



TRADE & INVESTMENT
LIMPOPO

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Limpopo Agri-Business Cooperative Shines

Nkomamonta Organic Farmers Agricultural Co-operative, a 16 farmers and 1221 hectares strong venture specializing in organic farming and organic compost manufacturing has, through the dti Small Business Incubator Programme, been nominated to supply Pick n Pay with produce from the cooperative. Registered as Nkomamonta Organic Farmers Agricultural Primary Co-operative Limited in 2005, the cooperative has grown in leaps and bounds since inception. It has, for instance, undergone various training and organic certification evaluations between 2006 and 2010, by organizations such as Bio-Dynamic & Organic Certification Authority (BDOCA), BCS ÖKO-GARANTIE GMBH, and through exposure tours to agro-processing and postharvest technologies.

What distinguishes the cooperative from similar structures is its commitment to training and acquisition of organic farming and business administration technical expertise, some of which were provided by Netherlands based PUM senior executives – facilitated by Trade and Investment Limpopo. This 16-member initiative employs some 60 persons in around the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, in Mopani District. More specifically, the farmers come from Nkowankowa, Mamtwa, Modjadi, Nkuna, Tarentaalrand and Afcolaco.

The cooperation's quality output has seen it operating on a standing Growers' Agreement with Woolworths to supply organic vegetables since 2008, before recently becoming one of Pick n Pay's suppliers. A silver lining in Nkomamonta's success is the solid and complimentary support the cooperative received and continues to derive from various national and provincial government agencies. These include the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Trade and Investment Limpopo (TIL), Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) and others.

Says TIL Chief Executive, Motalane Monakedi: 'I look forward to presentation of the signed agreement between the farmers and Pick n Pay on May 30 and 31st in Tzaneen. We at Trade and Investment Limpopo are most proud to see the integration of our farmers and agricultural sector in general into mainstream retail chains and markets. We also acknowledge and equally applaud the complementary work and contributions by various state departments in ensuring that the Nkomamonta Organic Farmers Agricultural Co-operative is afforded the necessary investment, ongoing support, as well as the technical and business training to ensure a sustainable venture. Most admirable and worthy of special mention are the farmers themselves, as well as Pick n Pay senior management for heeding government's call to incubate emerging enterprises.'

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