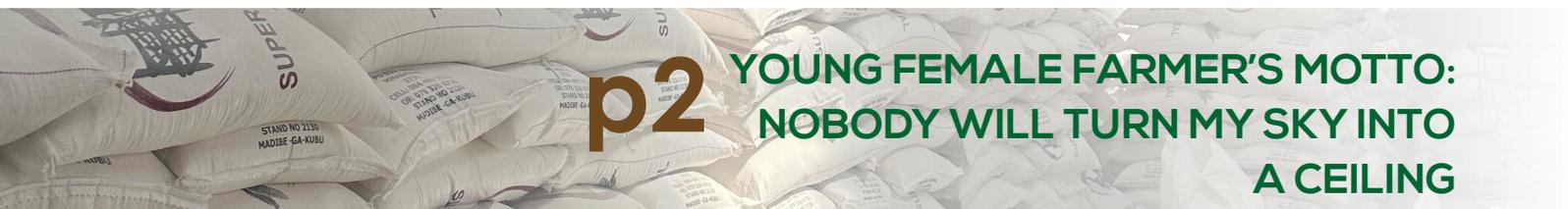




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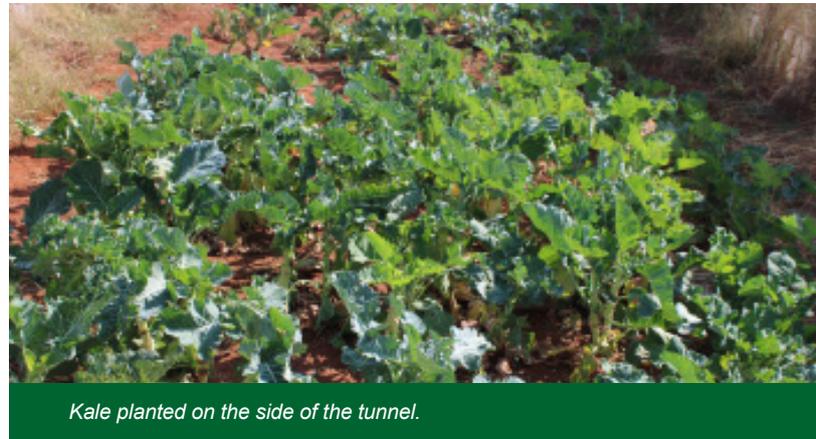
Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



YOUNG FARMER ASPIRES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH



Joel Seaja and his co-workers working on the Thai chillies in one of the ten tunnels.



Kale planted on the side of the tunnel.

Mphahlela Rammutla

There are two things that set Joel Seaja apart from other youth in South Africa—he is the kind of youth who does not go to the street to burn tyres demanding to be employed, instead he chooses to work the land and employ others.

Seaja produces a variety of crops such as tomatoes, peppers, Thai chillies, spinach, cabbage, kale, lettuce, herbs, and many others that are sold to street vendors and local retailers.

The 27-year-old farmer from Randfontein in Gauteng is currently leasing 10 green-house tunnels at the Rand West Agri-Park for the next coming five years. Seaja was inducted into farming at an early age by his family cooperative, Seaja

Agricultural Farming, which comprises eight members. He developed a passion for farming while still in primary school, accompanying his mother to the family cooperative and decided to have his own project after matric.

He switched his desired childhood dream of being a psychologist to become a crop farmer and bee farming enthusiast. He registered a company called P&J Group of Companies in 2022, which currently employs seven permanent young people in agriculture. “We are here to make an impact and change our farming fraternity and the country at large.”

“I appreciate the little that government offers. We chose to be the youth who do not go on street to throw stones, burn tyres and

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Cont.

demand to be employed, instead we work the land and employ others,” outlined Seaja.

He was farming on communal land that was laying fallow for many years, however, the piece of land did not have water for irrigation, nor proof of ownership or permission to occupy. These are some of the challenges that hindered him in his quest to secure funds and invest more in the land. “I am appreciative to the Agri-park tunnels leased to us, we were relying on rain for irrigation, the land did not have papers or permission to occupy, which made it difficult to acquire funding,” added Seaja.

The Randfontein farmer is also the chairperson of the Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) in West Rand region. YARD is a youth structure which was established nationally to promote and improve the active participation of youth in the agricultural sector and serve as a facilitator between the department and youth in agriculture. Seaja, as an emerging farmer and chairperson of YARD, has experienced some challenges like other new farmers in the sector, and he appeals for government intervention. “We need government to intervene on the market and agents’ rates. As an emerging farmer, it is difficult to sell at the rates prescribed by the markets or agents,” he said.

“We produce a very good grade as emerging farmers. The challenge is that we do not have someone talking on our behalf and protects our interests. The market is not regulated enough as it is still favouring the commercial farmers,” highlighted Seaja.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE) has been assisting the project with production inputs, seedlings, and fertilisers.

Seaja is also into bee farming and currently has ten hives. The YARD chairperson said that he has applied for funding from National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), which is going to add 30 hives, an industrial extractor and suits to his bee production. “I am currently on 10 hives, and I have harvested once. We have agri-parks for purposes of growing, recognition and making a difference in the neighbouring communities.”

“A minimum of 30 ha will do much for bee farming and planting sunflower; we will be harvesting twice and helping other farmers. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development needs to advocate for bee farming among new farmers,” indicates Seaja.



LAND REFORM PROGRAMME UNEARTHS A NEW COMMERCIAL FARMER IN THE GRAIN FIELD

Mphahlela Rammutla



Demonstration of harvesting with a harvester machine.

Over the hills and fields of the Thornveld farm in Thabazimbi lies a land reform project observed in early May this year; with its scenic yellow hues that give an illusion of gold-covered valleys—it can only mean one thing, the sunflower harvesting season has arrived!

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural development (DALRRD) embarked on a tour with members of the media and neighbouring emerging farmers to witness the success of the land reform initiative during the Sunflower Harvest Day on a farm allocated by the department to Mr Rudzani Sadiki.

Thornveld Farm, measuring 1 285 ha, was acquired by DALRRD at a cost of R16,1 million and was later allocated to Rudzani Sadiki in 2016, (who at the time was a young smallholder farmer) as part of the land redistribution programme. Thornveld Farm (Portion 1 of Welgewaagd Farm 233 KB) is located in the Dwaalboom farming area near Thabazimbi, Waterberg District in Limpopo.

Judging by the look of surprise on the faces of the visitors; the farm production scale had surpassed the expectations during the tour of the 974 ha of a ready-to-harvest sunflower crop. Sunflower remains Sadiki's main commodity, however, his other commodities include Bonsmara cattle breeding, broiler operations, and Dorper sheep breeding.

Rudzani Sadiki is described as a commercial farmer, an often rare status to reach as a land reform beneficiary. He acquired the status by increasing the production and reinvesting part of the revenue into the farm. He said that he managed to reinvest

an estimated amount of R20 million back into the farm through buying farm implements, soil improvement, buying breeding stock and training the workers.

"My last funding was in 2020, after that, I did not get any funding from any institution. I bought all the farm implements from the farm's profits and in terms of value, they are worth more than what the department has spent on the farm. Most of the implements were bought new and they are all insured," boasted Sadiki.

"There is a big market for grain. Immediately after harvest, one needs to prioritise the production. Like now it is May, but we have already secured seeds for the next planting season," said Sadiki when asked about production.

Sadiki holds an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture Management and is currently completing an Honours degree in Agri-Business. He is also an award-winning farmer, topping the ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year category at provincial and national levels. This award category is said to be the most fiercely contested and highly coveted in the industry as a stud beef breeder. Thornveld Farm employs six permanent workers and 60 to 80 temporary workers annually, all of whom are South Africans.

Addressing members of the media contingent during the farm tour, the Limpopo Provincial Service Shared Centre: Chief Director, Dr Modumo Ramodumo said that Thornveld Farm will remain a point of reference and source of inspiration to other land reform beneficiaries in the country.

The farm visit was part of the efforts to monitor agricultural activities on the allocated farms to ensure appropriate use of resources and community beneficiation.



Rudzani Sadiki and Limpopo PSSC Chief Director, Dr Ramodumo, during the Sunflower Harvest Day.

ICT CENTRE TO SHARPEN THE SKILLS OF UMLALAZI MUNICIPALITY YOUTH



Ms Sibongile Buthelezi is one of the students at Mamba ICT centre at Nkandla.

Samuel Kgatla

A multi-million rand information and communication technology (ICT) centre was officially opened at Ematini Village in Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal, and it is set to bring much needed new-age skills to the youth of the Umlalazi Local Municipality.

The ICT centre, which was built at a cost of more than R12 million (R12 163 555,01) was opened by the former Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, on 7 May 2024. The centre is part of the department's Smart Growth Centre initiative. The need for an ICT centre was identified as an urgent requirement to bring the local youth on par with their counterparts who are based in urban centres.

Young people from rural areas are often at a great disadvantage when entering the job market owing to lack of exposure to ICT and acquiring the related skills needed in so many employment opportunities. Once they get to the urban areas, opportunities for ICT training come at a high cost and are often unregulated. The youth development system is going to empower and enable young people to be self-reliant.

DALRRD commenced and completed the ICT centre in 2017 and further procured ICT infrastructure amounting to R1 845 072,06. Permission to place the centre within the precincts of the Mamba One Stop was sought and received from the Department of Social Development (DSD). It was anticipated that the first intake would have been in 2019, however, owing to delays, this was postponed and the COVID-19 pandemic only increased the bog down. The centre has registered 72 youth students for ICT development skills. The DSD purchased the computers for the centre.

Ms Sibongile Buthelezi, one of the students at the centre thanked government for the ICT centre infrastructure. "I am happy because I am learning a lot about how to use the computer and internet. The good thing about this centre is that it is closer to us and we do not have to travel long distances. We appreciate what Government is doing by developing the skills of rural people," she said.

Ms Didiza said that computers used to be in the principal's office but that has changed. "The opening of this centre is a sign that Government really cares about the people in rural areas. It is important to take development to rural areas and we are working with other departments to develop our people. We need to protect the infrastructure and encourage young people to use them wisely. We must help those who need government support," she said.



Former Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza sharing the ICT skills with students of Mamba ICT centre.

YOUNG FEMALE FARMER'S MOTTO: NOBODY WILL TURN MY SKY INTO A CEILING



Sophy was named the best new entrant to commercial agriculture when Agricultural Writers SA announced their 2023 winners at a prestigious event in the Western Cape.



Sophy employs seven full-time farmworkers and a farm manager at her farm in Limpopo and 15 permanent farmworkers at Vhegies in Gauteng.



She also makes use of part-time employees, especially when the green beans need to be harvested and time is of the essence

Mercia Smith

Sophy Musabeni is a woman to take notice of as awards continue pouring in for her. In 2022, she received a special award from Ms Thoko Didiza, former Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, for her contribution towards sustainable production of fresh food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, she has managed to grow her agricultural business significantly.

In 2023, she was named the best New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture when the Agricultural Writers SA announced their winners at a prestigious event in the Western Cape.

From a very young age, Sophy Musabeni wanted to be a farmer. She planted spinach in her grandmother's back yard in Limpopo. But her life took a different turn as she studied to be a nurse, qualified and worked for the Mediclinic Group in Pretoria.

After 10 years she left the nursing profession to follow her dreams and after three years of struggling to get financing, she finally managed to secure a 14 ha plot in Mapleton close to Vosloorus in Gauteng. The land was not cultivated for years and it was totally overgrown with weeds. Reverting to her roots she started by planting Swiss Chard spinach and with hard work and determination, the first harvest was done in 2020.

Sophy now owns a company named Vhegies, which supplies the best quality fresh vegetables to Fieldfresh, Freshmark, Tru Crisp and Farmwise. The produce comes from two farms, one being a 25 ha farm in the Vosloorus region near Ekurhuleni, south-east of Johannesburg, and the other being a 100 ha farm near the Pafuri Gate in the Vhembe District, Limpopo. She inherited the 14 ha farm in Limpopo from her late father, and

rents the rest from a neighbour. She plants yellow patty pans, baby marrows, turnips, beetroot, green beans, cabbage and butternuts. She mainly grows on order, therefore she never sits with any surplus produce.

The land is divided into planned cultivation blocks, which enables her to produce at the right time for specific market demands. Sophy uses every centimetre of the land she has access to. As the Vosloorus area gets frost in the winter months, she can only plant there from early September until the end of May. Her plan is to erect tunnels and shade netting to enable farming throughout the year. Luckily, her farm in Limpopo makes it possible for her to continue supplying the market with vegetables that would not have survived the highveld frost during the winter months. This enables her to bring large volumes of quality baby marrows to the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market during the winter period.

Although the rising costs of input supplies is a problem for all agricultural produce, there are some inputs that Sophy will not compromise on. She believes that buying the best available hybrid seeds helps her to save costs because these seeds grow easier and faster. They also require the use of chemicals because of the plant's disease resistance, which cuts costs.

Loadshedding has a negative impact on her farming enterprise as she needs electricity for the irrigation pumps, cold room and processing plant. She is currently saving to install solar panels.

After she received the award from the Agricultural Writers SA, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment donated a refrigeration truck to her, which has alleviated her transport problems from the Limpopo farm to the market.

Cont.

Sophy employs seven full-time farmworkers and a farm manager at her farm in Limpopo and 15 permanent workers at Vhegies in Gauteng. She also makes use of part-time employees, especially when the green beans need to be harvested, and time is of the essence. Housing is provided for some of the workers and every worker receives a cooked meal every day. She also assists the workers' children with school fees and uniforms when necessary and cultivates a vegetable garden for the staff to feed their families.

Sophy sees herself growing vegetables on more than a thousand hectares in the future and her wish is to see her produce on the shelves of supermarkets all over the world.



The size of Sophy's farm in Vosloorus in Gauteng is 25 ha.

Sophy started her farming by planting Swiss Chard.



OPINION: ROLE OF AGRO-PROCESSING ACTIVITIES TO DRIVE LOCALISATION OF COMPETITIVE VALUE CHAINS



Onele Munyikwa is a Senior Agricultural Economist from Directorate: Agro-processing



Dr Mahlogedi Thindisa is a Director: Agro-Processing Support.

Ms Onele Munyikwa and
Dr Mahlogedi LV Thindisa

On the other hand, tariffs are taxes imposed on goods that are imported. The general effect of a tariff is to raise the prices of imported products. Consistent with the economic theory, consumers are likely to choose cheaper products when selecting products with similar attributes, thereby stimulating demand for domestic products. However, the rise in prices of dedicated foodstuffs due to the application of tariffs is likely to adversely impact household food expenditure whose per capita income is severely stretched due to the dire economic conditions. Import quotas on the other hand refers to the limitation in the quantum of prescribed goods that can be imported into the country. Product restriction and subsequent gap in the market is expected to stimulate demand for domestically produced and/or manufactured products. Incentive schemes are the other approach to drive localisation. Incentives may take various shapes and forms such as production/manufacturing support, rebates, or export incentive. Incentive is an instrument geared to encourage and/or enable a particular economic activity. The other option for localisation is SEZ, widely adopted by the manufacturing sector where agro-processing is located.

The delivery channel for the AAMP is through (i) value chain round tables (VCRT) and (ii) production schemes. The concept of VCRT was adopted from Quebec in Canada. Round tables were established to troubleshoot inefficiencies in the value chain. Production schemes are akin to SEZ. They both provide soft landing for potential investors. SEZ and production schemes are geographically designated areas set aside for targeted economic activities. Advantages for operating in these areas include, amongst others, access to designated funding; rebates on water-electricity usage; rebates on corporate tax, employment incentives and building allowances, etc.

In conclusion, a strong collaborative effort between the State and respective value chain role players is necessary for a successful localisation process. Therefore, implementing the AAMP is a responsibility of all and sundry.

The agro-processing industry has recently noted increased attention owing to a shift in agricultural development policies, strategies and programmes, from pure production orientated initiatives, to a broader and integrated agro-food value chain approach as a consequence of the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) signed on 12 May 2022. The AAMP is grounded on social contract which entrenches social compacts as generally accepted agreement amongst and by the ecosystem actors.

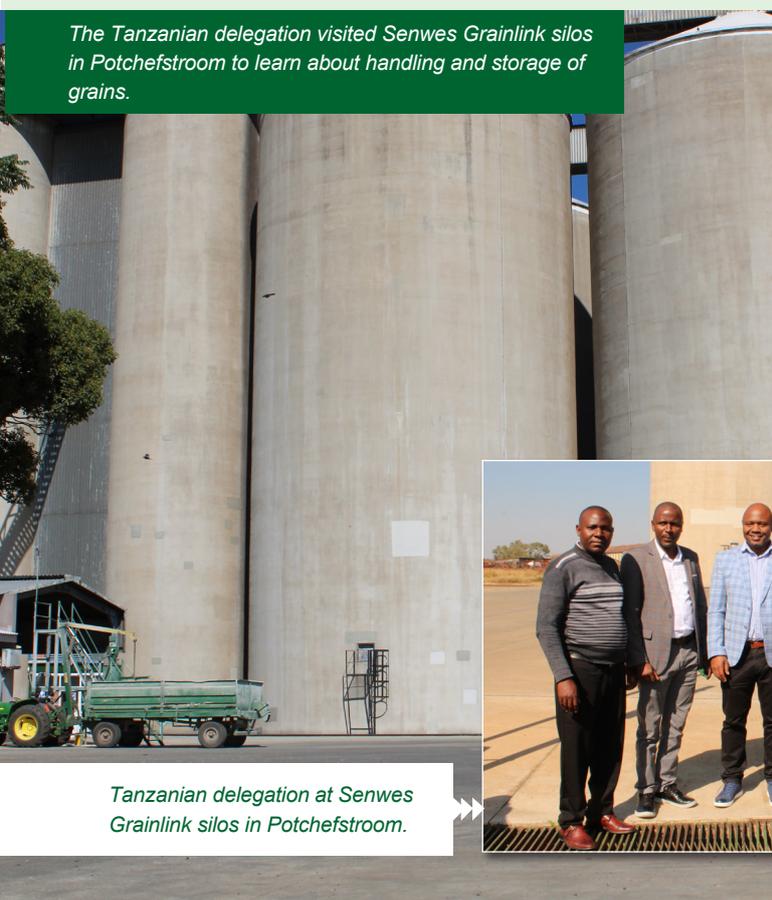
The definition of agro-processing is wide and broad. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 1997) defines agro-processing activities as value chain actions, either nutritional, technological or economic activities that primary agriculture products undergo for alterations into usable items such as food, fibre, fuel and industrial raw material. The benefits being facilitation of easier handling and increased shelf-life of perishable products, while responding to market demands. Agro-processing activities are technical, complex, and dynamic.

The AAMP, specifically pillar 6 titled, "Developing localised food production and expanded agro-processing exports", succinctly expresses localisation as a critical element to enhance competitive performance of agribusinesses and the industry. There are various approaches available to drive localisation, viz (i) designation of product lines; (ii) tariffs; (iii) import quotas; (iv) incentive schemes and (v) special economic zones (SEZ). Designation of product lines relates to the process of ring-fencing a category and quantum of products lines produced and/or manufactured within the republic for procurement by the State. Reports from the Department of Trade Industry and Competition and the National Treasury indicate that canned foods and some vegetables were recently designated.

TANZANIAN DELEGATION IMPRESSED WITH SA GRAIN HANDLING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS

The Tanzanian delegation visited Senwes Grainlink silos in Potchefstroom to learn about handling and storage of grains.

Rony Moremi



Tanzanian delegation at Senwes Grainlink silos in Potchefstroom.



are handled and stored at the silo, from receiving and weighing to sampling/grading determining acceptability or rejection through sifting, drying, and cleaning, until it is stored in the silos.

A presentation on the handling and storage environment in South Africa was done by Wessel Lemmer, General Manager: Agricultural Business Chamber Grain (Agbiz Grain). He said that Agbiz Grain represents the formal handling and storage sector that stores grain and oilseeds for commercial purposes. Wessel informed the delegation that Agbiz members can store up to 70% of grains and oils seeds in 380 silos around the country. Agbiz members collectively own 98% of all the JSE registered grain and oil seeds storage sites.

In contrast to Tanzania, South Africa stores commodities in cement silos, silo bags and bunkers—Tanzania uses

warehouses. Wessel emphasised the strict regulations that must be adhered to regarding handling and storage of commodities. “The Agricultural Product Standards Act (APS) must be strictly followed, if a farmer says their maize is grade 1, it must be correctly verified that it is indeed grade 1,” cautioned Wessel. He added that the commodities must be kept at an average temperature of 25 °C to keep the moisture at an acceptable level.

Dr Mbulaheni Mutengwe from the DALRRD Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance also emphasised the importance of complying with the Agricultural Product Standards Act (APS), 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) for the handling and storage of commodities. He said that his directorate is responsible for the administration of the APS Act, among other legislation. He added that they work closely with the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) for the inspections of all regulated agricultural products intended for export, including grains and grain products. The PPECB also inspects silos regularly to ensure adherence to the APS Act.

The delegation looks forward to a return trip with hopes for further collaboration on laboratories, stock management, silo technology and management and lucrative trading with South Africa.

“We will be back soon.” This was the promise made by a Tanzanian delegation that visited the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

The delegation was impressed with how South Africa manages its food reserves; from the time the grain is planted at the farm to the silo where it is stored.

The six-member delegation was from Tanzania’s Ministry of Agriculture, National Food Reserve Agency, which is responsible for guaranteeing food security and stabilising maize prices, procurement, storage and releasing of stocks. The aim of the visit was to learn about best practices on the handling and storage of grains, laboratory processes, pest control, stock control and records management, stock monitoring and tracking systems at the silos. The delegation was hosted by DALRRD officials from the Directorate: Africa Trade Promotions. They were taken to Southern African Grain Laboratories where grains are tested for quality, Potchefstroom Senwes Silos and the NAMPO show.

“We are expecting to produce more maize and rice in the next three to five years and we will need more storage facilities,” enthused Aradius Pankras Kategano, Assistant Director from the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Safety Control, inspired by the visit to the Senwes Grainlink Silos in Potchefstroom. Aradius and his delegation were shown how grains and oil seeds

DALRRD CRACKS THE WHIP ON ILLEGAL SALES OF UNREGISTERED AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Mphahlela Rammutla

It was a bad day for retailers and street vendors who sell illegal, unregistered, and banned agricultural chemicals and pesticides when the agricultural remedies inspectors from the Registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947) hit the CBDs of Mafikeng and Klerksdorp.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Directorate: Agricultural Inputs Control, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the municipal by-laws enforcer conducted a raid on unauthorised selling of unregistered and banned pesticide in North West from 25 to 26 April 2024.

The officials moved swiftly in raiding several targeted hotspots where two big stores were found contravening the Act.

The two stores were charged with J534 (a binding document used by SAPS for admission of guilt and the offender should be willing to pay the fine without appearing in court) and the retailers paid admission of guilt of R6 000,00 each and all the unregistered pesticides and illegal remedies were confiscated.

Furthermore, two foreign nationals, who are street vendors, were charged and paid an admission of guilt fine of between R300,00 and R500,00 each, with a warning to desist from selling Aldicarb.

Among the illegal pesticides and herbicides confiscated was Aldicarb, commonly known as galephirime, Sniper, Green Leaf cockroach killer, Otopia, and decanting of Dichlorvos. "These illegal products were seized, processed in line with SAPS 13(D) and booked out for destruction by DALRRD in Pretoria," Agricultural Inputs Controller, Sthembiso Dube, indicated.

The directorate notes that Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Northern Cape are emerging as the leaders in the distribution and sale of illegal pesticides.

According to the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act of 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947), no member of the public is permitted to sell products that are banned in the country. Doing so is in contravention of the Act. The Act recognises DALRRD as the regulator of agriculture remedies, chemicals (pesticides and herbicides), fertiliser, stock remedies pest control and sterilising plants in the country.



An Agricultural Inputs Controller bringing the store owner to the book as part of an unannounced raid in Klerksdorp.



Agricultural Inputs Controllers enforcing the law and confiscating unregistered pesticides in Mafikeng CBD.



Aldicarb, also known as galephirime, was confiscated in Mafikeng CBD during the raid.



Unregistered mosquito and cockroach repellents seized in multiple stores in Mafikeng Town

MPUMALANGA SUGAR CANE FARMERS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE A REHABILITATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND FARMING MACHINERY



The motor grader and sugar cane harvesting machine that were handed over to the the farm-

Jabulani Malinga

Former Deputy Minister Nokuzola Capa visited climate-smart sugar cane irrigation projects in Nkomazi, Mpumalanga to hand over a rehabilitated irrigation system and farming machinery to the local sugar cane farmers of Malelane and Komati.

The former deputy minister was joined by the Mpumalanga MEC of Agriculture, Ms Busi Shiba and the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA). The department and SAFDA have both made significant contributions towards the rehabilitation of the Malelane/Komati sugar cane farms irrigation system.

Explaining the purpose of the day during the main event held at the Eastern Emmanuel Assemblies Church in Mzinti, Mpumalanga PSSC Chief Director Zanele Sihlangu told the gathering that the event was a continuation of the work that began in 2018.

“We have been providing support to sugar cane farmers since 2018 by providing them with fertilisers and farming equipment such as tractors, among others. Today we are back here again to hand over more tractors and a rehabilitated irrigation system that will assist all the farmers in the area to water their farms with ease,” she said.

Furthermore, the gathering was an outreach programme for former Deputy Minister Capa to engage with the farmers about the challenges they face every day.

Speaking on behalf of the sugar cane farmers, Mr Bheki Mnisi highlighted the work that has been done by the 1 432 small-scale growers (SSGs) in the Malelane and Komati areas. He said that the farmers produce 600 000 tons of sugar cane annually from 10 000 ha of land.

He said that the sugar cane farmers were thankful for the

assistance they have received from the department, especially in 2022 when fertiliser prices were too high to afford them. The department intervened by giving them 50 bags of fertilisers per hectare. “On top of that, the deputy minister also helped us to install the drip irrigation system on our farms,” said Mr Bheki.

He also said that the drip irrigation system was the most efficient method to water plants as it spreads water to the areas where it is needed most and saves electricity. “We are thankful for all you have done for us deputy minister,” concluded Mr Mnisi.

Addressing the jubilant crowd, the deputy minister said that she was thankful that the work of the department was appreciated by the people. “We are delighted that we have delivered to you what you have requested from us. Please continue working the land and we will also aid as according to the laws of the country. As government, our work is to come up with laws that will help



Former Deputy Minister Capa addressing the media at the site where the rehabilitated irrigation system was installed.

IMPORTANCE OF HEALTHY PLANTS CELEBRATED ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH



The first report of Fall armyworm outbreak was in January 2017 on a farm in Limpopo, followed by a second case in North West.



Farmers attending the celebration of International Day of Plant Health were especially concerned about the Fall armyworm and not getting the pesticide on time.

Mercia Smith

“With increasing trade, opportunities for plant pests and diseases to spread from one country to another have increased dramatically. International travel and the movement of people brought fresh pathways for pest and disease to spread,” said Dr Maanda Rambauli of the Directorate: Plant Health at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) during the International Day of Plant Health on 20 May.

The theme of this year’s celebration was “Plant health, safe trade and digital technology”.

The event was hosted at the Agricultural Research Centre—Vegetable, Industrial and Medicinal Plants at Roodeplaat in Pretoria. The aim of the day was to increase awareness on the importance of keeping plants healthy. This can be done by minimising the risk of spreading plant pests through international trade in plants and plant products, and fostering the implementation of the International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures.

In South Africa, quarantine pests that are of critical concern are the Oriental fruit fly, Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer, Macadamia Felted Coccid disease, Fall armyworm (FAW), Banana Bunchy Top virus, Citrus Greening, the African strain, Citrus black spot, and American foulbrood.

“Protecting plants from pests and diseases is far more cost effective than dealing with full blown plant health emergencies,”

said Mr Mpho Sekgala from the Directorate: Plant Health at DALRRD. Plant pests and diseases are often impossible to eradicate once they have established themselves. Prevention is therefore crucial to prevent the devastating impact of pests and diseases on agriculture, livelihoods, and food security.

Everyone has a role to play in protecting plant health

It may be tempting to bring home that exotic flower from your summer holiday, or that special sausage from overseas, however, make sure you are not getting more than you bargained for. Foreign plants can carry unseen pests and diseases. Every year, up to 40% of global food crops are lost to plant pests and diseases.