

been provided by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) in the form of recapitalization funds, with which various items of equipment were acquired which has assisted Mbuyiselo Plase significantly.

On the 9th October, Mbuyiselo Plase will celebrate their 10 year anniversary, putting a positive mark on their growth and on how far they have come over the past 10 years.

-AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS -

Winner : Female Farmer/ Entrepreneur of the Year



Buyiswa Marrie Ndyenga is the General Manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises (Pty) Ltd.

In 2012, Mrs Buyiswa Ndyenga was awarded the prize of Female Entrepreneur for 2011 in the Eastern Cape (Western Region) by the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform. She was also awarded the Provincial Female Top Export Entrepreneur Award for Willowtree Farm for the year 2011/2012.

Having come a long way from where she started at the young age of 24 as a casual worker, she entered into the competition for the Female Entrepreneur Awards, which is a competition for female farmers who were previously disadvantaged. The 7 categories entered into

were Best Worker; Small Holder; Subsistence Producer; Processing; Commercial; Rural Development and Export Markets. Ms. Ndyenga won the 1st prize for the Export Markets and also was the overall winner for the Western District. At the Provincial competition, Ms Ndyenga won the 1st prize for the Export Markets as well as the award for the overall winner. She was also the only winner from the Western District.

At the recent National competition held in KZN on the 27th of August 2015, hosted by DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), M.s Ndyenga again won the top export market category award! These awards are due acknowledgement of her dedication to her farming business and to her beneficiaries. As General Manager and Trustee she has indeed come a long way and can be extremely proud of her achievements to date!

Winner: Luthando Farm : General Manager



During 2014, the General Manager of Luthando Farm (Pty) Ltd, Ms Nokwanele Ivy Mzamo, was presented with the Female Farmer of the Year Award – First place, Western District by the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform. She also won the Female Entrepreneur Award : Export, Overall Winner for the category.

Ms Mzamo was invited to the 2015 Opening of Parliament and was asked to stand and was then acknowledged by Mr Jacob Zuma.

AgriSETA : National Awards

Nomhle Selani-Jack came second at the AgriSETA National Excellence Awards Ceremony for ABET Best Performing Learner in September 2013. Nomhle was nominated by the management of Sundays River Farming Trust

because she always maintained a very high attendance rate throughout the training program. Nomhle was also trained during 2013 to become an ABET facilitator and is now currently facilitating along with Hilda Mkotswana, SRFT's other ABET facilitator. Due to the success and benefits of the ABET programme, we have more workers who are enrolling for the next course.



- INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE -

Farm Clinics

Together with the Automotive Industry Development Centre Eastern Cape (Pty) Ltd (AIDC EC), the initiative was taken to set up clinics on all the Sikhula Sonke Enterprises farms as well as on

Luthando Farm and Mbuyiselo Plase. The idea behind this initiative is to provide health care and support on site to workers so that they don't have to leave work for half a day to visit the clinic in town. The hope is that this initiative will roll over to the rest of the agricultural sector in the area as well, providing health support to their workers. The clinics on Sikhula Sonke Enterprises' farms are well under way and began their valuable work at the end of August.

Wellness Days

In December 2013 Luthando Farm and Sundays River Farming Trust with the support of Sundays River Citrus Company entered into an MOU with the Automotive Industry Development Centre Eastern Cape (Pty) Ltd (AIDC EC) to run a Farm Worker Wellness Programme on the four SRFT

farms and Luthando Farm. The aim of this programme is to educate farm workers about HIV/AIDS, TB and other health related topics.

The programme consists of:

- Awareness sessions on various topics presented by Peer Educators on each farm.
- Educational theatre plays on health topics by the Sibanye Theatre Group.
- Wellness days on each farm where workers will be able to have testing done voluntarily and confidentially.
- Surveys on farms to gather information to ensure that research can be done for the sector to improve health services.
- Access to condoms, pamphlets and counselling where necessary.

A Wellness week program was run from 17 to 25 August 2015 and under the coordination and planning of Ms Lorraine Marais from SRCC, 600 farm workers participated with great success.