

# Minister Didiza feels agriculture is still the elephant in the room at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva

**T**he World Trade Organization's (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) negotiations were extended by a day by the Director-General (DG) of the WTO, Madam Ngozi Okonjo-Iwealato. This extension, which came after consultations among the DG, the chair of MC12, Kazakhstan, the vice chairs and ministerial facilitators, aimed to afford additional time to negotiators to find one another on important issues under discussions.

"Progress has been made on the draft Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Food Security. This declaration aimed to address the current food insecurity emergencies arising from impacts of a number of challenges, including climate change, geo-political tensions and rising costs of agricultural inputs," said Minister Didiza.

The negotiations on the draft text on the ministerial decision on the World Food Programme (WFP)'s Food Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions and Restrictions, were optimistically tilted towards a likely solution. Such a decision was likely

to give predictability and certainty on WFP procurement.

However, the negotiations on the ministerial decision on agriculture that details the envisaged work programme remained largely divergent and too wide at this stage. Work was being undertaken to try to bridge the divide relating to this programme. Apart from initial broad plenary statements where member states expressed varying and divergent views and the subsequent Green Room process, which attempted to bridge points of divergence, there was insignificant rapprochement in the negotiations.

Minister Didiza believes that the stalemate on this matter, was indicative of the complexity and emotions that such evoked amongst member countries.

"The danger of not giving direction on the work programme may mean the death of regulating agricultural trade now and in the future," said Minister Didiza.

"This will open up arbitrary trading rules that may have the effect of building walls and protectionism, thereby killing fair trade in agricultural products among and between countries," she concluded.



# Land Summit to help Government to improve on land matters

By Samuel Kgatla

**T**he Communal Land Administration and Tenure Summit will assist government in addressing the issues of communal land administration and land tenure in rural communities. This massive summit was hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) working with other departments from 27–28 May 2022 at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

The main objectives of the summit were to reflect on progress pertaining to the implementation of the 2017 Traditional Leaders Indaba resolutions; review progress concerning the implementation of the resolutions of the June 2018 joint meeting of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and DALRRD; to reflect on the Presidential Advisory Panel Report; and to discuss the position paper of Government, which takes into account various inputs received from relevant stakeholders.

Deputy President David Mabuza said they were aware of the urgent need to effect land transformation that goes beyond the 13% of communal land under the jurisdiction of traditional leaders.

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**Deputy President, Mr David Mabuza, delivering the Keynote Address at the Land Summit.**



**COGTA Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Minister Thoko Didiza arriving at the Land Summit.**

Director	Moses Rannditsheni	083 337 5869	Moses.Rannditsheni@dalrrd.gov.za
Subeditor	Lerato Mofokeng	012 319 7927	LeratoMOF@dalrrd.gov.za
Reporters	Samuel Kgatla	066 084 6653	SamuelK@dalrrd.gov.za
	Innocent Mhlanga	063 693 0353	InnocentM@dalrrd.gov.za
	Rony Moremi	066 084 6192	RincertM@dalrrd.gov.za
	Mercia Smith	060 973 3816	MerciaS@dalrrd.gov.za
	Ndivhuwo Thenga	073 815 0345	NdivhuwoTH@dalrrd.gov.za

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**Delegates attending the Land Summit held at Birchwood Boksburg.**

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“We will proceed with available policy and legislative instruments that will assist in the acquisition of more land for redistribution and expansion of communal land, especially in areas where land has been expropriated in the public interest. We want to see the outcomes of the Land Summit 2022 to address these issues of communal land administration and land tenure in rural communities. As government, we are committed and will not tire until our people are helped. We will ensure that land issues not covered in the deliberations of this narrowly focused summit are firmly placed on the agenda of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team, which is tasked with addressing all issues raised by traditional and Khoisan leaders,” he said.

Minister Thoko Didiza said the Land Summit was looking at ways to speedily resolve disagreements. “It also looked at how land can be used to benefit current and future generations. The Land Reform programme aims to ensure that, when we deal with land inequality, we transfer land to the community majority for use and that they receive continuous training,” she said.

Some of the resolutions of the summit include government working with traditional leaders to develop an integrated Land Administration System, government to arrange courtesy visits to the kings to appraise them on the outcomes of the Land Summit and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and COGTA to devise a mechanism to enhance relationships between municipalities and traditional leaders.



**Minister Thoko Didiza addressing delegates at the Land Summit.**



**Ms Queen Vorster from the Eastern Cape said she can not wait to engage with Government at the Land Summit.**

# Sokhulumi Agri-park received agricultural production inputs and equipment



*With collaboration between Sokhulumi Village, the City of Tshwane Metro smallholders and established farmers, as well as the department, more can be done to eradicate food insecurity and and increase producing for the markets.*

**T**he Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, handed over agricultural production inputs and equipment to the members of the Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) under the Sokhulumi Agri-park on 30 May 2022.

The Sokhulumi Agri-park is one of the agri-parks under the City of Tshwane Agri-park Programme earmarked for support by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

The minister handed over the agricultural production inputs and equipment to the Sokhulumi Agri-park as part of the departmental farmer support programme to assist smallholder farmers to maximise agricultural production, maintain their supply contracts, create jobs, enhance food security, stimulate agro-industrialisation and help to grow the country's economy.

This initiative ema-

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*Minister Thoko Didiza with iNKosi Mkambi Mahlangu from Sokhulumi and City of Tshwane Speaker, Dr Makwarela, launching the FPSU.*

**Sokhulumi Agri-Park**

**Sokhulumi Agri-Park**





**Women from Makgomo and Asbambisaneni Agricultural Cooperatives showcasing their products.**

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nates from the outcome of a study that was conducted by Urban-Econ, a specialist consulting firm in the arena of development economics, to look at viable commodities that can form part of the master plan for a possible agri-park in the City of Tshwane. The study identified suitable commodities for each agri-park based on, among others, climatic conditions, land use capabilities and economic factors.

The FPSUs are part of the Agri-Parks programme and they will provide support by allocating a one-stop-shop of farming resources such as machinery and cold storage facilities for smallholder farmers within a 30 km radius,

In the City of Tshwane, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development will, in the current financial year, provide support to three agri-parks, namely Sokhulumi Agri-park, Rooiwal Agri-park and Winterveldt Agri-park.



**This is the first phase of the implementation where the department invested over R17 million to cover the procurement of four storage facilities, site clearing, constructing 3ha fence, 2 ha shade nets, two tractors and other implements. It also included the appointment of a local security company to secure the assets.**



# Beneficiary at Brakkekloof supported

By Vuyani Nkasayi

**T**he Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) supported a Brakkekloof farm beneficiary with farming implements, such as a new tractor and planter. Mr Thomas Johannes, who worked as a farmworker for 22 years, is now a proud lessee of Brakkekloof state farm. This 510 hectare farm produces wheat, lucerne, wool and sheep. Mr Johannes pointed out that his market includes abattoirs in the area and local supermarkets. Currently, the farm has more than 400 Dohne sheep and Mr Johannes has big plans to expand his farming activities. Dohne sheep are good for meat and wool.



*Mr Thomas Johannes showing off his new tractor.*



*Mr Thomas Johannes with a top-of-the-range planter from DALRRD.*



*Mr Thomas Johannes with his Dohne sheep.*

# Department invests over R4 million in Haarlem small-scale farmers

By Vuyani Nkasayi

**T**he Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has invested over R4 million to develop the small-scale farmers of Haarlem in George Municipality.

Haarlem is situated 15 km outside Uniondale in the Garden Route District. This area is rich in farming, with farmers planting and producing fruit and vegetables, such as apples, pears, nectarines, onions, potatoes and tomatoes, butternut, pumpkins, cabbages, lettuce, beetroot and spinach. Most Haarlem farmers sell their produce in Eastern Cape towns, such as Gqeberha, Humansdorp and others. The department has about eight farms in the Haarlem area.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the Haarlem farming community was under the spotlight as the department committed to support the small-scale farmers with various production inputs, equipment and machinery to assist them to improve their production. The DALRRD Branch: Economic Development, Trade and Marketing (EDTM) is the unit tasked with ensuring that small-scale farmers are supported.

There are at least 11 registered secondary cooperatives in the area involved in various commodities and they are happy with the support they receive from the department. Last week, there was great joy as various farming implements were delivered, including compressor machines, wheelbarrows, pullets, wood bins, seedlings, tools, hose pipes, sprayers, protective clothing (PPE) and other materials. The farmers were pleased to receive the much-needed working tools.



**Happy farmers displaying some of the material DALRRD supported them with.**



**Some of the working tools handed over by DALRRD Haarlem farmers.**



A brand new storage container gifted to Haarlem small-scale farmers.

# Area estimate and fifth production forecast of summer crops

## Summer field crops – 2022

**Commercial maize:** The size of the expected commercial maize crop has been set at 14,679 mill. tons. The area estimate for maize is 2,623 mill. ha, while the expected yield is 5,60 t/ha.

The estimated maize crop is 10% smaller than the 2021 crop. The three main maize producing areas, namely the Free State, Mpumalanga and North West provinces are expected to produce 81% of the 2022 crop. The area estimate for white maize is 1,575 mill. ha and for yellow maize the area estimate is 1,048 mill. ha.

The production forecast for white maize is 7,470 mill. tons, which is 1,09% or 82 650 tons lower than the previous forecast of 7,553 mill. tons. The yield for white maize is 4,74 t/ha. In the case of yellow maize, the production forecast is 7,208 mill. tons, which is 0,53% or 38 100 tons more than the previous forecast of 7,170 mill. tons. The yield for yellow maize is 6,88 t/ha.

## Sunflower seed

The production forecast for sunflower seed is 961 350 tons, which is 0,17% or 1 650 tons lower than the previous forecast of 963 000 tons. The area estimate

for sunflower seed is 670 700 ha, while the expected yield is 1,43 t/ha.

## Other crops

The production forecast for soya beans has been set at 2,091 mill. tons, which is 8,32 % or 160 650 tons more than the previous forecast of 1,931 mill. tons. The estimated area planted to soybeans is 925 300 ha and the expected yield is 2,26 t/ha. The expected groundnut crop was adjusted downwards by 22,02 % or 15 500 tons, from 70 400 tons to 54 900 tons. For groundnuts, the area estimate is 43 400 ha, with an expected yield of 1,26 t/ha.

The production forecast for sorghum is 140 820 tons, which is 2,62% or 3 600 tons more than the previous forecast of 137 220 tons. The area estimate for sorghum is 37 200 ha and the expected yield is 3,79 t/ha.

In the case of dry beans, the production forecast was adjusted downwards by 4,34% or 2 430 tons, from 55 995 tons to 53 565 ton. The area estimate of dry beans is 42 900 ha, with an expected yield of 1,25 t/ha.

Please note that the sixth production forecast for summer field crops for 2022 will be released on 27 July 2022. 🇩🇪

# Minister celebrates Italian Republic Day



*Minister Didiza joined the Italian Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Paolo Cuculi in Waterkloof for the commemoration of Italian Republic Day. This day is celebrated with various expressions of art in ceremonies, parades and concerts, which are usually held in Italy, Rome.*




# Update on availability of African horse sickness vaccine

**O**nderstepoort Biological Products Ltd (“OBP”) updates, as undertaken, Clients and stakeholders in the South African equine industry, on progress in production and distribution of the African horse sickness vaccines.

Since our last communique, progress is being made in ensuring that there is sufficient vaccines to inoculate animals against this disease. OBP has also implemented contingency measures, as reported before, that were intended to produce the vaccine, albeit in limited quantities that have already been distributed through a targeted distribution strategy to vulnerable control zones in consultation with stakeholders. OBP continues to actively evaluate alternatives in order to ensure that the vaccination season continues uncompromised.

In addition to the limited quantities that we have started distributing to clients, and after thorough consultation with industry representatives, OBP will be releasing AHS Bottle 2, ONLY TO REGISTERED VETERINARIANS. The use of this product under veterinary supervision is in line with the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act. 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982). Distribution of AHS Bottle 2 will commence between 20 and 24 June 2022, and OBP will continue keeping clients and stakeholders updated about the release of AHS Bottle 1.

OBP continues working cooperatively with Government and all equine industry stakeholders to ensure the European Union Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) visit later.

**For media enquiries, contact the Communication Officer, Ms Zipho Linda, on 067 884 5429.** 



# A sustainable future for pork



**I**n today's times, retailers are under further pressure to ensure that they offer their customers the right product at the right price. When it comes to protein source purchases, retailers need to ensure that the products they sell are aligned to their customers' quality and price expectations.

At the same time, customers are becoming more and more discerning regarding the integrity of the products they buy. They want to know where the product is from and how it is produced. This places pressure on retailers to ensure that they source their products from the best available suppliers, which, in turn, place even greater pressure on the suppliers to ensure that they meet the expectations of the retailers and the consumers of the products they produce.

Producers of pork and various pork products need to ensure that every effort is taken to ensure that the integrity of what they produce is continually maintained to ensure a sustainable future for pork.

## **Working together towards sustainability**

As the pork industry in South Africa, which is cognisant of the rapid changes in the world, and in the

country, strong partnerships and relationships will be required to ensure sustainability. Some of these partnerships already exist and others still need to be explored. The most crucial relationship is with the consumers of pork and pork products (the market). It will never be a direct relationship—it will always be facilitated *via* butchers and retailers, however, it is important that it is transparent and trustworthy. The industry must produce pork that satisfies the requirements of the consumer, including food safety, wholesomeness, environmental sustainability and welfare-conscious production systems. The partnership with sellers of pork is also a crucial wheel in the cog for the same reasons.

Partnerships with government departments need to be built so that endorsement and approval of self-regulation programmes and systems can be attained. The pork industry recognises that state resources are stretched and to maintain high standards of consumer assurance as an industry, crucial oversight of the value chain must continue. SAPPO's Pork 360 Scheme, among others, is a move in the direction of self-regulation.



# Minister encourages youth to use land effectively



**Minister Thoko Didiza engaged with youth from King Cetshwayo District who were affected by last year's looting and recent floods. The purpose of the visit was to hand over support to youth enterprises.**



**The youth had the opportunity to exhibit their products, such as flowers, seedlings, toilet paper and brick manufacturing.**



**The minister, accompanied by her delegation handed over the Clanso FPSU built by the Rural Infrastructure Development brand. The construction of the FPSU is worth more than 4,5 million and has offices, truck depot and a packhouse and it is run by eight co-operatives which includes youth and unemployed agriculture graduates. The minister encouraged the youth to use land effectively.**



# NAMPO was missed as a shopping, socialising and networking event during the past two years

**T**his year's NAMPO Harvest Day exceeded expectations with a solid attendance of 73 000. The week was characterised by an energetic atmosphere that prevailed among exhibitors, producers and visitors—which confirms that NAMPO was missed as a shopping, socialising and networking event during the past two years it could not be held.

The Harvest Day week started off on Monday with a visit by Ms Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The minister's delegation included her two deputy ministers as well as the department's director-general, Mooketsa Ramasodi. During the visit, the minister also held talks with the Ministers of Agriculture and Land Reform of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as the Argentinian ambassador.

"I tell people that NAMPO is my home. When I was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1994, NAMPO was the first agricultural show I participated in. My visit is about being with the farmers and the industry and looking at what is new regarding machinery and other industries in the sector. At NAMPO, farmers not only have the opportunity to interact with each other and with stakeholders, but also to see new technologies that exist. NAMPO represents the vastness and integration of the entire agricultural sector," Didiza said during a press conference.

Grain SA's chairperson, Derek Mathews, said in response that the NAMPO Harvest Day is a phenomenal event and opportunity to meet the suppliers and the whole family that creates the world of agriculture, not only in South Africa, but around the



***Ms Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development visiting the Nampo Harvest Day. The Chairperson of Grain SA, Derek Mathews and Vice-chairperson Jeremia Mathebula accompanied her on a tour of the show.***

world. "Grain SA appreciates Minister Didiza and her delegation's visit to NAMPO to get to know the producers. This is what we as South Africans must do; we need to get to know each other," Mathews said.

The Nation in Conversation Forum's discussion topics focused on the state of the economy, the responsible use of chemicals, infrastructure and logistics, the regeneration of rural communities, diversification and integration of livestock, data in agriculture and the future of agriculture. Broadcasts of the conversations are available on the Nation in Conversation website. The digital channel, Agrixtra, which was launched during Nampo Virtual and can be found on YouTube, broadcast live from NAMPO Park and takes a look at everything that was on display at NAMPO this year. 