

SCHOOLS NUTRITION PROGRAMME PROVIDES READY MARKET FOR FARMERS

The National Schools Nutrition programme was piloted as a District Project in January 2013. The aim of the Programme is to enable the District's small scale framers to produce and sell vegetables to be consumed by the learners in the District's 406 schools. At the onset of the project, the Department of Education who are the custodians of the Project appointed Enterprise iLembe as the Implementing Agent whose responsibility is to ensure that the vegetables are available on a weekly basis for procurement.

Full implementation of distribution of vegetables from Agri –Hubs at Maphumulo, Ndwedwe and Mandeni was achieved, with KwaDukuza Hub still yet to be set up.

The decision to have this programme as a district implemented programme emanated from the fact that the programme responds directly to the 7 out of 8 United Nations Millennium Developmental Goals to eradicating global poverty, the key of them being;

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Combat HIV/AIDS , and other diseases associated with malnutrition



To date the project has enable job opportunities to 40 small scale co-operative farmers (approximately 400 participants in total) residing in iLembe. These farmers grow vegetables for the programme on iLembe soil to feed schools located in the district.

In addition Fifty (50) service providers made out of mostly youth from the District are responsible for procuring the vegetables from the small scale farmers and to supply and transport the vegetables to the Schools that they have been assigned to. Since the inception of the programme the District's local farmers have supplied the programme with 114742.9kg of vegetables and this has generated a total of R 355 000.00 towards the rural economy since the inception of the programme.

Enterprise iLembe as the implantation agent continues to invest in training for the Technical Partners staff members specifically on preparations of proof of deliveries (POD's) and adjustments of POD's as per approved monthly equalisation reports.

***For more information** with regards to the Schools Nutrition Programme and other Economic Development Programmes coordinated by Enterprise iLembe within the iLembe District Municipality, please contact us on our details below:*

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