



# Boost for KZN farms

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24/04/2024

Premier Dube-Ncube said through this initiative the provincial government seeks to bring about an agricultural revolution, and economic transformation while ensuring food security.



***KZN Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube led the provincial launch of the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme in Richmond recently. Photo: Supplied***

An opportunity to grow businesses into sustainable commercial ventures has been afforded to farmers through a holistic integrated programme that will provide mechanisation, infrastructure, and sector expertise.

KZN Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube (pictured) led the provincial launch of the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme in Richmond recently, announcing that 1 128 tractors worth R17 million and other implements will be distributed to all districts.



During the launch, Dube-Ncube and KZN Department Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) minister Super Zuma handed over ownership certificates to a number of community projects.

Dube-Ncube said through this initiative the provincial government seeks to bring about an agricultural revolution, and economic transformation while ensuring food security.

Additional mentorship and mechanisation training will be provided for community projects that are experiencing challenges in their farming activities to ensure self-sufficiency.

The premier emphasised that food security is a priority for the province.

“We remain committed to opening the market for our farmers. We want our farmers to be game changers of the market. “

“We want [these farmers] to supply major markets and eventually cross borders. We are ready to assist them to meet any criteria hence we have also officially handed over a cheque and equipment to SyaJay Agricultural Services, a project we are most proud of,” said Dube-Ncube.

SyaJay Agricultural Services, a 100% black-owned business, was recently approved for a total funding of R5, 6 million from the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA). CEO of SyaJay Agricultural Services Sya Ngcobo said that besides being a profitable business, their vision is to create an information hub for the industry.

He said they also want to function as a demonstration site where small-scale farmers could sharpen their skills and gain crucial sectoral knowledge.

“In many instances, you find that some farmers struggle once they have penetrated the market.

“We want to teach our farmers and give them an opportunity to come and see how it is done from the work we will be doing,” said Ngcobo.