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MEDIA STATEMENT

Att : ALL EDITORS

Media Houses

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ROADSHOW EMPOWERS FARMERS WITH KNOWLEDGE ON ACCESS TO BLENDED FINANCE SCHEME AND AGRO-ENERGY FUND

Potchefstroom – The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), in collaboration with the National Department of Agriculture (DoA), hosted a successful information sharing session at the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture (PCA) to unpack the details of the Blended Finance Scheme and Agro-Energy Fund.

The Blended Finance Scheme, a strategic collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, Land Bank, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and ABSA, aims to enhance access to affordable financing for qualifying farmers. This initiative combines grants and loan funding to support inclusive growth, agricultural expansion and energy-efficient farming practices.

More than 200 eligible farmers from across the province attended the session to gain insight into the application criteria, funding processes and opportunities available through both the Blended Finance Scheme and the Agro-Energy Fund.

Ms Elder Mtshiza, representing the National Department of Agriculture, presented the qualification criteria for both financial instruments. The session also included an interactive question-and-answer segment, giving farmers a platform to engage directly with presenters and gain clarity on the available support mechanisms.

This initiative forms part of the national strategy to support the commercialisation of emerging farmers and promote sustainable energy use in agriculture through innovative blended financing mechanisms. The roadshow also highlighted funding opportunities aligned with the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP), including sectors such as aquaculture and industrial crops.

The meeting reflected government's commitment to building an inclusive, sustainable agricultural sector. Through partnerships and knowledge sharing, government is empowering farmers to access critical funding and resources that will enable them to grow viable and competitive enterprises.

PICTURE CAPTION:

IMG 4536: Ms Elder Mtshiza explained the process of accessing finance and the criteria farmers should meet to be eligible for the grant-loan.

IMG 4538: The more than 200 farmers in attendance appreciated the department's efforts in empowering farmers with knowledge on financing mechanisms.

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The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

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