



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

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### **KZN DARD FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2015**

As **the country celebrates Women's Month**, this was seen carried through to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal as it hosted the annual Female Entrepreneur in Agriculture and Rural Development awards in Cedara, Pietermaritzburg during this special month.

The programme seeks to acknowledge, encourage and increase the participation of women, both young and old and women living with disabilities in the sector. The major thrust of the programme underscores the fact that women play a significant role in food security, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation. This programme has a long-term ambition of leveraging women entrepreneurs from being subsistence and small-holder producers to commercial entrepreneurs who also will venture into export markets.

MEC Xaba said such awards show that the Department is on the right track with its new strategy on Agrarian Reform and Transformation. "The women we see here today are turning farming into a business, they are showing that farming is a science. Here we have awards raging from Processing right up to Export markets and this really gives me hope in the future of Agriculture in the **Province**" he said.

The MEC stressed the fact that women, more especially in rural areas, are the key drives of agriculture and the agricultural economy. "Whenever the Department has engagements in rural areas, the only people that I often see tending to the gardens in the scorching heat or even sometimes in the rain, are **women**" he said. MEC Xaba sighted the opportunity of a market that can be created for both the emerging and commercial farmers through the Early Morning Markets and made special reference to the Durban Early Morning Market and said that Government should look into such markets as the Durban Early Morning Market to be a springboard in agricultural activity and a catalyst in the revival of agricultural economy in the Province. These markets would have a big impact in rural agriculture throughout the Province as this would create a direct platform for trading and further widening the value chain with the emerging market.

A seemingly delighted Hlengiwe Mjiyalo of Ukwanda Farm that specializes in poultry and piggery said **"this is not the first time our farm wins a prize, but to win the award for the Top Entrepreneur Commercial and most of all the Overall winner is truly amazing, it really shows with the right support and perseverance. The sky is the limit"** she said. Ukwanda Farm won over R300 000 in prize money at the gathering and will get an opportunity to represent the Province at the National DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards to be held in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal on 27 August 2015.

\*Please see MEC **Xaba's** speech and info doc for more information.



From left MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, First Lady of the Republic Mrs Makhumalo-Zuma and Deputy Minister for Telecommunications and Postal Services Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize at the Female Entrepreneur Awards held at Cedara, outside Pietermaritzburg



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Mrs Elizabeth Ntombela (75), who won the Senior Citizen award at the Female Entrepreneur Awards



MEC Cyril Xaba, First Lady of the Republic Mrs Makhumalo-Zuma, Deputy Minister for Telecommunications and Postal Services Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize and Mooi Mpfana Local Municipality Mayor Clrr Maureen Magubane with one of the winners, Siyaththuka Disability Farmers



Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize, Mayor Clrr Maureen Magubane, Overall Winner Ms Hlengiwe Mjiyakho of Kwanda Farming, First Lady of the Republic Mrs Makhumalo-Zuma and MEC Cyril Xaba

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