

Indigent farmers get seeds, livestock

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THE office of the MEC for agriculture and rural development in KwaZulu-Natal has started distributing seeds and livestock to communities around the province preparing for the planting season.

The department has started distributing maize and soya bean seeds to poor farmers because it was an appropriate season to plant these due to the nature of the climate and soil in the province.

The department's spokesperson, Khaye Nkwanyana said they were finalising a contract for tractor distribution.

"Before the end of this week tractors will be distributed across the province to assist with ploughing.

"We are pushing for one house one hectare so that all people can have at least a hectare to plant on in order to deal with the issue of food security in

the province," Nkwanyana said.

The department was also working on providing livestock to farmers.

"We will be distributing indigenous chickens to poor households around the province. We will also be launching a programme to distribute indigenous goats in a few weeks to Makhabele area near Nkandla with the intention to help those who are not into planting so that they can participate if they love animals," he said.

The department will give each household 10 indigenous chickens and they will also get six indigenous goats.

"We are encouraging people to go back to basics because indigenous animals are the healthiest," Nkwanyana said. He said the districts that had experienced drought previously were being helped and there was a plan to assist them through drilling boreholes and dams.

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FESTIVE CHEER: Christmas came early for some elderly informal settlement dwellers from eMandanishini when they received new RDP houses in KwaDukuza north of Durban. PICTURE: MLUNGISI MBELE