

# Inkqubela



ANNUAL RESULTS

2016

EDITION

# contents page

Gamble pays off for  
Maqhashu's Gcinikhaya Mbali

04



Maize Production  
brings hope To Ncora families

05



Sixhotyeni Forestry Enterprise  
a "Godsend" for Zintle Majokweni

08



Mbambathi job  
changes administrator  
family's fortunes

09



Dongwe entrepreneur  
identifies gap in livestock farming

12



Dalindyebo Saleni,  
Livestock Farmer

14



ECRDA loan for fledgling  
chicken farming business

15



R12,5 MILLION FOR  
rural entrepreneurs

16



## Effecting the desired socio-economic impact



I am delighted to share yet again ECRDAs performance results through Inkqubela - a prized stakeholder engagement tool which serves as a practical demonstration of real impact on people's lives on the ground.

While the organisation speaks to stakeholders through various platforms, Inkqubela allows ECRDA to tell real and personal stories of individuals who have been touched and impacted by ECRDA programmes. The 2015/16 financial year has indeed been a testing year particularly from a programme implementation perspective. The persistent drought during the review period almost stalled all production activities resulting in no planting taking place in the last quarter of the year at the Emalahleni RED Hub. However, the organisation continued to pursue a determined implementation of its high impact priority programmes whose results are reflected herein. ECRDA is particularly pleased with its clean audit opinion from the Auditor General which cements the

organisation's standing as an effective custodian of public assets.

This is a proud track record which we intend to maintain in the future.

I am also pleased that ECRDA has continuously demonstrated to government and the rural populace that it is up to the task of effecting the desired impact. This is an important undertaking because by virtue of its mandate, ECRDA has effectively entered into a social compact with rural communities on behalf of government that it will play an empowering role in the realisation of the aspirations of those in the rural communities of the Eastern Cape.

This calls on ECRDA to ensure that it is in a constant state and mindset of internal renewal to ensure that it can face up to the challenges and live up

to the expectations presented by a highly-contested rural development terrain.

The organisation also took a new approach to business which should exploit the full capacity of ECRDAs human capital.

This came with the tacit acknowledgment that ECRDA cannot hope to deliver the required socio-economic dividend without the express support of its people. I am pleased that the vast majority of our staff are keen participants in a concerted and considered drive toward the realisation of the full potential of the rural economy.

**Thози Gwanyanya**  
Chief executive officer

I am pleased that the vast majority of our staff are keen participants in a concerted and considered drive toward the realisation of the full potential of the rural economy.





# Gamble pays off for Maqhashu's Gcinikhaya Mbali



A general manager at the Emalahleni RED Hub in Lady Frere, Gcinikhaya Mbali took a gamble with maize and vegetable production after losing his human resources job in the mining industry.

After 23 years as a seasoned human resources practitioner in the mining industry in the North West Province, Gcinikhaya Mbali's professional career was cut short when he lost his job in 2001 due to a restructuring exercise in his company. Gcinikhaya found himself in unfamiliar territory in which he faced a lot of uncertainties about his future and financial security. He took a gamble and made his way to his ancestral home in Maqhashu village in Lady Frere to build a future in agriculture planting maize and vegetables and selling them to neighbouring villages to generate an income.

With a dogged determination to succeed in his agricultural venture he clubbed with other like-minded souls interested in farming to form a primary co-operative on the advice of the local municipality with a total of 80 members. In April 2014, the Maqhashu Sorghum Belt Association Co-operative was born.

The hardwork and steely determination began to pay off when in 2005, the co-operative received a funding boost of R808 000 from the National Development Agency for the production of sorghum between 2005 and 2006.

"Since then we have been planting sorghum uninterrupted until the 2015/16 season because of the severe national drought. When our co-operative kicked off other co-operatives also started planting sorghum in Lady Frère. There are now six co-operatives in the area planting sorghum. We were advised by stakeholders to establish a secondary co-operative which would be a mother body to the six primary co-operatives. The Ibuyambo Secondary Co-operative was thus formed in 2010.

"However, things also really started to kick-off on a bigger scale when the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) joined other stakeholders such as the Emalahleni Local Municipality, Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) at a district level, Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), Department of Social Development and Land Affairs to contribute to our primary production activities," says Gcinikhaya.

In August 2014, ECRDA established the Emalahleni Rural Enterprise Development (RED) Hub which assisted the primary co-operatives to plant 829ha of grain sorghum. A total of 565

tons were harvested in 2015/16. The RED Hub which has six primary cooperatives sold **472.24 tons** of grain sorghum to Border Seed, OVK and PSP. The total income generated was **R1.22 million**.

Gcinikhaya is now the general manager of the Emalahleni RED Hub and he says the establishment of the secondary cooperative centralises production and it acts as a marketing agent on behalf of the primary co-ops.

**"ECRDA has also helped us begin a value addition process to our primary production activities because we are now processing sorghum at the Ibuyambo Mill. In addition the agency has helped with the expansion of our business premises. We now have a milling plant and trading store. Furthermore, ECRDA has established a mechanisation unit for our benefit which consists of six tractors and implements such as reapers, disks, boomsprayer, planters, cultivators, trailers, combine harvester, 7-ton truck, 4x4 bakkie as well as two silos with a combined storage capacity of 2,000 tons. The RED Hub is also in a process of building a mechanisation shed for safe-keeping,"** Gcinikhaya explains.

The Emalahleni RED Hub now has 574 beneficiaries and 22 people permanently employed as of the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

"This journey has definitely been worthwhile and the support from various stakeholders has made it that much easier to travel. Remember most of our lands were lying fallow but today we are on a firm path toward self-sufficiency, improved income generation and the alleviation of high-poverty levels. The gamble is proving to be worthwhile," ends Gcinikhaya.

# maize production brings hope To Ncora families



In 2015/16 the Ncora Red Hub delivered **1,935 tons** to the silos from the 1,003 ha planted in 2014/15. The new grain storage silo has a **2,000 ton capacity**.

Poverty is beginning to meet a slow and agonising death for members of the 10 primary co-operatives which form part of the Ncora Rural Enterprise Development Hub in the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality.

That might happen even sooner if it were up to Phumzile Boyani (60), the chairman of the Ncora Irrigation Scheme Producers Assembly Secondary Cooperative.

Born in Mzola Village in Ncora in 1956, Phumzile spent 20 years and much of his adult life working in the mines in Johannesburg since 1975. When the mine he worked for closed down, Phumzile came back home to Mzola to farm on his piece of land. He started off farming on his own before joining other community members to form the Mzola Primary Agricultural Co-operative in 2010 which has 96 members. "When we started the primary co-operative we used to farm yellow maize which we sold to the Ncora Dairy. With the involvement of ECRDA through the RED Hubs programme we now sell maize to the mill and we receive income from the sales. The majority of the income is reinvested back into planting for the next season.

"Our involvement in the RED Hub programme has made our lives easier as we have access to technology and farming methods we never had before. We are now employing people and our children are becoming skilled in agricultural practice. This programme also creates food security for our people and we are determined to see poverty being a distant memory for our members and communities," says Phumzile.

The father of six and grandfather of six says while being elected the chairman of the secondary co-operative which is the umbrella body of the 10 primary co-operatives was an honour, he derives more satisfaction in the fact that communities are becoming more self-sufficient.

"We now buy mielie meal in Ncora because our maize is processed at the local mill and we buy our milk at the dairy which forms part of the Ncora Irrigation Scheme. We are excited because the RED Hub concept spin-offs envisaged by

ECRDA when it presented the idea to us are beginning to pay off," explains Phumzile.

ECRDA agronomist Luvo Qongqo says the Red Hub links three market elements of production, processing and marketing to boost the competitiveness of rural economies and communities. These physical hubs should link production to the mills and other value adding operations as well as marketing. The result is that production receives the market support it needs to flourish and money is kept 'alive' and circulates within a community as long as possible. This implies that value adding should be done by the community rather than by conglomerates far from these communities.

In practice this means, for example, maize should be grown by the community, milled in the community, processed and packaged in the community and even sold back into the community with the whole process being owned by these communities.

"We have a stable management committee at the secondary co-operative level which is made up of individual chairpersons of the primary co-operatives.

The committee runs the dairy, manages partnerships and investors. It also raises funds on behalf of the Ncora Irrigation Scheme," Phumzile adds.

In 2015/16 the Ncora Red Hub delivered 1,935 tons to the silos from the 1,003 ha planted in 2014/15. The new grain storage silo has a 2,000 ton capacity. The income generated from the sale of maize was R5 million. The bulk of the maize which was 1,759 tons was sold to Ncora Dairy because at the time of harvesting, the Ncora mill was not yet operational due to unavailability of power.

Some R4.56 million was paid by Ncora Dairy to the secondary co-operative. The remaining 176.76 tons of maize was sold to the secondary co-operative which in turn paid over R459 576 to the primary cooperatives.

At the end of 2015/16, 306ha of white maize were planted. However, because of the harsh drought conditions that contributed to low soil moisture levels, only 149 ha germinated.





**R4.56 million**

was paid by Ncora Dairy to the secondary co-operative

The remaining 176.76 tons of maize was sold to the secondary co-operative which in turn paid over

**R459 576**

to the primary cooperatives

**At the end of 2015/16...**



**306ha of white maize** were planted. Because of the harsh drought conditions that contributed to low soil moisture



**ONLY 149 ha** germinated

**MQANDULI**  
Income derived from maize sales

**R998 275**

165 ha of white maize planted in 3rd quarter of 2015/16

**399.31 tons** in Mqanduli were harvested

**750 ton capacity** additional silo in Mqanduli

**1,500 ton overall** silo capacity in the hub

**MBIZANA**  
Income derived from maize sales

**R512, 216**

448 ha of white maize planted in 4th quarter of 2015/16

**316.7 tons** harvested in Mbizana

**226.5 tons** were sold to Mqanduli Mill

2,000 ton silo capacity

**RED HUB**  
ROUND-UP



**NCORA**  
Income derived from maize sales

**R5 million**

306 ha of white maize planted in 3rd quarter of 2015/16

**1,935.92 tons** of maize harvested

**1,759 tons** directly sold to Ncora Dairy

**EMALAHLENI**  
Income generated from sorghum sales

**R1.22 million**

No planting took place due to drought

**565 tons** of sorghum harvested

**472.24 tons** sold to different buyers in the Eastern Cape; PSP (Kokstad), Border Seed (Queenstown) and OVK (Elliot)

2,000 ton silo capacity



# Sixhotyeni Forestry Enterprise a "Godsend" for Zintle Majokweni



Following several years with very little luck on the employment front and four of those years as a volunteer teaching literacy classes for the elderly, it was "Godsend" when Zintle Majokweni (37) was offered a permanent post as an administrator at the Sixhotyeni Forestry Enterprise in 2013.

Sixhotyeni is located 25 kilometres from Maclear on the R396 road between Maclear and Tsomo.

"The Sixhotyeni job was heaven sent because the very

next year in 2014 my husband, who worked in the security industry in Pretoria, lost his job. I hadn't had much luck getting a job before this and I had worked as a volunteer teaching adult literacy classes for four years in the area.

"I passed Grade 12 and I had to drop out of a business management course because of financial challenges and I ended up doing a computer course. So it was a blessing when a post was advertised at the forestry project and I was appointed as an administrator.



**"This has truly changed my life coming at an opportune time such as this," says Zintle.**

Zintle, a mother of two high school children says when she joined the Sixhotyeni Forestry Enterprise ECRDA had already been working in the area identifying areas with a high potential for forestry development. In 2015/16 R4,4 million was spent by ECRDA planting 214ha of gum trees in Sixhotyeni. "The existence of this project has had a deep impact on my life and that of my family. Besides my husband losing his job, I also became a grandparent in 2015 and the breadwinner. Without this job I don't know what we would eat and how we would take our children to school," Zintle says.

# Mkambathi job changes administrator family's fortunes



**"This job changed my life. I get paid much more than I was a cashier. I am able to do more at home and I have been able to take my sister through college and ensured that she graduated," Nolutefe adds.**



After spending two years as a cashier at a national retail chain store in Flagstaff, Nolutefe Ntethe-Goduka (34) always dreamed of a job that would change her life.

Nolutefe had spent time as a security guard at the Port St John's beach as she had completed a security course after finishing her matric.

"As a result of the challenges of working in the security industry I decided to register at the Ingwe TVET College where I did a management assistant course which led me to the cashier position. However, I wanted more and a better paying job which would allow me to meet my obligations toward my family. "When the post of administrator came up at Mkambathi Forestry Enterprise in 2011 I applied and I came

second after the interviews. As luck would have it, the first-choice candidate was promoted and I was appointed as an administrator in 2012 at the forestry project," says Nolutefe.

The mother of two who grew up in Khanyayo village in Flagstaff says part of her duties involves loading payroll information of workers, handling cash flow, maintaining the asset register among other things.

"This job changed my life. I get paid much more than I was a cashier. I am able to do more at home and I have been able to take my sister through college and ensured that she graduated," Nolutefe adds.

In 2015/16 ECRDA spent R5 million in Mkambathi to plant 78ha of gum trees.

In 2015/16 ECRDA spent  
**R5 million**  
in Mkambathi

to plant  
**78ha**  
of gum trees



# 2015/16 forestry overview

A combined total of **140** additional jobs (permanent) were created by these five projects



**353** short-term jobs were also created

**ECRDA made significant inroads** in improving the amount of communal land under new forestry plantations.



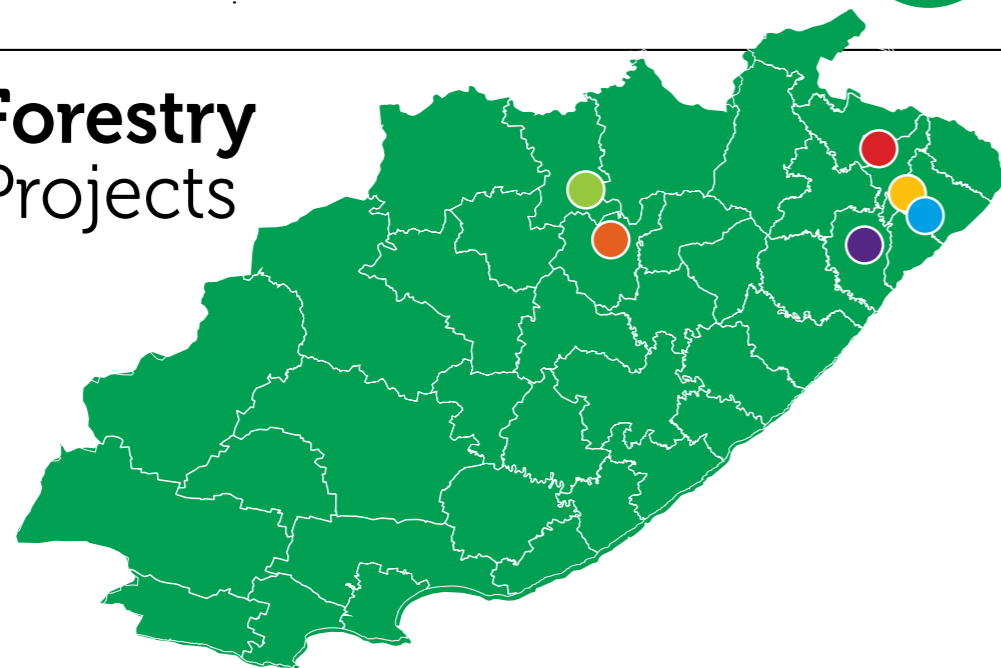
**1,130 hectares** gum plantations planted across five projects **2015/16**



**R30,88 million** was spent in 2015/16



## Forestry Projects



● Sinawo 
 ● Mkambathi 
 ● Izinini 
 ● Gqukunqa 
 ● Sixhotyeni 
 ● Lusikisiki



**Five projects** were implemented in Izinini and Sinawo, Mbizana, Sixhotyeni in Maclear, Gqukunqa in Qumbu, and Mkambathi in Flagstaff

**Gqukunqa** 384ha of gum were planted and a total of **R8,5m** was spent there.

Bringing the total number of hectares planted to 605ha. Funds were spent on payment of staff, herbicides, seedlings, fertilisers and on the purchase of a bakkie. In addition, protective clothing was purchased for employees. A total of 31 permanent jobs were created bringing the total number of full-time employees to 79. A total of 295 short-term jobs were created in 2015/16. There has also been a marked improvement in the quality of seedlings in the project with the mortality rate dropping to 1% from 50%. This was largely due to the employment of a qualified forester to oversee operations. The project also has an existing off-take agreement with PG Bison.

**Izinini** **R3,5m** spent and **111ha** of gum trees planted

Bringing the total amount of land planted to 335ha. The funds were used for staff salaries and, purchase of seedlings, herbicides and fertilisers. Some five permanent jobs were created on 2015/16 bringing the total number of full-time staff to 60. A total of 57 short-term jobs were created. As a result of challenges experienced in the relationship between the Communal Property Association (CPA), the traditional leadership and the community, new elections for a new CPA executive were being facilitated by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR).

**Sixhotyeni** **R4,4m** was spent and **214ha** of gum trees were planted

The funds were spent on compensation of employees, herbicides, seedlings and fertilisers. A total of 39 people were permanently employed bringing to 86 the total number of full-time staff. In 2015/16 a total of 146 short-term jobs were created. A bakkie was also bought for the project.

**Mkambathi** **R5m** was spent and a total of **78ha** gum trees were planted

bringing the total area planted to 668ha. The funds were used to buy seedlings, payment of employees as well as maintenance of operations. Some 57 permanent jobs were created bringing the total number of full-time staff to 109. The number of short-term jobs created was 20. In addition, the project also signed an off-take agreement with SAPPI in which the forestry giant will provide technical support to the project and become the market.

**Sinawo** **R9 million** was transferred from ECRDA to Sinawo

ECRDA also transferred R9 million to Sinawo where a total of 183ha of gum were planted in 2015/16. This brings to 902ha the total area planted thus far. The funds were spent on the compensation of employees who are doing siviculture operations such as planting, weeding and bashing. Seedlings, fertilisers and herbicides were also purchased. In 2015/16 some 16 additional staff was employed bringing the total employee count to 208. There were also a total of 113 short-term employees. The project also generates R7 million from the sale of timber in 2015/16.

**Lusikisiki Forestry Growers Cooperative**

ECRDA is equally excited that a sixth new project was added to the programme by the end of the period under review. As such, the Lusikisiki Forestry Growers Cooperative received R397 000 in 2015/16 where in 17ha of gum trees were planted. The funds were used to buy a bakkie and office supplies.



# Dongwe entrepreneur identifies gap in livestock farming



With his family always having had livestock in the form of cattle and goats, Songo Misani and his uncle Mntuphi Lindeni saw an opportunity to put to business use the communal land that wasn't being used effectively at their village Dongwe in Berlin outside East London.

With the lower costs of veld feeding in the communal land, Songo says they felt that the numbers made sense to have a go at livestock farming.

"We started having conversations in 2013 and we started doing research about actively generating revenue from livestock farming which culminated in a business plan which was submitted to ECRDA in February 2015. Currently, we have 44 cattle and 80 goats which produce between 60 and 80 kiddings a year," says Songo.

A BComm Accounting graduate with 10 years financial services experience, Songo says the business is still in the growth phase "that is, we're currently just focusing on growing our herd. We are forecasting that we will start selling by the end of 2017. Please note, unlike commercial farmers, our business plan dictates that we sell our calves at a later stage because we don't have a breeding season. So we want to give our calves at least one summer season and a chance to

fatten up before we sell. We produce to exclusively sell for beef / chevon."

The goats have done very well for the business. Their production rates are very high and they are easy and cheap to maintain.

"We have been mainly selling live goats to people that want to perform traditional ceremonies in the village and surrounding areas. But we are trying to move away from individual sales. We believe there's room to get into the super-markets. There's resistance and misinformation about goat meat. But this whole brine thing in chicken will give us a gap – at least price-wise," explains Songo.

The business which has one permanent employee and three temporary staff members, reached out to ECRDA on the recommendation of the Agricultural Research Council.

"I received a R57 000 loan. The cost of cattle we bought totalled to R61 000. I topped up the difference. We were able to buy eight open heifers (5 pure Brahman and 3 Brahman and Nguni cross). A point we tried to prove throughout the application process was that we were willing to invest money and we were not asking for a donation.

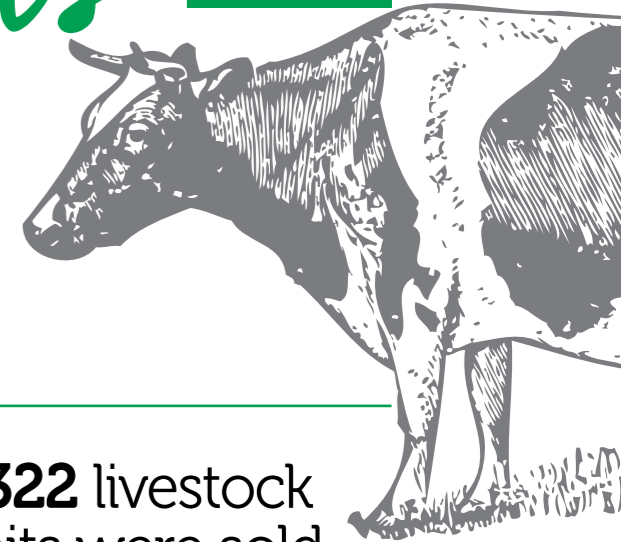
**"I will be forever grateful for the assistance I have received and they will hopefully receive more funding applications in future," says Songo**

# 2015/16 LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

## — fast facts —



**R100 000** was set aside for livestock development



■ Planned to facilitate marketing of **1,500** livestock units

■ **1,322** livestock units were sold at formal markets



**Two auction pens built in Willowvale in Fort Malan & in Ngqamakhwe**

■ Six informal auctions where a total of **146 livestock** units were sold which were mainly cattle

ECRDA held two livestock marketing workshops in the Peddie area. As a result, a dormant pen which was not used for two years held an auction in October 2015

**100 Cattle were sold at this auction** These units were bought by livestock marketing agents who organise the buyers

**Auction pens** will provide requisite infrastructure for effective & efficient livestock marketing



# in conversation with Dalindyebo Saleni, Livestock Farmer



What is the name of your business?

Saleni and Son (Pty) Ltd.

Who owns the business?

It is owned by me Dalindyebo George Saleni and my father Ntwintle John Saleni.

Where is it located?

Blue Crane Municipality in Somerset East (Komadagga area)

When was it established and for what purpose?

We applied for a farm and we were appointed as beneficiaries in April 2013 and the purpose was to make a living for our family. More importantly, farming is a passion we share.

What type of business activities is it involved in?

We are involved in livestock and crop farming. We have 24ha of lucerne, 400 marino sheep and 150 angora goat.

What is the livestock used for?

The livestock is sold for wool and mohair at BKB / CMW.

How many people does it employ if any?

There are currently three permanent workers and four casual employees.

How did you come across ECRDA?

I came across ECRDA through the former Agrarian Research and Development Agency.

What was your experience in dealing with ECRDA?

The ECRDA's Interest rate is very reasonable. The policy is attractive, although the implementation can be improved in certain aspects.

What type of assistance did you require from ECRDA and for what purpose?

We applied for a loan to develop more lands / centre pivots. The purpose is to increase livestock carrying capacity and produce more lucerne and maize in order to make the farm profitable.

How much did you received from ECRDA?

We received a total of R90 000.

What was the money used for?

Implements ( lucerne baler)

# Loan for fledgling chicken farming business



Established with a view of driving young people away from drugs and mischief and to provide recreational activities, the Sinxolo Community Nursery and Gardening Project Co-operative continues to grow since its humble beginnings in 2002. A passion of Joyce Langa (52) of Magcakini Village in Ngqeleni, the project farms chickens for eggs as well as a vegetable garden and nursery. Although it started with a lot of members at its inception, the co-operative now has six members farming 340 chickens.

"Over the years the young people who formed part of the project got jobs elsewhere and some have since left the area. At the moment there is a core team of three women and three men driving the co-operative.

"We started with 100 chickens. We have slightly grown to 340 chickens. We sell the eggs to the community. We have expanded the structure to house 580 chickens and we are beginning to see a decent income," Joyce says. The mother of six adult children says they also farm cabbages, green peppers, lettuce and beetroot on two hectares of land. The produce is sold to the local Spar and Boxer stores.

**"It is exciting that in 2015 ECRDA came on Board with a R22,000 loan to buy seeds for the nursery. The money also helped us buy chemicals. We are now paying the loan back on a monthly basis with favourable interest rates,"** says Joyce, ( whose co-operative employs two part-time staff. )



# R12,5 Million for rural entrepreneurs



**A total of R13,3 million was collected from loan recoveries.**

Nomasomi Poswa from Nonkcampa village outside King William's Town is one of **265 rural entrepreneurs** who received a portion of the **R11,8 million** of ECRDA agricultural loans disbursed in the 2015/16 financial year.

Nomasomi Poswa from Nonkcampa village outside King William's Town is one of 265 rural entrepreneurs who received a portion of the R11,8 million of ECRDA agricultural loans disbursed in the 2015/16 financial year.

Nomasomi established Uphill Agriculture and Social Development in 2005 after noticing a need for agricultural supplies and animal feed in rural communities through her work as a community development practitioner.

The married mother of three who is an agricultural officer by profession subsequently left her job in 1998 to focus on her agricultural supplies business. She spent a brief period working for Umtiza where her interest in agricultural supplies grew even further.

"My business now sells agricultural products such as seeds, fertilisers, animal feed and veterinary supplies among other things. The business is growing although it has its own challenges. It employs six people including a cashier.

"Fortunately I came across ECRDA in 2014 and they assisted my business with a R120 000 loan to buy stock. I have been paying the loan well and in October 2016 I will pay off the loan in full. I had no other hope. ECRDA really boosted me and my business because stock is expensive with marginal returns," Nomasomi explains.

ECRDA head of regional network Dumisani Makubalo says Nomasomi is one of many entrepreneurs who benefitted from the agency's R12,5 million in loan disbursements in 2015/16. A total of R13,3 million was collected from loan recoveries.

"ECRDA approved R14,8 million for disbursement. However, R12,5 million had been disbursed by the end of the financial year. The majority of the loans, R5,1 million went to the Amathole, OR Tambo (R2,8 million), Chris Hani (R2,2 million) and Alfred Nzo (R1,5 million) district municipalities. A total of R299 711 went to the Karoo region and R96 999 to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

"The bulk of the loan disbursements relate to agricultural loans and specifically to crop production loans. Besides the loan facility that was made for maize crop production at the Mqanduli and Ncora RED Hubs, there are also informal groups of subsistence farmers who, because of their small pockets of land are encouraged to apply as groups in order to qualify for production loans," explains Makubalo.

Makubalo says the provision of credit lines to entrepreneurs such as Nomasomi is customised for the rural market and it should stem the tide of rural folk abandoning their rural land assets for the more urban areas of the province.

"Empowering rural finance therefore ensures that rural communities and entrepreneurs have access to credit lines that should contribute into turning their often fallow subsistence land assets into productive economic clusters," Makubalo adds.

# new energy source

## for Keiskammahoek Villages

Bio-digestors were formally launched in the last quarter of 2015/16

**R245,000**  
allocated to  
the renewable  
**energy**  
programme

each bio  
digester  
produces  
between  
**1,3 - 1,9**  
cubic metres  
**OF GAS**



The Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) spent R245 000 in the 2015/16 financial year implementing renewable energy projects which include two bio-digestors in Rabula and Ngqeqe villages in Keiskammahoek. These bio digestors are owned by the communal training centre. They supply the training centre with fertiliser for their market garden and gas for food preparation as well as neighbouring households. Each bio digester produces between 1,3 to 1,9 cubic metres of gas per digester. DRDAR further instructed that this project be enlarged to its full potential and it should be duplicated in other areas.

"In addition, the renewable energy unit was tasked with developing alternative energy strategies for the four RED Hubs. High level studies were done and a budget was set aside for the new financial year to take the studies to a bankable standard. The procurement of service providers has already been initiated. Some R800 000 has been set aside for this task.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed to develop a bamboo project in the eastern part of the province," says ECRDA renewable energy executive Roak Crew. Crew says ECRDA, supported by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), has also commenced work on the formulation of a feedstock development plan for the Cradock Bio Ethanol project. "ECRDA has to find means to overcome obstacles preventing the implementation of this high impact, R3 billion project. The most critical of these challenges relate to the development of feedstock producers to meet the requirements of the project and the finalisation of an incentive mechanism by government for biofuels producers without which a bio-fuels industry would not be viable and sustainable. Original timelines set for this development were based on the assumption that the Bio-Fuels Regulatory Framework and the National Bio-Fuels Feedstock Protocol would be approved in November/December 2015," Crew explains.

**BUDGET OF  
R800 000**  
allocated for  
high level  
studies towards  
**alternative**  
energy strategies





# ECRDA appoints new board of directors

ECRDA appointed a new Board of Directors in February 2016. All members of the previous Board were retained except for the former deputy chairperson Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe who exited the Board in January 2016. The Board welcomed two new members former Eastern Cape Premier Mbulelo Sogoni and Mpumelelo Ncwadi. Dr Vanguard Mkosana retained his position as chairman and Ms Fezeka Faith Mkile is the new deputy chairperson.

## Dr Vanguard Mkosana

**Chairman** Reappointed February 2016  
Committee: Governance and Ethics

Qualifications: Senior executive programme for SA (Wits Business School, Harvard Business School), Diploma HR management (Damelin Management School), Certificate in Public Management & Development (Fort Hare Institute of Government), Master of Arts (Charles University), Phd (Charles University)

Current Position: Zizi Consulting Chairman

Board Experience: Aspire (Amathole Economic Development Agency), South African Rail Commuter Corporation, Algoa Bus Services, Mayibuye Bus Transport, Compensation Fund, Occupational Health & Safety, National Economic Development and Labour Council, Proudly South African, African Regional Labour, African Union Labour (Chairman & Social Affairs Commission Technical Committee) and Africa Group-ILO (Convenor)



## Fezeka Faith Mkile

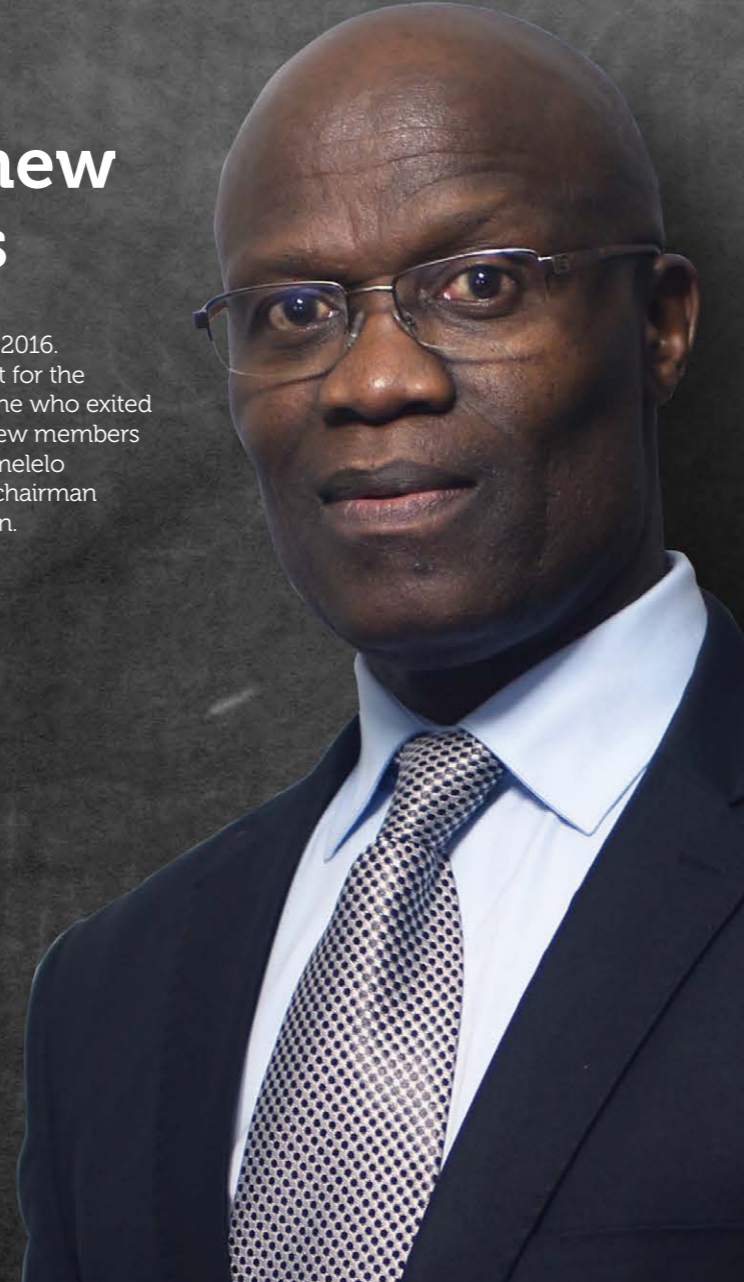
**Deputy Chairperson**  
Reappointed February 2016

**Committees:** Governance & Ethics, FINVEST



## Thozamile Gwanya

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Appointed June 2013



## Mpumelelo Ncwadi

Appointed February 2016  
**Committee:** FINVEST, Programmes & Projects



## Vuyani Jarana

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Governance & Ethics, FINVEST (Chairperson)



## Sabatha Mbalekwa

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Governance & Ethics, Audit & Risk (Chairperson), FINVEST



## Mbulelo Sogoni

Appointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Audit and Risk, Human Capital & Remuneration



## Bongwiwe Kali

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Audit and Risk, Programmes and Projects



## Xolile George

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Governance & Ethics, Human Capital & Remuneration (Chairperson)



## Cornelius Pietersen

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Governance & Ethics, FINVEST, Programmes & Projects (Chairperson)



## Zanele Semane

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Programmes and Projects, Human Capital and Remuneration



## Abraham Le Roux

Reappointed February 2016  
**Committee:** Audit and Risk, Human Capital and Remuneration





**Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency**



**OFFICE ADDRESS**

Unit 12D, Beacon Bay Crossing Cnr N2 & Bonza Bay Road,  
Beacon Bay East London, 5201

**POSTAL ADDRESS**

Postnet Suite 385 | Private Bag x9063 | East London | 5200

Telephone Number: +27(0) 43 703 6300

Fax number: +27(0) 43 703 6403

King Williams Town Fax number: +27(0) 43 642 5824

email: [info@ecrda.co.za](mailto:info@ecrda.co.za)

[www.ecrda.co.za](http://www.ecrda.co.za)

**Masakheni - Let us build together**