

Eighty Years of Weed Biological Control in South Africa: What Have We Learnt?

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An interpretive and complete account of all weed biological control programmes in South Africa has recently been published as 18 chapters in a special issue of the *Journal Agriculture Ecosystems and Environment*". This extensive compilation provides the basis for our presentation in which we: (i) summarize achievements in South Africa over the last 80 yrs; and (ii) provide an account of interesting precedents, and of unusual or unique aspects of the South African programmes. We conclude that there are few hard and fast principles (rules) in weed biological control worldwide, and that the South African programmes have not provided any additional principles. However, some of our programmes have provided innovative insights about the practice and process of biological control, which could be usefully applied elsewhere.
