



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The Witness

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Farmers honoured

NCT FORESTRY announced its tree farmer of the year awards at its AGM in Pietermaritzburg recently. Jon MacKenzie and Margaret Buyisile Mdunge were recognised for excellence in sustainable plantation management and received this year's award. Jon MacKenzie, from Harding, won in the commercial grower category. He manages a mixed timber, beef, avocado and vegetable farm. Mdunge, winner in the small-scale grower category, owned a small wattle plantation in Greytown and it is here where she learned to be a farm labourer, supervisor and farm manager. She obtained the farm, Essenwood, from her late husband, who, together with 10 family members applied for a Settlement & Production Land Acquisition grant. The grant paid for the deposit on the farm and the balance was raised through a commercial bank. She has converted her low-lying wattle compartment into a frost-tolerant species and is today reaping the benefits of this.
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