- Supervised a wide range of postharvest projects, including colour development in pome fruit, storage of plums and pears, ethylene effects on avocados and leaf blackening of *Protea* flowers.
- Taught undergraduate and graduate students.

PhD STUDENT: Department of Pomology, University of California, Davis, USA.

January 1995 - December 1998

- Conducted research in postharvest physiology of strawberries and pomegranates stored in controlled atmospheres. Supervisor: Dr Adel A. Kader.

LECTURER: Department of Horticultural Science, University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg

June 1991 - December 1994

- Conducted research on ornamental crops.
- Taught undergraduate students.

ASSISTANT RESEARCH FELLOW: Department of Horticultural Science, University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg

August 1989 - May 1991

- Investigated the effects of fertilization with inorganic and organic fertilizers, soil fumigation, plastic mulches and row covers on field lettuce production.

EDUCATION:

PhD - PLANT BIOLOGY, University of California, Davis, USA:

1995 - 1998

- Thesis: Biochemical basis of changes in the color of strawberry fruit stored in controlled atmospheres.
- Major professor: Adel A. Kader

MSc (Agric) (*cum laude*), University of Natal (now Kwazulu Natal), Pietermaritzburg:

1987 - 1989

- Thesis: Low chill clonal rootstocks, pollination studies and cultivar identification in kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa* var *deliciosa*).

BSc (Agric) (*cum laude*), University of Natal (now Kwazulu Natal), Pietermaritzburg:

1981 - 1984

- Major: Horticultural Science

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS: List available on request

REFERENCES: Available on request.