



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AGRICULTURE MEC COMMENDS TRADITIONAL COUNCILS FOR COLLABORATION
WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY**

125.5 hectares of arable land within the Nkandla Local Municipality has been cultivated and harvested with maize, as part of the 309 hectares allocated for the Multi-Planting Season. The Amakhosi manage on the ground over 2.8 million hectares of Ingonyama Trust's communal land.

In Nkandla, the department has done an assessment which will require an allocation of R23 million to provide support to cooperatives and individuals, including mechanisation, construction of 2 dipping tanks, rehabilitation of 3 dipping tanks, and fencing of field crops. The 125.5 hectares has been planted using about R400 thousand which has seen three cooperatives and local people benefiting. These areas - Mpotholo, Ntatshana and Chithimpuphu benefitted with fencing materials. Crop fields has seen 42 women and 12 youth-led initiatives as well as three people with disabilities receiving assistance that include Indigenous chickens and goats.

During an oversight visit, the MEC for Agriculture, Mrs. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, said that the three projects in the Zondi, Mchunu, and Dlomo traditional areas are progressing well. "It is worth noting that there's a huge progress made regarding these projects."

"Last year in May, we pledged to assist local communities, prioritising women and youth in collaboration with Amakhosi, to deliver services in the form of fencing, mechanisation, and seeds. I am pleased that they have harvested maize, and to date, we have used about R400 thousand in these traditional areas. The local communities will have benefits in terms of food security and economic empowerment," said kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

ENDS.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Vusi Khumalo