

# KZN DARD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
KWAZULU-NATAL

GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER



MEC THEMBENI KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA

# CELEBRATES 100 DAYS IN AGRICULTURE

**Hon. Ms Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa**

MEC: Department of Agriculture  
& Rural Development, KwaZulu-Natal



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**#LET'S MAKE AGRICULTURE FASHIONABLE**



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



@KZNDARD-YouTube



@KZNDARD



@kzndard



www.kzndard.gov.za





**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**#LET'S MAKE AGRICULTURE FASHIONABLE**

# **ONE HOME ONE GARDEN**

**Through co-operation  
we push back the frontiers  
of poverty.**





## MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa meets Agriculture Ambassadors in Cedara

**DATE:** 21 June 2024 ▪ **VENUE:** Cedara, Umgungundlovu District

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms. Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa, has pledged her commitment to ensuring that the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development remains the heartbeat of the Province.

Hon.MEC held her first meeting with the Department's executive and senior management members today, at the Centenary Building in Cedara.

During her remarks the Honourable MEC mentioned that she will work tirelessly to gain the trust of all officials and strongly emphasized the empowerment of women to reach higher management levels. She also implored management to double their efforts and play a significant role in transforming the agricultural sector.

Hon MEC Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa, further proceeded to convene a meet and greet session with Cedara and Hilton staff at the Cedara, Auditorium.

The aim of this engagement was to outline an action plan that seeks to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. During her address, the Hon MEC emphasized KZN DARD's commitment to support small scale farmers and uplift youth and women within the sector.

"Agricultural graduates have the capability of bridging the gap of aging farmers in our rural communities through the implementation of new technological agricultural methods," said MEC Madlopha-Mthethwa.





## MEC meet KZNDARD Veterinary Services and the Agricultural Development and Training Institutes

**DATE:** 21 June 2024 ▪ **VENUE:** Cedara, Umgungundlovu District



KZNDARD MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa recently met with Veterinary Services and the Agricultural Development and Training Institute in Cedara, Pietermaritzburg.

The visit was meant to engage with Veterinary Services and Cedara Research employees while identifying their needs in a quest to clearly understand their short-mid term strategies, vision and output.

MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa pledged her commitment to work together with these directorates to keep doing their utmost to support farmers and improve the Research station.

MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa stated: "Veterinary services and the research station needs must be bolstered in order for the

department to respond adequately to its mandate of ensuring food security and animal health care in KwaZulu-Natal.

We have collectively set goals to achieve, and the attainment of those goals is in your capable hands. We expect you to perform everything to the best of your abilities and expertise as the key drivers of our programs." said MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

She further urged them to assess the difficulties they encounter in carrying out their duties and to disclose those difficulties in order to identify long-term solutions. She also asked them to educate farmers with precision and value about what they can provide and what is outside their purview, as this will build confidence and dependability.

## Soil Fertility & Analytical Services





# Launch of Wool Improvement Programme

DATE: 04 July 2024 • VENUE: KwaSenti, UMzimkhulu LM, Ugu District

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier Mr. Thami Ntuli together with the KZNDARD MEC, Hon. Ms. Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa, on Thursday, July, 04, 2024 visited Kwasenti area, in Mzimkhulu, to handover a shearing shed infrastructure and 68 Dohne Merino breeding rams to KwaSenti wool growers.

The rams will aid in the improvement of genetics of local livestock leading to increased financial returns.





# MEETING THE TWO ENTITIES

## ADA & KZN FARMING ENTERPRISE

Hon. MEC Ms. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa attended an introductory meeting with the board and the executive members of the AgriBusiness Development Agency (ADA) as well as the newly established KZN Farming Enterprise.

The MEC emphasised that agriculture was the backbone of the province therefore it was imperative for the entities, in collaboration with the department, to be steadfast in their mandate of ensuring food security within the province.

"I am passionate about supporting women, young people and giving opportunities to people that are disabled.

We have to prioritise those groups because they are vulnerable.

The levels of unemployment and inequality in our society is unacceptable. We must confront poverty head on. That is what the people of KZN expect from us."



# Operation Siyahlola

**CEDARA - UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT**

**DATE: 17 JULY 2024**

In a quest to assist farmers affected by the recent veld fires and strong winds across the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, the National Minister of COGTA, Velenkosini Hlabisa, together with the Deputy Minister Dickson Masemola, KZN Premier

Thamsanqa Ntuli, and KZN DARD MEC Ms. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, engaged with farmers to forge a way forward and find solutions to the devastating aftermath caused by these natural disasters.

The recent veld fires have caused catastrophic losses of livestock, grazing pastures, infrastructure, crops and most unfortunate, human lives.

In light of the prevailing excessive heat and multiple veld fires throughout the Province, Hon. MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, is pleading with the farming community to take the required precautions to protect lives, livestock, crops, and agricultural infrastructure.





## KZN DARD FIGHTS THE SCOURGE OF RABIES IN HOT SPOTS AROUND UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT

DATE: 18 July 2024 ▪ VENUE: Mbali Stage1-ABM, UMgungundlovu District



Following the identification of Imbali in uMgungundlovu District as a hot spot in the spread of Rabies, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Hon. MEC Mrs Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa, took a firm approach to curb the spread outbreak and led a Vaccination Drive at Imbali Stage 1-ABM, Msunduzi Local Municipality on Thursday, 18 July 2024.

The primary objective behind these rabies vaccination and awareness drives is to facilitate and provide Animal Disease Control Services in order to protect the animal population against highly infectious and economic diseases, through the implementation of the Animal Disease Act (Act 35 of 1984) or Animal Health Act (Act 7 of 2002) and Primary Animal health programme/projects.



**Save a pet, save a life  
Rabies Kills!!!**

**Rabies**  
Vaccination Drive  
UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT



**MEC THEMBENI KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA**

# HANDOVER OF BALES

**DATE:** 19 July 2024 • **VENUE:** Loskop, uThukela District

Following the devastating veldfires that have scorched major parts of KwaZulu-Natal, KZN DARD MEC Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, today embarked on a District rollout to handover Livestock hay bales to Loskop community in uThukela District Municipality. This rollout seeks to forge a way forward and find solutions to the destructive aftermath caused by this natural disaster.

The recent veld fires have resulted in devastating losses of livestock, grazing pastures, infrastructure, crops, and, most tragically, human lives. As part of the veldfires intervention, Hon. MEC Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa handed over 143 hay bales to the uThukela Livestock Association.

MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa urged farmers to work hand in hand with the Department to rehabilitate the farming sector.





## **Agriculture Deputy Minister Nokuzola Capha and MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa visit veldfire farmers victims in UThukela District.**

**DATE:** 02 August 2024 ▪ **VENUE:** Hilltop Farm, Camperdown, Umgungundlovu District



A Camperdown livestock farmer Msizi Madide was amongst the worst affected farmers when veldfires engulfed their farms last month in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands.

Speaking at his Hiltop Farm, Madide said that although his team is still quantifying the magnitude of the damage, but thus far, it amounts to 1.6 million rands "Our farm has suffered huge amounts of losses. Our livestock, which includes cattle, sheep, and goats, were not spared. Water tanks, pipes, and other infrastructure were also destroyed in the blaze," he said.

About 300 livestock farmers were affected, with Zululand, uThukela, Harry Gwala, and King Cetshwayo the hardest hit districts. The majority of the farmers affected by the veldfires are subsistence (65 percent), and 16 percent are smallholder. Commercial farmers are 17 percent, while two are those considered vulnerable.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Honourable Nokuzola Capha and KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa paid an oversight visit to the one of the hardest hit areas Camperdown, to assess the extent of the damage in the aftermath of the runaway fires.



Deputy Minister Capha has made a clarion call to the farming communities across the country to work together in multidisciplinary teams to come with strategies that will ensure an immediate response to the veldfires and other challenges.

Last month veldfires fanned by strong winds wreaked havoc destroying crops, grazing veld, livestock and infrastructure resulting in the loss of about R 93 million as extent of the damage. Deputy Minister Capha was speaking at Hiltop Farm in Camperdown, KwaZulu-Natal midlands.





Scores of farmers left devastated by the recent veldfires in KwaZulu-Natal are still counting their losses. The fires left a trail of destruction, resulting in the loss of six lives of firefighting crew who succumbed to death while battling the raging blaze. Commercial and emerging farmers spoke about their challenges during the oversight visit by the Deputy Minister Honourable Capha and Honourable Madlopha-Mthethwa.

Another local farmer around Camperdown Pat Werner urged government to come up with measures to bring an end to trespassing in their farms, saying it's worrying that farmers don't have the capacity to have adequate guards on their farms 24/7. "We are hoping that the government can step in and do something about it, maybe put more security and watch these fires."

The visit formed part of the government's fact finding mission to monitor progress in so far as the government assistance is concerned.

Addressing farmers hard hit by the recent veldfires Deputy Minister Capha said, "I am urging the farmers to embark on a programme that's going to be sustainable and ways in which disasters can be controlled immediately. It requires multi disciplinary teams that are going to be with the farmers that would be trained in firefighting and to have firefighting trucks so that when the fires start, they respond at a coordinated level."

Deputy Minister Capha's counterpart in KwaZulu-Natal Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa echoed her sentiments saying in

efforts to mitigate the impact of the veldfires the department has put aside 1 300 bales to help farmers as a short-term intervention," we visited affected farmers immediately after reports of the fires to offer our assistance. We also visited the families that lost their loved ones who were firefighters when they battled the blaze.

We also collated data with the Disaster Management Team to further ascertain the exact intervention necessary. The Provincial Government has also requested that the area be declared a disaster area and are waiting the declaration with National COGTA."

Responding to the minister's call for collaborative efforts, Madide embraced it saying it's high time they collaborated, "we have to work together as a farming community to ensure that we use all measures in place to fight the fires, ensuring that firebreaks are in place and that we have drill boreholes and fire hydrants to put out fires."



# BUDGET SPEECH • VOTE3 2024/25

15 AUGUST • 13:00pm



**Hon. Ms Thembeni KaMadiapha-Mthethwa (MPL)**  
MEC: Department of Agriculture  
& Rural Development, KwaZulu-Natal



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**#LET'S MAKE AGRICULTURE FASHIONABLE**



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



@KZNARD YouTube



@KZNARD



@kznard



www.kznard.gov.za



## KZNDARD AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION INDABA 2024

"Agriculture is the only vehicle upon which KwaZulu-Natal government can overcome poverty and ensure food security to each and every household," that's according to the province's Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli making a clarion call to the extension practitioners and advisory services at the Durban's Olive Convention Centre on Tuesday, 20 August 2024. About a thousand extension practitioners and advisory services including officials from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal graced the Agricultural Extension Indaba with their presence at the annual event aimed at capacitating extension officers with cutting-edge technological practices.

They also presented their new research findings and advances in the agricultural sector. The Indaba is dedicated to strengthening the province's Agricultural Advisory Services and it serves as a platform for knowledge-sharing, enhancing frontline service delivery and fostering service excellence in farmer support.

Speaking at the event, Agriculture and Rural Development MEC, Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa hailed extension officers for their role as frontline services that also help rural communities with their expertise to ensure food security.

She said, **"Extension Advisory Services play an important role in improving food security, farmer development and providing technical support to rural farming communities. The productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector depend on the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of Extension and Advisory Services."**

**To this end, it's worth noting that it's because of these men and women that the sector contributes about four percent to the KZN Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."**

As part of this initiative, the Human Sciences Research Council has conducted the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (NFNSS) commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). The survey's findings which offer insights into the current state of food and nutrition security in KwaZulu-Natal, were officially handed over to the provincial government led by Honourable Ntuli.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thami Ntuli, pronounced critical evidence-based measures aimed at addressing food security risks in the province. The announcement comes against the backdrop of socio-economic factors such as severe hunger and poverty and

shocks such as the devastating effects of the floods, socio-political unrest and global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, which have exposed vulnerabilities in food access and distribution.

Addressing the gathering, Premier Ntuli said deliberate interventions the province will take are informed by research and are scientific-based. He singled out the Agriculture Department as part of the main driver of the economy and as a solution to unemployment.

**"The latest figures by Statistics South Africa show that the unemployment rate has increased by 0.6% from 32,9% in the first quarter to 33,5% in the second quarter. The expanded unemployment rate increased by 0.7% to 42.6%. These employment losses were observed mainly in the formal sector (down by 77 000), the Agricultural sector (down by 45 000) and private households (down by 18 000)"** said the Premier.

Honourable Ntuli revealed that the finding of the HSRC survey confirms the province's worst fears that it is faced with unemployment and if left unchecked, it may lead to instability.

**"The Agricultural sector must provide solutions to our unemployment rate, especially for women, youth and the vulnerable groups." Stats SA reports that unemployment affects mostly young people who are disengaged from the labour market and are not building on their skills through education and training,"** said Honourable Ntuli.

Speaking about the report, kaMadlopha-Mthethwa said, "We need to sit down and strategise on how we are going to take it forward because our aim is to see KwaZulu-Natal being green, producing vegetables and fruits and livestock that can assist everyone within the sector and also to export, if possible."

## KZN DARD AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION INDABA 2024

The report revealed that the levels of food insecurity varied across Districts. It further says that 17 percent of the household in the province suffer from severe food insecurity, while 4,3 percent suffer from severe hunger. Severe food insecurity was more prevalent in Zululand District, where 35% of the households were severely food insecure.

Presenting the report headed by the HSRC's Professor Thokozani Simelane, the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Dr Jemina Moeng said Zululand, uMkhanyakude, uMzinyathi and Harry Gwala Districts ranked amongst worst affected by food insecurity.



**Hon. Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa:** "Extension Advisory Services play an important role in improving food security, farmer development and providing technical support to rural farming communities".

Dr Moeng pointed out that despite these Districts having relatively high levels of access to land, they have low participation of households in farming activities, **"The Department invested over R81 million over this study. We then reprioritised three districts in each province so that provincial governments can then deploy their resources accordingly using evidence-based data. Zululand leads in terms of its massive land in KwaZulu-Natal, but is actually ranked 7th in terms of land usage. That's a big challenge because it's the most dire District in the province."**

While South Africa is considered food secure at a national level, recent data from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) highlights that some pockets of food insecurity remain prevalent in various regions. This has underscored the importance of precise, district-level data to inform targeted interventions by government departments.

### It has thus, recommended the following:

- Promotion of domestic food production to ensure food security at household level
- A focus on employment creation through the agricultural sector;
- Investment in food markets and food banks at fruit and vegetable markets close to vulnerable households in all districts;
- Land redistribution and restitution with a rezoning strategy for land under traditional authorities so that some can be reserved for agricultural production;
- Protecting extremely poor households from seasonal hunger through assistance in particular months of the year (mostly January and June);
- Improve household nutrition through continued interventions like breastfeeding promotion, managing acute malnutrition and benefits of consuming nutrient-rich foods and dietary diversity, as well as guidance on food preparation and meal planning;
- **Enhancing food Safety:** Informal traders and small businesses that trade in agricultural products need assistance to help them improve the quality of their services through quality assurance and extend the lifespan of their products. COVID-19 has irreversibly transformed human perception of food and food safety. As a result, people have realized the importance of consuming safe and healthy food, not only to boost one's immune system but also to prevent the spread of diseases.





## ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION INDABA AWARDS

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development held its Annual Agricultural Extension Indaba Awards at the Olive Convention Centre in Durban, on Tuesday, 20 August 2024. There were over a thousand agricultural extension officers, guests, and officials in attendance to witness this much awaited Summit and Awards evening.

The primary objectives of the Agricultural Extension Indaba included empowering Agricultural Advisors on new scientific techniques that will aid in elevating the sector as well as presenting new research findings and advancements in the Agricultural sector.

As the programme unfolded, it created a suitable platform for advisors to engage with each other, exchange ideas and offer input on agricultural advancements.

This would aid in the endeavor to improve food security in the country, which is currently deteriorating rapidly as a result of natural disasters such as floods and Veldfires.

Speaking during the engagement, Hon. MEC Thembeni KaMadlopa-Mthethwa, commended Extension Officers for their efforts in assisting rural communities with their skills thus ensuring adequate food supply in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Furthermore, she urged them to do better in the sector, stating that they can help mitigate food scarcity by using innovative technical methods, enhancing farmer assistance, and utilizing their experience to aid more rural communities with their subsistence farming practices.

All Agricultural Advisors were recognized and acknowledged as victorious; however, only ten (10) were honored. As a token of appreciation for their effort and dedication, these individuals were given certificates, gifts, and cash prizes in recognition of their excellence and dedication towards serving farmers.

### The recipients of the KZNDARD Extension Summit Awards 2024 are as follows:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Supervisor/Manager:  
**Ms. Sibongile Madondo:** (King Cetshwayo District)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Supervisor/Manager:  
**Ms. Phindile Ncanana:** (King Cetshwayo District)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Senior Agric Advisor:  
**Norah Zanele:** Madimabe Commodity :Layers Production

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Senior Agric Advisor:  
**Freedman Sikhumbuzo Nkosi:** Commodity: Grain Production

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Senior Agric Advisor:  
**Sazi Siyabonga Dinga:** Commodity: Grain & Vegetable Production

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Agricultural Advisor:  
**Siphesihle Beaula Ngema Commodity:** Hydroponic Tunnels Production

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Agricultural Advisor:  
**Zolani Damoyi:** Commodity :Crop Production

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Agricultural Advisor:  
**Nzabane Sicelo Prince:** Commodity :Grain & Vegetable Production

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Agricultural Advisor:  
**Sanele Shandu:** Commodity :Horticulture Fruit Production

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Position

**Category: Best Perfomer:** Agricultural Advisor:  
**Nonhlanhla Gwala:** Commodity: Piggery Production

Congratulations to all recipients !!! #letsmakeagriculturefashionable



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: AGRIC ADVISOR

Ms Siphesihle Ngema won 1<sup>st</sup> place under the Hydroponic Tunnels Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: SENIOR AGRIC ADVISOR

Ms Norah Zanele Madimabe won 1<sup>st</sup> place under the Layer's Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: AGRIC ADVISOR

Mr Zolani Damoyi won 2<sup>nd</sup> place Crop Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: SENIOR AGRIC ADVISOR

Mr Freedman Sikhumbuzo Nkosi won 2<sup>nd</sup> place under the Grain Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: AGRIC ADVISOR

Sicelo Prince Nzabane won 2<sup>nd</sup> place under the Grain and Vegetables Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: SENIOR AGRIC ADVISOR

Mr Sazi Siyabonga Dinga won 3<sup>rd</sup> place under the Grain & Vegetables Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: AGRIC ADVISOR

Mr Sanele Shandju won 3<sup>rd</sup> place under the Horticulture Fruit Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

Ms Sibongile Madondo won 1<sup>st</sup> place as best supervisor under uMhlathuze Municipality which is under King Cetshwayo District



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: AGRIC ADVISOR

Ms Nonhlanhla Gwala won 3<sup>rd</sup> place under Piggery Production commodity



AWARDS PER CATEGORY: BEST PERFORMER: SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

Ms Phindile Ncanana won 2<sup>nd</sup> place as best supervisor under uMhlathuze Municipality which is under King Cetshwayo District



## KZN DARD MEC encourages youth to farm hemp and cannabis

The KwaZulu-Natal young and promising farmer has found a niche market with some of the Brics countries. Zulu is planning to plant more than 2000 ha of hemp. Speaking at his farm, KwaZulu Hemp Processors, earmarked for hemp production situated at the eMacekane area of eMpangeni, KwaZulu-Natal on the north coast, Zulu had encouraged youth to take advantage of farming hemp as it has the potential to create sizeable job opportunities and push back the frontiers of poverty.

Speaking at the site visit by KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa on Wednesday, 11 September 2024, Zulu thanked the commercial farmers' association for the advisory role they played, which resulted in a successful application for a hemp permit and accessing the most sought-after markets in South America, North America and Europe.

Zulu said despite this being the pilot program, that he has already received numerous offers needing exports of thousands of processed hemp products. "With the Department of Agriculture, we are ensuring that the farmers have access to the markets through seed and have access to training so that they are able to produce a substance of quality that I will be able to process and meet the European hemp standards, South America as well as North America, and ensure that KwaZulu-Natal is seen as a forefront leader in the hemp industry," he said.

Hemp is part of the marijuana family with 0.3 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the ingredient that produces a psychoactive effect and is non-intoxicating as opposed to cannabis.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, said that although there is ongoing research on the use of hemp, the commodity is a game changer. "We have to lift communities in need with job opportunities to come out of hemp production. It's a labour-intensive production, meaning that it will absorb a lot of people in terms of employment opportunities. I am happy that Mr Zulu took up this initiative, and we hope to see his project yielding positive results. We will also come back to this farm to see to it that the farm has been completed".

We are supporting applicants with applications for permits for hemp farming, too." In October 2021, growing and farming hemp was made legal after the Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Department announced the opening of the application process for hemp permits, which enabled farmers to apply for a permit to farm hemp as an agricultural crop and for industrial purposes.

Application forms for hemp farming can be found on the website of the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), South Africa is the third-largest illegal cannabis producer in the world.

# ACTING-PREMIER

Mrs Thembeni-KaMadlopha-Mthethwa

KZNDARD HON.MEC

**Thembeni- KaMadlopha-Mthethwa  
has been officially sworn in as the  
Acting-Premier of the Province  
pending the Premier's visit to the USA.**

On Wednesday, 18 September 2024, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, was sworn in as Acting Premier of the Province.

Honourable Premier Thamisanga Ntuli officially appointed kaMadlopha-Mthethwa as Acting Premier while he and other members of the provincial legislature travelled to New York, USA, to attend Climate Week.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, who has three decades of experience as a civil servant, commenced her Premier's responsibilities till Friday, September 29, 2024





**Hon. Ms Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa (IMPL)**  
MEC: Department of Agriculture & Rural Development,  
KwaZulu-Natal

## **KZNDARD HON. MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa officially welcomes the New Board of the Agricultural Development Agency in Pietermaritzburg**



**Mr. Sibusiso Lucky Gumbi**  
Board Chairperson



**Mr. Ntokozo Innocent Mafuleka**  
Deputy Chairperson



**Mrs. Thokozile Joice  
Gumede**



**Ms. Dianetse Kindness  
Mokoatle**



**Mr. Abednnego Mbuyiseni  
Nxumalo**



**Mr. Innocent Bheki  
Dladla**



**INkosi Simpiwe Sydney  
Kunene**



**Dr. Sifiso Mhloni  
Ntombela**



**Ms. Zethembile Primrose  
Mbatha**



## **Hon MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa appoints Mr Gumbi as Board Chairperson for Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA)**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa has duly appointed Agribusiness Development Agency's (ADA) board members. This took place at the ADA'S offices in Pietermaritzburg.

ADA also acts as project manager for Ntingwe Tea Estate situated in Nkandla and Makhathini Irrigation Scheme found in Jozini. Appointing the new members, kaMadlopha-Mthethwa remarked that the new board's appointment couldn't have come at the right time as the previous board's term of office ended on 14 September 2024, "We would like to welcome the new board members with warm hands. We are looking forward to working with you for strategic planning and direction as well as providing an oversight for the organisation.

We depend on you to steer the ship in the right direction. With a multitude of talents and skills possessed by the members of the board, I am confident that you will take the entity to new heights." The board's new chairperson is Sibusiso Lucky Gumbi, and he will be deputised by Ntokozo Innocent Mafuleka.

Mr Gumbi has heaped praises on the MEC for her role in ensuring the board was timeously instituted. He said of his new responsibility and role, "I wish to thank the MEC. The Honourable MEC is a seasoned politician with almost four decades as a civil servant. She is a woman of vision and is meticulous and does not like mediocre services.

Those traits will keep us on our toes as we guide the organization in the right direction. With so much expertise and top talent at our disposal ranging from legalese to agricultural skills, we are surely not going to be spectators but be active in how the organization should be going. We have a mixture of both old and young members who are vibrant, enthusiastic, and go-getters with their eyes on the ball."

ADA was created by the KwaZulu-Natal government to support the development of emergent black commercial farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs in the province. The agency's objective is to redress the economic inequalities in the agricultural sector in the province. The board's term is three years.





## Annual Agricultural Research Progress Summit 2024

Go Digital S.A. who are strategic stakeholders, handing over the "Go Agri IOT" greenhouse equipment to MEC KaMadlopha Mthethwa and the senior management

KZN MEC for Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Ms Thembeni KaMadlopha Mthethwa accompanied by Head of Department Mr Zibusiso Dlamini and UMhlathuze Municipality Mayor Mr Xolani Ngwezi graced the second session of a two-day Annual Research Progress Report Summit 2024 on climate change and livestock hosted by Chief Directorate: Agricultural Research Development & Training Institute at Bon Hotel Conference in Mpangeni on 26 & 27 September 2024.

This summit is aimed at arming consistent investment in knowledge acquisition and dissemination through research and technology developed for clients, peers and the farming community in the effort to increase food security and livestock production in the province that declines due to natural disasters such as climate change, drought and many others.

During the day's proceedings twenty-four presentations were presented and thereafter certificates were awarded to 15 officials who participated. MEC with counterparts, officials of the Department, guests and stakeholders were taken through exhibition stands of the different agricultural services, colleges and products ranging from poultry, grain commodities and hemp production.

Strategic stakeholders like GoDigital SA Foundation was present, whereby Ms Semmelink handed over the Go Agri IOT greenhouse equipment a -based system that communicates with a wireless sensor network that is stabilized, which aids in regulating internal greenhouse environment characteristics.

During her address the MEC said," the summit is perfectly themed 'Climate Change and Livestock, impact, adaptation and mitigation'. It couldn't have come at a better time when we have just battled the snowstorm, which has left one person dead and left a trail of destruction in agricultural infrastructure and the loss of hundreds of livestock.

This was the first huge occurrence of a snowfall in recent history, and this points to the climate change that it is here to stay, and it's a reality. The department is still gathering information to determine the extent of the damage to the agricultural infrastructure and the loss of livestock."

Additionally MEC said" For us, going forward in terms of adaptation, we have to intensify animal husbandry development for we know that it's crucial in guiding extension officers and farmers to know the breed type that adapt to their local climate.





## MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC, Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has called on women in rural areas under traditional leadership areas to be allocated land to be used for agricultural purposes. KaMadlopha-Mthethwa was speaking at eMkhandlwini Community Hall, Obuka under Mthonjaneni Local Municipality on Thursday, 22 August 2024 during a Women's Celebration.

The area suffers from severe service delivery shortcomings, with water, which is a key resource for agricultural production, a cause for concern. KaMadlopha-Mthethwa took stock of the area's challenges and vowed to work together with the municipality in an effort to ease the situation on poor communities.

"We are fortunate because traditional leaders are open and transparent when it comes to the allocation of land to the people. Women cooperatives, as well as individuals, can secure land from

Amakhosi and use it for agricultural purposes. If the land is not fertile enough, they can use it for livestock farming." Speaking to hundreds of women who had filled eMkhandlwini Community Hall to the rafters, kaMadlopha-Mthethwa shared her Department's opportunities such as garden fencing, building dams and mechanisation programmes aimed at assisting subsistence farmers, **"We are just a week away from September when people will begin to apply for project funding Farmers who are approved as beneficiaries will receive specialised scientific advisory and mentorship, funding, infrastructure support, skills training and capacity building, and other forms of value chain exposure to support their growth in the industry."**

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa further stated that subsistence producers will receive financial support to the maximum of R300 000 while small-holder and commercial producers will receive funding capped at R2 million.





**Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa**

MEC: Department of Agriculture  
& Rural Development, KwaZulu-Natal



## EXTENSION OF THE CLOSING DATE TO 15 OCTOBER 2024

### PURPOSE

## CALL FOR 2025/2026 KZNDARD PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) presents an opportunity for registered agricultural farming business enterprises operating within the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province to apply for project funding for 2025/2026 financial year. DARD seeks to fund qualifying sustainable agricultural farming businesses or enterprises in the province. The aim is to unlock opportunities in the agricultural farming sector in order to contribute to national food security, job creation, and support enterprises with potential to stimulate inclusive economic growth and transformation. Any request for assistance should follow the process stipulated below and comply with the requirements as stated on the checklist of the application form. Failure to comply with the requirements will automatically disqualify your application.

**To ensure a faster and a more efficient service, applicants and adhere to the process detailed below.**

**1. Subsistence Producers (Capped at Maximum of R300 000.00 for individuals or projects).** The communal or community investment projects such as dip tanks, borehole, fencing of grazing areas, scooping of existing dams and construction of new dams are excluded in this process.

- Business plan indicating economic viability must be submitted using the template obtainable at the nearest local agricultural office/ departmental website.
- Must have a legal access to land (Hold PTO, Tittle Deed for privately owned farms or Valid Lease Agreements)
- In the case of a leased land, applicant must have a lease arrangement of not less than 5 years and 10 years for infrastructure development.
- Must have legal access to irrigation water or be willing to use recycled water (no municipal drinking water can be used for irrigation)
- Applications must be submitted at the Local Department of Agriculture Office.
- Only one application per household/ group will be accepted
- Preference will be given to applicants who are already in agricultural farming business

**2. Smallholder and Commercial Producers (Capped at Maximum of R2 000 000)**

- Must have legal access to land (privately owned or leased).
- In case the of a leased land, applicant must have a lease arrangement of not less than 10 years.
- The request for environmental impact assessment, water use licence and other legal requirements funding, if necessary, will be considered and must form part of the business plan.
- Business Plan with sound financial records and projections showing economic viability must be submitted using the template obtainable at the Local Office/ Departmental Website
- Proof of Legal Entity Registration must be submitted where applicable
- Only one application per entity/ individual will be accepted
- It is compulsory requirement that all applicants of smallholder or commercial producers be registered on the producer/ farmer register and that the registration reference number be quoted on the application form where indicated.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Obtain a request form from your local office or website of the department
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the nearest extension office for guidance and planning
- Submit completed form to the nearest office within the required time frame accompanied by **all** the supporting/required compliance documentation as per checklist in application form. e.g. tax clearance certificate, security of tenure documentation (copy of title deed or valid lease contract) etc.
- It is a compulsory requirement that all applicants be registered on the Producer/ Farmer Register and that the registration reference number be quoted on the application form where indicated.
- A farm visit may be done to confirm/verify information submitted as per the application form.

### CONDITIONS TO BE ADHERED TO BY THE APPLICANT

- Project considered for funding shall follow DARD project approval process flow.
- Women, Youth and Person with Disabilities are encouraged to apply
- The applicant must be a South African Citizen between the age of 18 year and above
- Applicants should not be Government, Municipal or SOE's employees
- Due to limited funds, not all applicants will be funded in accordance with their requests
- Submission of the application does not guarantee funding
- There shall be no right of appeal to unsuccessful applications
- The department reserves its right to exclude applicants whose details and information is not correctly submitted
- The applicants grant consent to the department to verify details and information in relation to respective applications.
- Should you not receive any correspondence from the department within three months after closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.
- Submission of completed forms and all required documents should be done at the local agriculture offices within the province.

Please note that applications should be submitted to the local agricultural office where the intended project is located.

**APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 15 OCTOBER 2024 AT 16H00.**

### DISCLAIMER

- If not contacted within 90 days after closing date, kindly consider your application unsuccessful.
- All applicants must note that meeting all requirements as indicated in this advert does not constitute automatic approval for funding.





## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# 2024

**#LET'S MAKE AGRICULTURE FASHIONABLE**

### HEAD OFFICE

Private Bag X9059, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Tel: 033 355 9100

Fax: 033 355 9122

### MEC's OFFICE (CEDARA)

Private Bag X9059 | Pietermaritzburg | 3200

Tel: 033 343 8240 | Fax: 033 343 8255

Tel: 033 355 9100 | Fax: 033 355 9151

### HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Private Bag X9059 | Pietermaritzburg | 3200 | Tel: 033 355 9690

 KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



@KZNDARD-YouTube



@KZNDARD



@kzndard



www.kzndard.gov.za



kzndard.gov.za

