



Province of the

**EASTERN CAPE**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
AGRARIAN REFORM

## **TEA PRODUCTION IN THE EASTERN CAPE**

*MAGWA & MAJOLA TEA ESTATES*



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## STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON:

**-HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION**

**-ACTIVE INGREDIENTS REGISTERED FOR INSECTS/DISEASES  
& WEEDS**

**-CRITICAL GAP IN RELATION TO THESE PESTS**

**-PROPOSED SOLUTIONS FROM INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE**

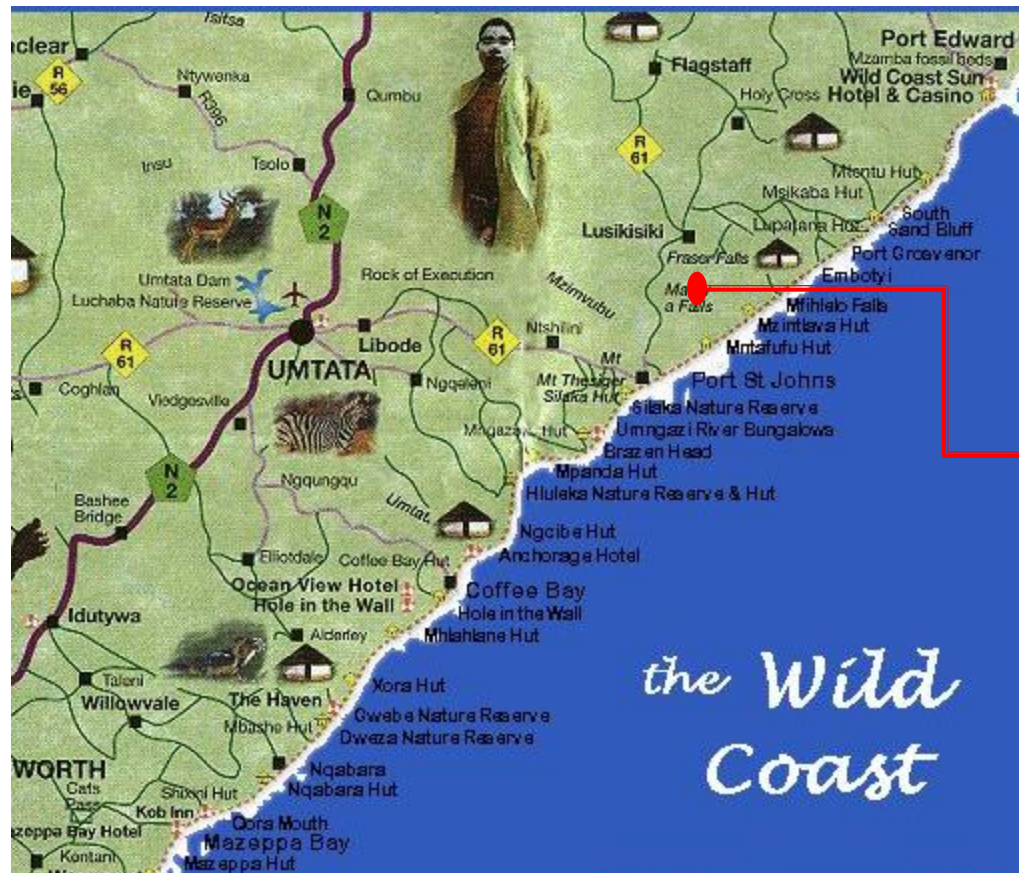


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## **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE MAGWA TEA ESTATE:**

at 1803 ha, the estate is believed to be the largest tea plantation in the Southern Hemisphere



Falls are  
in the  
middle  
of the  
tea  
estate



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## **HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION IN THE E.C.**

- 1958**: Magwa enterprise was initiated as a state project of the Former Transkei government
  
- 1960**: First experimental plots on tea production laid in Lusikisiki  
  
Analysis revealed area suitable for large scale production
  
- 1965**: Tea production at Magwa tea estate started with 50 ha of seedlings
  
- 1969**: Tea factory established by Transkei Dept. of Agriculture
  
- 1970**: Second tea Estate, Majola developed in Majola area of Mzimvubu with 35 ha of production.



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## **HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION IN THE E.C.**

- 1972**: Area of Production at Majola Estate increased from 35 ha to 280 ha with 80 ha mature tree planting.
- 1976**: Area of production at Magwa estate increased from 50 ha to 830 ha with 490 ha of mature trees.
- 1976**: Due to increase in area of production, the yield increased from 16 000 kg of green leaf tea per day to 20 000 kg leaf area per day.
- 1994**: Period of transition: Transkei Government seized to exist. Financial support declines resulting in decline in
  1. Economic development
  2. Infrastructure development
  3. Social Services



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## **HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION IN THE E.C.**

**-POST 1994:** ownership transferred to workers, conflicts mounted resulting in inefficiencies and a reduction in production

**-2004 - 2007:** Eastern Cape government tries to intervene with about R 41 M used during this period.

Funding made no difference: Reason: Human, Social & technical issues not addressed

**-2004 – 2007:** During this period Eastern Cape Dev. Corporation (ECDC) appointed by E.C. government to revive the dormant company

ECDC appoints tea specialists and tea managers, success seen but was short lived due to continued conflicts



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## **HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION IN THE E.C.**

- 2009**: Unrest starts at Magwa as workers resist any changes made by management.
- 2011**: ECDC announces new board to turn the fortunes of Magwa around
- 2011**: The estate is shut down after management refuses to give in to workers demands.
- 2016**: Magwa estate is placed under business rescue
- 2017**: The bankrupt Majola tea estate is also wounded up



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## **HISTORY AND SIZE OF TEA PRODUCTION IN THE E.C.**

- At its peak, the farm had a turnover of R65-million a season, 1200 permanent staff and 2300 seasonal workers
  - When in production, tea is sold to several countries including China, India, Britain and Pakistan
  - Local market include Lipton and Joko
- In 2017 the estate had its first harvest after dormancy of four years





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## **CURRENT HOPES ON A BUSSINESS RESCUE PLAN WHICH ENTAILS:**

1. Total transfer of the Tea Estate from the ECDC to DRDAR
2. Implementation of the proposed new shareholding structure whereby Business rescue practitioners/ Private partners will control 51 % of the estate, 26% to the community, 13% to employees and 10% to government



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## **ACTIVE INGREDIENTS REGISTERED FOR INSECTS/DISEASES & WEEDS (WITH REGARD TO TEA INDUSTRY)**

-INSECTS: Tetradifon for control of mites (Yellow, purple and Flat mites)

*Beauveria bassiana* for the control of False Codling moth

*Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki* for the control of the False Codling moth

**Active ingredients not listed on the guide to crop pest management (Registered) for the control of some tea attacking insects such as:**

- Grasshoppers, Termites,
- Cutworms, Termites
- Tea aphids, Thrips etc.



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## **ACTIVE INGREDIENTS REGISTERED FOR INSECTS/DISEASES & WEEDS (WITH REGARD TO TEA INDUSTRY)**

- DISEASES: Registered chemical for the control of tea diseases such as fungicides etc. not on the guide for the control of diseases in S.A. hence No Active ingredients are listed.
- WEEDS: Paraquat, disquat/paraquat, Carfen trazone ethyle are registered for the control of weeds in Tea plantations



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## **CRITICAL GAP IN RELATION TO ALL THESE PESTS**

Limitations exist with regard to availability and registration of all chemicals for the control of all insects, diseases and weeds associated with tea plantation.

## **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

More chemicals must be registered and made available for the control of all insects, diseases and weeds associated with tea plantation.



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**Daily Dispatch**



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THANK YOU