

TEKULIMA

NENTFUTHUKO

ISSUE 21



**DARDLEA CEMENTS
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ABOUT US

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration is guided by a vision, mission and values developed to inspire and ensure alignment towards achievement of the department's objectives.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be a Vibrant, equitable and sustainable communities with a united and transformed agricultural and environmental sector.

Our Mission

To facilitate an integrated, comprehensive, sustainable environmental and agricultural development in communities through ensuring social cohesion and collaboration by all sectors of society.

Our Values

Guided by the principles of Batho Pele, we will render services particularly based on the following values:

Result oriented, diligent and professional staff;

Responsive to the needs of all citizens, particularly the poor, women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities;

Driven by community-based development;

A learning organization that is participatory in its approach and grows from its experiences and new knowledge and innovations;

Promote and improve effective, efficient and responsive departmental systems and use of resources.

Act with honesty, ethical, impartial and with intergrity.

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

EDITOR: Zanele Shabangu

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM: Bheki Nyathikazi, Celani Ndude, Xolile Nkabinde, Andile Shabangu, Patrick Nyathi, Sthembile Mohlala, Gugu Nkosi, Portia Nkosi, Thembisile Masilela, Miemie Mkansi, Prudence Lubisi

LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN: Muzi Mnisi

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE DIALOGUE A GREAT SUCCESS



The DARDLEA MEC Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe has committed that the information gathered during the Provincial Climate Smart Agriculture Dialogue would be used as a basis to develop action plans, policies and programmes of the Department, and hoping that all participants would be ambassadors for the ideas advocated in the Climate Smart Agriculture approaches. This, during her closing remarks at a two-day Provincial Climate Smart Agriculture Dialogue, which was attended by farmers, Organised Agriculture, Experts, Researchers and other key stakeholders. The session was held on November 5-6 at the Capital Mbombela.

MEC Hlophe noted that in the overall discussions, issues of funding, collaboration, awareness, capacity and training as well as research came out strongly as important enablers. Therefore, the department commits to prioritize disaster risk reduction measures such as the effective implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies, focusing on important elements such as issuing of weather warnings, awareness creation and response capabilities to ensure pro-activeness to reduce risks and prevent disaster.

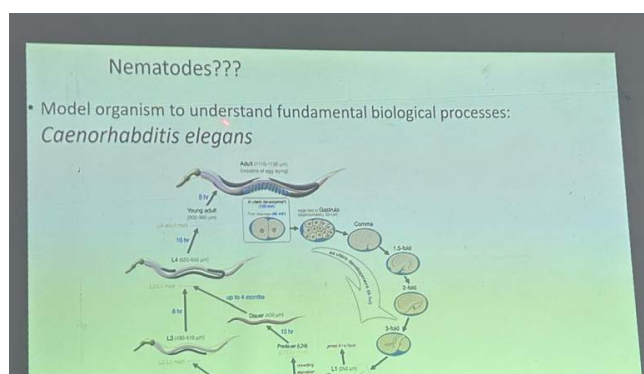
The Dialogue aimed to share experiences in agricultural resilience and adaptation to natural disasters, and to further discuss the Climate Smart Agriculture Strategic Framework. Mpumalanga was the third province to host the Dialogue, after Limpopo and the Free State.

CONTINUED RESEARCH ON NEMATODES IS NEEDED



Valuable discussions and collaborative relations among stakeholders is one of the solution to resolving challenges posed by Nematodes, which can impact negatively to yields. This was evident when representatives from the DARDLEA, Agricultural Research Council, the University of Mpumalanga, North West University and Belgium's Ghent University gathered at the Nooitgedacht Research Center in Ermelo on 27th November 2024, who all emphasized the importance of continued in-depth research on Nematodes, to help farmers enhance sustainable farming practices.

Nematodes are microscopic, worm-like organisms that are common soil pests affecting plants. The DARDLEA's Nematology Coordinator Ms. Mpumi Nobela made a presentation detailing the current progress on the Nematology project, focusing on achievements thus far, and outlined the future. A Provincial Nematology team was also introduced to the group of stakeholders in attendance.



DARDLEA CEMENTS RELATIONS WITH SASOL



The DARDLEA's Environmental Affairs Unit visited the Sasol site as part of their bi-annual Stakeholder Engagement which marked a significant step toward fostering environmental sustainability and social impact through innovative partnerships. The fruitful engagement between the two, held on 8th November 2024 at Sasol in Secunda, focused on how Sasol's resources and expertise in waste management could enhance the Department's projects, benefiting local communities and protecting the shared environment.

As part of the discussions, DARDLEA and Sasol looked at Community empowerment, Environmental responsibility, and innovative waste management. The Department presented its efforts in sustainability and exploring ways to partner with SASOL on climate-smart solutions and waste reduction. The department was taken through valuable insights into Sasol's commitment to re-using ash, fine coal as well as advanced water conservation practices. Sasol has also shared their impactful projects that focus on youth and women's empowerment, health initiatives and skills development, aimed at uplifting communities.

MASIBEKELA LIVESTOCK FARMERS ATTEND FARMERS DAY

Livestock farmers in Masibekela and surroundings in Nkomazi braved the heat and showed up in numbers for a Livestock Farmers Information Day held at the local community hall on 11 December 2024, hosted by our Farmer Support Unit and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) at the local community hall.

The interactive farmers day focused on the importance of Livestock Branding, poisonous plants on livestock, Clinical Diseases, Bull selection guidelines, Cattle Synchronization and Artificial Insemination, Animal Generic Service and Lumpy Skin Disease Control.



WASTE COLLECTORS EMPOWERED THROUGH WORKSHOPS



Workshops on waste management and recycling aimed at empowering Waste Collectors continued in Mashishing, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality on 9 December 2024, a collaborative effort between Zonda Insila Programme under Pollution and Waste, the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, PETCO and the local municipality.

Recyclers from as far as Simile in Sabie and Graskop also attended the session, during which they received more information on Waste Management, Regulations, Waste Collection and Recyclable Material, motivation, including an opportunity to network and share experiences. Similar workshops continue taking place throughout the province.



CCS VETS SHARE EXPERIENCES



It was a fond farewell to all young and talented Veterinarians who were stationed at all State Vet Offices in Mpumalanga, as their 12-month-long Compulsory Community Service (CCS) programme contract comes to an end at the end of December. They joined the Department through the CCS programme that aims at bringing veterinary services closer to rural areas, supporting local livestock farmers and pet owners alike, ensuring animal health.

Dr. Jacques Fourie, Dr. Nabhadan Govender, Dr. Juergen Paul and Dr. Themba Mahlangu, were stationed at State Vet Offices in Mkhondo, Chief Albert Luthuli and Msukaligwa Municipalities in the Gert Sibande District. They are dedicated professionals who served farmers and pet owners

with great aplomb. They shared fond memories about their on-the-field experience, skills gained, and challenges they overcame. The department extended its appreciation for their contribution and tireless efforts pushing for animal health.



DARDLEA AND CGA HOST A CITRUS FARMERS DAY



Citrus farmers from the Lowveld gathered at our offices in Mkhuhlu near Hazyview for a Citrus Growers Information Day, during which a wide range of topics were deliberated upon. The DARDLEA collaborated with the Citrus Growers Association in hosting this session on November 29th, that featured valuable information on Financial Management and funding opportunities from SEDA, Land-Bank and Standard Bank. This included tips on how best the farmers can grow their farming businesses.

Presenters from the Citrus Growers Association spoke on Black Spot, its management and Pests control. Other presenters were from the ARC, Netafim Company, and the Citrus Academy Training, who presented on compliance matters such as the need for farmers to get South Africa Good Agricultural Practices (SA-GAP) accreditation.



WORKING TOOLS FOR HLALANIKAHLE RECYCLING



Hlalanikahle Recycle & Scrap from Ezinambeni in Emalahleni have received 15 trolleys, 20 colour-coded bins, a fenced office-converted container and 30 sets of PPEs for its members, from a Corporate Social Investment responsibility programme by AECI. The donation was officially handed over on 23rd October 2024, thanks to a collaboration between PETCO, DARDLEA, national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Nkangala District Municipality and Emalahleni Local Municipality.

The AECI, a global mining organization that already operates in 5 sites in Emalahleni alone, believes that this kind of support is a sustainable model for the beneficiaries, while ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic, Act 108 of 1996.

Hlalanikahle – started by 5 members 4 years ago – has since grown to 15 youthful and energetic members who collect recyclables, sort and prepare it for the market. The group believes that waste must not end at landfill sites, but must be recycled, resold and reused. The members believe the sky is their limit, because the donated equipment will benefit their operations. They say in Trash, they see Treasure. In Waste, they see Wealth.



16 OCTOBER is

WORLD FOOD DAY

Join us in raising awareness about the importance of access to safe and nutritious food for everyone. Let's cultivate resilience in our food systems through community gardens, sustainable practices, and support for local initiatives. Together, we can ensure no one goes hungry!

#FoodSecurityDay #NourishingFutures



Happy World Veterinary Nurses' Day!

The Department extends its appreciation to all Veterinary Nurses on this special day. Your tireless dedication to the well-being of animals, especially in our rural communities, plays a crucial role in protecting both animal and human health.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, compassion, and expertise.

Today we celebrate you!



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WHERE TO FIND US

Head Office

Samora Machel Building, Floor 1&2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Private Bag X 11219
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 13 766 6068
Email: Infodardlea@mpg.gov.za

Ehlanzeni District Office

Building 4, Aqua Street
Riverside Park
P.o Box 266
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 13 759 4000

Bohlabela Region

101 Main Road
Thulamahashe
Private Bag X 1321
Thulamahashe 1365
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 13 773 1192

Nkangala District Office

Ebhudlweni Building, Government
Complex
KwaMhlanga 1022
Republic of South Africa
Private Bag x 4017
KwaMhlanga

Gert Sibande District Office

44 Church Street
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa
Private x 9071
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)17 819 2076
Fax: +27 (0)17 811 0774



dardleapaia@mpg.gov.za



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www.dardlea.mpg.gov.za