

2007 Female Farmer Award Winners

Household Category

Ms Roster Mathabela

Kwazulu-Natal Province

The Isibonelo Vegetable Garden comprises of 60 women in Jozini, who aim to alleviate poverty in the area. They started farming in 1989 from their homestead and then approached the Department of Agriculture for 10 ha irrigated land. They produce a variety of vegetables and sell these at a market stall they built themselves. They have introduced youth from their family members to the enterprise to ensure sustainability.

Informal Markets Category

Ms Nomathamsanqa Madliwa

Eastern Cape Province

Mrs Mdiwa bought a farm through the LRAD Programme in 2004 and started the hydroponics project. Production takes place in six tunnels, each holding 900 tomato plants, the tomatoes are sold to the Spar Group in East London, street vendors in Queenstown and the Border Farmers' Produce Market in Mdantsane. The project makes up to R300 000 per season.

National Markets

Ms Sonja Ferreira

Western Cape Province

Ms Ferreira started her Tantinki goat farming enterprise about nine years ago with only ten goats with the intention of selling fresh goat's milk. Today she milks about 120 goats and produces 13 different types of cheese, as well as butter, yoghurt, ice cream and soap. She will soon be exporting goat's milk fudge to England.

Export Category

Ms Makgoro Mannya

Limpopo Province

The Ditubatse Business Enterprise is a partnership between Ms Mannya and Ms Kgwadu Ramokgopa. They started their business by producing atchaar. More mangoes were needed and with a loan from Land bank they bought another farm already producing mangoes. The Department of Agriculture assisted them through CASP in installing an irrigation system. Early in the year, the enterprise acquired the EuroGap certification. They export their produce to Botswana, Europe and Madagascar. The enterprise has also created permanent jobs for 86 people and 40 seasonal jobs.

- This project also won the overall prize - the 'Female farmer of the Year' Award