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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SAFDA  
MAY.2022 - JULY.2022

## ZABALIMI

RV PRICE APRIL 2021: R5 621,76 (An increase of R287,40 vs March 2022). D Factor 0,482473

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FPSU Gingindlovu  
Launch



**PG**  
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Premium price  
payments



**PG**  
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Heavy rains



**PG**  
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Sezela  
Fertilizer



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# SAFDA DELIVERS CRITICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS



Small-scale growers (SSGs) in six districts of KwaZulu-Natal and one in Mpumalanga stand to benefit from a multi-million-rand equipment which will boost their operations and sustainability.

The equipment handover ceremony in Gingindlovu was attended by thousands of SSGs from all over the province. It is a result of the partnership between the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA), which mainly represents SSGs in the industry. SAFDA Executive Chairman, Dr Siyabonga Madlala, expressed his excitement at the event, even belting out a traditional song in demonstration of his happiness. "This is a historic monumental government contribution to the development of farmers in the sugar commodity. FPSUs (Farmer Production Support

Units) provide the means to assist farmers to produce, collect the produce, store the produce and perform agro-processing for the local market. FPSUs have always been at the core of what our farmers have needed all along. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the department for making our farmers dream a reality. From here, we look forward to taking advantage of the benefit of having government funded equipment and support centres," said Dr Madlala.

The event was attended by dignitaries such as Deputy Minister Mcebisi Skwatsha, MEC Bongzi Sithole-Moloi, a Member of Parliament, local deputy Mayors and a local Chief. Both the deputy minister and the MEC reaffirmed their support for SSGs, and ensuring they were accorded resources and opportunities to thrive.



The equipment, worth more than R66 million (which came from DALRRD), includes tractors and trucks. Through this partnership, SAFDA will be facilitating the implementation.

Farmer production support units in six areas in KwaZulu-Natal and one in Mpumalanga. This will be achieved through Farmer Production Support Units (FPSUs), which are described as rural outreach agricultural centres designed and equipped to support farmers to produce, collect produce, store, process for the local market, and provide extension services including mechanisation.





**From the FPSU, farmers can access a range of services including but not limited to those mentioned on the list below:**

- Agricultural input supply control, in terms of quality, quantity and timeous deployment of inputs.
- Extension support and training, using Universities, agricultural graduates and Narysec working in a symbiotic relationship to “hold-hands” with farmers over the next 10 years.
- Mechanisation support (tractor driving, ploughing, spraying, harvesting etc.)
- Machinery, servicing workshop facilities;
- Local logistics support, which could entail the delivery of farming inputs, transportation post-harvest, transportation to local markets;
- Primary produce collection;
- Weighing of produce and stock;
- Sorting of produce for local and other markets;
- Packaging of produce for local markets;
- Local storage;
- Processing for local markets (small-scale mills etc.);
- Auction facilities for local markets;
- Provide Market information on commodity prices (ICT);
- Farmers wanting services and support from the FPSU will register with the FPSU of their choice;
- Small Business Development and Training Centre;
- Banking;
- Fuel (energy centre).

## SAFDA INFLUENCE SEES SMALL-SCALE SUGARCANE FARMERS GET MUCH-NEEDED PREMIUM PRICE PAYMENTS FOR THEIR CANE

Towards the end of the 2021/2022 season, small-scale farmers received premium price payments worth around a total of R60 million as agreed by Small-scale Grower Masterplan Task Team within the Sugar Master Plan process and endorsed by the Council (Board) of the South African Sugar Association (SASA).

The payment of the premium price is in line with the Sugarcane-Based Value Chain Master Plan’s purpose of ensuring the long-term success and retention of small-scale growers (SSGs). SSGs will benefit from the premium price since it will align their prices with the local market, compensate them for losses on international markets,

and erase the disadvantages related to their diseconomies of scale and remote locations away from sugar mills that drastically increase costs of production. For sugar, international markets are distorted, loss making and residual. Therefore, this intervention was needed to protect the revenue of small-scale farmers and cushion them from international market distortions.

The sugar master plan is one of the master plans that were announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his 2019 SONA and confirmed by Trade, Industry and Competition Minister Ebrahim Patel in his Budget Vote during the same year. The aim of these master plans is to revitalise







struggling industries and to stimulate economic growth. The sugar master plan was concluded and signed off by sugar value chain stakeholders in November 2020. SAFDA salutes Ministers Patel and (Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development) Thoko Didiza who have been champions and custodians of the master plan process, which has now delivered tangible results for sugarcane farmers.

Farmers in the sugar industry are paid using a Recoverable Value (RV) which recognises investments made in the production process to achieve sugarcane of good quality. Because of poor economies of scale, long distances to sugar mills, and inability to own farming equipment, small-scale farmers struggle to produce good quality cane. The RV price is made up of proceeds derived from the sale of sugar and molasses the industry sells in the local and international markets. "SAFDA will continue to fight for a better life for all farmers, especially

the small-scale farmers," said Dr Siyabonga Madlala, Executive Chairman of SAFDA. He added: "The premium price intervention came just in time to provide much-needed relief. 2021 was marked by civil unrests as well as floods, causing damage to most farmer fields. This intervention money will assist farmers in recovering from these challenges whilst they wait on the government for relief."

Small-scale farmer Roseline Makwakwa, 84, of KaHoyi, Mpumalanga, could not contain her joy as soon as she received the SMS. "The first time I saw this money this morning, I could not believe my eyes. I would like to thank SAFDA for their continuous support to us as small-scale growers. This money will go a long way. We have never seen such before. Ever since SAFDA came, we have seen miracles," said Makwakwa. Meanwhile, Dentre Mkhwanazi from Felixton in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal said they had been farmers for a very long time but never received such

assistance until SAFDA came along and rescued them as they were starting to drown in debt trying to sustain themselves. "I am shocked, I did not expect this and want to thank SAFDA for this. Everything is going well even with the fertiliser intervention we received in 2019, which just shows how much our organization cares about us," said Mkhwanazi.

This premium price payment added to the SASA Transformation Initiatives that were approved on 29 November 2018 to a tune of R1 billion over a period of five years. In terms of this Transformation Fund, R200 million is disbursed to farmers on an annual basis according to 8 original interventions that the industry adjusted a bit to accommodate other needs like topping up the bursary fund of the industry and supporting a study to map out the impact of transformation in the sugar industry. These interventions (combined) will assist the struggling SSGs be sustainable, especially during off-crop seasons.



# HEAVY RAINS WREAK HAVOC ON CANE FARMS

Heavy rains and extreme weather conditions in KwaZulu-Natal from the beginning of December 2021 had a negative impact on many of our farmers. Rain is always a good thing for farmers but often too much rain may cause damage to crop, cause leeching and damage to infrastructure.

According to SAFDA's records, damage to cane due to leeching reached over 2000ha of cane and cash crops have been affected as well. A bag of fertiliser costs about R750 per bag and each hectare requires 8 bags of fertiliser, due to these rains, our farmers are forced to fork out monies to buy new farming inputs. For the above mentioned number of hectares, farmers require at least 16 000 bags of fertiliser which makes about +R12 000 000. Farmers will need to fertilise the crop and apply herbicides to deal with fast growing weeds again as a result of heavy rains. That means double cost on the farmer. This meant that the consumer must expect a higher price of food for fresh produce due to these effects. Higher prices may be caused by the fact that farmers now need to replant, buy new fertiliser as a result of leeching fertiliser and chemicals. Some farmers reported infrastructure damage which includes, propoerty damage, infields road damage and dam walls damage. The following damage were reported by our farmers:

- Leeching of fertiliser and chemicals
- Soil erosion
- Water logg
- Infields roads damaged

- Canefield sand covered
- Vegetables water logged
- Cane damage (cane washed away by floods)
- Gravel roads washed away
- Damaged farm houses and workshop buildings
- Dam walls damage

For small-scale farmers, SAFDA has always been mindful of the fact that the little crop they have is all they have. If they are not assisted soon enough, they will be out of production and out of business for good. Farmers like Matozi Simelane, who farms at Makhathini in Jozini, her world was shattered when she saw the damage on her farm, she has planted 2ha of cabbage which she purchased 50 000 seedlings and 1ha of butternut and all of these crops went down the drain as they all got damaged by the

floods. "The first time I saw the status of my cabbage and butternut I thought I was dreaming, everything was covered by water and I knew thereon that this is it, it's gone, and no market or shop would buy this. It very painful because I had used my money from the interventions to diversify but all of that became a dream," said Simelane.

SAFDA attended to farmers and assessed the extent of the damage. To this end, we have approached the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to assist farmers that were affected. We need government's assistance so that farmers can recover from their losses. We have requested an immediate fertilizer and herbicide assistance. This is critical to production since timeous application of inputs is key in





determining good or poor yields come harvest time. There is also an urgent need for infrastructure buildings to be rebuilt. Cane cutters and all other farm workers will need accommodation facilities to have been repaired. Road Infrastructure... this requires immediate repairs for both infield and farm access roads since it takes longer to repair. When

harvesting start, these roads will need to have been fixed, otherwise it won't be possible to extract cane from the field to the mills.

Dr Siyabonga Madlala, SAFDA's Executive Chairman, said that the country was still dealing with the hike in food prices due to the July unrest, and the recent rainfall damage

would result in the consumer bearing the brunt of higher food prices. "Rainfall is a good thing and a bad thing. We need the rain, but too much of it affects farming and causes damage to infrastructure and crops, and there would definitely be higher prices for fresh produce," concluded Dr Madlala.



## SAFDA SECURES GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR FERTILISER SUPPORT



Through constructive engagements with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), SAFDA has concluded a three-year collaboration agreement aimed at supporting small-scale growers with ratoon fertiliser operations. The initiative will assist a

representative grouping of SSGs in the main KwaZulu-Natal sugarcane producing regions over a period of three years, the goal being to demonstrate the benefits of timeous and correct application of nutritional inputs to ratooning fields, thereby encouraging neighboring farmers to appreciate the benefit

of increased yields and resultant revenue. EDTEA is contributing R12 million to the programme over a three-year period with Phase 1 being rolled out on the South Coast, followed by Phase 2 on the North Coast and phase 3 Far North (Jozini/Makhathini). Each phase has a budget of R4 million.



# Targets as per Project Proposal

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	TOTAL
Number of small-scale farmers to be assisted	629	621	594	1 844
Hectares to be Fertilized	881	869	832	2 582

Escalating fertiliser prices impacted on the number of bags that could be procured and at local grower committee level it was requested that the number of bags be reduced

from 10 bags 5-1-5 per hectare to 6 bags per hectare to benefit a larger number of growers. This was endorsed at Project Management Committee level and resulted in 731

growers receiving 6 bags/hectare farming on 1 153 hectares, a total of 6 750 bags were distributed.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MOSES THUMBATHI AND JOSEPH MBUYAZI



Moses Thumbathi was a very disciplined leader who treated everyone with respect regardless of their position, age, or gender at SAFDA. "My first encounter and engagement with him was somehow a difficult one as I, personally, perceived him as a difficult, smart, and yet strict. As we got to know each other and worked more, I got to experience his humility and kind-hearted character that enjoys things done in a certain professional way," recalls Nathi Phakathi, who worked closely with him in Mpumalanga. Thumbathi was a family-oriented person with unmistakable high regard for his family and his love and passion for Matsamo CPA was exceptional. "We shared jokes, he used to joke a lot, we shared work frustrations and we also shared joyous moments when we achieved set goals. He was like a father to us in our office, a very warm and welcoming soul," adds Phakathi. Matsamo CPA was like Thumbathi's baby. Whenever there was a need for the team to drive around the farms and never complained. He was enthusiastic about the development of the Matsamo Community. He loved SAFDA as an organisation and wanted our organisation to succeed. In meetings, he was in most

times quiet and when he talked it was to give sense of direction and advice. He served as Chairperson of the Mpumalanga Land Reform MAC and REC and served on the following industry committees (Council, CTS, Development, Nomination, Sugar Research and Sustainable Agriculture, Sugar ACT and Agreement Strategic Review).

Matsamo and SAFDA has lost a great leader in him. A visionary man, he had incredible plans for both Matsamo and SAFDA, and he tried his best to steer the ship to the right direction by making sure the objectives of Matsamo CPA, Mpumalanga LR MAC, REC and SAFDA were achieved through prominent level of discipline. Matsamo CPA, assisted by SAFDA, recently had its long-standing business plan approved for the post-settlement grant assistance. "I personally know how hard we worked on this one, it would have meant a great deal to finally get it for development of the Matsamo CPA. May his soul rest in peace. We will always remember him. His positive teachings will not be forgotten. We will continue from where he left off." - **By Nathi Phakathi and Shapo Mavimbela**



# TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MOSES THUMBATHI AND JOSEPH MBUYAZI



## JOSEPH MBUYAZI



"Uwile umuthi omkhulu" comes to mind when I think of uBaba Mbuyazi, a father to many and a great leader, recalls Nomkhosi Dlodlo who worked closely with Mbuyazi. His kind humble nature touched so many lives, helped so many people. To Mbuyazi, serving people came naturally to him, he gave his time, money and advice.

Mbuyazi was a land reform farmer and a regional chairperson, and he had interest of all growers at heart, both SSGs and land reform one. He was one of the first land reform farmers that assisted with the establishment of SAFDA. He believed in SAFDA as the organisation that assists in developing all growers by making their lives easier, make them see/get good returns in their farming operations. He

was all about helping create sustainability for both SSGs and land reform growers in Umfolozi. Under his leadership, he made sure that he engaged with all stakeholders for the benefit of growers.

Mbuyazi was a community pillar, he made sure that he played a role in the community with whatever he had, wherever he was, whenever it was needed, he would always be remembered as a leader who led by example, who did not only spoke of love, but showed love, who did not speak of respect, but respected all people, all gender and all ages, who did not speak about giving but who gave unconditionally and repeatedly.



# A MPUMALANGA CPA GETS MULTI-MILLION CASH INJECTION TO REVIVE ITS FORTUNES

Matsamo CPA has received a grant funding of R 32 989 425, which was approved by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), to re-establish 200 hectares of sugarcane, 65 hectares of banana, resuscitate irrigation on 230ha, maintain irrigation system, and to purchase new equipment/implements. Matsamo CPA has 10 000 beneficiaries (1 600 households). This grant funding will assist the farm to achieve this goal as well as the purchase of essential machinery and equipment, while maintaining a positive net cash flow. Matsamo CPA has five farms, these farms are owned by the community of Matsamo, they were purchased by government as part of the land restitution programme and transferred in the year 2011 to the community. These farms

collectively have the potential to employ 600 permanent employees and 150 - 300 casual labour. The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) will be the implementing agents for the farms. SAFDA has a farm management services business wing which will be working on this project.

Advocate Bernard Shabangu, Secretary of Matsamo CPA, said as the CPA they were very excited about the grant funding that they had received from the department and also relieved because of the journey they had travelled to get this funding. "This grant will assist us as the new land owners in the CPA to develop and bring the farms that they receive into production. This is very exciting, we started this journey in 2010 after land claims were finalised and started applying

for grants so that we can develop our farms and it took 12 years for us to receive this grant, we are very happy about this," said Shabangu. Shabangu said the support that they have received from SAFDA could never be measured as they assisted them as soon as they joined the organisation, and she said right now they were reaping the rewards of being under SAFDA.

Since 2009, a total of approximately 8 000 hectares have been successfully transferred and are in the hands of the CPA. The majority of Matsamo CPA land was transferred under lease agreement between government and former owners. The government's post-settlement plans and delays led to formation of Joint venture partnership since the CPA was forced to look for financially stable partners so that they are



able to ensure that production on the farms continues. The primary objective of this re-development, from community perspective would be to maximise profit, create meaningful employment for the community as well as sustainable farming through good agricultural practices. An indirect benefit of the successful re-development of this farm would be to act as a model for successful and redistribution.

These farms currently produce banana, sugarcane, litchis, mangoes, and different vegetables. Matsamo CPA aims to fully utilise its properties by farming the above-mentioned commodities and it plans to slowly introduce orchards which will ensure profitability in the long run. The Matsamo CPA plans to run these properties on their own through a farm management business model that would ensure

smooth running of these farms. The re-establishment of this farm will provide employment to people from the surrounding communities. Matsamo CPA seeks to promote successful commercially owned black farming ventures, entrepreneurial opportunities, transfer skills, protect the environment and act as a catalyst for economic growth in the surrounding rural communities.

Grant Funding breakdown	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/25	
<b>BANANA (Planting; Ratoon; Irrigation)</b>	R10 607 528	R0	R0	R0	R0	R10 607 528
<b>Total Planting Cost (R85 889,00/ha)</b>	R5 582 775					
<b>Total Ratoon Cost (R15 399,92/ha)</b>	R3 634 383					
<b>Total Irrigation Maintenance Cost (R5891,4/ha)</b>	R1 390 370					
Planting hectares	65					
Ratoon hectares	236					
Irrigation maintenance hectares	236					
<b>SUGARCANE (Planting; Irrigation)</b>	R9 671 340					R9 671 340
<b>Total Planting Cost (R38 261,70/ha)</b>	R7 652 340					
<b>Total Irrigation Maintenance Cost (R10 095,00/ha)</b>	R2 019 000					
Planting hectares	200					
Irrigation maintenance hectares	200					
<b>IRRIGATION INSTALLATION (R25 000/ha)</b>	R5 750 000	R0	R0	R0	R0	R5 750 000
Hectares	230					
<b>EQUIPMENT/IMPLEMENTS</b>	R6 313 705	R0	R0	R0	R0	R6 313 705
SAFDA Managements fee 2%	R646 851					R646 851
<b>TOTAL Funding requirement</b>	<b>R32 989 425</b>	<b>R0</b>	<b>R0</b>	<b>R0</b>	<b>R0</b>	<b>R32 989 425</b>



# YOUNG CANE FARMER THRIVES IN LIVESTOCK FARMING AS WELL



As a young girl, Nozipho Mngomezulu, gained inspiration from her late grandmother, who had a piggery operation, chickens, goats, and cows. Following the death of her grandmother in 2006, she had to step up and take over the family business, which was the only income source for her family. Piggery was her biggest interest in her family's business, so it comes as no surprise that she is doing exceptionally well in this area. In 2013, Nozipho attended workshops which helped her with her business, and she was able to register her business so that it could operate. "I was born into a family whose main source of income was livestock farming, so from an early age I had to learn how things were done because I knew I would be taking over my grandmother's business one day. I was able to register my business Inkabanhle farming PTY LTD in 2013 and supplied pork to shisanyama businesses and butcheries." said Nozipho.

After registering her company, she complied with the business requirements. Nozipho says its companies like NYDA, SEDA and other companies that gave her the exposure into funding. Her breakthrough came through after she entered the departments awards and she was nominated as the best young female farmer, but did not win, but that gave her the exposure she needed to grow her business as that is when she was exposed to funding opportunities. "I entered the department's awards last year, but unfortunately I did not win, little did I know that this was going to open doors for me as I was able to secure a R4.6 million funding from the Department of Agriculture. The awards required that the departments officials to visit our operations as the contestants and that is when they

saw my potential," says Nozipho.

Nozipho had a contract with the Darnall Abattoir but as time went by her dreams became bigger and she started looking for funders to fund her own abattoir. Many livestock farmers have been battling with foot and mouth disease and that prevented them from being able to transport their livestock and that is when an idea of having her own abattoir. "As livestock farmers we also face challenges when foot and mouth diseases resurface because we are unable to transport our livestock and that has a huge impact on our operations even financially, and after seeing this a recurring challenge I decided to source funders that will be able to assist me by building my own abattoir."

In the next 5 years, Nozipho sees herself having her own butchery that will have franchises all around KwaZulu Natal and eventually expand to other provinces as she is not only dealing with piggery farming but she has chickens, goats and cows. "I want to grow more, I am looking beyond having a butchery in Jozini, I want to spread all over KZN and be a supplier to all big stores that sells meat" said Nozipho.

The owner of Inkabanhle farming encourages the youth of this country to start their own businesses and not just wait for employment to come their way. The country has a high statistics of youth unemployment. "I want to encourage the youth of this country to also start their own businesses and not only wait to be employed, for example, I have a Diploma in Occupational health and safety and I have never worked on this position, this did not stop me from doing my first love which is farming, and I know I am doing well in it," says Nozipho

# PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SAFDA AND GREEN CLOUD TECHNOLOGIES TO CONDUCT MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR THE MULTI-SEASON PLANTING PROGRAMME OF DARD.

SAFDA Farm Management Services (Pty) Ltd, as a commodity organisation, was appointed for 36 months to conduct the monitoring and evaluation of the multi-season planting programme throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the following financial years: 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

SAFDA has committed itself in providing a credible data to the department, hence a partnership with Green Cloud Technologies was entered into in September 2020 for three years. SAFDA has developed an information management system, with its project partner Green Cloud Technologies. The system uses a customised information gathering tool, whereby the SAFDA team in the field gathers the data

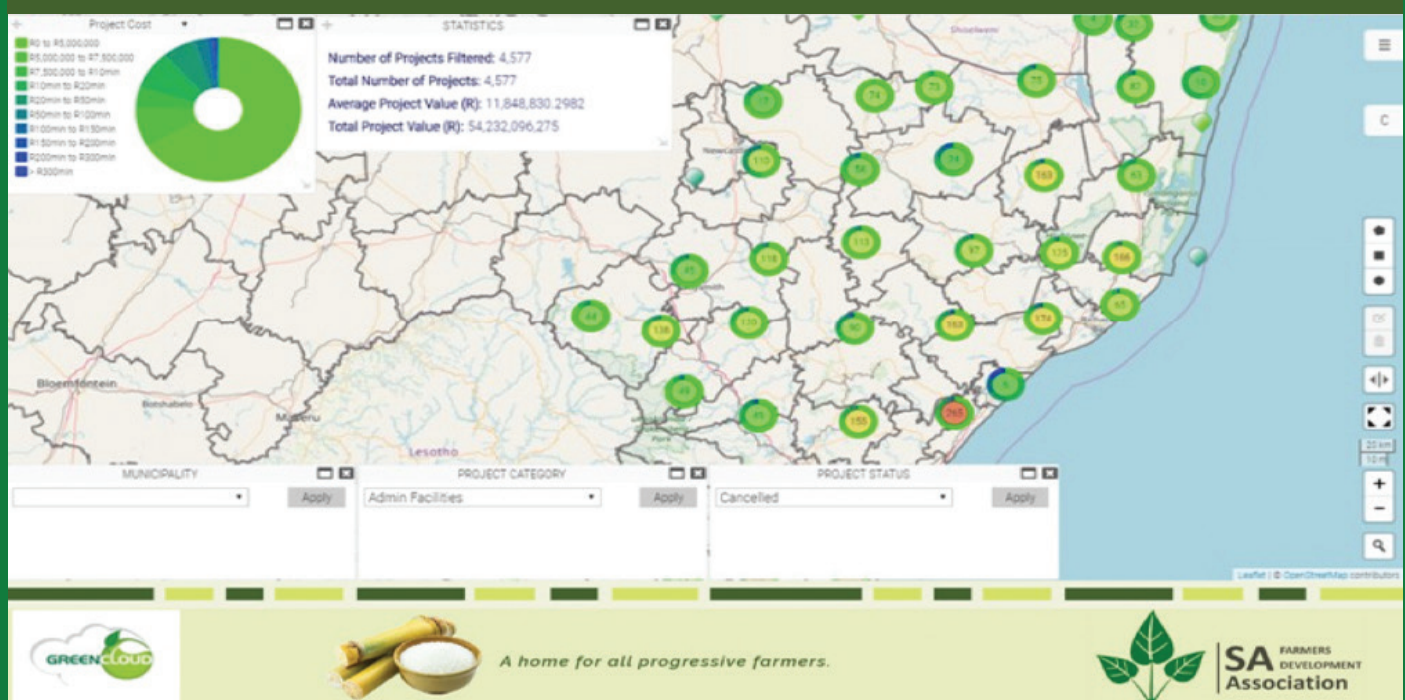
on their tablets, and the information is synchronized into a web-based system with portfolio of evidence.

The benefit of the partnership is that if SAFDA needs external evaluation to identify issues that SAFDA cannot immediately see, Green Cloud can do these for SAFDA. Additionally, Green Cloud may be able to provide unique solutions to SAFDA's specific needs, for example, storing of the information for easy access and future use. In the event of a risk, Green Cloud can insulate the organisation from those risks. The smart technology provided by Green Cloud will assist the SAFDA employees to do their jobs efficiently. As a result, the District Coordinators, and managers are able to work efficiently in producing work that is valuable to the organisation.



The below picture illustrates how the information is captured on the Web-based system.

## SYSTEM OVERVIEW





It must be noted that this programme has received several qualified audits from the office of the Auditor General due to inconsistent information management and reporting, hence SAFDA was appointed by the Department to improve the monitoring and evaluation systems for this programme. The Department has expressed its appreciation with the intervention that SAFDA has brought into this programme.

The scope of the project is to review

the planting season programme documents, including data collection templates, portfolio of evidence documents set indicators to measure performance. Focus on strengthening the M&E System, building capacity of extension officers, and producing credible data and quality M&E systems. The following are some of the few deliverables as per the contract:

- *Strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation system, together with management and reporting*

*tools that result in credible data being provided, including spatial data.*

- *Recommend policy and implementation guidelines changes to improve delivery of the Multi-Season Planting Programme (MSP). These would include recommendations on the implementation models, areas to improve efficiency, monitoring and report systems and recommended tools.*

## RURAL YOUTH GRADUATE WITH CRUCIAL AGRICULTURAL QUALIFICATION



SAFDA hosted a NARYSEC graduation for the class of 2019 in December 2021 after they had successfully completed their 24 months national certificate course in plant production, which was provided by Shukela Training Centre and co-funded by SAFDA and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The department recruited 50 participants in 2019, following an SLA signed in 2015 by the department and SAFDA. The National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec) is a youth skills development and employment programme that transforms youth from rural areas, from being job seekers to become job creators in their own right, breaking the vicious cycle of social grants dependency.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the leadership and management of the SAFDA, led by Dr Siyabonga Madlala, the department led by Nhlanhla Mndaweni, Chief Director: KZN PSSC (Provincial Shared Services Center) and the management of Shukela Training Centre (STC) led by Thami Mathe, STC General Manager. A keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Chair of SASA, Joanmariae Fubbs, who congratulated the youth who completed the Narysec programme and stressed the importance of skills development among youth. "Investing in the youth is an essential and important responsibility of government, as the youth are the future leaders of this country," said Fubbs.

As a result of the programme, some learners who added value to the farms have been successfully absorbed by the owners after their learnerships were completed due to their diligence and hard work. A number of learners have formed co-ops in order to gain access to sugarcane farms which were part of the program. According to the report by STC, learners were adversely affected during their training because of the national lockdown because of Covid-19, which took away three and a half (3.5) months of the programme's workplace learning, but learners' confidence vividly increased upon returning to the workplace. According to the report, the learners are doing well and showing great interest in sugarcane farming.



# MPUMALANGA SIYANQOBA IMBIZO A HUGE ACCESS



The leadership of SAFDA in Mpumalanga organised a Siyanqoba Imbizo as part of its efforts to revive the spirit of local growers. In 2020, the province endured a fair share of difficulties, hence the need for Imbizo to represent an affirmation or a concrete statement about their victory over all those who sought to tear down their good work. The event was attended by 500 people due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19 that prevented the organization from going all out as usual.

Dr Siyabonga Madlala, Executive Chairman of SAFDA, addressed growers at Imbizo and expressed gratitude that growers in

Mpumalanga were united after all that had happened, chose to keep an eye on the horizon and make things work for them. "There is nothing more pleasing than seeing black growers come together to work toward a common goal, which shows how capable we are as black people of building our own organizations and we surpassed all the stigmas associated with the formation of black organizations," said Dr Madlala. Dr Madlala lauded the work of the current leadership and staff of Mpumalanga who ensured that they provide the best service to growers.

The Chairman of the small-scale Growers in Mpumalanga, Enerst

Mashabane, praised the growers in the province for sticking by the organisation through all its trials and tribulations, calling it a tremendous victory. "My fellow farmers, you have done well. You have demonstrated commitment, honesty and victory to SAFDA. This organisation is our home, and if we dare leave it, we will be left in the cold with no one to look after us or even assist us. Let's all continue to work together for the benefit of SAFDA," said Mashabane. In Mpumalanga, there are more than 1 200 growers and about 9 000 hectares of land that is being used by farmers and more than 55 000 hectares that were not verified to belong to the Land Reform farmers.





## SAFDA SPREADS WINGS TO EASTERN CAPE

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ncora CPA, which is a community that is based in the Eastern Cape. SAFDA will be working on a 4500ha of land in that area. The NCORA CPA and SAFDA proposed the Transitional Management Model which will enable the NCORA CPA to move from a Strategic Partnership Model (Co-Management) to Management Assistant Model (Mentorship) and eventually claimants will gain sole management of the land and agriculture operations in the Self-Management Model. SAFDA's proposal of a Transitional Model, means that SAFDA will support the NCORA CPA until they can move to self-management with mentorship of their productive farms within an agreed upon time frame.

SAFDA together with the Ncora CPA, government and other key stakeholders have engaged and collectively have proposed

opportunities to grow agriculture and agro-processing in Ncora. These engagements have led to the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SAFDA and Ncora CPA. SAFDA has the agronomic, specialist and management skills to revitalise and expand the Ncora Irrigation Scheme, agricultural and agro-processing development. Cooperating with and aligning all key stakeholders will realise this opportunity for Ncora. With a Service Level Agreement in place between DALRRD and SAFDA, together with successful projects undertaken in partnership in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, there is a track record of performance.

The Ncora communities under Inkosi Zwelivumile, Inkosi Zwelenqaba and Inkosi Langelivelile are awaiting transfer of its restituted land later this year. Communities have already partnered with SAFDA to work the land. The following commodities together with the CPA have been

proposed as a balanced catalyst for short-, medium- and long-term sustainability.

- Yellow maize, 500 ha irrigated to supply Amadlelo Agri's dairy feed requirements and grow the market
- White maize, 250 ha irrigated for mielie meal processing and packaging utilizing existing milling capacity
- Vegetables 45 ha for household and local community market
- Horticultural crop like tree nuts – macadamias, walnuts, or citrus, 25 ha towards long term sustainability

White maize has already been identified as a value chain opportunity in Ncora. Two hundred and fifty hectares of white maize will be planted under irrigation to start up local white maize primary production and processing. Government has already invested in and installed a white maize milling plant (4ton/hr) in Ncora. This is a new





facility, with silos and generator. The opportunity exists to operationalize this existing decentralized milling infrastructure. The white maize will be milled to produce super and special white maize meal and chop for animal feed to be directed to the animal feed pelleting plant.

By starting up local white maize production this would reduce the input maize costs to the milling facility and produce white mielie meal for the local community and spaza' shops, pension payout points, and the Department of Education school feeding schemes. White maize will be milled into 25 kg to 50 kg bags and sold locally thereby reducing transport costs for the communities and providing access to locally produced food, whilst also enabling local jobs to be created in agricultural production and in the white maize milling plant.

The primary objective of the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR) is to support a sustainable land restitution program through the settlement and finalization of land claims. However, whilst the settlement processes have

gained momentum over the years, there are still numerous challenges being faced by the CRLR in its efforts to settle land claims in a sustainable manner. A concerted effort is needed to ensure that claimants not only benefit from land restitution, but that claimed land is successfully managed to contribute to improving claimants' present livelihoods and ensure a sustainable agriculture industry.

SAFDA will assess the claimants' skills and expertise in agricultural farming

as well as business management and put in place programmes for training, skills development and graduation. The purpose of having training, skills and development of expertise is to empower the CPA and claimant community with access to technical and practical knowledge, appropriate extension and scientific communication skills in operating agricultural production units effectively as part of a production and/or advisory team.





# MTHONJANENI FARMERS' ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED



Mthonjaneni Farmers' Association was formed in March 2020 following success of the co-management agreement with SAFDA, which was signed immediately prior to association formation. In February this year, the Association launched their association and offices for the first time. The launch was attended by the SAFDA leadership, CEC members and members of the community led by Inkosi yeSizwe saseNtembeni. As most of the farmers in Mthonjaneni are new to the field, the association's main objective is to unite all the farmers in this area and serve as an information sharing platform.

Mntwana Mandla Zulu addressed the launch as he welcomed guests, highlighting the significance of this association as a brainchild of SAFDA. He said regaining land meant reclaiming the dignity of the black person. People who operated on our land deprived our forefathers of their dignity, so having our land back means we have restored their dignity. "Previously, we saw people using our land as they please and

we did nothing about it until our land claims were successful and we had to take a stand on what we want to do with our land," said Zulu during his address.

SAFDA's Executive Chairman Dr Siyabonga Madlala, who delivered the keynote address, emphasised loyalty and he stressed the importance of fighting for what one is entitled to. Dr Madlala has never shied away from telling the truth, and this time he did not hold back. "People of Mthonjaneni must not forget how we got here. I see that some are behaving differently and have lost loyalty to the organisation. Loyalty and transparency are extremely important when working together as a nation, they build a nation and ensure that what you are working towards is achieved. "I want to appeal to the farmers of Mthonjaneni to never lose their loyalty and never forget who stood by them when the situation was chaotic," said Dr Madlala.

SAFDA has a co-management agreement with four communities



in Melmoth namely Entembeni, Isizwe Sakwa-Dludla, Emakhasaneni, and Entembeni Royal House communities surrounding the greater Mthonjaneni Municipal area. SAFDA has been working with the Trusts for over two years and has been able to maintain the jobs on the farms. Over 50 permanent and 350 seasonal persons are employed on these farms, and their incomes makes a significant contribution to the local economy of Melmoth.





## Diversifying: Cannabis: OPPORTUNITIES FROM HEMP *Cannabis sativa L* PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR OUR FARMERS

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) is actively looking for opportunities for our farmers to diversify in various agricultural enterprises to support their long-term sustainability. The address made by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his SONA address gave SAFDA a brainwave to pursue this opportunity. Fundamental to transformational development programmes and projects that SAFDA is pursuing for our farmers is to reduce their inputs costs and increase their revenue streams. Agricultural diversification directly speaks to increasing the revenue streams for our black farmers to participate in new agricultural commodities and add value.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has seen the acknowledged the potential opportunities of Hemp, *Cannabis sativa L* in its process of

developing the Agriculture and Agro-processing Masterplan (AAMP) and has included it as an industrial field crop. This is very encouraging for SAFDA, we hope with the finalisation of the AAMP, follows the regulatory, production and support beneficiation of the crop into the range of products already being produced in other parts of the world. We need government to provide financial support for our black farmers to enter into these new Agri-industrial diversification opportunities and to grow the local rural economies of South Africa.

We know that Hemp, *Cannabis sativa L*, is an industrial crop and is one of the oldest cultivated crops in the world. Hemp is cultivated in many countries, including, China, Canada, Russia, the USA, and several European countries. In these countries Hemp is being utilized for a variety of purposes and thousands of consumer products such as

hemp apparel and accessories to housewares and hempseed oil cosmetics, hemp is used in clothing, shoes, diapers, rope, canvas, cellophane, paints, fuels, chain lubricants, biodegradable plastics, paper, fibreboard, cement blocks, food, cosmetics, and soap. As you can see that if our black farmers are given an opportunity and support to grow Hemp, *Cannabis sativa L*, there are new markets that could be accessed, both locally and for export.

The hemp plant requires a mild, temperate climate and an annual rainfall or irrigation of at least 500 to 700 mm. Hemp is ready for harvest 120 days (just 4 months) after planting. This is an excellent opportunity to grow this crop for our farmers as a complementary crop or even as an anchor crop for our farmers. Especially if government is supporting the regulatory and value chain establishment in South Africa.



