

# IN THE news October 2016



**MASDT**  
MOBILE AGRI SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING (NPC)

## INCUBATION VISIT

On the 12th of October 2016, MASDT conducted in-depth discussions with the Eastern-Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), Maphura Makura Incubator (MMI) from Limpopo and SANAMI - an incubator also from the Eastern Cape. The entities approached MASDT to learn more about their methods and business models in order to implement them in their own business structure.

Managing Director – Mrs Lynette Bezuidenhout and Business Development Manager – Mr Inocent Makuwaza, personally conducted the meeting which included a guided tour of the MASDT offices as office lay-out and Health and Safety issues were discussed. Great interest was shown by the groups in the Mobile Lab and the archive vault and they left feeling satisfied that the unique methods which MASDT applies through the board can be of great help in their own endeavours.

It feels good to know that MASDT can share the knowledge, acquired through the years, with like-minded companies. Unity in the industry will guarantee a great future for agriculture in South Africa.

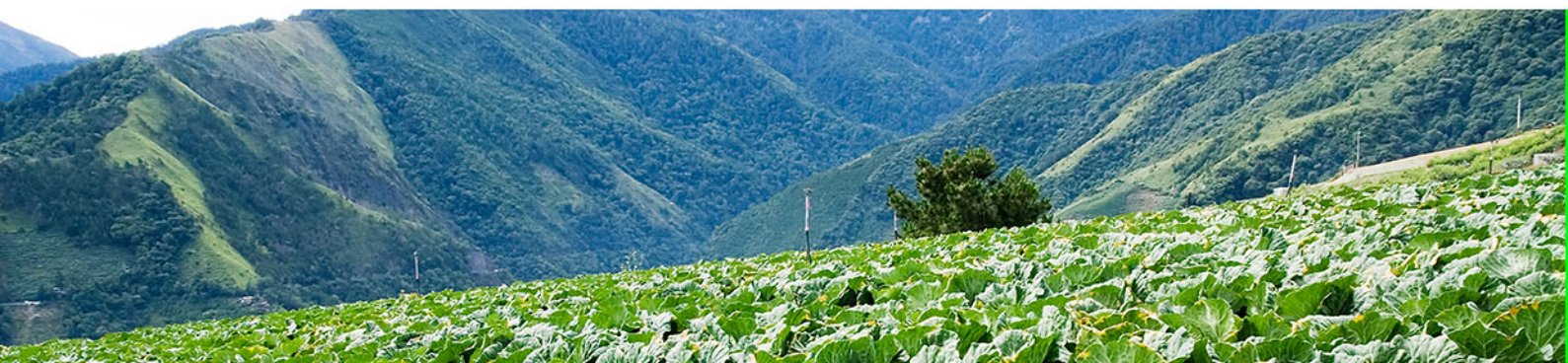


## NEW OFFICES



**NEW  
OFFICE**  
now open

In recent years MASDT has expanded its business nationally and it was decided that it was necessary to open another MASDT office in Pretoria, Gauteng. The official opening took place in October and this new extension to the company is set to guarantee personal service to projects in not only the Gauteng region, but also projects in the North West and Northern Cape provinces. The office is located at the Inkwazi building - Block A at 1249 Embankment Road, Zwartkop. Feel free to pop in and say hello!





On the 13th of October 2016, MASDT successfully graduated four projects operating in the Phiring area – Limpopo Province. Each client was presented with a certificate for graduating the intense 3 year incubation programme.

The day was paired with an information day and six other projects attended where BDO Thulathi Tshobole presented a technical workshop that consisted of talks on fertilization application and irrigation methods.

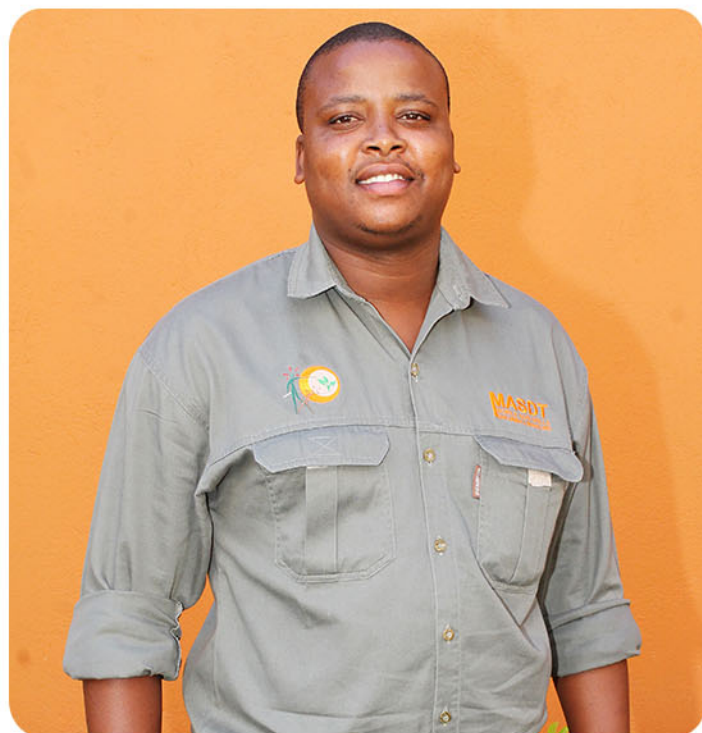
It was a mild day in Limpopo, but the anticipation could be felt as these projects were ready to take on the agricultural world by themselves, confident that MASDT has put them on the road to agricultural success.

MASDT is confident that these projects are ready to be successful ventures in their own right as all the tools was made available to them through some of the best training in the country.

## Shout out

Business Development Officer, Thulathi Tshobole, has only been with MASDT for two and a half years and to date has ten projects which he manages in the Nkomazi area. But in spite of the projects that keeps Thulathi very busy, he has managed to conduct a successful mentorship programme on behalf of AgriSETA for the 1st year students in Plant Production in the Nkomazi area. The mentorship programme lasted for a year and concluded in March.

Thulathi has certainly showed us that there is no time for slacking, so this shout-out goes to Mr Tshobole who epitomises what it means to go above and beyond of what is expected. Thanks Thulathi!



During August and September 2016, entries to participate in the Excellence Awards were evaluated by the AgriSETA Evaluation Committee and adjudicated. Subsequent to this, site visits were conducted of shortlisted candidates. MASDT entered Mrs Reason Mphika from the Sizabantu Youth Farming Project for this award and she made the shortlist of candidates. Sizabantu is in its second year of incubation at MASDT, but is already making big waves in the industry with their vegetables producing farm.

The Awards Ceremony was held on the 5th of October 2016 at the Premier Hotel at O R Tambo International Airport and Mrs Mphika was accompanied to the prestigious event by MASDT Managing Director, Mrs Lynette Bezuidenhout. Everyone was holding thumbs for Mrs Mphika, and in the end she was awarded second place in the "Best Female Entrepreneur in Agriculture after AgriSETA Training Intervention" category.

This is a great achievement for the young business but much deserved as they worked hard for it. MASDT would like to congratulate Mrs Mphika and the Sizabantu Youth Farming Project on their achievement. Watch out for this lady, she is about to make great strides in the vegetable industry!



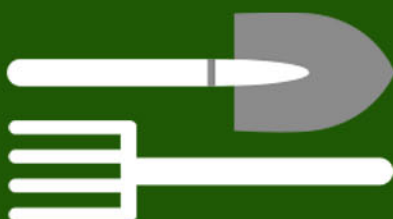
## AGRI SA FARM TO FORK INFORMATION DAY

AgriSA together with the Black Business Council (BBC) hosted an information day in Centurion on the 23rd of September 2016 in Centurion. The aim of this day was to share related information and presenting empowerment workshops to young aspirant and emerging farmers. Central to this venture is to bring a wide spectrum of farmers together to promote networking amongst participants, to share information about various agricultural institutions, to empower them with in-depth knowledge about specific agricultural aspects and to foster greater agricultural unity within the sector. The show was a great success with more than 300 aspiring and practising agriculturalists attending the day.

MASDT was invited to attend and present their services to the groups and Managing Director – Mrs Lynette Bezuidenhout delivered her detailed presentation to a packed hall of interested youngsters and farmers. The feedback was overwhelming and the Mobile Lab, which was stationed in the reception hall, was a great hit as it is the first of its kind as a mobile training facility and therefore made a main attraction at the event.

Many other associated businesses presented workshops on generic topics about the financing, quality standards, agricultural value chain, legislation, asset protection and mechanisation of the agricultural business. More such workshops would be hosted during the year, to check for future events, please visit the AgriSA website at [www.agrisa.co.za/events/list/?tribe\\_event\\_display=list&tribe\\_page=1](http://www.agrisa.co.za/events/list/?tribe_event_display=list&tribe_page=1)

It certainly is an event worth attending and MASDT felt privileged to have been part of a movement that want to broaden South Africa's agricultural scope.



**FARM TO FORK**