



agriculture, land reform & rural development

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The Ministry would like to thank all of you, staff members, for your contribution to the celebration of national days in 2021, in particular Youth Day and Women's Day. These two national days enabled us to focus on the role of women and youth in strengthening our national food systems. They came at an opportune time when we were preparing for the United Nations Summit on Food Systems. The outcomes of the summit are about how we implement them to strengthen our food systems and thereby accelerate the achievements of our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We have also commemorated the International Day of Rural Women and the World Food Day during October. We concluded with a dialogue with Women Farm Workers and their role in agriculture and agribusiness. This event highlighted the importance and the need to develop a comprehensive farm development programme beyond Extension of Security of Tenure (ESTA). We extend our appreciation to the Branch: Food Security and Agrarian Reform, the Western Cape PSCC, the Cederberg Local Municipality and our communications team, who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of these engagements.

It is important to acknowledge our partnership with the various provinces, who have done a tremendous work of commemorating and celebrating these days with their constituencies. The International Day of Rural Women, hosted by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Agriculture, was instructive in how we can honour rural women by creating access to markets, as well as providing practical support working with government entities.

The Farmers' Day at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, which created awareness to farmers on how they can use the fresh produce market as a marketing tool for their goods, is commendable. This joint effort by the provincial department and the City of Johannesburg is evident on how we can leverage on each other's capacities, and put into effect the District Development Model.

The outreach programme by Deputy Minister Skwatsha and engagement with Kwano Farmers Association in Bitou enabled us to appreciate the mobilisation of farmers at local level. As part of consultation with traditional leaders, the deputy minister has ensured that we move with speed in our consultation on matters of tenure reform.



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development: Departement van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling
Muhasho wa zwa Vhulimi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavuna Mveledziso ya Mahayani, uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba
Nokuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba Nekutufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha
nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae Lefapha la
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhlisolamaPhandle



The Women's Dialogues, as part of the outreach programme by Deputy Minister Capa in the OR Tambo Region, has brought us in touch with the needs of many rural women in this region. At the centre of these dialogues was how we can improve food security at household level, at the same time graduating these women to the level of being suppliers to local and national markets.

In the coming two months, there are critical government and society programmes that we must pay attention to. These are: The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Manyaxhe: 16 Day of Activism-moving from awareness to accountability". The government, together with civil society and the private sector, will host a series of community and sector dialogues, and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

The second event will be World Aids Day, which will be observed on 1 December whilst the third event will be the international Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is scheduled for 3 December 2021.

These are not mere days for reflections, but rather challenges to us to look at programmatic interventions that we need to make as a department in changing the lives of our people.

On the National Strategic Plan of Action Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, we are expected to demonstrate how we empower women through land access, as well as creating opportunities for women in the agribusiness sector. The programme on women in agriculture and agribusiness that is in formative stage, working with the Presidency, other government departments, UN Women and FAO, will ensure a clear programmatic intervention that will address the issue of women economic empowerment within our sector.

It is important to keep in mind that farmers, young and old, require assistance and support each day. Our response must be timeous and efficient. Sensitivity is required when we address their needs.

We cannot let them down. We are here to serve, not ourselves, but our communities.

End.

