

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT -

MKHONJENI POTATOES FARMERS

UMkhanyakude District
Municipality of the KwaZulu Natal
province UMkhanyakude District
Municipality of the KwaZulu Natal
province

1. INTRODUCTION

The NAMC is committed towards facilitating the development support for smallholder farmers, in particular those that they have already linked with markets. There are approximately two million smallholder farmers mostly located in former homeland areas, farming only on about 13% of agricultural land of South Africa. Despite their relentless efforts, these farmers are constantly faced by several challenges hindering the success and sustainability of their enterprises.



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During the period under review, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) conducted two stakeholder engagement sessions which were attended by over 11 different stakeholders from various government departments and private sector, to assist Mkhonjeni smallholder potatoes farmers. The purpose of the engagement was initially to link 28 smallholder farmers with Fresh way market, that is affiliated with Tshwane Fresh Produce Market and also facilitate the development support, to address their challenges in order to meet the market demands.

The 28 farmers are located in Mkhonjeni rural area in Jozini Local Municipality of uMkhanyakude District in the KwaZulu Natal province. The group constitutes of 18 females and 10 males, with 21 adults and 7 youth. The youngest farmer is a 25 years old female and the oldest is a 66-year male.

They collectively operate on a total of approximately 708 hectares communal/family-owned land. Additionally, the farmers also specialise on different varieties of vegetables which include cabbages, spinach, tomatoes, chilli, and dryland crops such as maize and peanuts.

The stakeholders committed to providing support towards the group of farmers which include; assistance with water for irrigation, obtaining water licenses, provision of the central storage and agro-processing facility for their produce, technical support on potatoes production, obtaining the certified potatoes seed and training and capacity building. There will be further engagement to ensure the implementation of the support.

