



Tekulima Nentfufuko

Agriculture and Development

3rd Quarter 2012/13

pg 9
PRESIDENT ZUMA'S INITIATIVE BEARING FRUITS

pg 10-11
MPUMALANGA COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

pg 18-19
A DARDLA SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM A HUGE SUCCESS



dardla
Department:
Agriculture, Rural Development
and Land Administration
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT





CRDP SCOOPS AWARD FOR BEING AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME

Bheki Nyathikazi

nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



Mpumalanga delegate receiving the prize

Mpumalanga's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) scooped the 1st Prize in the category of Innovative Partnership in Service Delivery, during the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) Award Ceremony held at Emperor Palace on 02 November 2012. Celebrating a 10th Anniversary, the CPSI Awards are aimed at celebrating innovation; promote and encourage best practices in public sector innovation and service delivery. They are also aimed at nurturing a public sector that develops, promotes and applies innovative ideas in all forms.

The Award Ceremony in November 2012 had four categories which are: Innovative Partnership in Service Delivery; Innovative use in ICTs for Effective Service Delivery; Innovative Service Delivery Institution; and the Innovative Enhancements of Internal Systems of Government. There was a special Overall Winner's category, off which the CRDP got 2nd Runner Up position. The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration's (DARDLA) CRDP: "Creating a Vibrant Economy", was nominated and scooped the Innovative Partnership in Service Delivery category. In this category, the CRDP competed with Mpumalanga Youth Against Climate Change's Climate Change Awareness Project; a Limpopo NGO's Tshikofokofu Adopt a River; and the North West Health

Department's Increasing Utilisation of ARTs.

Speaking at the Award Ceremony, Deputy Minister for the Department of Public Service Administration, Honourable Ayanda Dlodlo said "South Africa is known for its excellence, but now is the time to engage innovation to address challenges facing our country. I am happy that all of these projects nominated for these awards are from a coldface, where services are really delivered. What we need is a Public Sector that lives with the enthusiasm to serve and bring about improvement in the lives of our fellow countrymen." Deputy Minister Dlodlo said in her keynote address. She also called on government departments to improve communication amongst one another on their projects, "to avoid a duplication of projects in one area for example, and that helps against fruitless expenditure". She said.

DARDLA's Head of Department, Ms N.L. Sithole said "We are happy about this recognition, acknowledgement and appreciation of our efforts as we strive to bring about change to our communities. The quality of entries from the 15 projects that were chosen after an intensive assessment and adjudication session was of high standard. However I must say that this award doesn't mean that we need to relax; it actually means





more sleepless nights as we push to roll out CRDP in every ward in all our CRDP municipalities". CRDP was first launched and piloted in the Mkhondo Local Municipality in 2009, before it was rolled out to six more municipalities across the province. The programme allows stakeholders to get together to bring forth development activities, services and infrastructure.

Amongst DARDLA officials that attended the Awards Ceremony, was former Health MEC Dr Clifford Mkasi, and COGTA's Ms. Gloria Mazibuko. The 2012 CPSI Awards were sponsored by Eskom, MTN, Capitec,

GEMS and The Mail & Guardian. The 2012 overall winner went to Mpumalanga's Ligbron School's Ligbron E-Learning Project, which scooped an award in the Innovative Services Delivery Institution category. Ligbron E-Learning is a community school project where mathematics and science lessons are shared with five rural and underperforming schools by means of video conferencing and desktop sharing. The schools are Camden Combined, Umzimvelo Agriculture, Masizakhe Secondary, Ermelo Combined and Ithafa Secondary school.

RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STRENGTHENED THROUGH CSI

Bheki Nyathikazi

nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



HOD NL Sithole outlining the CRDP Strategy

The public and private sector in Mpumalanga have both agreed on finding common ground to forge and strengthen relations, through the formation of a platform that will ensure information sharing, networking and capacity development. The first meeting of the Mpumalanga Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Forum was held at the Promenade Hotel in Nelspruit on 29th of November 2012. The meeting was attended by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration's HOD, Ms. NL Sithole and other senior managers, representatives from the private sector, NGO's, CBO's, Traditional Authorities, and Cooperatives.

Delegates broke into commissions for discussions on different topics, before coming back to collate the inputs made during the commissions. Before breaking into commissions, the DARDLA's HOD explained the importance of the CSI Forum meeting to delegates, before she unpacked the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and how communities benefit through it. In her presentation, Ms Sithole explained that CRDP is currently being rolled out to 188 wards in seven municipalities, and that the idea is to roll it out in every ward in all the CRDP municipalities. "I must emphasize that government alone cannot cover all poverty stricken areas, as our





efforts to change people's lives continue. That is why business or the private sector must come to the party, and make that financial resource available through CSI initiatives", Sithole said.

The address by the HOD to delegates also touched on government's efforts to change poverty stricken communities through CRDP, skills transfer, sustainable rural communities, to creating a fast growing economy. Her address was hailed by the delegates as powerful, and they attributed that to her passion and love for agriculture and rural development.

Objectives for the Mpumalanga Corporate Social Investment Forum include identifying potential programmes and projects for joint implementation or collaboration; provide a forum for sharing ideas and lessons; and create synergies between CSI programmes and government programme of action and priorities, especially the Mpumalanga Provincial

Government. The CSI will also help bring the Private Sector companies closer to the communities for future sustainability.



Director CRDP Mr. Dagada with his team

EXTENSION POLICY DIALOGUE WORKSHOP IN MPUMALANGA A GREAT SUCCESS

Bheki Nyathikazi

nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



Mr. Thozamile Lukhalo, DAFF's Director for National Extension Reform, unpacking the aims and objectives of the workshop to delegates.

The Mpumalanga leg of the Extension Policy Dialogue Workshops held at Badplaas Aventura on the 12th of October 2012 turned out to be a great success. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) in partnership with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) visited all nine provinces to gather inputs and contributions from the agriculture, forestry and fisheries stakeholders as part of developing a new na-





tional policy on extension and advisory services.

The workshop, with a theme: “Towards a new policy on extension for agriculture, forestry and fisheries”, was attended by representatives from organised agriculture, senior officials from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, Extension Officers, officials from the sectors of Fisheries and Forestry, DAFF, ARC, Veterinary Services and other stakeholders in the agriculture industry.

Unpacking the aims and objectives of the workshop including the policy dialogue process to delegates, DAFF’s Director for National Extension Reform, Mr. Thozamile Lukhalo said the new policy is aimed at shaping and changing the current state of agriculture, forestry and fisheries extension in South Africa. He also announced that Phuhlisani Solutions is a service provider tasked with facilitating the development of the new policy through a research-led national policy dialogue.

Among those present at the workshop was DARDLA MEC, Mrs. KC Mashego-Dlamini. In her keynote address, MEC Mashego-Dlamini called on DAFF, the ARC and Phuhlisani Solutions to ensure that the policy workshops were fruitful. “I have no doubt that this will surely bring about real change in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors. It is up to all of us here to ensure that this gathering is not one of those so called “talk-shops. We are obviously willing to be part of such an initiative that is aimed at shaping the future of extension and advisory services in our country. However, I must emphasize that let us all make sure that the policy document is realistic and its content implementable”.

She said.

“A Draft Policy Framework will be ready as soon as we finish visiting all nine provinces and solicited their inputs. Thereafter, we can look forward to an Extension Indaba that would be graced by the presence of DAFF Minister Tina Joemat-Petterson”. Said Mr Lukhalo.

Presentations at the workshop included one from Ms. Jeanette Clarke, an expert on International Extension Services, who summarized key trends that are shaping the changing extension policies and practices internationally. She focused on the diverse experiences of Brazil, India, Kenya, Denmark, China, Ethiopia and Malawi. “China for example, has the largest extension system in the world, with over a million trained staff. Over the last two decades, public sector extension there has been increasingly complemented by private sector services”. Clarke lamented.

It was noted at the workshop that before and after the 1994 democratic elections, the dominant perception of South African agriculture had been one of duality. The farming community was generally divided into two broad categories: the well-established large-scale farmers; and the less formal smaller-scale farmers, the majority of whom are black and materially poor. Dedicated websites www.extensionservices.za.net and www.extensionpolicy.org.za have since been established to report on the policy development process, and to provide space for people to identify and discuss key policy and other engagement strategies which are in place. Twitter stream, independent peer review and the provincial policy dialogue workshops are some of the means to gather information to the extension policy.



DARDLA MEC Mrs. KC Mashego-Dlamini (in a peach outfit) sitting among delegates at the workshop, making her inputs





AN ANTI-ILLEGAL NET FISHING CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED

Celani Ndude & Bheki Nyathikazi
ndudewc@mpg.gov.za & nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



Nkomazi - Community leaders are optimistic that the unveiling of the Anti-Illegal Net Fishing campaign would curb escalating incidents of illegal net fishing after the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA), the Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), the Department of Water Affairs and the Nkomazi Municipality instigated a successful campaign at Driekoppies Dam, on 16 November 2012.

This initiative is aimed at protecting, conservation and sustainable utilization of fish for future generations. It is also aimed at educating communities on acceptable fishing methods, and the importance of fish in poverty alleviation. The Campaign was launched under the theme: "Stop Illegal Net Fishing, it destroys the environment".

KOBWA's representative Mr. Ian Van Zuydam, stated that the campaign resulted from illegal

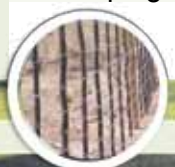
fishing activities that have dire implications on the sustainable survival of the aqua life. "According to a preliminary report by our specialist appointed to conduct fish survey, the indication is that there were few fingerlings (baby fish), and this is a cause for concern as fingerlings ensure the sustainability of the fish in the dam. In the report we also learned that the dam was infested with nets", Van Zuydam said.

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency's Mr. Samuel Malindisa indicated that the illegal net fishing incidents were rife and a challenge in the Driekoppies Dam, Komati Basin and Mlumati River. He encouraged communities to follow the law and apply for fishing permits and licences, at a cost of R20 for the whole year.

Delivering a key note address at the launch, DARDLA's Chief Director for Research, Agricultural and Structured Skills Training Mr. Stemmer Ndala said the department

was committed to ensure that fishing becomes a business. "Our department has a fishery programme, under the Aquaculture Research Team responsible for growing the fish, protecting the key genes and having a fishery facility. As people were fishing illegally, they should consider areas such as Limpopo and neighbouring Swaziland and Mozambique, because those people also need the fish that is under threat from these dams", Ndala said.

After the official launch of the campaign, DARDLA, KOBWA and other partners went out on an awareness campaign through road shows, educating communities in Buffelspruit, Driekoppies, Schoemansdal, Schuzendal, Jeeps Reef and Middelplaas about the dangers of illegal net fishing. People were discouraged not to fish during the close season, because at the time fish are carrying a lot of eggs.





COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME CHANGES LIVES OF THE PEOPLE

Andile Shabangu

shabangua1@mpg.gov.za



Ms Lucy Mnisi of Gottenburg



The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) has brought a smile in the life of 28-year-old Ms Lucia Mnisi in Gottenburg ward 34 in the Bushbuckridge Municipality. Like many in their area, Ms Mnisi was unemployed with two kids but now looks forward to the next day to till and sell her fresh produce in the market.

Mnisi explained that she lost her father in 2004, as she pointed to his grave in the yard, surrounded by good yield of maize crop. She also added that she used to visit her aunt in another ward who helped develop her love of agriculture, and also encouraged her start attending CRDP meetings. "Attending CRDP meetings assisted me in getting to understand what CRDP was all about; thereafter I never looked back as I started working on my own backyard garden".

Mnisi added, "I have already bought my children clothes and I no longer create problems for my neighbours whom I used to bother by asking for food. Instead, they now come and buy vegetables from me". Mnisi encouraged other young unemployed people to work with their hands and not only depend on others for employment.

According to the CRDP coordinator in the

municipality Mzilikazi (name/surname), beneficiaries are supported with seedlings, 500-litre JoJo tanks, fence and agricultural advice. A two hector field has been fenced by the department so that all the backyard gardens beneficiaries can come and work in one field. The aim of the department is to get them into the school nutrition programme. They have since been registered as a cooperative so that they can supply the local schools with fresh produce.

Mzilikazi, also mentioned that the Council of Stakeholders meeting has helped them to do proper planning in their wards. He sees the CRDP programme as one of the best programmes offered by government because as at the end of December over 960 houses had been built under the People's Housing Process (PHP) by the Department of Human Settlement. "This shows that through planning together as departments and parastatals, we can achieve better results in service delivery as our Head of Department Ms Sithole always discourages working in silos." said Mzilikazi.

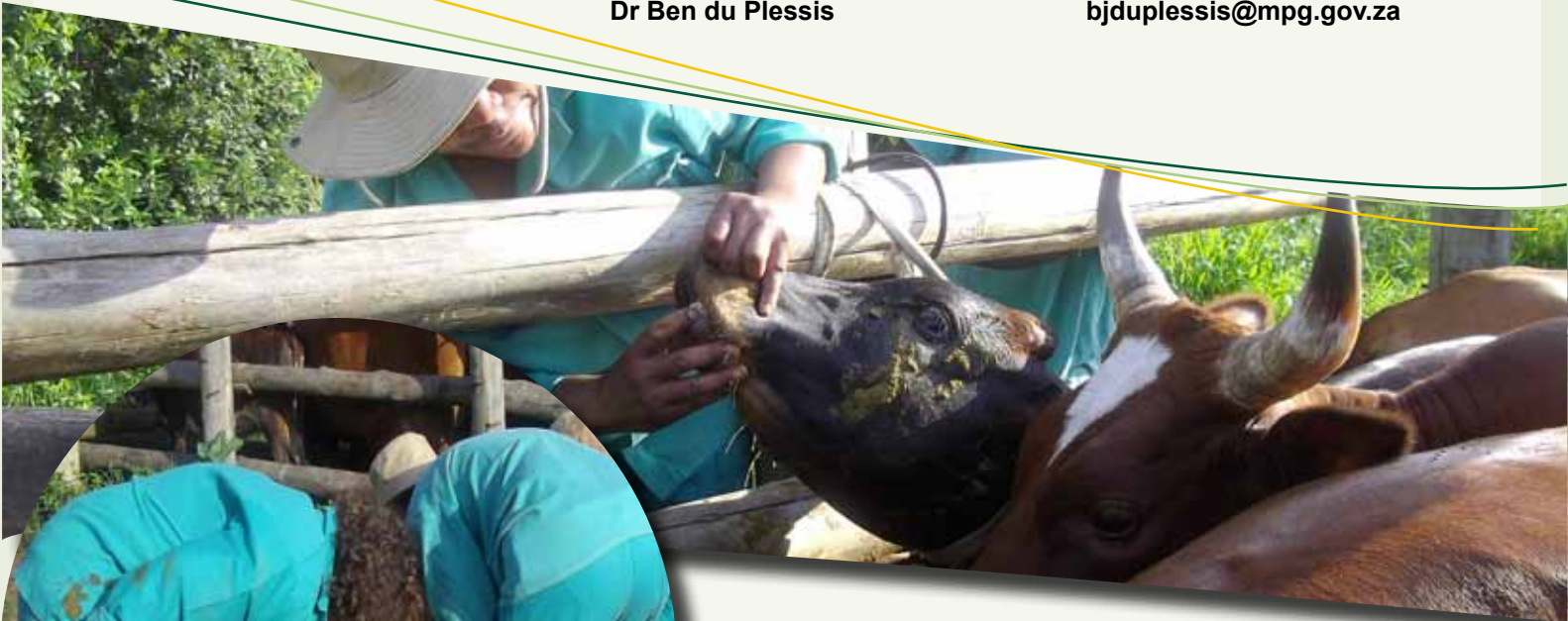




NATIONAL FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SURVEY

Dr Ben du Plessis

bjduplessis@mpg.gov.za



Examining the cattle for foot and mouth and ensuring a clean bill of health

Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Orpen, which are not in the free zone. Mouth examinations were done and blood samples collected by veterinary officials from seventeen cattle in each of these herds, all before the due date in July 2012.

The Mpumalanga province has completed its part of the national foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) survey successfully. South Africa lost its FMD free zone status on 25 February 2011 due to an outbreak of the disease in KwaZulu-Natal. As part of an attempt to regain this status internationally in order to access foreign markets for the export of animals products and other agricultural products, South Africa embarked on a national serological survey in order to prove that this disease has been eradicated in the free zone.

Mpumalanga was expected to examine and sample 211 cattle herds out of the countrywide number of 1358 herds. These herds were spread over the entire province, except for the state veterinary areas of

The results of the tests that were done of these samples showed that 58 herds had reacted. This necessitated a second round of examination and sampling, which was done in August, when the original cattle as well as 17 additional cattle per herd were examined and sampled. In the third round of the survey a veterinary expert team examined the remaining nine herds, whereafter all herds were declared free of foot-and-mouth disease. These findings will be reported to the World Organisation of Animal Health as part of South Africa's application to regain its FMD free zone status. The National FMD Survey's Provincial Coordinator, Dr Ben du Plessis has commended all veterinary officials and farmers who were involved in the success of the survey, and for their dedication and cooperation.





PRESIDENT ZUMA'S INITIATIVE BEARING FRUITS

Henry Ndhlovu

phndhlovu@mpg.gov.za



A way from the madding crowd with the splendor that is often reserved for big government events conspicuously missing and the glare of the media's non-existent. Etombe, an obscure village in Mkhondo Municipality bordering the Kwazulu-Natal province, played witness to what was probably the first installment of pledges made for Honourable President Jacob Zuma's brain child aptly coined the Masibambisane Rural Development Initiative (MRDI).

Indeed, President Zuma in his capacity as the chairman of MRDI, a non-governmental initiative aimed at eradicating poverty and stimulating economic growth in rural areas, did leave a lasting legacy when he launched MRDI on 6 November 2011. On that day he handed over RDP houses that were part of the presidential housing project, 2 bulls and 25 heifers and 1 ram and 25 heifers to a myriad of beneficiaries to the delight of the local community.

On that same day, private business and some Cabinet Ministers in attendance also made pledges that would ensure that MRDI is sustained in the area and subsequently rolled out to other rural areas in Mpumalanga. On 6 December 2012, exactly 13 months after the pledges were made, 4 cows were handed over to Mr. Nqotheni, a deserving livestock farmer from Entombe village. This was after officials from the Department did follow ups on the pledges that were made on the launch of MRDI in 2011.

Explaining the purpose of the day, Mr. George Xaba,

DARDLA's Director for the Gert Sibande District, said the purpose of the gathering was to officially hand over cows that were pledged by Mr. Skosana, a local business man and Pastor Sithole during the launch of MRDI. Mr. Xaba asserted that Mr. Nqotheni was chosen as a beneficiary for his proven track record of dedication and hard work in livestock farming.

Mr Xaba insisted that the cows were handed over unconditionally but hinted that in the spirit of Masibambisane, the Department might humbly request that spin offs thereof be extended to other deserving local livestock farmers. He appealed for patience as they were still awaiting other pledges which upon delivery were going to be handed over accordingly.

Speaking on behalf of Mkhondo Municipality Executive mayor, Councilor Ndlovu thanked President Zuma for initiating MRDI as it encourages rural people to be champions of their own development and stem the tide against urban migration. "Farming has always been our source of livelihood and it should be our responsibility to ensure that it remains as such," said Councilor Ndlovu.

In his message of appreciation, Mr Nqotheni thanked the Department and those who made the pledges for their good deed. He indicated that for a while he had been trying to solicit assistance from a private company to expand his livestock farming business in vain, maintaining that his future now looked bright.





MPUMALANGA COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

“TAKING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ANOTHER LEVEL”

Background

Mpumalanga Provincial Government is accelerating service delivery and job creation through Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). This programme in Mpumalanga is implemented as a basket of services in approaching rural development in an integrated way. The Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) has been mandated to coordinate the programme and other stakeholders.

In Mpumalanga Province the program was first launched in August 2009 and piloted in Mkhondo Municipality of Gert sibande District thereafter to other six poverty stricken municipalities, which are Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Dr JS Moroka, Thembisile Hani, Chief Albert Luthuli and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme. This decision was guided and informed by studies which were conducted including the socio-economic studies done by the Provincial Treasury. The CRDP prioritised municipalities which were found to be underdeveloped in many aspects including high rate of unemployment, poverty, HIV prevalence, none formal education, low level of infrastructure development and human development index.

Local Council of Stakeholders

The management of the programme was entrusted to the Council of Stakeholders which is composed of all structures in the community including Traditional Leaders, Ward Councillors, Ward Committees, NPOs, CBOs, Cooperatives, Municipality and Sector departments. This is a local CRDP structure which monitors that implementation of the programme and ensures that local people are the main stakeholder of the programme.

Animal production (Masibuyele Esibayeni)

Mpumalanga province is rural and the majority of its people depend on farming activities. The programme introduces the Nguni development programme based on the indigenous knowledge of the people and their experience over decades rearing this breed which is disease resistance and adapt well in this part of the country. In addition the Bull and Heifer was introduced mainly to improve the genetic pool of the farmers in beef cattle production business. Farmer Cooperatives are given a Bull and 25 pregnant Heifers. Special innovation about CRDP is that every initiative is coupled with market arrangements. The government built and is continuing to build more red meat abattoirs wherein farmers can take their animals for slaughtering. Farmers are also assisted with Ram and Ewes within the same principles. Farmers are supported also with fencing of grazing land and construction of animal handling facilities.

Crop Production (Masibuyele Emasimini)

The programme also focussed on planting all available arable land. Through these initiatives farmers are assisted with mechanisation and inputs. Innovatively the program linked these farmers with the market of National School Food Nutrition Scheme to supply fresh produce directly. Farmers are encouraged to form primary cooperatives at production level and secondary cooperatives at marketing and processing level. In line with this approach the programme built Maize Mills with silos. This is to enable farmers to get their grains processed and stored.





Water Development

In promoting food security and own food production, the CRDP encourages backyard gardens. This project comes with the innovation of linking five or more households to a borehole. The borehole reticulates water to the garden and also to a tap for consumption. This innovation tends to curb two problems at once, that of irrigating the garden and household use.

Skills Development and Capacity Building

One aspect which negatively affects the sustainability of rural development programmes is lack of local skilled labour. CRDP in Mpumalanga is introducing the skills development wherein people who have no formal education or skills of any trade are taken into a training programme which takes a form of learnership. These people who are predominantly youth and women are taken into a class and thereafter to a field in physical live projects where they are training through constructing real infrastructure.

Cooperative development

Cooperative development is key in CRDP as a vehicle to create jobs. The communities were advised and assisted to establish cooperatives in the category of construction trades, manufacturing, fencing, enterprises and farming. The whole idea was to create an integrated one stop development pool wherein one activity lead to another and complement each other in the whole value chain and life cycle of the project.

In order to construct a building, labours were trained to construct, cooperatives established to manufacture bricks, windows and door frames. Cooperatives were formed to establish business enterprises within the communities to accelerate economic growth. Enterprises established include bakeries, sewing, fence making, tissue, art and craft. All these are linked to the market, firstly within government departments and also the private sector.

Rural Development

In order to improve education level, world class schools are constructed through the CRDP models. Primary health centres are constructed wherein hundreds of trained learners are employed for construction and local cooperatives are supplying materials where local people have started manufacturing. In each CRDP municipality, houses are built for those in need, the same community supply builders with bricks and window frames. Trained learners also participate in building.

CRDP is about people participation in the quest to change their own future, improve their own livelihood and grow their own economy. This is the backbone of the sustainability of this programme. It is about skills development to ensure development even beyond the government intervention. Skills developed will stay with the community forever and people will continue with their newly formed businesses, or get employment from other bigger companies. This programme is about job creation, only in 2011/12 financial more than 14 000 jobs were created and people are working. The programme is targeting to achieve 23 000 in 2012/13 financial year.

*Mpumalanga CRDP pushing
back the frontiers of poverty!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Be Part of it,
be proud of it, now, together and forever.*

Contact Details

Tel: +27 (0)13 766 6068 / 6133 / 6049

Email: dardla@mpg.gov.za / crdp@mpg.gov.za

Visit our website: www.dardla.mpg.gov.za



MZINTI'S LIVESTOCK FARMER'S DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

Nelly Mashabane

MashabaneNB@mpg.gov.za

Nkomazi local farmers gathered at the Mzinti Training Centre on Friday the 16th of November 2012 to celebrate the first ever "livestock farmers day" organized by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA). Farmers flocked in with excitement looking forward to a productive day with their stakeholders and colleagues. As he explained the purpose of the event, DARDLA's Mr. Clement Mbatha said it was aimed at enabling farmers to interact and get to know one another, and also interact with external stakeholders. The Farmer's Day turned out to be a very informative workshop. Speakers included representatives from the Nkomazi State Vet, Masibuyele Esibayeni, Livestock Marketing, African Farmers Association (AFASA) and the SAPS. They were all given an opportunity to make presentations about their different divisions and their roles. The farmers in attendance were given an opportunity to ask questions relating to livestock.

The issue about the Nkomazi abattoir was also highlighted and farmers made a plea to DARDLA MEC Mrs Candith Mashego-Dlamini to push for the Abattoir to resume operation this year, 2013. Ms. Dudu Mabanga from Veterinary Public Health assured them that the abattoir matter is being taken care of, and that it will be completed and start operating soon.

In his presentation, Mr Petros Sithole from AFASA said "we encourage farmers to join in and be part of organized agriculture. It is very important for a farmer to belong to a certain body rather than standing alone". Livestock that will not be brand marked by June 2013 will not be issued permits to be able to move from one place to another. DARDLA's Acting Manager in Nkomazi Mr Mandla Ndhlala emphasized the importance of livestock branding. "We also encourage

farmers to be united and form Cooperatives, and stop being isolated. The next celebration on the 22nd of February 2013 will be bigger, as we will be branding cattle and tattooing goats and pigs," Ndhlala said. Nkomazi has about 6000 farmers, but only committees were invited for this Farmer's Day event.

Livestock Information Day

Mbalenhle Mhlongo

mpmhlongo@mpg.gov.za





Farmers are the backbone of the nation; therefore a lot needs to be done in improving the state of the farmers by giving them knowledge and advices. Consequently, on the 13th November 2012 the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration held an information day for livestock farmers at Kriel in Emalaheni Municipality, to promote health and livestock management. The day was mainly focused on the four legged stock.

Amongst other participants was Mr. Aubrey Dladla from OBP, who made a presentation on cattle vaccine; Mr Thapelo Maganodiwa from Veterinary Services raised awareness on rabbies, Ms Nguye Mnguni presented the importance of brand marking, Ms Priscilla Munzhelele presented practical skill and knowledge of cattle management; while Ms Maude Nkosi gave advices on marketing.

Even though it was a one day exercise, farmers were eager to learn and were very co-operative, asking relevant questions concerning the entire subject presented on the day. All presenters did a tremendous job to give information and clear responses to questions farmers were concerned about.

COMBINED RED MEAT & POULTRY ABATTOIR INFORMATION DAY



Mbalenhle Mhlongo

mpmhlongo@mpg.gov.za

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) through its Veterinary Services Section successfully hosted the Combined Red Meat and Poultry Abattoir Information Day on 23 October 2012, at the Crocodile Country Inn. The Information Day is an annual event organised for both Red Meat and Poultry Abattoir, including abattoirs that were in the process of registering and emerging farmers interested in establishing their own abattoirs in the province.

The purpose of the event was to give abattoir owners, hygiene managers and farmers a platform to engage with the department and to learn more about the latest developments on legislation and other issues relating to the meat industry.

In her opening remarks, Veterinary Services' Dr. Yemi Akerele acknowledged everyone who participated in the Provincial Abattoir Rating Scheme Awards held in June 2012 in Middelburg. She reported that the province has done exceptional well during the Abattoir Rating Scheme Awards ceremony. She also announced the successful unveiling of the new logo of the Provincial Abattoir Rating Scheme (PARS) in the event. Dr Akerele further stated that with the Information Day event, they were hoping that it would address some of the challenges that were facing the entire meat industry.

Speakers from different institutions were given an opportunity to present on various intriguing topics which reflected their research on the Red Meat and Poultry Industry's latest developments. Some of the heated debates emanated from the following discussions: Food safety issues relating to ritual slaughter of goats in South Africa; brine injection and the legislation pertaining to poultry meat products; Labelling regulations and how it influence meat safety.

Some of the key stakeholders that graced the event were representatives from the provincial Department of Health, Animal Health, University of Pretoria, Mpumalanga Chemicals Red Meat Abattoir Association, International Meat Quality Assurance Services and South African Meat Industry Company.





DEPARTMENT OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER NEW STRUCTURES

Celani Ndude

wndude@mpg.gov.za

The sugarcane farmers from Nhlangu West sugarcane project in Nkomazi municipality could not contain their excitement when the Dardla officially handed over a new office and storeroom during the remarkable event that took place on the 10th October 2012 at Mbongozi. The Department has responded swiftly to the needs of the sugarcane farmers after it was approached to build an office and a storeroom for the project.

Chief Director for District Services Mr. Israel Silinda graced the event and officially handed over the keys of the new office and storeroom to the jubilant crowd of beneficiaries on behalf of the Head of Department Ms Nelisiwe Sithole. The Department has also provided fence, two river pumps and an electric panel.

Addressing the farmers, Mr Silinda stated that the HOD would have loved to attend the event but due to other commitments she could not attend and he had a message from her that the Department was very committed to see all Nkomazi Sugarcane Growers becoming a big business.

In its endeavour to improve the lives of the poor in rural areas, the Department has committed funds to ensure that projects were initiated and improved to benefit all farmers in the province through interventions from Masibuyele Emasimini programme, Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and other programmes.

Mr. Silinda said the Department was appreciating all the efforts that the beneficiaries have undertaken for the success of this project. He further thanked all the stakeholders contributed to this achievement, in ensuring that government was defeating the three critical issues that were affecting service delivery.

He highlighted that the President of the country, Mr. Jacob Zuma was consistently talking about three important issues that needs to be addressed in his speeches, which are poverty, unemployment and inequality. He said government alone could not deal with

these three issues; therefore, government was committed to ensure that it was giving all the necessary support to various projects to ensure that it wins this battle so that more jobs were created to reduce poverty.

"I am impressed with the quality of work done by the contractor, John Walters, the structure is of high good standard, all of you beneficiaries need to take care of the buildings, alluded Mr Silinda. He also encouraged the beneficiaries to take ownership and invest in their own business in order to create more job opportunities. It was reported that 15 local people were employed for the construction of the building.

Nhlangu West Sugarcane Project was situated at Mbongozi in Nkomazi Local Municipality and benefiting from the department's initiatives aimed to advance the lives of the poor people through District Services. Mr. Lucas Mashaba, a dedicated member of the project shared some light on how it all begun. The project started in 1998 with 45 members then, now they consist of 30 members. He said they used to conduct meetings on an open space with no resources, and in fear of heavy rains.

"We were determined and managed to continue under those appalling weather conditions, some members decided to leave us, we are proud now that we can meet on a protected shelter. We applaud the Department for its efforts to improve our lives. The contractor has done exceptionally well," said Mr. Mashaba. The project was doing very well in sugarcane production and was producing 80 to 90 tons per annum and was hoping to produce 120 tons.

The Department has committed that it would in future sort out the other outstanding work through its Project Management Unit as requested by Mr. Mashaba. The Department was requested to fix water engine, install electricity and help them with water valves.





The new office structure and storeroom for the Nhlangu West sugarcane project in Nkomazi



Dardla officials Mr. Mandla Ndhkala, Mr. Oneday Magagula and Mr. Israel Silinda handing over keys to the beneficiaries

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES KEY TO SAVING THE WORLD

Henry Ndhlovu

phndhlovu@mpg.gov.za

Commemorated under the global theme that views cooperatives as key to saving the world, the 2012 World Food Day festivities examine how cooperatives put people at the centre of their operations and in doing so help their members achieve shared social and economic aspirations.

The Agricultural sector has had its fair share of the ripple effects of such factors as global warming that continues to deplete natural resources that agriculture heavily relies on and the persistent financial uncertainties on the global front. With this backdrop it is not surprising that locally, the world food day festivities which were held on 18 October 2012 in Driefontein, Mkhondo Municipality were commemorated under a banner that says 'From Crisis to Stability'.

The World Food Day event is a United Nations sanctioned initiative that highlights issues of food security and global hunger. Statistics reveal that more than 1 billion people in the planet face hunger related issues and in South Africa alone, hunger affects 14 million people daily which if unabated could see the figure rising significantly. Accordingly, smallholder farmers in

developing economies are encouraged to strategically engage in small enterprise development opportunities and to operate their farms as businesses.

Ms Virginia Mngomezulu, a local farmer, was invited by the department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) as a motivational speaker on the day. She reminded farmers that government was not directly involved in the business of farming. She hit the nail on the head when she asserted that government 's mandate was to support farmers but farmers should be mindful that success or failure of their business ventures solely rest in their hands as only them not government stand to reap the rewards of their hard work or lack thereof.

Proceedings on the day commenced with visits to three households that started backyard gardens out of their own initiative. It was particularly encouraging to find out that Ms Emily Ngwenya, an owner of the first backyard garden visited was partially blind yet she did not allow her situation to be a hindrance. All these families were identified by Dardla agricultural advisors working closely with other stakeholders within the community.





The Dardla Chief Director for District Services Mr. Silinda promised that, the identified households would be provided with necessary production inputs to assist in improving their gardens.

At the main hall where the community was gathering, Mr. Xaba, Director of the Gert Sibande District Dardla office, asserted that the event was mainly organized so that people can be encouraged to produce their own food to fight food insecurity. Ms Nothando Maphanga, Acting Director for Masibuyele Emasimin lamented the fact that there was an outcry over expensive food prices yet people were reluctant to produce their own food. She touched briefly on the services of Masibuyele Emasini. The Masibuyele Esibayeni project which deals with live-stock improvement was also explained by Tshepo Kgosimang an agricultural advisor for Mkhondo Municipality.

Mr. Silinda who was the main speaker on the day emphasized the importance of agricultural cooperatives saying that in countries like India and Kenya agriculture was thriving because of cooperatives. He discouraged individualism, singling out infighting as the main reason why cooperatives were struggling in South Africa. As 2012 is an international year for cooperatives Mr. Silinda encouraged farmers to form cooperatives as this would assist them in scaling up their activities and in accessing markets for their produce.



Ms Emily Ngwenya, third from right was visited by officials from DARDLA



Some of the food parcels donated by Boxer stores

SKILLS TRAINING A CORNERSTONE OF DEVELOPMENT

Celani Ndude

ndudewc@mpg.gov.za





Nkomazi -Skills training is the keystone of development in transforming the lives of the small scale and emerging farmers that came to light when Cotton SA in partnership with the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Administration (Dardla) honoured all the farmers that participated in the skills development initiative.

Cotton SA together with Dardla handed over 50 certificates, registered and approved with AgriSeta to Nkomazi Cotton Farmers partaken in the skills development accredited training, and this exciting and memorable event was held on 5 December 2012 at Mzinti Training Centre.

In this initiative, Cotton SA has extended a warm hand to perk up the skills of the cotton farmers and offered accredited skills training to all the people who showed interest to expand their knowledge in the cotton industry. The training was facilitated by Cotton SA and fully supported by Dardla. The training was scheduled and completed in four weeks on September 2012. The programme consists of 10 unit standards, representing 43 credits, and was grouped into four modules. It also comprised of the following modules: all pre-plant activities (financial management), field preparations (establishment, nutrition and moisture needs), pest (insect) management, and preparations for harvesting.

Addressing the gathering, the Director for District Services: Ehlanzeni South Mr. OB Magagula congratulated all the cotton farmers attended the event and Cotton SA on their accomplishment. He encouraged them to continue working hard, because these certificates were a great achievement. He indicated that the department has committed that there should be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cotton SA and Dardla in ensuring that the lives of the cotton farmers were improved for the better. He also highlighted that Cotton SA was approached to provide mentorship to cotton farmers.

Mr. Hennie Bruwer of Cotton SA applauded the initiative

Delegate who attended the training provided by Cotton SA and Dardla

and thanked the farmers for their commitment and hard work from the beginning up until to the end of the course. He stated that in order for the farmers to sustain over a long term they have to train them properly, but not only the farmers, the Agric Advisors as well because that would be the core of long term sustainability.

“Training is an ongoing process will never end, so you can’t say you stopped training, farmers have to come back all the time to be trained and refresh courses, in order to become better farmers. You can’t stop training, it is the cornerstone of development, you train them properly so that they know what to do in financing, soil preparation, harvesting and marketing.”

A hard worker and committed cotton farmer, and the Chairperson of the Nkomazi Farmers Association, Mr. Robert Nkalanga was content with the progress made through this skills development training. He added that the training was a true inspiration to farmers because now they know a lot about cotton production.

He further indicated that though the cotton production was doing well they were still encountering some difficulties when it comes to finding a market, late ploughing and transportation of cotton bales was also an obstacle. They also requested a cotton processing machine. He said they had a good year of harvesting in terms of cotton production. They achieved about 2749 bales of cotton. The number of cotton bales was very high, but the challenge was that they took it very late to the market, and were charged for that. They have been selling their cotton bales to Loskop Gin.

Cotton was one of the six commodities which were supported through production inputs and mechanization services by the department, linking nine villages, Mandulo, Dlundluma, Steenbok, Khombaso, Mbangwane, Goba, Tsambokhulu, Mananga and Mangweni with 13 Farmers Associations producing cotton in the Nkomazi Local Municipality.





A DARDLA SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM A HUGE SUCCESS

Bheki Nyathikazi

nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



The 4th International Symposium on Litchi, Longan and Other Sapindaceae Fruits, held from 3-6 December 2012 at the Winkler Hotel in White River, turned out to be a huge success. The provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) sponsored the symposium which was organized by the South African Litchi Growers' Association (SALGA) and the Agricultural Research Council - Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops (ARC-ITSC), under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

The international symposium saw delegates from as far as Brazil, India, Mexico, Egypt, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, and other Asian countries like Japan. Delegates were role players in the Litchi industry in their respective countries, sharing ideas with their South African counterparts on the most recent innovations within the industry, regardless of whether they were of an economic

or scientific nature. Topics of presentations were directly or indirectly related to litchi production in Mpumalanga. The topics also included the social and environmental aspects that could influence litchi production, marketing and utilization of litchi in Mpumalanga and/or South Africa. With the conference, SALGA also aimed at elevating the outputs of the litchi industry in SA, including the upliftment of emerging farmers in this sub-sector. Ten emerging farmers from previously disadvantage group across the province were part of the four-day symposium.

The conference started on a high note, with DARDLA MEC, Mrs. KC Mashego-Dlamini delivering the keynote address and officially opening it. "In this province, we have 41 943 hectares of Mango, Macadamia, Litchie and Avocado plantations. Included in this area is commercial orchards that have been handed over to land claimants and communities estimated at over 4-thousand hectares, and the agricultural land that belongs to small farmers





that is located in areas previously defined as homelands, estimated at about 4 303 hectares”, said the MEC during her opening address. She went on to say that an estimated 20.62% of the South African Subtropical industry (avocado, mango, litchi and macadamia nut) is currently owned and controlled by previously disadvantaged communities. “The production on these farms forms part of the South African Subtropical industry and of all of its different channels of involvement, including fruit delivered for export, local market sales and processing”, added Mashego-Dlamini, to the applause of the delegates.

During the four days of the symposium, delegates visited key litchi orchards and packaging plants in and around Nelspruit. They were also visited the world renowned Kruger National Park. “The litchi producing industry in South Africa, Mpumalanga in particular, is still facing challenges and they really need to be tackled head-on. I am happy though to learn of the support that the industry is getting from the provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration. That on its own is a step further towards the right direction”, said Krini Mruganan, a delegate from India. The symposium followed the 3rd such International Symposium that was held in Fuzhou, China, in 2008. Visit lychee2012.co.za for more information on the Symposium.



Female Farmer Hazel Mathelela Timtok Project





WHERE WE CAN BE FOUND

HEAD OFFICE

Building 6, Floor 1&2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11219
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 766 6082
6048/6020
Fax: +27 (0)13 766 8429

Email: info.dardla@mpg.gov.za
Website: <http://dardla.mpg.gov.za>

REGIONAL OFFICES

EHLANZENI NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE

101 Main Road
Thulamahashe
1365
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 1321
Thulamahashe 1365
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 759 4000
Fax: +27 (0)13 759 4165

EHLANZENI SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE

18 Jones Street
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

P.O. Box 266
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: 013 759 4039
Fax: 013 759 4165

NKANGALA DISTRICT OFFICE

Building 16
Government Complex
Kwamhlanga 1022
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 4017
Kwamhlanga 1022
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 947 2551
Fax: +27 (0)13 947 2809

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT OFFICE

44 Church Street
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag X 9071
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27(0)17 819 2076
Fax: +27(0)17 811 0774

LOWVELD COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Principal : Mr. MG Mahlangu

Cnr R40 White River Rd and
Fredenheim Rd
Riverside
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11283
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 753 3064
Fax: +27 (0)13 755 1110

LOWVELD COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE- MARAPYANE CAMPUS

Principal: Mr. G Viljoen

Tuinplaas Road
Marapyane
012 010 0010

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration endorses the principles of Integrity and Accountability in Resource Management



PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE: 1777

Communications Team

Editor - Zanele Shabangu • **Sub-Editor** - Bheki Nyathikazi • **Reporters** - Celani Ndude • Henry Ndhlovu • Andile Shabangu
• Nomalanga Mbuyane • Patrick Nyathi • Mbalehle Mhlongo • Sibusiso Mgwenya • Amanda Mabuza • Nokuthula Masemola
• Sello Ngema • **Graphic Designer & Layout** - Ruth Martin

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, neither does it reflect views of management. Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team of this publication takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy.

