



FNB KWAZULU-NATAL TOP BUSINESS PORTFOLIO AWARDS 2011



Partnership award: KZN DEDT and Tongaat Hulett – Operation Vuselela



The top award of the evening, the Partnership Award, was won by the KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) and Tongaat Hulett for their Operation Vuselela project. Carol Coetzee, DEDT Head of Department and Michelle Jean-Louis of Tongaat Hulett received the award on behalf of the two organisations from Lalita Dhasiar-Ventura and Grant Adlam, co-publishers of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio.

THE winning project for the Partnership award, the top award of the evening, reflects the importance of effective interagency collaboration and committed partnerships.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDT) in partnership with Tongaat Hulett, has taken the

concept of public-private partnership to a higher level with Operation Vuselela.

The project, which represents the partners' collective drive to accelerate socio-economic transformation in various rural communities in the province, focuses on the development of

small-scale sugar cane farmers.

Operation Vuselela is geared towards reviving sugar cane farming among poverty-stricken communities as part of government's strategy to stimulate economic activities, even in the remotest rural parts of the province where agriculture appears to be a

viable economic option.

Farming is being promoted as one of the most important professional or business pursuits to be considered to ensure sustainable national food security and equitable socio-economic advancement across the province.

The initiative is aimed at

encouraging emerging cane farmers to acknowledge the importance of following cane farming methods that ensure higher yields and the improved profit margins necessary to build a sustainable sugar cane farming enterprise.

Another objective is to increase cane supplies to the sugar mills.



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Introduction

Tongaat Hulett is an agricultural and agri-processing business which includes integrated components of land management and property development. Through its sugar and starch operations, Tongaat Hulett produces a range of refined carbohydrate products from sugar cane and maize. The business has considerable expertise in downstream agricultural products, biofuel production and electricity generation. Tongaat Hulett balances the operational requirement for cane supplies to its sugar cane processing operations with the transition of agricultural land to other uses at the appropriate times. The energy-food-water nexus is an evolving dynamic presenting both opportunities and risks. Tongaat Hulett is well placed to capitalise on emerging opportunities for expansion and growth in Africa, with unconstrained access to sugar markets, its independent position, established business platform and size.

Enterprise Development

Tongaat Hulett and the KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism (KZN DED&T) have won the KZN Top Business "Partnership Award" for their role in developing successful small-scale sugarcane farmers through the Vuselela Project.

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