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€-Newsletter of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEC Celebrates the Workers Day In Style

By Samson Mabunda



Posing for photo at the teafield, standing from left Adv. Anton Ramaano, Vhomakhadzi Mulondo, Thovhele Vho-Tshivhase, MEC Dikeledi Magadzi and Prof. Thidziambi Tshivhase-Phendla. Front row, from left Mme Edna Raphunga and Prof. Edward Nesamvuni

MEC for Agriculture, Mme Dikeledi Magadzi visited Mukambani Tea Estate in Vhembe District on Workers Day. Present during the visit were board members, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture's (LDA) General Manager for Research and Training; Professor Edward Nesamvuni, Vhembe District Senior Manager; Mme Edna Raphunga, some LDA officials and members of the Tshivhase traditional leadership.

The MEC met with board members and the management of that tea estate to get direct feedback on the development made towards tea production.

According to Mukumbani Tea Factory Manager, Mr. Ramudzuli Mudau, the management has the intention of making

the tea estate a profitable enterprise. In the light of this, Mudau remarked that they had a plan to install a high tech processing machine as well as packaging tea in packets of different sizes. "Hopefully, [in the near future] we'll be a profitably company independent from government," Mudau said.

At the moment, local community members buy the tea in small quantities. MEC Magadzi indicated that "it is encouraging to see the local people showing keen interest in the tea production. The government will give necessary support and would want to see the estate stand on its own".

She said it was the government's wish to see the tea production making contribution in the Local Economic Development (LED)

in that municipality. The MEC also suggested that Limpopo should become the leader in tea and macadamia production.

Vho Thovhele Kennedy Midiyavhathu Tshivhase, the traditional leader of the Tshivhase community, appreciated the Limpopo Government's support, Department of Agriculture in particular, for offering continued support.

On that day, the MEC visited the factory where tea is processed and together with Vho-Thovhele Tshivhase had the opportunity to taste different tea blends. The Mukumbani Tea Estate demonstrated its compliance to the Labour Legislation in style by providing the MEC and her entourage protective clothing to wear before entering the factory.

Strategic Partnerships model reviewed

By Samson Mabunda



MEC Mme Dikeledi Magadzi (In red dress) with some strategic partnership stakeholders

On 29 April 2008, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) held a Strategic Partnership Imbizo. The imbizo was convened by the MEC for Agriculture, Mme Dikeledi Magadzi.

The purpose of the Imbizo was to review the strategic partnership approach and assess the progress made in relation to the capacity-building of the previously disadvantaged farmers and communities who acquired land through Restitution and Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programmes. The strategic partnership was initiated in Limpopo in order to support the new landowners in their newly acquired business ventures. It was hoped that through this partnership, new landowners would gain experience ranging from technical to management issues.

During the deliberations, it emerged that there were challenges concerning skills transfer, co-management, funding and marketing of products. It was resolved that each strategic partner must within two months provide a comprehensive report detailing its audited financial statements, investment, marketing of the produce, employment records, skills transfer and exit strategies.

The MEC highlighted that the strategic partnership was not expected to be an overnight success. She indicated that existing challenges should be acknowledged and improvements could be made from "the lessons learned so far". MEC Magadzi said that, "Since strategic partners do not use the same model, the model

which works better so far can help us find the best way of strengthening these partnerships."

However, she stressed that the transfer of skills to the new landowners "is a must". She emphasized that, "There is no question on this one, and strategic partners are expected to transfer skills from lower to management level. The reports which I want from each strategic partner must also reflect on the skills transfer to the beneficiaries."

Demonstrating how serious her Department was on seeing this partnership bearing fruit to the beneficiaries, MEC Magadzi stated that she would meet the strategic partners on one-on-one basis and discuss issues in depth. She called on representatives of the beneficiaries to be fully involved in the running of their projects and report regularly to all beneficiaries.

Some beneficiaries indicated that the partnership was beginning to inject life into their farming regardless of the challenges. Some of these were from Makuleke Irrigation Scheme, Mariveni and Tzaneen.

Some profiles of the strategic partners are:

Bruboer Farming Enterprise

This Enterprise works in partnership with the beneficiaries of the Bohwa Bja Rena Trust. The trust members are mainly employees of Gillimberg Boerdery; a former Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation (ARDC) project. The ownership of the project was obtained through the Settlement Land

Acquisition Grant (SLAG) programme. The project is based approximately 50 Km northwest of Mokopane and is mainly farming with citrus and cattle.

Bush Valley Farm

Bush Valley Farm has partnered with broilers farmers in the Tzaneen area.

Du Roi Precision Farming

It provides support services to Mariveni, Mabunda and Seloane farmers. Farmers produce citrus, mangos and bananas in the Letaba valley.

South African Farm Management (SAFM)

This started as the Boyes Group and later transformed into SAFM. The partnership started in 2004 at Zebediela following the restoration of this property to the Bjatladi community. Currently SAFM is also a partner to 5 communities (Tshakhuma, Masakona, Ravele, Tshitwani and Tshivhazwaulu) at Levubu, as well as the caretaker of the restored properties to the Mamathola community in the Letsitele Valley. The partnerships are primarily involved with citrus and subtropical fruit production.

Strategic Farm Management (SFMS) and Chestnet

SFMS and Chestnet are two separate strategic partners who have partnered with the Moletele Community Property Association following the restoration of the phase 1 of their land at Hoedspruit in 2006. The partnership is involved with the production of citrus, mangos, sweet corn and vegetables produced under shade nets.

Temong

Temong started the partnership with farmers at the Elandskraal northeast of Marble Hall six years ago with the production of potatoes and maize. The Partnership has expanded to Makuleke farmers in Vhembe District last year.

Umlimi Holdings

The partnership started in 2007 with the Shigalo and Ratombo communities on the properties restored to them in the Levubu area. The partnership involved focuses on the production of subtropical fruit.

Sexually Transmitted Infections Workshop at Thulamela

By Busi Shibambu

The Department of Agriculture at Thulamela municipality level held a workshop on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

Ms. Patricia Novela, VCT councilor from Vutomi local clinic spoke about the difference between HIV & AIDS.

Ms Novela explained the ways in which people get infected with HIV. People were taught on how to protect themselves against this dangerous Virus. Using condoms during sexual intercourse, being faithful to one partner or abstaining from sexual activities can go a long way to curb the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Condom demonstration was done during the workshop to assist those who don't know how to use a condom. STI's is one of the causes of HIV and need to be treated immediately once diagnosed. Sister Florida Tshulu encouraged people to be careful and take the necessary steps when they see the symptoms of STI's as this can save their lives from HIV. Thulamela municipality employees went for Voluntary HIV testing that was done in the premises.



File picture: Mme Ray Mojapelo of Sub-Branch Employee Health and Wellness demonstrating how to use a Femidom (female condom) during one of the HIV/AIDS awareness workshops.



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**THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE
HON DIKELEDI MAGADZI WILL BE
PRESENTING THE DEPARTMENTAL
BUDGET SPEECH AS FOLLOWS:**

Date : Friday 16 May 2008
Venue : Limpopo Legislature,
Lebowakgomo Government
Complex

Time : 10h00

**The Speech will be broadcast live on Limpopo
Community Radio Stations (Mohodi, Turf,
Univen, Lebowakgomo, Zebediela, Mokopane,
Sekgosese, Botlokwa, Phalaborwa, Moutse and
Moletsi).**

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