



the dace

Department:
Agriculture, Conservation
and Environment
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

November/December 2008

Petsema



HOW TO RECYCLE
Household Waste

About the Departmental Awards

Nguni Cattle
Development Project

Vision

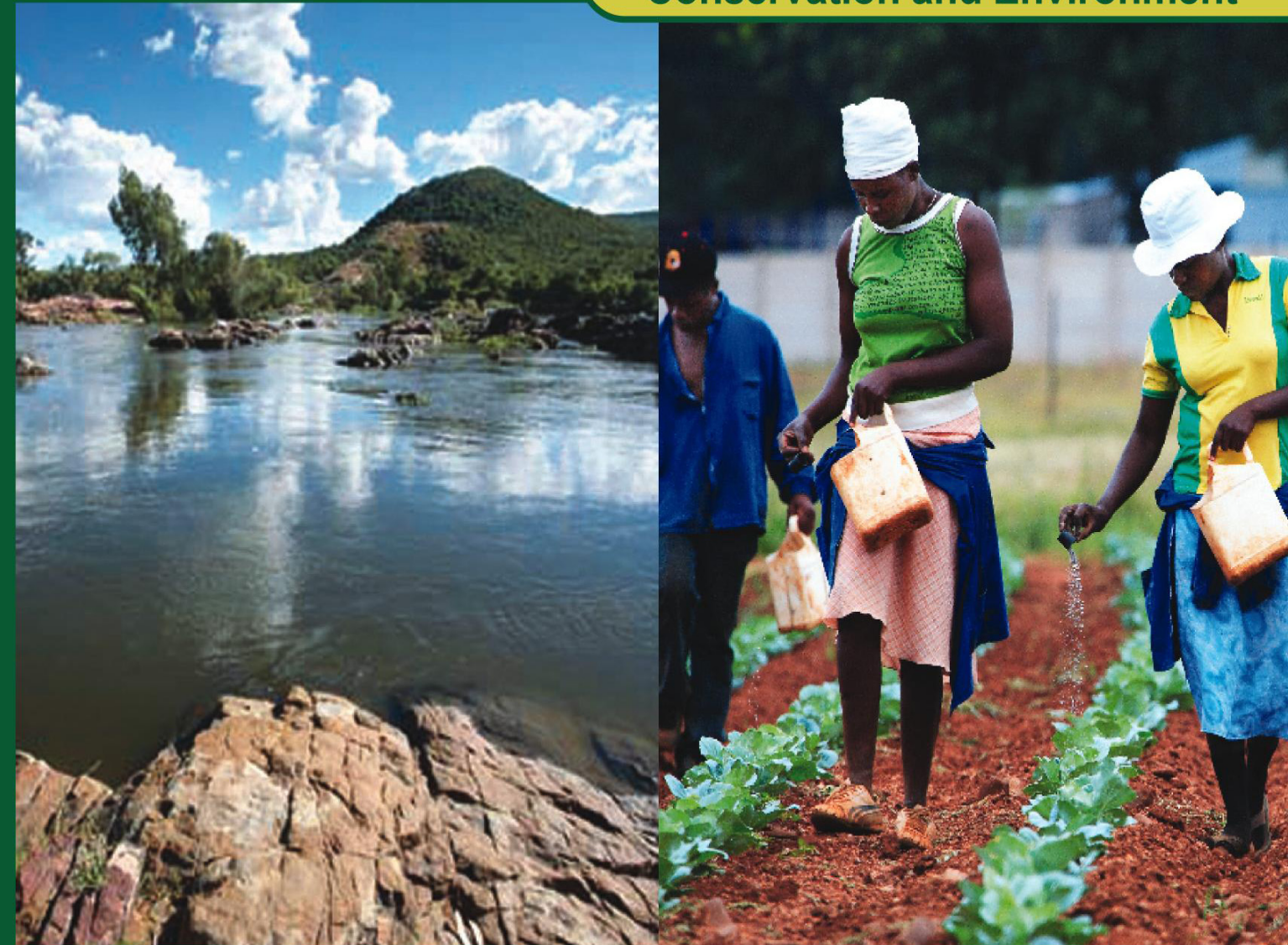
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Mission

To provide a sound Natural Resource Management System contributing to sustainable development for a better life for all



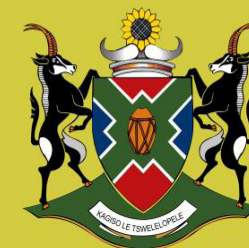
The Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Environment



WE ARE STILL COMMITTED AND CONFIDENT TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD A STRONG AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR.

We will

- Enhance the agricultural potential and environment stability in building prosperous communities
- Strive for excellence in everything that we do
- Strengthen the delivery on development projects by emphasising sustainability



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Editorial

Our dearest readers,

In his Budget Speech presentation this year, MEC Jan Serfontein reaffirmed the 2008/09 government theme as pronounced during the State of the Nation address, and said the DACE is on deck to speed up service delivery as mandated.

He made a number of commitments aimed at ensuring that this Department contributes immensely to the Provincial and National Strategy of halving poverty by 2014.

With this publication, the Department wants to showcase progress on the activities as pronounced and inform our clients about the different initiatives or programmes that may be of good help to them.

For example in this edition, readers in the environment industry will get tips on how recycling can be of beneficial to them. Similarly, readers will learn more about Heritage Sites and what their significance is.

Of great importance to this publication is information on the Department’s approach to maintaining the relationship with our stakeholders. This the department does by acknowledging their excellent performance in the re-production of natural resources.

The next edition of this publication will be issued in the first quarter of the next financial year, and it is the Department’s believe that as we meet in the New Year, we will meet to reaffirm our common mandate of ensuring that the people of North West and the country are continually fed, and that the sector’s contribution towards the provincial economy continues to occupy a higher position. Our Creator has not given us a longing to do what we have no ability to do.

Your comments and inputs are mostly welcome should you wish to do so, and enjoy reading this newsletter.

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MEC's Foreword

Dear stakeholders

This being the first edition of our medium of interaction with our stakeholders in this financial year, I hope that you will find it interesting and touching on the nerve centre of our business in the above sectors. A special word of thanks goes to the editorial team and management of the Department in general for the diligent work they did in the art of putting pen to paper in the production of this publication.

I wish to applaud the multitudes of our leaders in their different capacities in the agricultural sector, who heeded a call by the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Mme Lulama Xingwana, to participate in the recently held Agricultural Summit, which was meant to explore lasting solutions to the problems afflicting our sector. Your contributions towards a national debate were enriching and I remain confident that the exercise we engaged in will bear fruit in the medium to long term future.

On the same terrain, allow me to once again use this medium to express our words of gratitude to the esteemed captains of our commerce and industry, custodians of our national resources, who saw it fit to join hands with the Department in the project geared towards re-introducing the Nguni cattle farming to the province. The contribution of the IDC and North West University in the project cannot be over-emphasised.

This breed of cattle has multiple economic advantages, chiefly being its resistance to drought and other negative natural factors like poor grazing conditions. The roll-out of the programme continues in this financial year with the distribution of the Nguni cattle to farmers across a broad spectrum of



the province's districts.

Our recognition of the role of Women in food production continues with the same venom displayed by the Department in the preceding 10 years, and we have accordingly celebrated the Female Farmer of the Year Awards in Potchefstroom in the August month of women.

I wish to take this opportunity to salute all our women participants in this year's event, but most importantly our Female Farmer of the Year 2008, Mme Phindi Abdullah, and Mme Tlamelo Mfaladi, our provincial winner in the category of informal markets, who proceeded to make the province proud by scooping the national award in the same category of informal markets.

Their achievements represent recognition of the determined spirit of our women farmers in the North West Province, and gives creative meaning to the famous expression that reads: "wa thinthi umfazi, wa thinthi umbokodo".

The Department has just celebrated the World Food Day in Disaneng in the Local Municipality of Ratlou. The Premier of the Province, Mme Edna Molewa managed to grace the occasion with us. We wish to express our unreserved thanks to all distinguished men and women of our province, who have managed to join hands with the Department and participate in initiatives which seek to heighten public awareness of the world food problem that confronts the world in which we live today.

As the Hon Premier said when delivering her speech, the problem of food security presents a challenge, though insurmountable, for us all to unite in action and act in unity and solidarity in the struggle to push back the frontiers of hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

This event came against the backdrop of the World Environment Day celebrations that we held in June, whose main aim was to encourage people to jealously guard the environment in which they live and to promote awareness that communities play a central role in changing attitudes towards environmental issues.

The event was celebrated with the community of Dr Segomotsi Ruth Mompoti District Municipality in Schweizer Reneke, Mamusa Local Municipality.

We are hoping that members of our communities will understand the effect of environmental degradation on our lives and plants and animals, and to correspondingly act in ways that limit pollution of our environment, and in the process ensuring that our agricultural food production initiative is not unduly compromised.

Game farmers will recall that the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism promulgated the Threatened or Protected Species regulations last year. The implementation process was however paused due to concerns raised by everybody

involved in the industry, especially in the North West. Following extensive deliberations on the subject, implementation was approved for the 01st February this year.

The process was for some reasons, delayed in the province, but it is now all systems go. Incompliant farmers are bound to now face the strict hand of the law. We are giving them a directive to have migrated to full compliance with the provisions of the TOPS regulations by no later than the 02nd of December 2008. I believe that the recent visit by Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi and the discussions around this subject have allayed fears that the industry is geared for demise.

As this is the penultimate year of the current political term, and as we ponder the long and thorny route that we have to traverse in order to reach the milestone commitment that we made to reduce unemployment and poverty by half in 2014, we do so proud of the ground we have covered thus far, with an acknowledgement that there is ample room for improvement.

Let us all join hands in the important task of building a vibrant agricultural and conservation sectors to give creative meaning to the expression "Business Unusual." With all our hands on deck we shall strive to ensure that agriculture continues to occupy its centre stage in the task of building the economy of the province and that our environment is conserved for posterity.

The DACE wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year.

I thank you

Jan Serfontein
MEC DACE

“A RE DIRISENG MATSOGO A RONA

Seno e nnile molaetsa-mogolo go tswa go tonakgolo ya profense ya Bokone Bophirima, mme Edna Molewa, ka motsi o a neng a bua le baagi ba motse wa Disaneng ka fa ntlenyana ga Mafikeng. Kopo eno e tlhagile ka motsi o puso ya profense e neng e ikamanya le ditiragalo tsa lefatshe tsa go supa maikaelelo a go netefatsa fa seemo sa tla mo nageng le lefatshe ka bophara se fokotsa le go somarela dijo tse di leng teng ga jaana.

Ntlha eno gape e tsweletse go buiwa ke Tona ya lefapha la Temothuo le merero ya mafatshe mme Lulu Xingwana yo a reng, re tshwanetse go netefatsa fa re dirisa mpho e re e filweng ke Modimo e leng lefatshe, mme re leme le go itshedisa ka lona.

Ngwaga mongwe le mongwe, ka kgwedi ya Diphlane, lefatshe le a tshwaragana, mme go ketekiwa letsatsi la lefatshe la dijo le ka lona go tlhagiswang maano aa farologaneng a go lwantsha tla. Moono wa monongwaga o ne o le ka ga dikgwetlho tse di amanang le seemo sa ga jaana sa phetogo ya loapi – Climate Change. Tonakgolo o kopile baagi ba profense go tsaya tsiya dikgakololo tse di ka phetogo ya maemo a bosa gonne ditlamorago tsa teng di tlele go ama thata matshelo a botlhe mo isagong.

“Rotlhe re a bona gore maemo a loapi a fetogile thata. Dipula ga di sa tlhole di na ka nako e re itseng di tshwanetse go na ka yona, diphefo di tla ka nako nngwe le nngwe, gammogo le mogote oo aparetseng naga. Jaaka baitseanape ba tlhalosa, seemo seno se tlhotlheletswa thata ke phetogo ya loapi. Mme re le baagi re na le ka tsela e re tlhotlheletsang maemo ano ka gona.

Sekai, re tsweletse go epa le go ntsha ditlhare tse di leng mosola mo matshelong a rona, re tsweletse go latlhela matlakala gongwe le gongwe, go akaretsa le go kgotlhela metsi aa mo matamong le dinoka tsa rona. Re le kopa gore le seke la tlhola le dira jalo”, ga rialo tonakgolo Molewa. Molewa a re fa re ka tlhokomela naga ya rona ka tsela ee maleba, re ka kgona go fokotsa ditlamorago tse di masisi tsa phetogo ya loapi.

Fa a tlaleletsa dintlha tsa phetogo ya maemo a loapi, mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la temothuo, tshomarelo ya tlhago le tikologo mo Bokone Bophirima, rre Jan Serfontein a re go na thari ga pula ya ntlha go ama thata jalo le ntsho-dikuno ya dijo tse di jaaka mmidi. Serfontein a re ka ntlha ya seno, lefapha la gagwe le rwele maikarabelo a go netefatsa fa baagi ba nna le dijo. “Ke ka moo re tsweletseng ka lenaane la Letsema la Mantsha-tlala, le le kobiseditsweng kwa go thuseng baagi ka dipeo tsa go itshomololela ditshingwana tsa merogo ga mmogo le kgodiso

ya diruiwa tse di jaaka dikoko le dikolobe”.

“
A re nne le seabe
mo ntweng
kgatlhanong le
tlhokego ya dijo”
”



Morutwana wa sekolo-potlana sa kwa Disaneng, a tlhalosetsa Tonakgolo Molewa gore peo e jalwa jang.



Bangwe ba baagi ba ba amogetseng disetefikeiti le didiriswa tsa temo



Baagi ba motse wa Disaneng ba tlele moletlong wa letsatsi la lefatshe la dijo ka makatlaa-namane.

SKILLS PROGRAMME WILL REAP BENEFIT FOR EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS

The drive for the improvement and development of the agricultural sector was on top of the agenda at the third and annual Provincial Agricultural Extension Conference that was recently held in Parys.

The conference was aimed at enhancing better delivery of services for people in this province and was attended by amongst others agricultural extension professionals, representatives from MANSTRATA, National Department of Agriculture, NWAUFU, North West University and Municipalities.

Addressing the conference, Mr Mosweu Mogotlhe, Head of Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment challenged extension officers to look back and reflect on what contribution they have made to improve the life of the beneficiaries.

“Everybody in the country is concerned about extension work. We have however agreed as a Department that if we are to move extension to the next level, we need to train them. We are to date pleased by the progress registered in as far as training of extension officers is concerned. Our partnership with credible higher learning institutions like North West University and the University of Pretoria has yielded good results, in that more than 151 extension officers have been trained on advanced extension and project management”, explained Mogotlhe.

HOD further urged extension officers to take pride in their work by changing their attitude and commit themselves to proudly serving the North West farming community.

A formal award ceremony was part of the highlights of the conference during which extension professionals were acknowledged for their best practice in this field.

Other prizes were awarded to best extension staff, best supporting sub-directorate, economist, management supported district, North West University and an honor in memory of the late Mr Adriaan Masigo, who was Director responsible for Farmer Support and Development directorate.

Extension officers pledged to be loyal and committed to their work to attain the Departmental strategic objective of upholding the integrity of their profession.

To conclude the conference, an annual general meeting was held on the last day where a report was tabled by the out going executive committee.

The newly elected committee is as follows:

- Chairperson: Mr K. Dipudi,
- Deputy Chairperson: Mr A. Sefenyatso,
- Secretary: Ms T. Gaompotse,
- Deputy Secretary: Mr D. Thubisi
- Organizer: Ms P. Sentsho



1. Paying attention - Extension officers who attended the 3rd Annual Extension Conference
2. Mr Mosweu Mogotlhe presenting a certificate to Mr Alfred Mallo from Schweizer Reneke. The certificates were for short courses attended at NW University.
3. Mr Thabang Tseladimitloa presenting Mr Solly Molebalo with an award for best practice in the field of extension



Female Farmer of the Year Awards



North West 2008 Female farmer of the year, Ms Phindi Abdullah flanked by senior government officials.

Bojanala district has for the third time in succession, scooped the Provincial Female Farmer of the Year award. The 2008 award was won by Khupuka Salgap Poultry of Onverwacht farm near Rustenburg.

Two other projects, Tlamelo Vegetables and Rankelenyane Vegetables, were chosen ahead of other agricultural projects run by dedicated women as the best agricultural projects in the National Market, Informal Market and Household Use categories respectively.

Khupuka Salgap was started in 1996 and produces 220 000 birds per cycle. It is led by a woman with passion in poultry production, Phindi Abdullah. She left her work and went back to school to learn more about animal health to

arm herself with advanced knowledge in farming.

Phindi subscribes to good farming practices and this is evident in the less than standard mortality rate. She contributes greatly to community development by training aspirant chicken farmers and assisting them to interact with the National Poultry Structures.

The most important among the project's achievements, is the purchasing and transfer of farm ownership to the beneficiaries. The project has created 8 permanent and 20 seasonal workers and is a Member of Poultry SA. It has developed a market among the community and national suppliers.

Tlamelo Mfaladi who won both the Informal Market and the Young Aspirant Female Farmer, started Tlamelo's organic vegetable production in 2007 after taking over from her father who was farming occasionally in Mogosane village outside Mafikeng. She farms on a 2ha plot on her grandfather's backyard.

Her market is derived from the community and the neighbouring villages. 10 people from the community benefit as full time employees while 4 are on part time basis.

Thabea Modise who scooped the Household Use award, hails from Rankelenyane village, also in the Bojanala district. She started her vegetable production enterprise with a myriad of vegetables and citrus in 2005. The project was started on a half ha and subsequently increased to 1 ha a year later. Thabea has demonstrated innovation by using home made tunnels for watering purposes. She also produces her own seedlings and sells her produce to the community and business in her area.

"Since its inception in 1999," says MEC Jan Serfontein "the competition has grown in stature in its noble intention of empowering women in agriculture by recognizing their contributions and making them more visible. This initiative highlights the need to promote agriculture, particularly Food Security and advance further efforts of creating employment and empower women".

"Some of the achievements derived from winning the competition so far have been the exposure enjoyed by these women. The competition has also brought them together to share ideas in their pursuance to turn things around for the better", says Serfontein.

"By winning the competition", continues Serfontein, "they have become ambassadors where they inspire and motivate under privileged people to get involved in agriculture, run sustainable enterprises and create job opportunities for women and youth".

The Department urge female farmers to never break the chain which was established about ten years ago, and rather advocate for more women participation in the field of Agriculture. "Particularly, our attention is on youth and women development.

The Department is committed to supporting their initiatives and urge them to claim their space in this sector" urged MEC Serfontein.



Mr Mosweu Mogotlhe presenting Ms Thabea Modise with a cheque. Modise won the Provincial Household Use category.



Ms Tlamelo Mfaladi, best Informal Market and Young Aspirant female farmer. She is with Mr Final Kgodumo of Youth Commission and Mr Themba Gwabeni of Dr Modiri Molema district municipality.



“Please adhere to the laws that regulate the industry”

Deputy Minister for the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi has allayed fears among the lion breeders in the North West Province that the industry is geared for demise. Mabudafhasi had a meeting with lion breeders in Doornkop near Lichtenburg as part of her environmental road show in the provinces. During the road shows, Deputy Minister interacted with different communities on issues relating to the environment.

This uncertainty among farmers emanates from the implementation of the new Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations in February this year which amongst other provisions, seek to regulate the hunting of large predators, particularly lions in the province.

The regulations provide for a 24 month period of free roaming for predators before they can be hunted. They were published in terms of the Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004.

Lion breeders in the province are uncertain about growing and expanding their business and have expressed concerns on how sustainability will be guaranteed as a result of the implementation of TOPS.

The Deputy Minister assured the farmers that government appreciates the existence of the industry and that there is no way the industry will be closed since it forms part of the marketing tool and plays a key role in enhancing and promoting tourism in the country. She also urged the farmers to feel free and meet with government to discuss challenges affecting them in an effort to strengthen the industry.

“Through regular interaction and consultation with all affected stakeholders on these and other issues, we can clear out our act and found one another in the quest to see the industry growing,” Mabudafhasi said.

Although the Deputy Minister expressed sympathy and acknowledged the resolve of the farmers in growing the industry, she explicitly told farmers that government is not going to compromise on the requirements of keeping lions in the province. She advised farmers to adhere to the laws that regulate the industry as in any other institution.



This is apparent in the departmental efforts to regularly monitor the compliance of farmers with the set regulations of keeping lions such as the requirement to obtain permits, have electrified perimeter fencing of hunting and lion keeping areas, have large, well fenced enclosures and large tracks of land for the roaming of animals.

Expressing their gratitude in hosting the Deputy Minister, Carel van Heerden, chairperson of the South African Predator Breeders Association speaking on behalf of the farmers said they appreciated the visit and the forging of relationship was paramount in working towards a solution.

“We are more than ready to contribute to the development of the industry as there are more positives spin offs from the industry where more are destined to benefit,” Van Heerden concluded.

MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment in the province, Mr Jan Serfontein says he pleads with all affected in the industry to have migrated to full compliance with the provisions of TOPS by no later than 2nd December 2008, to avoid legal actions.



Setlhophisa se e neng e le karolo ya letsholo la go phepafatsa toropo ya Mafikeng. Ba bonala fano ba na le mokhuduthamaga Jan Serfontein.

A re phepafatseng naga ya rona

Ene e le mo mosong, moragonyana fela ga tlhabo ya letsatsi, fa batlhankedi ba puso le mmasepala wa selegae wa Mafikeng, maloko a mekgatlho ya baithaopi go tswa mo metseng ee mabapi le Mafikeng, ba ne ba ikgorosa le go kokoana kwa toropong ya Mafikeng, ba apere dikipa tsa mmala wa serolwana ebile ba tshwere dipolasitiki tse di tsenyang matlakala.

Ka boeteledipele jwa ga mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la Temothuo, Tshomarelo ya Tlhago le Tikologo rre Jan Serfontein, batlhankedi bano ba ne ba kokoanetse go phepafatsa mafelo aa tlhokang go phepafatswa ebile a itsege ka leswe mo toropong eno. Go ne go bonala fela maikaelelo le matlhagatlhaga mo matlhong a bone, ebile go bonala gore ba batla go romela molaetsa go botlhe ba ba nang le seabe mo go lwesefatseng toropo le mafelo otlhe.

Porojeke eno ke karolo ya lenaane la lefapha la bosetshaba la Merero ya Tikologo le Bojanala e maikaelelo a yona e leng go ruta baagi ka botlhokwa jwa go tshola tikologo e le phepa.

Matlakala a ne a tsennngwa mo dipolasetiking tse di farologaneng ka mmala, seno e le go a farologanya, sekai, dipampiri di tsennngwa mo go ya mmala o sele, dipolasetiki di tsennngwa go sele, fela jalo le ka dibotlolo. Seno go ya ka mokhuduthamaga Serfontein, ke go dira gore fa matlakala ano a ya go diriswa sesha (recycle) go se ke ga nna le matsapa

Mokhudumaga a re seno gape ke kgakololo go baagi ba ba eletsang go kokoanya matlakala e ka nna dipampiri kgotsa dibotlolo, gore ba itse gore ba tshwanetse go di farologanya jang. “Fa moagi a kokoanya dibotlolo, ga a tshwanela gape go kokoanya tse di farologaneng ka mmala le ka boima. Ditlamo tse di dirisang matlakala ano ka go a ntshwafatsa, ga di amogele matsapa ano fa ele gore go kopakopane”, ga rialo Mokhuduthamaga.

Rre Serfontein a re puso e solofela gore ka letsholo leno, baagi ba tla rotloetsega gore ba ipele ka mafelo a bona a tshwana le toropo eno, mme ba nne kgatlhanong le go latlhelwa ga matlakala gongwe le gongwe.

Mokhuduthamaga Serfontein o ne gape a buisana le barekisi ba mo mebileng, a ba gakolola le go ba tlhalosetsa ka botlhokwa jwa tikologo ee phepa. O ne gape a neela barekisi bano dipolasitiki tsa matlakala le go ba kopa gore ba netefatse fa toropo le mafelo a ba rekisetsang mo go ona a dula a le phepa.

“Puso e itumelela gape le tshegetso ee boneng go tswa mo mekgatlhong ee farologaneng ya baagi ga mmogo le magosi a rona. Seno ke sesupo sa gore fa re ka tshwaragana, ra nna le mogopolo o le nosi, re ka fitlhelela maikaelelo a rona a go nna le tikologo e phepa ka bophara”, Serfontein a konosetsa jalo.

Matlakala aa neng a kokoanngwa ka letsatsi leno, a ne a rwalwa ka lori ya matlakala ya mmasepala, mme a ya go tshelwa kwa lefelong la matlakala – (dumping site).

How to Recycle Household Waste

Recycling is the reprocessing of materials into new products. Recycling generally prevents the waste of potentially useful materials, conserves our environment, and reduces the consumption of raw materials and energy usage.

Recycling is a key concept of modern waste management and is the third component of the waste hierarchy.

Recyclable materials, also called “recyclables”, may originate from a wide range of sources including households and industries.

They include glass, paper, iron, textiles and plastics.

Recyclables must be sorted and separated into material types. Contamination of the recyclables with other materials must be prevented to increase the value and facilitate easier reprocessing for the ultimate recycling facility.

How to Recycle Household Waste

a. Rinse

Wash and dry any food and beverage containers such as wine bottles, food tins and beer cans.

b. Separate Recyclables

Don’t throw your recyclable materials into the dustbin thinking you’ll fish them out later. Rather have a separate bin (or bag) each for paper, glass, metal and plastic and throw the waste directly in it.

c. Drop off

When your glass, paper, metal and plastic bags are full, drop them off at the Recycling Depot that’s closest to you. Each depot has its own system for drop-offs: some depots have demarcated areas for certain materials, while others have people on site to help you sort your waste.

Recycling Paper and Cardboard

The following types of paper can be recycled:

- White office paper
- Magazines and books (glossy magazines and inserts printed on glossy paper are recyclable, as long as nothing is laminated)
- Newspaper
- Corrugated cardboard

The following may not be recycled

- NO laminated or waxy paper (found in boxes used for tomatoes/ bananas)
- NO waxy paper ream wrappers
- NO tetra packs (fruit juice and milk containers made out of paper, but are lined with foil and plastic)
- NO carbon paper
- NO stickers

Recycling Glass

The following glass can be recycled:

- Wine bottles
- Food jars (used for jam, mayonnaise, tomato sauce etc)
- Light bulbs, sheet glass, mirrors and Pyrex can be recycled, but should be stored separately as they are made of a different kind of glass

Note: Rinse out and dry bottles containing the remains of foodstuffs and beverages. You can leave paper labels on the glass.

Littering is an offence - warned authorities



Tons of litter was collected and disposed of by the local community as part of the clean up campaign under the supervision of the environment personnel at Ipelegeng Township just outside Schweizer Reneke in Dr Ruth Mompati District.

The realization that the Mamusa community was faced with the waste accumulation problem prompted the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment to come up with initiatives aimed at assisting the community to identify a role that they can play in ensuring the participation of youth in environmental campaigns.

It was also an attempt by the department to involve the local community and give a human face to environmental issues through a clean-up campaign and letting the community chose and adopt an area to keep it as litter free as possible.

This was the focus on this year’s World Environment week which the department commemorated in partnership with Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District municipality, local municipalities, government departments and the local community.

World Environment Day which is celebrated each year on the 5th of June was approved by the United Nations as one of the means at stimulating world wide awareness of the need to preserve the environment for future generations.

This year’s theme “All hands on deck: Towards a low carbon economy” which emanates from the challenge of climate change and its threats to humanity, focuses on the solutions and the opportunities for countries, companies and communities to “Kick the habit” and de-carbonize their economies and life-styles.

Speaking on behalf of the MEC Jan Serfontein, Mamusa mayor, Cllr K Tshipelo said one of the many environmental challenges faced by the community and as a department is the solid waste generation and its disposal. Also the lack of information, knowledge and skill were impediments to proper environmental management. All activities for Environment week were designed to try and fill this void.

Cllr Tshipelo said there is a need to recognize the critical role that people can play in changing the landscape of our environment. He said developed and developing countries stand to benefit environmentally, economically and socially from more efficient low-carbon technologies and strategies.

MEC Jan Serfontein applauded the Mamusa community for the support demonstrated in the fight against littering. “We urge them to maintain the standard and make their township one of the cleanest areas in the province. I encourage them to form groups that will on a regular basis assess the township’s state of cleanliness and seek support from the municipality. By so doing, Ipeleng township will one day be on the national map as one of the cleanest areas in the North West province”, said Serfontein.



Wetland



Did you know?

Wetland is a collective term used to describe land where an excess of water (i.e waterlogging) is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil and the types of plants and animals living at the soil surface. The areas are sometimes or always covered by shallow water or have saturated soil where plants adapted for life in wet conditions usually grow. Wetlands interface between land and water.

Animal Health Technicians are professionals in their own right

About 200 delegates who are members of the National Association for the Animal Health Technicians recently converged in the North West for a two day congress of the Animal Health Technicians. The congress is held biannually and rotates among provinces in the country and this year was North West's turn to host the congress.

- The main aims of the congress among others are to:
- Promote the profession of the Animal Health Technicians
 - To promote cooperation between technicians and other relevant stakeholders
 - To strive for maintenance of good conduct and discipline
 - To share experiences with other provinces with regard to daily activities

Speaking at the congress, Dr Rebone Moerane who is the President of the South African Veterinary Council said the time has come to consciously elevate the profession to a higher level and recognize Animal Health Technicians as professionals on their own right.

Dr Moerane further said it is also convenient to recognize animal health as distinctive and stop operating in isolation from other disciplines bearing in mind that more focus is being put on veterinary



Dr Poncho Mokaila, Chief Director for Agricultural Services welcoming the delegates

service which currently enjoys the attention. "Animal health and animal welfare are inseparable for effective disease control".

Outlining the role of AHT in the integrated service delivery, Mr T.T. Yanta from the Eastern Cape told delegates that veterinary services was an unknown phenomenon for many years and that not much was said about it. But it has evolved over the years and is now part and parcel of animal health.

"AHT should now be regarded as an agent of change and should be exploited as a tool to enhance service delivery. We should further identify partners in integrating service delivery among our stakeholders and strive for an integrated approach. All programmes ought to be integrated such as extension and municipality's IDP programmes," said Yanta

Yanta said though government offers animal health free of charge the association is disappointed at stock farmers who do not take AHT seriously by not making the most of the services as offered by the veterinary services.

The congress ended with the holding of an Annual General Meeting where all future plans were discussed and the next host of the congress which will be in 2010, is Gauteng Province.



Some of the officials and professionals who attended the AHT congress

MEC Serfontein urges College students to study harder



Making his point clear; one of the people who attended a meeting called by MEC Serfontein at Potchefstroom College of Agriculture

MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment Jan Serfontein recently met with parents of students of the Potchesfroom College of Agriculture to ensure that students continue with their studies and that parents meet their financial and other obligations to enable the college to function optimally.

This is consequent to concerns raised by the College management which relates to students' tuition debt that is creating administration problems and the need for the parents to settle their children's debt.

The MEC paid gratitude for those parents who continue paying for their children's studies and said his department would bend backwards to support and accommodate those who are willing to pay but cannot afford the fees due to their financial positions.

"These are grand parents, pensioners and parents from rural areas who are keen to see their children make something out of their lives. Arrangements will be made between these parents and the college management" promised Serfontein.

He also urged students to work harder for best results as this will stand them in good stead since only best student have prospects of being employed by companies who tend to focus at good returns by investing on best students.

The college is the largest in South Africa according to the principal Richard Sarge, and it caters for student from different backgrounds and cultures. The curriculum includes mixed farming and this is good preparation for students for whatever event they might encounter later on in their working life.

This College will be 100 years old next year and plans for this centenary celebration are underway.



Did you know?

Nguni cattle is an indigenous breed that can thrive under divergent management systems, while maintaining a high level of fertility.

Indigenous breed re-introduced in the province



Committing herself to ensuring that her Nguni cattle will remain pure - Ms Tryphina Penyenye.

The Nguni Cattle Development pilot Project launched in 2006 is on track and so far 360 cattle (23 heifers and 1 bull X 15) have been distributed to 15 beneficiaries throughout the province. Beneficiaries went through selection process and exceeded all expectations by meeting all criteria set.

The project aimed at reintroducing the Nguni cattle breed in the province, is a partnership of the department with Industrial Development Corporation and the North West University (Mafikeng Campus).

According to Andrew Mathe, project manager in the province who is responsible for implementing the agreement of the board of trustees, the Nguni cattle have been chosen specifically because they are an indigenous breed and can thrive under difficult conditions. They are low to maintain because of their low cost input, are reputed to have high fertility rates and can withstand adverse conditions and diseases such as tick borne diseases than other cattle.

The project model which has also been introduced in other provinces such as Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal is different in the North West Province in that cattle are initially being handed directly to a small number of people as pilot project for observation instead to communal farmers.

The project is now on its 2nd phase and during the past 2 years, 12 individuals and groups have benefited from this project. Beneficiaries were each awarded 23 heifers and 1 bull. The 3rd phase is at an advanced stage and already potential participants have been identified.

Ms Tryphina Penyenye is one of the first four farmers in the province and the only female to benefit from the project. She

and her husband, who is the project manager, are passionate about farming and their experience span is more than twenty years.

Penyenye says she became keen in this pilot project after Mr Mohajane of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) introduced the concept to them in a meeting he held with local farmers. After meeting the set criteria to participate in the project it has since been all systems go for her.

"Among the criteria we had to meet are that sufficient land to accommodate livestock numbers at recommended rates should be available, participants should include women and youth, livestock must be managed in a controlled environment and commitment to the project must be proved", says Penyenye.

Mr Mathe says although there are splashes of the breed that still roam our villages, they are not recognized as pure. "Incidentally it is part of the conditions of the contract that they remain pure. To maintain their purity, they must be grazed in a fenced camp where they do not mix with other cattle and are only allowed a Nguni bull. Other conditions of the contract are that the beneficiaries may not sell trade or slaughter the cattle", explained Mathe.

"Since she took delivery of the cattle in March 2007, Ms Penyenye has played her role very well and there has been significant progress. Some of the heifers have calved and the cattle are in good condition", says Mathe.

Ms Penyenye attributes her success to the commitment she has shown in taking good care of the cattle and following the stipulated programme of dipping after three months and deworming as designed by the local veterinarian. There is also a weekly stock inspection.

Ms Penyenye says she is confident that she will meet the set conditions of the contract and return within the stipulated five years, the loaned number of cattle.

"I urge women who have passion for farming to never underestimate their potential and submit their application since this is a life-time opportunity. I am confident that I am capable of meeting the set conditions and after five years, a reasonable difference will be seen in my farm", concluded Ms Tryphina Penyenye.

THE ABATTOIR HYGIENE Rating Scheme Awards



Ms Adel Venter who won the Poultry category is seen here with Dr Poncho Mokaila – Chief Director for Agricultural Services

As part of the Department's strategy to acknowledge its stakeholders who continue to uphold and support the Department's goals, abattoirs which implemented the Meat Safety Act 40 of 2000, were for the first time rewarded for their best performance in the Abattoir Hygiene Rating Scheme.

The purpose of this scheme is to standardize and promote compliance with the Meat Safety Act (Act 40 of 2000) and its regulations.

The scheme also ensures that abattoirs comply with the requirements as set out in the Act; by ensuring that all abattoirs are subjected to the Hygiene Assessment System (HAS) inspectors. This encourages competition among abattoirs, thus enhancing better performance and compliance. It also assists to improve and maintain safety standards and quality and provides value for money for the consumer.

Dr Poncho Mokaila, Chief Director for Agricultural Support Services says that before beginning this project, they consulted widely with other stakeholders both within and outside of the province.

Outlining the scoring process, Dr Mokaila says the Abattoir Hygiene Rating Scheme is conducted at all abattoirs in the North West and the Hygiene Assessment System was used as a tool to inspect abattoirs as prescribed by the act. "The assessment is done on all specified abattoirs over three months intervals and the scores are then tallied for the four quarters and the highest scores is the winner".

"The awarding ceremony is an important event in the Veterinary Public Health calendar. Though the event was held for the first time in the North West, the intention is to make it bigger" reassures Dr Mokaila.

Adel Venter, Group Quality Manager of Supreme Poultry in Tigane who won in the poultry category, said the win came as a surprise. "It shows that there are people out there who appreciate what we do. I thank everybody in the team for making this a reality and this shows that working together works". The abattoir supplies national outlets and exports to the neighbouring countries.

The Red Meat category was won by Marico Meats from Rustenburg. The Manager, Wim Boshoff said that it is encouraging realising that their efforts for working hard are being recognised and that it augurs well for the official recognition bestowed upon them by the department. They supply chain stores, individuals, butcheries, locally and nationally.

"The Department trusts that with these acknowledgement initiatives, others involved in the industry will tighten their belts and play by the rule of law. This we hope will eradicate cases of non-compliance in as far as the running of abattoirs is concerned. We have also as a Department, incorporated the category of best performing abattoir in the annual Departmental awards which are also earmarked at rewarding best performance in the entire sector", concluded Dr Poncho Mokaila, Chief Director for Agricultural Services.

Maitlamo a balemi le barui ba diphologolo aa tlotlomadiwa

Lefapha la Temothuo, Tshomarelo ya tlhago le Tikologo le tswela go tlotlomatsa balemi ba mo profenseng, ba ba tswelatseng go supa lerato le boineelo mo mererong ya temothuo le tshomarelo ya tlhago. Lenaane la go akgola balemi bano le simolotse ngongola, mme balemi ba ba farologaneng mo profenseng ba ne ba rotloetswa le go atswiwa.

Go ya ka mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la Temothuo, Tshomarelo ya tlhago le Tikologo, rre Jan Serfontein, go botlhokwa gore lefapha le bontshe kemo-nokeng ya lona go baagi ba ba nang le maikaelelo a go tokafatsa matshelo le seemo sa ikonomi sa mo profenseng.

Ngogola balemi ba le 49 ba ne ba tsenela kgaisano ya molemi yoo gaisitseng mo profenseng, mme ba ne ba tsenetse dikarolo tse di latelang:

- Molemi wa dithoro yoo gaisitseng – Best Crop farmer
- Molemi wa leruo yoo gaisitseng – Best Livestock farmer
- Molemi wa leruo la tse ditlhaga – Best Game farmer
- Molemi wa mosha yoo gaisitseng – Best Young farmer

Monongwaga, lefapha le sweditse go akaretsa madirelo a go tlhabela diruiwa (abattoirs) mo kgaisanong eno, mme go tla tlhophiwa lefelo la go tlhabela diruiwa le le diragaditseng sentle melawana ya madirelo ano.

Lefapha le dirisana le batlhankedi ba ba farologaneng go tswa mo lephateng la poraefete le la puso go tlhophiwa balemi ba ba gaisang. Mo go tseyeng tshwetso ka bafenyi, baatlhodi ba lebelela dintlha tse di akaretsang tse di latelang:

- Tiragatso ee manontlhotlho le fa gone molemirui a sa bona thusa epe go tswa mo lefapheng
- Go diragatsa mekgwa ee kgethegileng ee lebisitseng kwa katlegong ya leruo kgotsa temo
- Go tlholwa ga ditiro
- Go bontsha kemo-nokeng go balemirui ba bangwe

Lefapha le solofela fa dikabo tseno di tla nna gona mo bokhutlong jwa ngwaga o mongwe le o mongwe. Balemirui ba ba nang le kgatlhego ya go tsenela dikabo tseno mo isagong le go bona tshedimosetso go ya pele, ba ka ikgolaganya le dikantoro tsa lefapha mo didikeng tse di farologaneng, mme ba kope go buisana le barulaganyi ba dikabo tseno.



Rodene Lambrecht, morui wa diphologolo tse di tlhaga yo o gaisitseng - 2007



Bafenyi ba kgaisano ya balemi ba ba gaisitseng mo profenseng – 2007



The DACE undertakes to uphold its commitment to youth development in the Agricultural sector. We pledge to turn the dreams of young people into a reality of many prosperous, thriving, wholly owned and managed projects.

PATROL BOATS ACQUIRED

for environmental compliance



Daan Buijs, George Maduenyane and Willem Boshoff - Environmental officers who will work hard to ensure compliance



Environmental non-compliance in the North West province dams will be a thing of the past, after the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment has decided to take delivery of three brand new boats for both environmental management inspectors and the scientific units.

The boats are used to patrol dams in the province for day to day monitoring of environmental non-compliance, environmental laws enforcement and to carry out research.

The three boats were bought at a cost of about R200 000.00. Two of them have been allocated to serve the Mafikeng area in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, whilst the other will work in the Rustenburg / Brits areas at Bojanala District.

"The Department will use these boats in all rivers and dams in the North West Province to control and stop the

illegal netting and other means of illegal fish harvesting currently rife in dams around Molatedi, Taung, Setumo and Lotlamoeng. They will also be utilized to determine quotas for sustainable use of fisheries resources on dams in the North West province and in the coordinated waterbed accounts programme (Cwac)", explained Mr Tshepo Moremi, Chief Director for Environmental Services within the Department.

The boats are the proven Kosi Cat 16 series with twin 50 horse power mercury outboard motors. They are equipped with state of the art technique and equipment levels are very high with full safety equipment, including two-way communications through zaMeg radios.

"Through the acquisition of these boats service delivery will be enhanced and most significantly biodiversity management" added Ms Tharina Boshoff, Director for Biodiversity Management.

Agricultural Education and Training Forum

launched in the North West

Ordinary people who have been excluded from participating in the agricultural sector, stand to benefit from the Agricultural Education and Training strategy formulated as government priority in providing equitable access to participate significantly in the sector. Among these are beneficiaries of the land reform process whom the strategy among other, addresses their training and capacity building.

The AET strategy as formulated is based on a consultative process that involves all AET stakeholders in all provinces. This process includes building capacity and creating AET forums in all provinces in the country. Its main aim is to address the broad needs of the economy and improve agricultural production by providing quality agricultural education and training. It is also meant to address human resources challenges and improve the skills profile in the agricultural sector.

To comply with the National Department of Agriculture's plan on agricultural education, the North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment successfully launched the provincial AET forum. The forum which represents various stakeholders in the agricultural sector in the province consists of Agri Business, NGOs, Farmer Unions, Departments of Education, Labour Seda and AET providers.

According to the Head of Department, Mr Mosweu Mogotlhe, the launch is a culmination of a process that started nationally in 2002, where research was conducted in all the nine provinces to investigate the status of agricultural training in the sector.

"In addition to creating the foundation for formulating the strategy, the process resulted in the greater collaboration between and among the provincial and national agencies concerned with agriculture in general, and with agricultural education and training in particular."

"It also provides a wealth of information about the status of AET in all provinces in terms of needs, providers and outcomes which could be used as a benchmark for implementing AET, explains Mogotlhe."

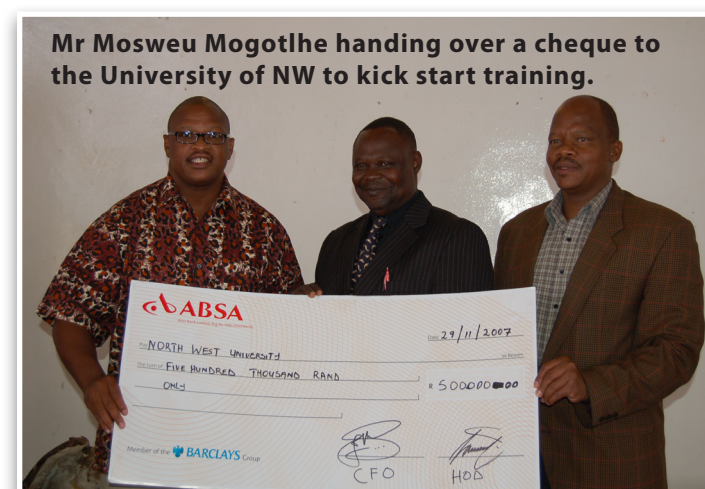
Mr Mogotlhe emphasise that the launch is very important in that it is expected to contribute immensely to the transformation of agriculture in the province. He says the department expect the forum to come up with innovative ideas and contribute resources towards the forum's success.

MEC for Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, Mr Jan Serfontein says the current challenges, advances in technology and the growth of the economy demand an agricultural education and training that would be able to keep up with the trends.

"We also need to focus on the training of prospective beneficiaries from the land reform process in terms of better training strategies as well as provide appropriate mentorship programmes" emphasized Serfontein. Accepting a R500 00,00 cheque on behalf of the North West University to get the extension training programme going, Prof Mbewe said the University has made an undertaking to meet the department's skills development needs and address the skills shortage by providing a relevant service.

"We also hope to develop farmers in partnership with the department and make agriculture as exciting as possible. Our intention is to assume production in relevant commodities and strive to bring the emerging farmer to the level of the commercial farmer", said prof. Mbewe.

The Department will coordinate the administration support of the forum. The work of the forum will be managed by a steering committee appointed on consensus basis from all stakeholders. It is also envisaged that the provincial forums will establish various working groups to address various issues pertinent to the forum.



Agricultural mechanization

No land should lay uncultivated!

Agricultural mechanization is the introduction of machines into agricultural production processes. The main aim here is to create an opportunity for great efficiency by employing less labour, speeding up work and most importantly doing work at a lower cost resulting in increasing profitability.

Agricultural mechanization in the North West province is characterized by a dualistic structure with a development potential. On the one side is the highly developed and mechanized/ capital intensive (semi) commercial farming sector, efficiently supported by agricultural education or training, research and development institution, public / private sector supply and marketing agencies; while another one is for highly small scale farming sector which was in the past (and most still is) neglected as far as effective support service and education, training and research is concerned.

Agricultural Mechanization programme seeks to introduce capacity building / corrective action plans with the main focus on the previously neglected small scale farming sector with the critical goals being to:

- improve food security at household and emerging levels
- increase employment, reduce hard labour and costs and save time
- develop environmentally friendly and economically viable technologies and methods of small scale farming including promotion of improved relevant technology

Previously we had home gardens, school and community gardens in both rural and peri-urban areas where hand tools were used to cultivate the soil. This programme is expected to give advice and technical back – up in the introduction of lighter motorized equipments which are user friendly, cost effective and applicable in small gardens or food plots. It is also responsible for executing the following key functions:

- On farm skills training and demonstrations activities programmed in a manner that addresses priority needs expressed by a particular farming community or individual



- Mechanization planning (the bigger and more expensive the machinery, the more expensive are the errors and mistakes)
- What size equipments of equipments / machinery should be purchased eg tractor, harvester, planter, cultivators, power et
- How often should they be traded?
- When to buy or lease a machine / equipment
- Soil types and topographical differences
- Labour situations on the farm
- Crop production practices in the area
- Climatological factors such as day and growing season lengths
- Optimum and intense utilization of tractors and equipments
- Maintenance management of machines
- Proper use of agricultural machines, and implements
- Viable methods of tractor contracting business

The target clients are:

Household producers
Resource poor farmers

NB – these are individuals / communities who have access to some agricultural land from 0,5 to 20 hectares and 20 to 100 hectares

For more information call (018) 389 5698

Working together works,

affirmed Modimola farm enterprise beneficiaries



attending training at Taletso College in farming practices they were accepted to get the project underway.

Each of them owns a 0, 5 ha farm portion within the project from which each produces vegetables. The farm portion is

fully equipped with small individual farm working equipment such as spades, forks, rakes etc whilst big farm equipment are shared by the entire project.

The project supplies the formal market in the Mafikeng as well as the local community within the surroundings with all kinds of fresh vegetables.

According to team leader Lebogang Mogwera, the project has since its inception benefited the community in the village as 11 permanent jobs have been created and temporary jobs are also available during the peak and harvesting season. His desire like fellow colleagues, Bontlenyana Thekiso and Kabelo Moirapula is to eventually own his farm.

"Since being involved in the project, we have developed a passion for agriculture. We update ourselves with current agricultural practices by attending regular seminars and workshops", says Mogwera. Through their enthusiasm, these young people rarely miss the annual agricultural spectacle in the country, the Nampo agricultural show that is held in Bothaville every year.

Roy Benson of Africon Consultants who manage the project, is the project's mentor. His main role is to assist the beneficiaries with the day to day affairs of the project. He is also responsible for practical training, farm management, leadership and marketing skills.

"When I started in the project in 2006, I found the members young and inexperienced and I have since forged a good working relationship with them. They are keen to learn and through their positive attitude and passion for agriculture, they have made huge strides in the field. They have expanded their knowledge on farm practices, farm management, finance management and budgeting", says Benson

Though the project is managed by Africon, the department is responsible for training and capacity building of the 30 beneficiaries. It also assists with inputs for the project such as seeds, chickens, chicken feed, fertilizer, pesticides etc.

"As with any other enterprise, says Mogwera, there were problems we had to contend with such as shortage of water contamination and pests. But this has since been solved as five bore holes have been commissioned to supply the project with irrigation water".

Mogwera thanked the Department for its outstanding support throughout, and reassures the department of their utmost commitment to the project. He further advised young people with keen interest in Agriculture to never doubt their capabilities.

Communities benefit

from the fence construction programme



As Chief Director for District Services, Mr Thabang Tseladimitloa explains it, the construction and upgrading of fences in various provincial agricultural projects is fundamental to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment and the farming community at large.

The programme which was to be carried out on 124 projects and covers a distance of over 3 500 km, is targeting the grazing and arable land in communal areas, state land as well as land acquired through land reform.

It is being funded by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment through the CASP infrastructure development programme and is being implemented as a labour-intensive project under the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Its strategic pillars comprise aspects of infrastructure development, skills development and job creation.

A total of 400 groups consisting of 15 people each from a respective village or project were identified and trained on fence maintenance and construction.

Although contractors bring along their own skilled personnel to supervise the construction process, trained local people will be employed during the tenure of the project.

The skills that they have acquired will also assist them in job prospects and opportunities that involve the maintenance and construction of fences.

Since these are community projects and have been commissioned according to their needs, measures have been put in place through consultations which were held with the respective communities to maintain and look after the fences.

These entail amongst others the regular patrol of fence perimeter, repair that part of the fence that might be damaged and reprimand those who misbehave.

Mr Tseladimitloa says this programme is also meant to fence off crop fields to deter livestock from roaming and damaging crops and eliminate the ensuing conflict between livestock owners and crop farmers since the latter often experience a reduced production as a result of damage caused to crops by animals.

"It will also prevent the impounding of trespassing animals where owners are often required to pay exorbitant fees to unscrupulous people to claim their animals back" warned Tseladimitloa.



How well do you know our World Heritage Sites

The Taung Skull and the Vredefort Dome, the Heritage sites falling within the North West Province, have received increased media attention as the UNESCO inspection draws nearer.

World heritage sites are places with special importance, deserving preservation and protection for future generations. A site may be chosen because important events in human history occurred there or scientifically contains special plants, animals or rocks. They belong to all people of the world irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

The history of the Vredefort Dome had its originality roughly about 2000 million years ago when a giant meteorite struck the earth south of where Vredefort is situated today. This is the biggest meteorite impact measuring about 3 00km in diameter that geologists have found on earth. This makes it a site of great importance for scientists. It is also the oldest impact crater that has been found on earth. It is for these reasons that it has been declared a World Heritage site.

The Dome area is well known for its unique natural beauty that consists of valleys, mountains and small ravines covered in lush green flora. The unique origin of this area brought about a variety of micro habitats which in turn created a number of interesting ecosystems.

Rare animal species currently found in the area include caracal, leopard, small species of antelope and the endangered rock hyrax. A number of private game farms already exist in the area and the location is visited yearly by a great number of local and international tourists.

The Dome’s huge variety of guest houses, holiday farms and resorts give the tourists an array of activities to choose from. They include white water rafting, hiking trails, canoe trips, horse riding etc. other activities include team building, conference facilities, safari drives and youth camps.

Similarly, in 1924, a human skull was discovered in Taung, in the Western part of the province. Taung Skull site is best known for the discovery of an endocrinal cast of a hominid that dates back to 2.4 million years ago. Mining operations in the Buxton lime mine, led to the discovery of this archeological and palaeontological significance site. It is the first place on earth where the genus and species of Australopithecus africanus were dug out and identified by Wits University Professor, Raymond Dart. This discovery led to the nomination of this place to become a World Heritage site.

The Taung Skull is said to be a human relative, a hominid. This suggests that human beings come from the same root and that humans share a common ancestor with apes as all belong to the family of Primates.

Plans are underway to develop the Skull site. The menu includes the fencing of the site, restoration designs, community based tourist guide programme, upgrading of internal routes and the construction of ablution facilities.

The Department is working together with the community to encourage support for all that is earmarked for the site.

“A partnership has been forged between the management of the site and the community on issues of common interest such as social responsibility projects and the recruitment of locals for labour intensive projects”, explains the Head of the Department Mr Paul Mogotlhe.

The Taung Skull Site is a wonderland for an adventurous tourist who is keen to hike, sleep under the clear sky and participate in rock climbing.

It offers everything to everyone, ranging from bird watching especially for an avid raptor enthusiast who will enjoy watching every move of Black Eagles as they hunt a colony of rock hyrax which inhabits the rocky part of the site. Both sites are worth visits

EcoFunding:

We assist you to care for the environment

The North West Eco Fund is a component of Environmental Services within the DACE which was initiated in 2002 as part of the Project on Support to Environment & Sustainable Development in the North West – a cooperation project between the governments of Finland and North West.

The aim of the Eco Fund is to encourage community participation in environmental care and management in a bid to have a clean and healthy environment. Its purpose is to provide grant funding of up to R200, 000 for small scale environmental projects initiated to benefit the communities of the North West Province.

This fund supports small-scale environmental projects like waste management, greening, environmental campaigns and energy saving. The criterion used for funding includes focus on environment, alignment with municipal IDPs, as well as job creation.

Funding cannot be granted to individuals. So far, more than 20 projects have received funding since the inception of Eco Fund.

Who may apply?

Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
Community Based Organisations (CBOs)
Schools

(applicants should be within the boundaries of the North West province)

How to make an application?

Applications can be made by completing forms or compiling project proposals.

Applications should be accompanied by:

- Proof of registration as a legal entity e.g. NGO, CBO, etc
- Letter of authorization and support of project from your Local municipality or SGB (for schools)
- Proof of site allocation where applicable

Applications should be sent to:

Ms Bando Gaven

North West Eco Fund
Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Environment

Environmental Extension and
Project Development Directorate

Private Bag X 2039
Mmabatho
2739

Tel: 018 389 5345 / 5111
Fax: 018 389 5006



Did you know?

A sow should have strong legs, large feet, a straight back and a deep body with room for a big litter.

Sows selected for breeding should be at about 5-6 months of age and should have well-shaped teats in straight lines along the belly.

HANDING OVER OF PROJECTS TO TAUNG COMMUNITIES

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti district recently handed over projects to the communities in the Taung area. The projects that were officially handed over are Agisanang foodplot in Manokoane, Khudutlou foodplot, Khudutlou Veld improvement, Khudutlou Nguni cattle and the Mothanthanyaneng foodplot.

This was after the department assisted the community to start their own projects by providing the much needed support in terms of infrastructure and capacity building.

Handing over the projects, the district director Angy Seeco said that it was time to hand over the responsibility of the projects and ownership to the beneficiaries as these projects belong to the communities. "We as the department have played our role in upholding the success of these projects".

Seeco continued that together with the beneficiaries, they have traveled a long road and it was time for the department to move forward and help other needy people in the area to develop themselves.

She also expressed hope that communities will continue with the hard work of sustaining their projects and ensuring that hunger and poverty is eliminated in the process.

The department also committed itself in assisting them with all their extension services requirements at all times.



Ms Angie Seeco – Director for Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District officially handing over the projects to the beneficiaries



One of the beneficiaries appending her signature to the handing over documents, as Mr John Dire looks on.



Cattle which are part of the project

HIGHLIGHTS of the BUDGET SPEECH

The MEC for Agriculture, Environment and Conservation, Jan Serfontein delivered his department's budget vote for 2008/09 at the North West Legislature in May this year. Though the speech was presented at a time when the agriculture, conservation and environment sectors were faced with challenges of escalating fuel costs and high food prices, Serfontein was however confident that his department is still committed and confident to withstand this period and continue with efforts to build a strong and resilient sector.

Addressing the house, Serfontein said that the high food and agricultural prices will adversely affect buyers, the majority of which are the poor in rural areas who tend to be buyers of staple food products.

"Despite these challenges," says Serfontein, "our emphasis is placed on the need for government to consider increasing investment into this sector which is essential to our economic wellbeing".

Serfontein pronounced the progress the department has made in accomplishing the goals that it had set for itself for the 2007/08 such as the compliance with the Employment Equity Act where more women are being recruited into Senior Management positions and developing skills of the entire workforce.

"Education and training remains the department's priority. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) has allocated R6m for 2008/09 towards the roll out of the Extension Recovery Programme to address challenges such as the training and skills development of our extension officers," said Serfontein.

Regarding the department's relief programme, an allocation of R55m was received last year in terms of disaster relief and the Letsema la Mantshatlala Food Security programme is continuing with earnest by supporting homestead gardens.

The MEC also articulated on the progress of the department's main focal areas and flagship projects such as:

- Western Frontier Beef Beneficiation which will commence with a start up of R 4m and prospective partners have agreed in principle to support this project
- An amount of R6.2m have been spent on the Taung Irrigation Scheme to complete repairs
- 723 kilometres of fencing has been constructed on the Fencing Programme
- A total of R14, 4 m has been spent on the Mechanization Programme since November 2006 and a total number of twenty cooperatives and CPAs have benefited.
- Nguni Cattle Project 360 animals have been distributed to beneficiaries since inception.
- The recognition of women in food production continues with the Female Farmer of the Year Awards
- Land Affairs, our partners in the land reform process has managed to reach 70% of heir target by transferring 75 000 hectares of land to previously disadvantaged



HIGHLIGHTS of the BUDGET SPEECH

Serfontein also reported that the North West Province is playing its role in ensuring that our environmental issues receive due attention through the Comprehensive Environmental Services programme.

"Our achievements" says Serfontein "include the gazetting of hunting regulations, the completion of an Environmental Management Framework for the Magaliesberg Protected Environment, the Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the implementation of the Threatened and Protected Species Regulations, the installation of the Biodiversity Information Management System, processing of 355 Environmental Impact Assessments, the Support to Environment and Sustainable Development in the North West in partnership with Finnish government and the significant progress made on Vredefort and Taung World Heritage Sites."

Looking forward, the Department will implement these initiatives in accordance with the undertaking they made in the previous year.

Finalise

- The Pounds Bill
- Biodiversity Conservation Bill
- Integrated Waste Management Plan
- Provincial Air Quality Management Plan
- The Agricultural Master Plan
- The Risk and Disaster Master Plan
- Tosca Feasibility Study

Launch the:

- Mentorship Pilot Programme and
- Farmer Training for all our grant recipients

The Department will also continue with the following anchor projects this financial year:

- World Heritage Sites, Vredefort and Taung
- Nguni Cattle Development
- Western Frontier Beef Beneficiation
- Taung Irrigation Scheme
- Mechanisation Programme
- Letsema la Mantshatlala
- Fencing Programme
- Firebreaks Programme
- Multi-Purpose Livestock Handling Facilities
- Milk Production (Feasibility Study)

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment was allocated R545 420 000 for this current financial year and has committed themselves to make this year one of visible delivery in all four areas of their critical portfolio.





Did you know?

The TOPS regulations provide for a 24 month period of free roaming for predators before they can be hunted. They were published in terms of the Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004.

TIPS on how to develop a Business Plan

What is a business Plan?

It is a dream or an idea that can be turned into reality - a written description of business's future. It describes what you plan to do, and how you plan to do it.

Why do we have to write a business plan?

It serves as owner's guideline to manage business. It provides information to potential investors and funders. It also makes a good impression about the intended business in a short space of time.

How long does it take to prepare a business plan?

Business plan preparation takes time, but it is well worth your investment in the long run. It will only provide valuable information for lenders/funders, but it will in turn lay out your game plan from which you will operate.

What are the tips to create a winning business plan?

- Break your ideas into manageable units/sections and work on each thoroughly
- It should be readable, typed and attractive
- Always focus on your objectives.
- Do not use highly technical description of your product
- Business plan is a living document, update it as environment changes
- Be honest about your projections
- Backup your statement with the latest trends (Prices, Market, production)

Who should write a business plan?

Yourself! Come up with your own ideas and dreams. Fine tune yourself to be an expert in your business. A business plan is about 80% surveyed information and 20% format.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Regulations in Terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998

Objectives of the Regulations

The objective of the Regulations is to establish the procedures that must be followed in the consideration, investigation and assessment and reporting of the activities that have been identified. The purpose of these procedures is to provide the competent authority with adequate information to make decisions which ensure that activities which may impact negatively on the environment to an unacceptable degree are not authorized, and that activities which are authorized are undertaken in such a manner that the environmental impacts are managed to acceptable levels.

Understanding the roles of the role players in an Assessment Process

There are five main role-players which are likely to be involved in an EIA process. These are the applicant, the environmental assessment practitioner (‘EAP’) the public, the competent authority and the MEC. Each of these role players has different interests and/or responsibilities and they are as follows.

Applicant

The applicant is responsible for certain costs. These may include application fees, the fees for the EAP, the costs of external reviews if it is determined that the EAP is not independent and the costs of specialist reviews.

The EAP is also responsible for ensuring that a public participation process is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and for taking into

account any comments that are made during the process in the compilation of the reports that will be submitted to the competent authority.

The Public

I&AP’s may participate and make representations to the EAP regarding an application. I&AP’s are also entitled to comment on all written submissions which the applicant or EAP makes to the competent authority subject to three requirements –

- Comments must be submitted within the timeframes that have been set;
- If the comments are made directly to the competent authority, a copy of the comments must be sent to the applicant or EAP and
- If the I&AP has any direct business, financial personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application, that interest must be disclosed.

The Competent Authority

The competent authority must also give reasonable assistance to people who want to object to the application if they are unable to comply with a requirement of the Regulations due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage.

THE MEC

The MEC is responsible for hearing any appeals that are made in respect of the decisions of the department. The MEC may appoint an appeal panel to assist him/her. Like the competent authority, the MEC must also give reasonable assistance to people who went to appeal if they are unable to comply with a requirement of the Regulations due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage.

Determination of the route the application must follow

The Regulations provide for two types of assessment processes i.e the basic assessment and the scoping and IEA processes. The purpose of basic assessment is to provide a mechanism for the complete but concise assessment of activities. A scoping and environmental impact assessment process is reserved for activities which have the potential to result in significant impacts which are complex to assess.

Submission of application

An application form must be completed and submitted to the competent authority before scoping is undertaken. The applicant may request a pre-scoping consultation with the competent authority before conducting scoping.

Environmental impact assessment

Public participation is also an essential part of the EIA process. During the EIA process, public participation is conducted in accordance with the plan of study for EIA as opposed to the minimum requirements set out in the Regulations.



DACE IN PCTURES

1. Thank you - Premier Edna Molewa receiving a present from Mikko Jokinen of Finland during the closing ceremony of the SESDNW Project. Looking on is MEC Jan Serfontein and Chief Director for Environmental Services Mr Tshepo Moremi
2. SABC 2's Living Land programme crew during their visit at Ms Tryphina Penyenye's Nguni cattle project
3. MEC Jan Serfontein at Ms Penyenye's farm in Ramatlabama
4. Minister Lulu Xingwana being shown a fruit and vegetables exhibition stand designed during World Food Day national event in Eastern Cape
5. Sello Shema of NW Environmental Services, explaining career opportunities available in Environment to learners who attended the World Food Day commemoration in Eastern Cape
6. Fruit and vegetables exhibition pyramid

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