

TEKULIMA

NENTUTHUKO

Issue 12

**Consultations
on animal feeds
and fertilizers
in MP**

**Ban on Animal
Trade and
Auctions lifted**

**Free vaccinations
for Nkomazi pets**

**eMbuleni avails
land for planting**



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



Agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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Portulacaria afra

(also known as elephant bush, porkbush and spekboom)

This plant is drought tolerant and one of the best carbon gobblers in the world. By planting this shrub you are assisting in mitigating climate change and air pollution. Propagates easily from cuttings and easy to grow. Plant in sunny position and take care not to over water.

Please Note: For the sake of the environment, please do not remove the plant from its container.



CONTENTS

1. Editor's Note
2. HOD's Foreword
3. MEC's Foreword
4. Minister lifts Ban on Animal Trade and Auctions
5. Free Vaccinations for Nkomazi pets
6. Embuleni avails land for planting
7. DARDLEA aims for an Agric Master Plan
8. Stakeholders contribute to DARDLEA Strategic Framework
9. MEC encourages tree planting
10. Venture into Acqua Culture for business
11. Public Service Month ends with a pledge

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Editor's Note



MS ZJ SHABANGU

Water has become a challenge for the entire country, it has hit all corners with less rainfall to fill in the dams. In some areas dams have gone dry in some the water level can no longer fully give supply. This shortage and scarcity is a call to every citizen to use water responsibly to ensure that the little we have is preserved for the future.

As we face this challenge, smart agriculture is the way to go and will come in handy to curb the drought challenges that the farming community face to grow their crops and grazing of livestock. It is therefore crucial to use various ways to harvest water for irrigation of crops.

The Department is also working hard in ensuring that the farming community is empowered with information and best practices on farming methods, this we do through the awareness campaigns and farmers days in the local space.

This publication is one of the mediums to connect with stakeholders on a quarterly basis providing valuable information. What is always coming into the minds of the people responsible in putting up this publication is the readers which are our key stakeholders who must find it interesting and empowering to have a copy for themselves on reading about programmes implemented by the Department.

In this issue you will read more on the successful launch of this year's ploughing season in partnership with Embhuleni Traditional Council, the development of Agricultural Master Plan launch, the National Extension and Advisory Services Awards, the Greenest Municipality Awards and other activities. Our Research Corner will also be beneficial to our reader.

We are always available on our Social Media platforms to update stakeholders on activities taking place, keep connected with us.

I thank you



HOD'S FOREWORD

The Department aims to provide quality services to the people of the province, we will do this as we continue to implement programmes that are directly impacting positively on the lives of the ordinary people. It is worth to mention that we believe working together we will be able to make a difference and contribute towards boosting the economy of the country.

During this quarter a Strategic Planning session was held to deliberate on the strategic priorities to be implemented by the Department in the next five years. Those priorities seeks to improve the agricultural sector and develop the economy as directed by the Premier of the province and the President of the Republic of South Africa.

The strategic session was meant to share ideas and also introduce the new mandate assigned to the Department during this year's State of the Province Address by the Premier which include the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and Government Nutrition Programme (GNP).

The Department also during this period managed to launch the development of Agricultural Master Plan. This was held at Ingwenyama Lodge in White River and attended by more than 300 key stakeholders including Organized Agriculture, Organized Farmers, Commercial Farmers, Smallholder Farmers, Researchers, former Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), and key national departments.

The development of the Master Plan is intended to set the platform for all stakeholders in agriculture to formulate a master plan for the province that will therefore guide the development of the sector for the next 25 years. It will ensure that the agricultural sector in the province effectively contributes towards economic growth, job creation and food security.

The master plan to be developed would drive transformation and act as a foundation for development and will also ensure that the comparative advantage of the sector as per Agric-ecological zones is used for the full benefit of all. Work streams to deal with different topics of the master plan have been established and will be actively involved in the development of the master plan.

MR LS MONARENG



Some of the Department's key priorities for the next five years as a major step taken to improve the agricultural sector include:

- To develop and implement the Mpumalanga Agricultural Master Plan in order to enhance coordination of multi-stakeholder planning.
- To increase mechanization support in partnership with commercial farmers
- To intensify Commodity Support and linkages such as Cotton, Coffee and Essential Oils To expand land usage
- To host a joint Agricultural Water Indaba to encourage water conservation methods
- To expand and strengthen international markets to intensify agro-processing and promote participation of farmers along the entire value chain
- To facilitate the development of local based model of Youth and Women in agricultural activities (Fortune 40, Youth in Agricultural , Women in Agriculture and Rural Development including tractor mechanization) to intensify Skills Development in agriculture.

With the resources allocated to the Department, we are working tirelessly in ensuring better yields on the land as well as overall rural development. There is also great need to move our farmers from household food production to commercial production, as well as ensuring that our people who live in rural areas also benefit from the programmes implemented.

When The Sun Rises we continue to serve and Deliver..



MEC VR SHONGWE

There is a lot of assistance provided by government through social security net, like grants, free house provision, free water and electricity, but the State can do just that and the rest lies in the hands of individual households.

It is unthinkable situation or scenario that an average family which resides in an RDP house or even a shack, and has the smallest piece of land around the yard can go to bed on empty stomachs.

There is no permit each household requires to plough the soil and start planting vegetable seeds. There is no plausible excuse for any household not to grow vegetables gardens in their own backyards.

As the new year has just began, let me implore all families to include in their New Year's resolutions that they will cultivate a vegetable garden in their own yards. One family, one vegetable garden.

Another pertinent issue which must be addressed with our communities is the danger posed by uncared for domestic pets cats and dogs.

Communities must regularly take their pets to the nearest State Vet for rabies vaccination. Rabies could lead to untimely death of both human beings and animals. Statistics reveal that thousands of lives are lost every year due to rabies.

Equally, we would like to appeal to farmers about the safety of their livestock, and the danger posed by uncared for animals. Roaming cattle without a shepherd are a serious danger to motorists and passengers. Countless accidents caused by wondering livestock have resulted in serious injuries and deaths.

Phezukomkhono Mlimi...

DARDLEA AIMS FOR AN AGRIC MASTER PLAN

Key stakeholders in Agriculture gathered at Ingwenyama Lodge in White River in the City of Mbombela on 25 October 2019 to agree and start with all the necessary plans towards the development and subsequent launch of the provincial Agricultural Master Plan. The gathering was aimed at setting the tone and the platform for all stakeholders in the sector, to contribute towards a strategic plan for the Province.

The Master Plan, once launched, will drive transformation and act as a foundation for development and will also ensure that the comparative advantage of the sector as per Agric-ecological zones is used for the full benefit of all.

It is envisaged that it will also serve as a guide for the development of the sector for the next 25 years, thereby ensuring that the Agriculture sector in the province effectively contributes towards economic growth, Job creation and food security.



Delegates who attended the gathering came from all corners of the agriculture sector and they included emerging and commercial farmers and representatives from organised agriculture.

“The gathering was aimed at setting the tone and the platform for all stakeholders in the sector.”

The gathering was attended by about 300 representatives from different commodity structures, both small-holder and commercial farmers, and organised agriculture. They all spoke in one voice, supporting the idea for the Master Plan, saying it was long overdue.



Dr Maanda Dagada during a radio interview with LigwalagwalaFM's Alex Nkosi on the Master Plan.



MINISTER LIFTS BAN ON ANIMAL TRADE AND AUCTIONS

The blanket ban on gatherings animals since the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth three months ago in the Molemole District in Limpopo, has since been lifted. Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Minister Thoko Didiza made the announcement on February 17th. The Minister's decision follows the briefing she received from the technical task team.

The Minister said, "There are preconditions for the resumption of auctions. Auctions will only be conducted under stringent conditions. All livestock agents must be registered with the Agricultural Produce Agents Council."

The lifting the temporary ban on gatherings of animals, is **NOT** implying that activities like game trading and auctions are safe. Therefore, Didiza advised that all auctioneers must familiarize themselves with their implementing measures to prevent their animals from becoming infected. These include:

- Not moving high risk animals, such as animals showing signs of disease, animals from unknown origin or animals originating from known infected areas;
- Only buying animals from known and proven sources;
- Insisting of buyers to be supplied with a veterinary health declaration before animals are brought onto their farms;
- Always placing new arrivals in isolation until you can satisfy yourself of their health status.

Didiza also emphasised that Veterinary Services are continuing to collaborate with affected farmers to determine the best way forward to resolve the outbreaks on the infected farms. Slaughter of cattle at specifically designated abattoirs has started, with additional measures to prevent any disease spread through materials such as heads, feet and offal.

The Molemole outbreak was reported on the 1 November in a feedlot in the Capricorn District in Limpopo. This was immediately reported to the OIE. Following initial investigations, the outbreak could be linked to four auctions, held at two auction premises in September and October 2019.

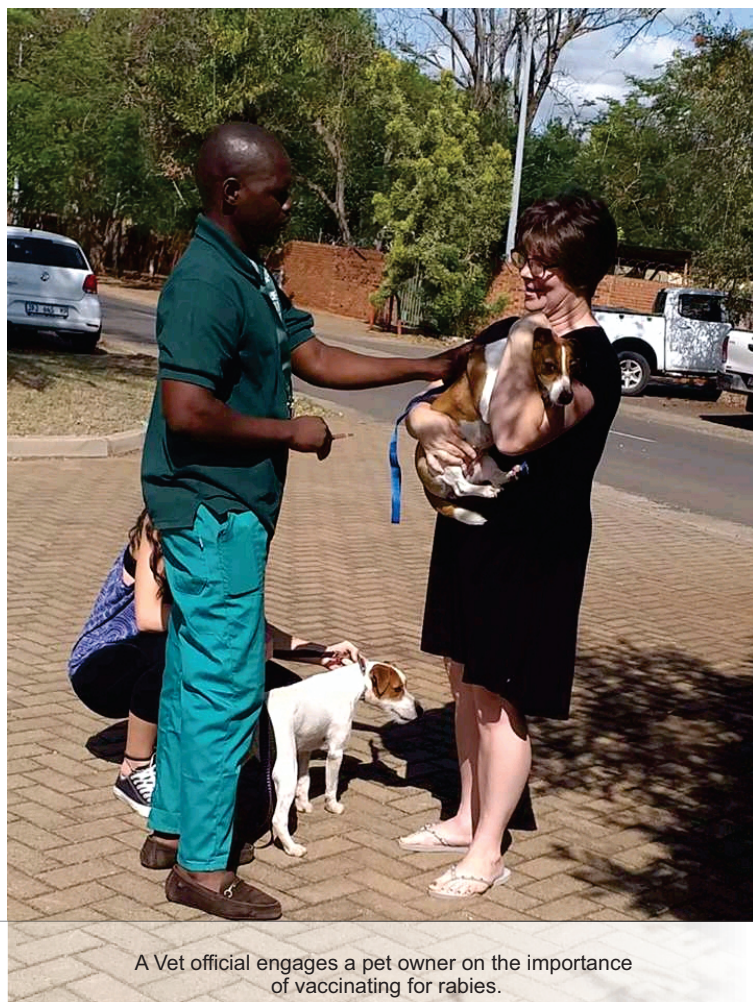
Approximately 160 properties were identified with links to the auctions. In total, 18 farms were identified where animals tested positive for FMD. Most of the affected properties are commercial cattle farms, including a number of feedlots, which are all well-fenced



FREE VACCINATIONS FOR NKOMAZI PETS

Hundreds of pet owners in some areas in Nkomazi took advantage of the annual free rabies vaccinations conducted by the Department's Veterinary Services team, to have their best friends attended to, and vaccinated. The team reached out to communities in Malelane, Mjejane and Komatipoort for a week-long vaccination campaign, to help curb any potential outbreak of the fatal disease. Pet owners in Malelane came out in their numbers, bringing hundreds of their dogs and cats for the free vaccinations. This, as part of marking World Rabies Day, celebrated annually on September 28th.

Rabies is a disease that affects the brain and leads to death of the person or animal involved. Each year 59 000 lives are lost to the disease countrywide. Rabies is a disease transmitted from dogs to humans, or other dogs through dog bites. Symptoms in an affected animal vary and may include: Behavioral changes, aggression, salivation and paralysis. It is totally preventable, through vaccinations, and that is the only way to win the fight against rabies. However once infected, there is no cure.



A Vet official engages a pet owner on the importance of vaccinating for rabies.

CONSULTATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND FERTILIZERS IN MP

Mpumalanga stakeholders interested on issues of animal feed and fertilizers came in numbers to a public consultative workshop that was aimed at soliciting inputs towards the amendment of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947.

The first leg of the consultations took place at the Oewersig Hall in Mbombela on October 15th, and the second workshop was held on a Thursday, October 17th, at the Nooitgedatch Research Farm in Ermelo.

The national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) embarked on the national drive, to gather and soliciting inputs from concerned stakeholders, towards the new Feeds and Pet Foods Act of 2018, as well as the Fertilizers Bill respectively.

This national consultative process will lead culminate to the promulgation of the two Bills, which will come into effect once signed into Law by the President of the Republic.

Currently, animal feed and fertilizers are regulated through the 1947 Act, regardless of the fact that there have since been significant changes in the manner in which feed and fertilizers are processed.



Delegates at the consultative workshop.



EMBULENI AVAILS LAND FOR PLANTING

Communities are being encouraged to use any available piece of land for planting purposes, to continue the fight against hunger and poverty. The plea was made by MEC Vusi Shongwe as he marked the official start of the 2019 provincial planting season in eManzana, formerly Badplaas, in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality.

Speaking to journalists after symbolically tilling of about a Hectar using a tractor, MEC Shongwe commended the eMbuleni Traditional Council for availing over a thousand Hectors that will be used for planting, an exercise that will benefit hundreds of people.

With the effects of the drought felt mostly by farmers, MEC Shongwe said emerging farmers and households can consider using drought-tolerant seeds and fertilizer, including applying the latest scientific farming methods, to continue producing food. He says there are new methods to be applied and technology used to sustain and ensure food security, regardless of the persisting drought.

Chief Albert Luthuli and Gert Sibande District Municipalities' Executive Mayors were among those at the event that drew thousands of people, mostly farmers, who also spent time at the exhibition stalls, viewing and enquiring about the latest agriculture technology that was on display.

"He says there are new methods to be applied and technology used to sustain and ensure food security, regardless of the persisting drought."

Earlier on the day of 22nd October 2019, Shongwe and his entourage visited a few identified households to plant fruit trees and established foods gardens, including to encourage locals to do the same.

Many other beneficiaries received the food garden starter packs and fruit trees later in the day.



MEC VR Shongwe with Prince Makhonsonke.



This gogo and her brother received garden starter.

STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTE TO DARDLEA STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The DARDLEA Senior Management met with key sector stakeholders in Mbombela on October 8th to get their inputs on the Departmental Key Priorities for the 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), as outlined and approved by EXCO.

The meeting in Mbombela discussed key interventions that the Department should implement in its envisaged plan for the Sector, more especially in the next five years. Key sector stakeholders who formed part of the deliberations included ARC, NAFU, SAFDA, SA Cane Growers, Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber of SA, and Mpumalanga Agriculture.

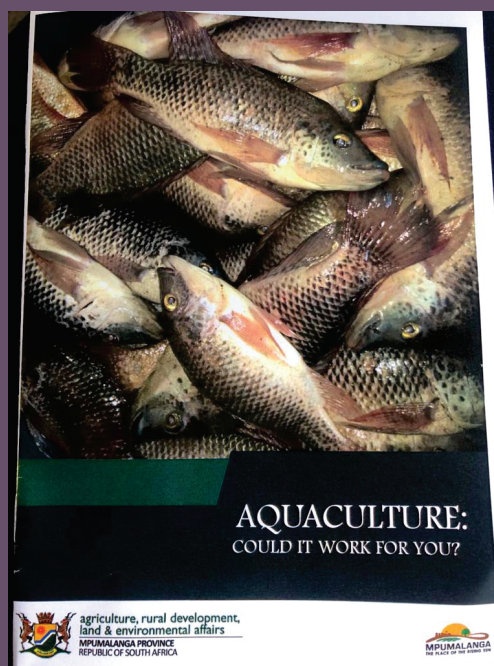
The meeting with stakeholders looked into key priorities for the next five years, which among others include:

- Developing and implementing the Agric Master Plan to enhance coordination of multi-stakeholder planning
- Increase mechanization support
- Intensify commodity support and linkages
- Expand land use
- Policy change (water conservation methods)
- Expand and strengthen international relations
- Skills development; and
- Facilitate the development of local-based model of youth and women cooperatives

VENTURE INTO ACQUA CULTURE FOR BUSINESS

The Aqua-Culture Section in the Department is encouraging people and farmers to consider fish farming as a business. The section embarked on an awareness campaign in eMalahleni, promoting, encouraging and educating farmers and potential fish producers about fresh water fishing. Farmers with dams in their farms are encouraged to consider growing fish like Talapia, and Catfish in a controlled system or fresh water environment like tanks.

Mpumalanga, as an inland province, has a great potential to grow the fish producing industry. The Department has promised in-depth training to those with interest in aqua-culture, and all value-chain processes involved. Interested farmers have been encouraged to approach their nearest Agriculture office for more information on how to start some fishing activity in their farms or areas.



A Departmental flyer encouraging AquaCulture.

MEC ENCOURAGES TREE PLANTING

MEC Vusi Shongwe has called on the older generation to share their indigenous knowledge in tree planting with their young ones, who will in turn continue to plant trees and help sustain the culture of tree-planting and thereby sustaining the environment. He says it is never too late for the older generation to acquaint themselves with new techniques on tree planting, including tips to save water.

The MEC made the call while on a walk-about in Ga-Morwe near Siyabuswa in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality on September 6th, during a provincial commemoration of Arbor Week. The national Arbor Week is celebrated annually during the first week of September.

Activities on the day saw MEC Shongwe leading an entourage that included local Chiefs and other main stakeholders, planting fruit and indigenous trees for local households, including distributing others not only to address food security, but to be used for greening initiatives, as windbreakers and for climate change mitigation. MEC Shongwe later addressed local people who gathered into a community hall, on the importance and benefits of planting trees.



Bab'Mahlangu was one of the beneficiaries who received garden tools.



Some of the hundreds of Ga-Morwe locals who received fruit and indigenous trees to plant in their yards.

PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH ENDS WITH A PLEDGE

Public servants who formed part of a ceremony to wrap up Public Service Month had an opportunity to engage a panel of senior government leaders on matters affecting them. The gathering, held at the Nutting House outside Mbombela on the last day of 2019 Public Service Month, was part of a month-long programme that ran from the 1st of September, until the 4th of October.

The Public Service Month programme is an integral part of Batho Pele Revitalization strategy, which seeks to install and rebuild good ethics, morale, pride and professionalism in public servants.

In her address to those in attendance, the DPSA Deputy Minister Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga said contrary to popular belief, a lot of government officials are good and professional in their work, and that needs to be acknowledged.

She also led those in attendance in a Pledge, as they committed to prioritize the people first, up their level of productivity, professionalism and ethics, while rendering services to the people.

The ceremony was also attended by MECs Mr VR Shongwe and Ms Sasekani Manzini, acting DG Mr Mathews Mohlasedi, senior Public Service Commission officials, SAPS and GEMS officials, including government officials from different departments and parastatals, amongst others.



Some of the public servants from different government departments to attend the event.

IDENTIFICATION OF LOCALLY ADAPTED IMPROVED GROUNDNUT VARIETIES FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN MPUMALANGA LOWVELD

N.M Vilane and M.D Lengwati

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INTRODUCTION

(*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

Groundnut is the second most important legume crop grown by the smallholder farmers in the lowveld and middleveld areas of the Mpumalanga Province. Today, groundnut is one of the most important legumes crops in the tropical and subtropical regions of the World, where rainfall is moderate, sunshine is abundant and temperature are high (Cilliers and Mathews, 2003). It is an important cash crop grown by commercial as well as smallholder farmers in South Africa. Farmers require groundnut varieties with high and stable yield, high disease resistance and reasonable tolerance to drought. No such variety is currently available in South Africa (Mathews et al., 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field experiments were conducted during 2017-2018 season to identify locally adapted groundnut varieties with greater yield for smallholder farmers in Nelspruit (25° 25' 52" S; 30° 57' 58" E) and Mzinti (25° 41' 27" S, 31° 43' 44" E). The groundnut varieties were planted in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with 3 replications. The plot size was 4 rows of 4 m long with inter and intra – row spacing of 70 cm and 10 cm respectively. The seed placement was 5-7 cm deep. Analyses of variance of the data collected were performed using genstat 12th edition software package and means of the treatments were separated by the least significant difference (LSD) at 5% level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study showed that only four of the 22 varieties tested, viz; ICGV 07270 (1669 kg/ha), ICGV 06041 (1366 kg/ha), ICGV 07273 (1345 kg/ha) and ICGV 06040 (1230 kg/ha) had higher grain yields (Figure 1) and a similar trend was observed with the pods yields ICGV 07270 (3130 kg/ha), ICGV 06041 (2962 kg/ha) and ICGV 07273 (2686 kg/ha) and ICGV 06040 (2677 kg/ha) at Nelspruit (Figure 2). Furthermore five varieties recorded higher grain yields than Inkanyezi (control) at Mzinti ICGV 06144 (608 kg/ha), ICGV 06146 (619 kg/ha), ICGV 06041 (632 kg/ha), ICGV 06151 (640 kg/ha) and ICGV 07273 (665 kg/ha) (Figure 3). With the pod yield, the following varieties recorded higher, ICCV 06146 (1333 kg/ha), ICCV 07273 (1274 kg/ha), ICCV 06151 (1255 kg/ha), ICCV 06041 (1214 kg/ha) and ICCV 06144 (1162 kg/ha) compared to the control variety (Inkanyezi) (figure 4). The differences however were not large enough to be significant.

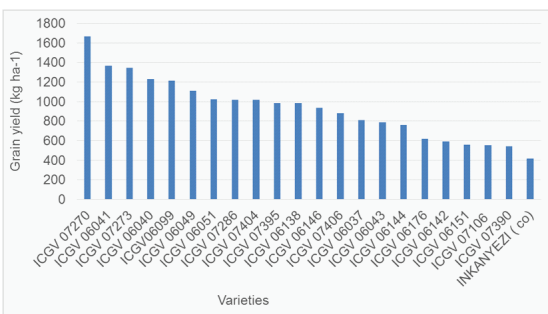


Figure 1. The grain yield of 22 groundnut varieties at Nelspruit

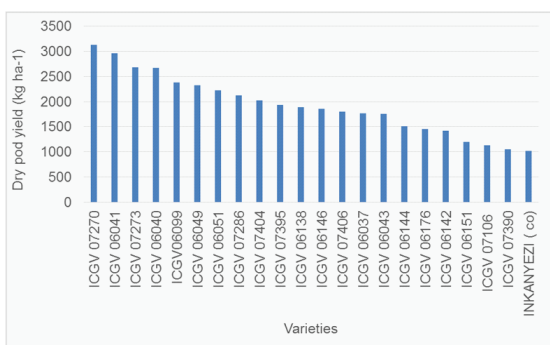


Figure 2. The dry pod yield of 22 groundnut varieties at Nelspruit

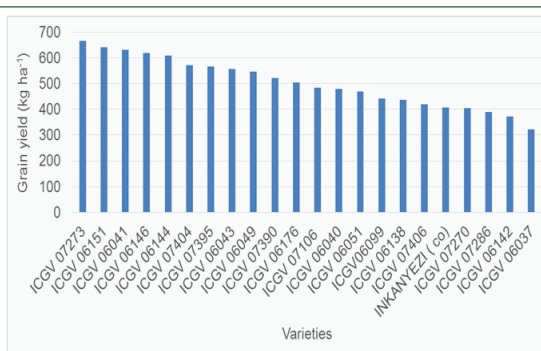


Figure 3. The grain yield of 22 groundnut varieties at Mzinti

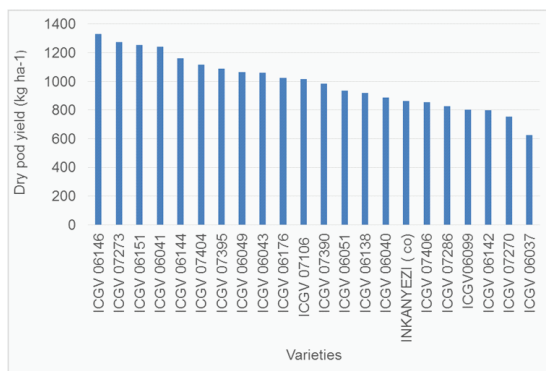


Figure 4. The dry pod yield of 22 groundnut varieties at Mzinti

CONCLUSION

Based on the current studies carried out in the Mpumalanga province the varieties ICCV06041 and ICGV 07273 were outstanding based on its grain yield and stability across locations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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