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**Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development**



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# ***Minister Didiza announces the reduction of size of the disease management area affected by Foot-and-Mouth diseases in KZN***

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms.Thoko Didiza (MP), wishes to announce the reduction of the size of the disease management area affected by foot-and-mouth diseases in KwaZulu-Natal. This decision follows the conclusion of the second round of serological surveillance. It was established that the disease, within the DMA, is still confined to two clusters of diptanks in Mtubatuba and Nongoma. Since the disease did not spread within or outside of the DMA, the size of the KZN DMA can now be decreased. This will release areas that remained free of the disease from movement restrictions, while still maintaining restrictions on those areas where the disease is still present. The Minister declared in Gazette No 45109 of 7th September 2021 the new KZN DMA, which includes the following areas:

1. The portions of the Pongola local municipality east of the R66, and south and west of the N2;
2. The whole of the Nongoma local municipality;

3. The portions of the Big Five Hlabisa local municipality west of the N2;
4. The whole of the Mtubatuba local municipality;  
The whole of the Mfolozi local municipality;
5. The portions of the uMhlathuze local municipality north of the R34 and
6. The whole of Hluhluwe uMfolozi Park.

The local municipalities of Umhlabuyalingana, Jozini, eDumbe, Abaqulusi, Ulundi, Nkandla, Mthonjaneni and uMlalazi are now released from movement restrictions.

“I wish to applaud the farmers and communities that have adhered to the movement restrictions imposed upon them, which now made it possible to reduce the area under restrictions,” said Minister Didiza.

The movement protocol can be obtained from KZN Veterinary Services. Visible Veterinary Patrols and roadblocks will remain in place in the reduced DMA to control the movement of livestock and to monitor adherence to the movement protocol.

# Pafuri Beekeeping Pilot Project

*By Rony Moremi*

The Pafuri Beekeeping Project was launched in May 2021 in the Vhembe District in Limpopo. The project were launched by Apimondia in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, and Rural Development and the Madzivhandila College of Agriculture. The project, which is an initiative of the Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa for young beekeepers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), aims to empower youth who have no sources of livelihoods.

The targeted beneficiaries are young mothers who depend on social grants and young unemployed men. Selected youth's training will cover all aspects of apiculture, including beehive making, the business aspect of beekeeping and also to be agents of environmental conservation.

Sixty youth from Mutele, Manenzhe and Tshikundamalema have already started training in beehive manufacturing, which will be followed by beekeeping training, apiculture business management and then environmental conservation.

David Mukomana, the Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa's president said the project aims to break the high costs of entry into beekeeping. He added that the Vhembe District was selected because of its vast natural resources and its strategic position of being closer to the Kruger National Park and Mozambique, where Apimondia would also like to replicate similar projects. He added that an NGO from Maseru has requested Apimondia to help them develop the same project there. He encouraged the selected youth to embrace the project.

Precious Muleya, one of 60 young people selected for the project, expressed her gratitude for being part of the project. She said that the project will change their lives, help alleviate poverty and create much-needed jobs in her community.



*Training will include beehive making.*

# National fresh produce markets not yet transformed

By Ndivhuwo Thenga

There is a lack of transformation in South Africa's national fresh produce markets (NFPMs). This was revealed during the fresh produce market information sharing session hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) on 17 August.

A Section 7 Committee, which was established in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996) conducted an investigation in 2006 and recommended that 30% of the volume traded at fresh produce markets should be through black market agents starting from the year 2014; 25% of existing agencies must

have BEE participation and that 50% of the managing directors or CEOs must be black. An investigation by NAMC was requested by the then Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries after concerns regarding the slow pace of transformation of fresh produce markets, lack of access to markets experienced by black producers, declining competitiveness and efficiency of NFPMs.

There are various role players in the country's fresh produce market systems. The Institute of Market Agents of South Africa (IMASA) was founded in 1945 and represents the registered Market Agents in South Africa. Its membership is voluntary, and it was established to proactively work on matters of interests

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*The pace of transformation of fresh produce markets are too slow.*

# National fresh produce markets not yet transformed

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of its members.

An agent is a person who acts on behalf of a producer, selling the producer's produce to buyers such as hawkers, wholesalers and retailers. Most agents operate in the country's 21 NFPMs. Market agents charge a commission fee of between 5% and 7,5% of turnover per sale and, in turn, municipalities charge the market. IMASA is registered with the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC). It is a statutory body established in terms of the Agricultural Produce Agents Act, 1992 (Act No. 12 of 1992) (as amended in 2003). The Act requires the Minister of Agriculture to establish a council to administer the Act on his or her behalf.

Mr Thomas Mawasha of the Council for Black Market Agents (CBMA) made a presentation on the performance of black agents at NFPMs. The CBMA is a legally registered non-profit organisation established to serve the interests of black agents and black managed and controlled market agents that operate in NFPMs. Currently, CBMA membership comprises of market agents that operate in the Johannesburg and Tshwane

markets. According to Mawasha, an estimated 60% of produce in South Africa is channelled to traders and then consumers through fresh produce markets. "Since 1994, the channel has undergone little or no substantive transformational changes in line with macro-economic and industrial reforms currently taking place in South Africa. While some of these set targets have been met, they have not been sufficient to bring about the desired results in terms of market access and transformation," said Mawasha.

Mr Xhanti Jikwana from the Eastern Cape lamented the fact that the Umtata Market had only two agents and now only one agent remains. The market spent between R7,2 million and R10 million in upgrading its infrastructure, but it is struggling to attract market agents. The Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria remains the biggest markets in terms of volume and turnover. The four fresh produce markets in Gauteng have a 75% share of the total turnover. According to André Young from the South African Union of Food Markets (SAUFM), a total of 2,8 million tons of fresh produce was traded on the floors of the country's markets in 2020.

# Research efforts to directly benefit smallholder farmers

Indigenous animal genetic resources constitute the largest reservoir of genetic diversity and their improvement and conservation has great social, economic and cultural impacts, especially in light of climate change and high unemployment rates. In addition, Covid-19 has added more pressure on the poor and marginalised communities across the country, where food security is more of an immediate threat to the livelihoods of millions of households than the pandemic.

The response to these negative impacts of the pandemic on the economic viability of the livestock sector has now become more vital and pressing than before. Creating strategies to find solutions for improved food security and household income sustainability require collaborative efforts from various stakeholders to be successful; from policy makers, the government, funders and the research community.

In 2015, the Directorate: Genetic Resources of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) developed and adopted a National Plan (NP) for conservation and sustainable use of farm animal genetic resources

(FAnGR) of South Africa. This was in response to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. This NP has four strategic priority areas, namely, Characterisation, Sustainable use, Conservation and Policy. Numerous projects have since been funded through this National Plan through the directorate focusing on conservation and improvement of indigenous breeds and non-descript ecotype populations. Among these funded projects are the Community-Based Breeding Programmes (CBBPs) of indigenous goats in rural areas across major goat producing provinces. CBBPs present a viable option for low-input smallholder production systems where flock sizes are small, animals are reared communally and high-investment animal breeding strategies are not feasible. Such programmes have been reported with success for local adapted livestock species in countries such as Argentina, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mexico, Liberia, Uganda and other Southern

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# Research efforts to directly benefit smallholder farmers

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African countries. In these countries, CBBPs have been reported to increase productivity and income of resource-constrained farmers by providing access to improved animals that respond well to current feeding and management, while targeting local market opportunities.

In South Africa, conservation and sustainable utilisation of indigenous goats are key issues for resource-poor farming communities that rely on them. These animals have a history of adapting to local harsh environmental conditions, which translates into unique phenotypic and genetic diversities in addition to their ability to thrive in a low input production environment. This makes them suitable in supporting rural



*Indigenous Vemvane veld goat.*

low income households and therefore hold hope for rural development and sustainable resources. The major benefit of CBBPs is the potential to not only improve production, but also preserve the animals' genetic diversity and their unique adaptability traits as these production systems remain unchanged. The model of crossbreeding with government-donated less adaptable improved breeds has led to genetic dilution of the locally adapted population and continues to undermine their genetic potential and market acceptance. In addition, this model of conservation at research stations or government farms have been proposed as a viable solution for genetic improvement for decades. While their benefits cannot be taken away from them, the limitation is the change in the production system and the potential loss of fitness traits.

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# New board members at AFMA

The Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (AFMA) announced the directors elected to the AFMA Board at its 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 3 September 2021.

New board members are Dieter Fleischman and Heiko Köster. Returning directors include Anina Hunter, Sharlene Moodley, Michael Schmitz, and Thinus van Lill.

Mr Wouter de Wet and Mr Thinus van Lill were re-elected as chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board of Directors.

## Board members are:

- Wouter de Wet, RCL Foods
- Thinus van Lill, Quantum Foods
- Anina Hunter, RCL Foods
- Francois van de Vyver, Voermol Feeds
- Dieter Fleischmann, AFGRI Animal Feeds
- Johan du Plessis, Quantum Foods
- Heiko Köster, Barnlab Animal Feeds
- Neil Dominy, Astral Operations

- Paul Saunders, Sovereign Foods
- Sharlene Moodley, De Heus Animal Nutrition
- Michael Schmitz, Meadow Feeds
- De Wet Boshoff, AFMA Executive Director

The AFMA Chairman's Report 2020/21 released can be viewed by following the link – <https://www.afma.co.za/download/chairmans-report-2020-2121/?wpdmdl=10261&refresh=61320c9b810701630669979>

## About AFMA

The Animal Feed Manufacturers Association of South Africa (AFMA) is the official industry representative body of the South African feed industry. AFMA members produce 60% ( $\pm 7\ 000\ 000$  tons) of all animal feed used in South Africa, with the majority of the balance being produced on-farm and at feedlots. It represents the South African feed industry on the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) as one of its Board members and is currently one of the five Exco members of the IFIF Board.



# Corteva Agriscience and Plantix Introduce free pest, disease and weed identification app

Corteva Agriscience is proud to announce the launch of a new mobile application (app), Corteva™ FarmFundi App, which provides a digital pest and disease identification guide for farmers across Africa and the Middle East (AME). Once threats are accurately identified using the app, farmers can consult with Corteva's expert crop scientists and local agronomists for treatment recommendations via email or the web links provided.

“Researchers estimate that invasive species alone cost Africa’s agricultural sector \$74,3 billion each year, compounded by an approximate \$21,5 billion worth of crop losses inflicted by insects and other pests,” says Linda van der Merwe, Marketing Lead, Corteva Agriscience. “As such, we are excited to bring our first-to-market digital tool to farmers in Africa and the Middle East. Our collaboration with Plantix allows us to combine the very best of innovative mobile farming technology with the keen insights and vast expertise of our technical teams; helping to mitigate potential impacts to livelihoods and food security.”

The most crucial part of managing crop exposures is correctly identifying the

cause so appropriate solutions can be implemented and costly mistakes, that threaten sustainable and safe management practices can be avoided. The user-friendly platform empowers farmers to upload or scan pictures, along with a short description of symptoms and accompanying notes, enabling timeous risk management and prevention. Experts are also able to update and transfer the latest information on new, emerging pests and trends in real time.

“Supporting farmers (and gardeners) all over the planet to secure their crops and contribute to food security has always been one of the main drivers of our efforts. We are now even more delighted to be able to provide our cutting-edge technology solution while partnering with Corteva; making it accessible to a broader range of users across new regions,” says Rob Strey, Co-Founder and CTO, Plantix.

The Corteva™ FarmFundi App is available for download (at no cost ) from the Apple® iOS and Google Android™ App stores in English, Swahili, Afrikaans, French, and Arabic.



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