

"Greater Tzaneen Municipality values Agriculture"says Mayor Maripe Mangena

Mayor Maripe Mangena said that GTM takes agriculture seriously, hence the Tzaneen Agricultural Expo was established six years ago to promote farming and offer a helping hand to uplift struggling farmers.

Mangena addressed farmers, businesses, government officials and politicians at this year's Tzaneen Agricultural Expo Gala dinner that was held at Karibu Leisure Resort on Wednesday, 2 September 2019.

The Mayor continued to say that the municipality has invested and will continue to invest in local farming which he believes has yielded positive results, referring to the donation of R100 000 worth of seedlings that has accumulated to R400 000 revenue for the beneficiaries .

"We would be pleased to see the University of Limpopo open an Agricultural branch in Tzaneen to keep this legacy alive" suggested the Mayor to Professor Elliott Zwane who was introduced as one of the partners who has actively participated in the initiative from the beginning.

The annual Agricultural Expo that was first held in 2014 was held at Tzaneen Country Lodge for two days from 1 to 2 October . The Agricultural sessions in the words of Nontokozo Zwane Manager at the Department of Agriculture in Tzaneen " is meant to bring established institutions in agriculture to share knowledge , skills and ideas with the rest of the farming community that will help them to grow their business ".

Reputable companies such as ABSA, Santam, Limpopo Tomatoes Growers Association, WD Seedlings, Epol, Vumelani and Limpopo Fresh Produce Market were invited to share information on funding, local gap certification, insurance, skills development and general opportunities for farmers.

According to Benjamin Mathebula, GTM Director for Planning and Economic Development "The Agricultural Expo will conclude in an Agri-Expo Golf tournament on the 11th of October 2019, the purpose of the tournament is to raise funds for the farmers needs".