



agriculture, environmental affairs,
land reform and rural development

Department:
agriculture, environmental affairs,
land reform and rural development.
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform celebrated World Food Day with the community of Boegoeberg in the ZF Mgcawu District in the weekend.

World Food Day is commemorated annually on 16 October to promote global awareness and advocate collective action to assist those who suffer from hunger and highlights the need to ensure a healthy diet for all.

“Food is a unifying element that brings people together. For many years people will show each other love through the food they cook and feel love when someone cooks them their favourite meal. Food plays an important role in our live”, MEC Mase Manopole stated.

Food access problems are very serious in the Northern Cape Province as over 32 percent of people are still going to bed hungry. One of the main challenges is that only 2 percent of households grow their own food. The remaining number buys their fruit and vegetables from retailers.

Since the inception of the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP) in 2004, various projects have been unveiled throughout the province in support of food insecure communities. The deliverables include the distribution of irrigation tools as well as seedlings.

MEC Manopole, during her address, said that the issue of land is an understandable one when it comes food security, but if we go back to basics we can keep poverty and hunger at bay by establishing backyard food gardens.

Backyard food gardens remain the cornerstone of our household economies and have been used for many years to feed families and sell remaining produce at markets.

MEC Manopole encouraged community members to start producing their own food through backyard food gardens to fight against food insecurity in the Province.

Celebrated under the theme, “Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and better life”, MEC Manopole said the theme emphasizes the importance of the event to create awareness on food security, poverty, and hunger with people at grassroots level and ensure their participation in their own food production.

“The strategy of this event has enabled the department to make other stakeholders in the food production and retail sector, aware of food insecure communities in their surroundings,” she said.

More than 5000 seeds and garden implements were donated by the MEC to the communities of Boegoebaai, Wegdraai, Groblershoop, Opwag, Topline and Grootdrink.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM.

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