



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

TEAM KWAZULU-NATAL SCOOPED PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AT THE LANDCARE CONFERENCE

The JuniorCare School programme run by the LandCare Section of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal has proven to be a success as pupils and schools participating in the programme scooped numerous awards during this year's 8th Biennial Landcare Conference held in Bloemfontein recently.

Learners from four schools in KZN were awarded for their sterling innovation work in environmental conservation and rehabilitation of agricultural land.

All nine provinces were represented in the JuniorCare Conference and learners competed in various categories that included Best Drama Award, Best Poster Mainstream Award, Best Speech Award and Best Poster for learner with Special Needs Award to mention but a few.

It is in these categories where the KZN learners proved to be mouthful for their peers. Under the Best Poster Mainstream category, learner Lungelo Dlangamandla from Siphakamile Primary (Ugu District) came second in a tightly contested category.

Nkululeko Dlodla from Masisizane Primary, in King Cetshwayo District, took the third spot under the Best Poster for learner with Special Needs category.

Another category, which was in the limelight, was the Best Drama Award where ten learners from uMsilinga Primary under uMgungundlovu District were participating. They came in second place having been outsmarted by a Gauteng school by a small margin.

A learner from uMhlanga Primary in King Cetshwayo District walked away with a second place award for Best Speech category. While the number one spot was elusive for the KZN junior team but to settle for a second and third places was well received, as the competition was rather stiff.

Team KZN in the main Landcare Conference received three awards where all delegates in the conference were taking part.

Projects funded through Landcare Funding piloted by the department took the second place under Best LandCare Women Award, Best In-School JuniorCare Award and Best Out-of-School Award. Best LandCare Women Award went to the Daily Bread project in Harry Gwala District and for Best In-School JuniorCare Award went to KwaNgubeni Primary in uMgungundlovu District.

Finally, the Best Out-of-School Award was awarded to Women's Leadership and Training Programme from Centocow under the Harry Gwala District. All the recipients of these categories took second place.

The atmosphere was electric for the provinces and learners that walked away with awards in this Conference, which is held biennially. This year's leg of the conference was hosted by the Province of the Free State and in 2020, it will be hosted by the Province of the Eastern Cape.

The essence of the conference is not solely centred on awards being dished out but it also incorporates research presentations and question and answer sessions addressed by various research leaders from a variety of public and private institutions.

Provinces and the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are afforded the opportunity to showcase their instrumental programmes in landcare and environmental rehabilitation. KwaZulu-Natal team participated in the exhibition, handed out environmentally friendly goodies to the delegates and to esteemed speakers at the conference.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Senzeni Zokwana for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, highlighted the ever-increasing need to nurture and care for all kinds of agricultural and grazing land.

"I urge all leaders of Departments in provinces to begin taking these initiatives seriously and avail themselves when such conferences are happening because we must join hands and come up with workable techniques and useful information on how we can take best care of our environment as the agricultural sector," said Zokwane.

He ended by appreciating the good work and commitment displayed by all stakeholders and urged all and sundry to respect and use the land wisely.

Winners and Department staff celebrate at the 8th Biennial Landcare conference:







