

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INDIGENOUS FOOD CROPS REVIEW

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Platform: 15th Biotrade Stakeholders Forum Meeting



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& rural development

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Introduction

- IFC: crops native to SA & Africa
- Other countries: adapted to SA climate
- **Categories:** Fruit, Veggies, Tubers & Grains
- Most wild harvested
- Low input requirements
- Potential to address food & nutrition security
- Potential to address climate change



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Overview of the strategy

Purpose: lays foundation & framework document to guide development of IFC sector

Objectives:

- Promote production and consumption
- Support research & technology development
- Develop and promote sustainable production practices



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Overview

Challenges:

- Seed & propagating material shortage
- Declined production and consumption
- Threatened species
- Lack of value adding technologies
- Food & nutrition security concerns



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Intended projects

- Programme on staple food crops
- Production guidelines
- Research
- Infrastructure development
- Commercialisation
- Training
- Awareness
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems



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Progress made on intended projects

1. Production guidelines

- Advise on crop management
- Material available on the DALRRD website
- www.dalrrd.gov.za>Resource Centre>Brochures and production guidelines
- Subject to review and update



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Progress

2. Awareness campaign: raise awareness on the value of IFC (food & nutrition, economy and climate change)

- Dissemination of promotional material
- Informal training on production
- Presentations (related events)
- Showcased seeds & food products



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Progress

Awareness collaboration:

ARC, Department of Basic Education, Water Research Commission, Department of Science & Innovation, Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Farmers, Academia, Media, SA Chefs Association, DEFF, Traders, SANBI, US Agencies (PEPFAR & FHI360), Department of Trade Industry and Competition, Department of Health, African Marmalade and etc.



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Progress

3. Research: DALRRD commissioned projects to the ARC, farmer participatory:

- Agronomic practices
- Breeding
- Domestication (kei apple, marula, mobola, sourplum)
- Seed evaluation & selection
- **Crops:** cowpea, amadumbe, amaranth, cassava, Bambara nuts, pearl millet



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Implementation challenges

- Less investment in IFC research
- Less prioritised
- High seed demand
- Language barrier (developed material)
- Lack of formal training
- Lack of farmers' database



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Lessons learned

- Need for seed production schemes
- Buy-in from politicians
- Align DALRRD's research priorities with the research institutions
- Translation of developed material
- Value adding and product development
- Promotion of collaboration



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Participated farmers' produce (Free State)



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Schools: seed provision & monitoring



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Schools monitoring & demonstrations



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Informal training & Amaranth tasting



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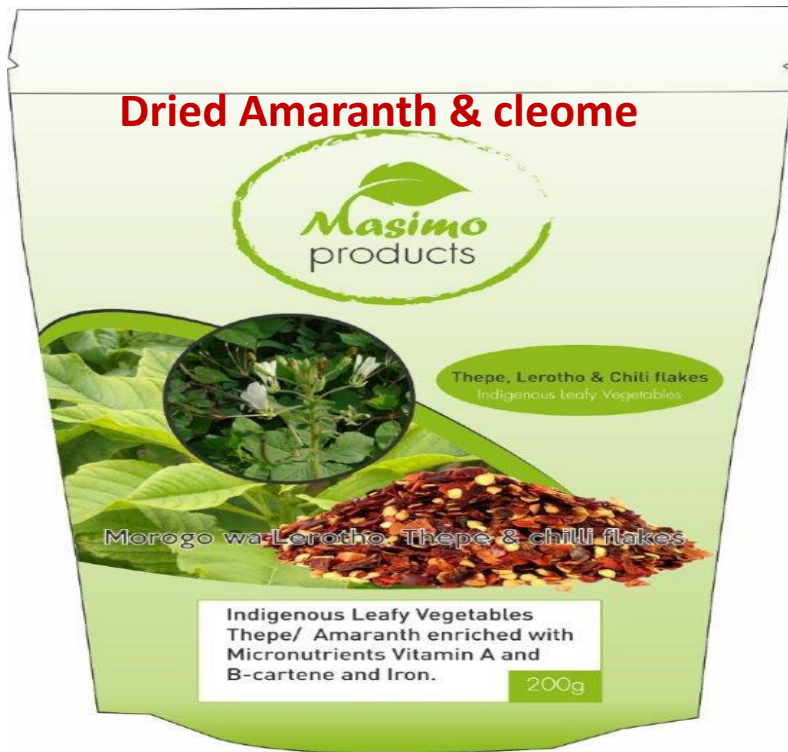
Farmers & academia research participatory



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Food products



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Food dishes displayed during the events



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Thank you



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Expectations from the stakeholders

- Assumed stakeholders perused the strategy document.
- Are objectives and programmes still relevant to address identified challenges?
- Additional objectives or programmes/gaps identified?
- Potential role that stakeholder could play on strategy implementation?
- General recommendations e.g. **status of crops (2pp)/ NWGIFC(12pp)/role of private companies (16pp)**.
- Stakeholders: share any implementation challenges and lessons learned in respective organisations (those executing indigenous food crops projects).