

30 AUGUST 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT

DAFF HONOURS TOP FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

To celebrate the strides made by women in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors during Women's Month, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in partnership with Total South Africa hosted the 20th annual Female Entrepreneur Awards (DAFF FEA) at a gala dinner last night in Cape Town.

This year's theme, ***“celebrating two decades of women's victory in agriculture, forestry and fisheries”*** attests to the department's ongoing commitment in paying tribute to the efforts and contribution by women, young females and women with disabilities for the roles they play towards ensuring food security, poverty alleviation, job creation and economic growth in the sector.

The DAFF FEA programme is a collaborated effort between DAFF, provinces and key stakeholders. The programme was initiated in 1999 by the former Department of Agriculture under the name “Female Farmer of the Year Competition”. However, as DAFF's mandate was expanded to include Forestry and Fisheries in 2009 there was an urgent need to reconfigure the programme to incorporate the expanded mandate, and to this end, in 2010, the programme was renamed the DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards.

During her key note address at the awards ceremony, Minister Thoko Didiza said, “Today, we are here to celebrate those who have worked very hard and are the beneficiaries of these awards. Through their hard work and achievements, we encourage other women to also rise up to the challenge.”

The Corporate Affairs Manager at Total South Africa Ms Nne-Mpho Siaga said, “These awards are an important stepping stone towards the elimination of skewed participation in the industries at hand and the country at large. It also brings us closer to answering the need for sustainable business practices. At Total South Africa, every single initiative, every single show of support for women, is an expression of our commitment to creating tomorrow's legacy, today.

She further added that, “If we give them the right tools, our women have the potential to not only tackle the industry's challenges, but also those that we, as a nation, are currently facing.”

Total SA has been sponsoring the awards for 20 years. This year's ceremony was also sponsored by Old Mutual, Distell, South African Breweries, Standard Bank, and the public entity; the Perishable Products Export Control Board.

The Best Female Worker went to Katrina Nxangani from the Free State Province;

Best Subsistence Producer went to Tholakele Sibiyi from KwaZulu-Natal;

Top Entrepreneur: Smallholder went to Happiness Makgamatho from the Limpopo province;

Top Entrepreneur: Processing went to Daphne Neethling from the Western Cape;

Top Entrepreneur: Commercial went to Mmathoko Mabula from the Limpopo province;

Top Entrepreneur: Export Markets went to Berene Damons from the Western Cape.

The Minister's special awards for young female entrepreneur went to Marice Mercur from the Western Cape and the award for the female entrepreneur with disability in the sector went to Matebogo Mouwane from Gauteng province.

The overall winner based on the highest scoring points went to Mmathoko Mabula from the Limpopo province.

Minister Didiza in her address motivated the 50 nominees to "take these awards as an encouragement to do even more."

"Today once more we are here to celebrate those amongst us who have worked very hard and are the beneficiaries. Through their hard work and achievements, we encourage other women to also rise up to the challenge." Said Minister Didiza

Profiles and pictures of the winners are available.

For more information, please contact:

Reggie Ngcobo

Ministry Spokesperson

reggie.ngcobo@gmail.com

082 883 2458

Communication Services

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

e-mail: Medialiaison@daff.gov.za

Website: www.daff.gov.za

Twitter: @DAFF_ZA

Facebook: Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries