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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

In developing an agricultural policy for rural eThekwini, attempts were made to obtain input from a range of institutions and organisations that have an involvement with agricultural development within the region. Through a number of meetings, workshops and interviews, the following people were consulted and their invaluable contribution is much appreciated.

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<td>Aitken</td>
<td>Ingonyama Trust Board (Chairman)</td>
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<td>Clive</td>
<td>Andersen</td>
<td>eThekwini: Project Management Unit (PMU)</td>
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<td>Richard</td>
<td>Boon</td>
<td>eThekwini: Environmental Management Dept</td>
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<td>Walter</td>
<td>Coughlan</td>
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<td>Gary</td>
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<td>Rene</td>
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<td>Louis</td>
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<td>Gavin</td>
<td>MacGregor</td>
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It is hoped that the document will continue to stimulate debate on agricultural development in rural eThekwini and in this way contribute to the building of a vibrant and sustainable economic sector, which also directly supports the nutritional needs of the poor.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE PURPOSE OF A RURAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY

This document presents a policy for future agricultural development in the rural areas\(^1\) of the eThekwini Municipality. The intended purpose of the policy is to promote integrated, coordinated and sustainable agricultural development in these areas.

The need for the policy guidelines is based on the basic premises that:

- agriculture is part of an integrated rural development strategy which includes, but is not limited to economic, social, infrastructure and institutional development.
- agriculture has an important role to fulfil in the development of the municipality as a whole, this includes an acknowledgement of the role of agriculture in terms of both rural livelihoods and economic development.

The policy document was compiled with due consideration given to other relevant policy initiatives\(^2\) and in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders in workshops and meetings.

1.2 WHY PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT?

In cities the focus is generally on urban development and related opportunities, however, recent developments in eThekwini and the South African society as a whole necessitated a “fresh” look at agriculture as an alternative land-use, economic activity and, in some cases, survival measure within the “urban” context. The developments necessitating this include:

- the inclusion of large peri-urban and rural areas into the eThekwini boundaries where survival is often dependent on agricultural production;
- the public sector commitment to the establishment of the Dube Tradeport, a logistics hub, with a focus also on the export of agricultural goods, specifically perishables;
- the continued “erosion” of the agricultural potential within eThekwini due to the conversion of agricultural land to, primarily, higher income residential estates and other urban uses;
- the greater focus of local government in contributing to the food security of the poor and establishing an environment conducive to economic development.

Despite the above and other developments no reference is made to agriculture and its potential role in development in either the Long Term Development Framework or the 2003 Review of the Integrated Development Plan of the eThekwini Municipality. This is clearly an omission. It is important that this be rectified, as the strategic planning of the City ultimately guides the allocation of resources.

1.3 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ETHEKWINI IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture is not a municipal function nor a “funded mandate” of the eThekwini Municipality, however, in terms of national policy guidelines, including the White Paper on Local Government supported by the 2001 Strategy for Agriculture of the National Department of Agriculture, the municipality has a role to fulfil in terms of:

- creating an environment in the rural areas conducive to agricultural development;
- integrating\(^4\) and coordinating\(^5\) agricultural development in the rural areas; and
- promoting and supporting agricultural development in the rural areas.

The involvement of the Rural Area Based Management Office in agricultural development is aimed at fulfilling the above roles.

\(^1\) Rural area for the purpose of this policy is defined as all areas within eThekwini outside the Urban Core as defined in the 2003 IDP of eThekwini. It, however, excludes built-up areas (e.g. Hillcrest, Mpuamlanga, Umkomaas and others falling outside of the Urban Core). Within the so-called rural areas broad distinction can be made between areas of commercial agriculture and traditional settlement areas.

\(^2\) The mandate of this initiative has been to develop an agricultural policy for the rural areas of eThekwini. It is, however, anticipated that this policy could also be applied to urban agricultural activity.

\(^3\) See detailed Policy Assessment covering relevant national, provincial and local policies published as a separate report.

\(^4\) “Integrating” in this context refers to the integration of agriculture with other forms of development, e.g. infrastructure development, housing development etc.

\(^5\) “Coordinating” in this context refers specifically to the coordination of the activities of various stakeholders in agriculture.
1.4 Focus of this Policy

An assessment of existing national, provincial and local policies, as well as an assessment of the agricultural status quo, highlighted a number of areas where policy direction is required, including:

- the Focus of Agricultural Development, identifying strategic focus areas for agricultural development in rural eThekwini;
- Institutional Structuring, focussing on the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and the creation of an institutional structure for coordination and delivery;
- Land Issues, including a focus on Land Ownership, Land Planning and Development, and Land Rates;
- Support Services, focussing specifically on Extension Services, Research, Input Suppliers and other Service Providers;
- the Environment, providing guidance specifically on integrating the conservation of the environment and the promotion of agricultural production; and
- the Production Focus, identifying specific agricultural enterprises to be promoted and supported, relating to both the subsistence and commercial sectors.

2. ETHEKWINI’S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

At a national economic development policy level, distinction is made between the First (the established), and the Second (the emerging) economies; both of these are viewed as important in the economic strategies of the country. The focus of this rural agricultural policy is on the second, or the emerging agricultural economy in eThekwini. Strong linkages between the two economies do, however, exist and will continue to be developed. Policies for promoting the emerging agricultural economy will, therefore, impact on the established agricultural sector.

Importantly, the emerging agricultural economy in eThekwini includes agricultural activity ranging from subsistence farming to commercial production. Each component of the emerging agricultural economy makes an important contribution to the “health” of the industry as a whole and will be supported through specific strategies and activities.

3. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURING FOR DELIVERY

A number of stakeholders are involved in agricultural development in the rural areas of eThekwini. In order to (1) limit duplication of effort, (2) ensure coordination and integration, and (3) clarify communication channels, the responsibilities of all stakeholders should be defined and appropriate approaches to coordinating the activities should be considered.

Institutions and groups that are expected to fulfil an active role in establishing and implementing the agricultural development policy in eThekwini are referred to as primary stakeholders. They include:

- KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs: Regional Office (South) and District Offices located at Pinetown and Umbumbulu
- eThekwini Municipality: Rural Area Based Management Office
- eThekwini Municipality: Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries Department
- eThekwini Municipality: Economic Development Department
- KZN Department of Economic Development: Agri-Business Division
- Department of Land Affairs (including the Ingonyama Trust Board)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in agricultural development
- Traditional Leadership and Community Structures
- Established Farmers and Agricultural Corporates.

The potentially important role of other stakeholders, referred to as supporting stakeholders, is fully acknowledged. The supporting stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the

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4 Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries is the only eThekwini Department that currently has agricultural capacity and actively engages with both rural and urban agricultural projects. It is suggested that City Management should take a strategic decision as to the future location of agricultural capacity in the city, the options being Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries (PLC), Economic Development or the Rural ABM Office.
various eThekwini line departments, national and provincial government departments, as well as other service providers.
The roles and responsibilities of primary stakeholders are divided into three broad categories, viz. coordination and policy development, planning and implementation, and agricultural support. The proposed roles and responsibilities of each of the primary stakeholders are reflected in the Table below.

**PROPOSED ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS**

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<td><strong>FUNCTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overall Coordination</strong></td>
<td><strong>Policy development/Best Practice Guidelines</strong></td>
<td><strong>Project Prioritisation/Approval</strong></td>
<td><strong>Promotion of agriculture</strong></td>
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An institutional structure responsible for coordinating agricultural development in the rural areas of eThekwini is to be created. Guidelines for the establishment and ongoing activities of this structure are as follows:

- All primary stakeholders are to be represented on the structure
- The structure is to be chaired by the Rural ABM Office of the eThekwini Municipality
- Regular meetings of the structure are to be held
- The function of the forum will be to (1) prioritise projects, (2) coordinate implementation, and (3) monitor agricultural development.

### 4. LAND ISSUES

Three land related issues that will impact on agricultural development within rural eThekwini must be considered, viz. (1) land ownership, (2) land planning and development and (3) land rates.

#### 4.1 LAND OWNERSHIP

The majority of eThekwini land outside the “Urban Edge” is Ingonyama Trust Land. The Communal Land Rights Act, applicable to this land, was enacted in July 2004.

Specific effort should be made to ensure that traditional authorities, and future land administration committees, have a comprehensive understanding of the impact of land management decisions on the sustainability of agricultural development. Land-use planning frameworks should be developed through participatory processes and should reflect the importance of agriculture in the rural economy.

The limited agricultural potential of existing traditional settlement areas is acknowledged and the broadening of the landownership base through land redistribution, as per the established national government targets, will be supported. The target is for 30% of all commercial agricultural land in South Africa to be redistributed by the year 2015.

An institutional structure responsible for coordinating agricultural development in the rural areas of eThekwini is to be created. Guidelines for the establishment and ongoing activities of this structure are as follows:

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2 LRAD refers to the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development Programme

3 Ensuring that appropriate infrastructure for major agricultural developments is in place, e.g. road to collect produce.

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A key criticism of the Act is that it entrenches the status quo (communal land ownership and the management thereof through structures that are not democratically elected) and that it does not necessarily provide greater levels of security of tenure for rural dwellers.

10 The Act provides for the establishment of local land administration committees that will be in a position to develop the rules for how a specific land area is to be used and managed. Duties of the committee include the establishment and maintenance of registers and records, promoting the interest of the community in the land, promoting co-operation etc.

11 It should be noted that the terms “land reform” and “land redistribution” do not appear in the 2003 eThekwini IDP or the 2001 Long Term Development Framework.
Further research will be undertaken to better understand the relationship between landownership and agricultural production.

4.2 LAND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

It is acknowledged that large tracts of high potential agricultural land in eThekwini are lost on a daily basis to alternative uses (most notably upmarket residential development, commercial development, industrial development and leisure developments serving a particular sector of society). Against this background the following guidelines for land use planning in rural areas\textsuperscript{13} are promoted:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Ingonyama Trust Land previously developed (contoured, ploughed and/or irrigated) and utilised for “commercial” agriculture should be zoned for this purpose. The rationale is that this land has previously been identified as having agricultural potential and that the rehabilitation of this land for conservation purposes is generally not cost effective.
  \item Based on a detailed assessment of land potential, all land (1) not located within identified rural nodes\textsuperscript{12}, (2) not currently utilised for higher density residential purposes (densities of less than one household per 2000m\textsuperscript{2}) and (3) not falling within the D’MOSS footprint, but having agricultural potential, should be zoned for this purpose. Special zoning descriptions and guidelines will be developed for lower density residential areas where subsistence and/or commercial agriculture can be accommodated; these will be aimed at protecting high potential agricultural land and allowing people to engage in small scale agricultural activities.
  \item Rezoning of any agricultural land in the rural periphery of eThekwini should be done within the context of the current eThekwini policy of building on the core and not extending the infrastructure platform. It is anticipated that current Strategic Assessments for areas to the north and west of Durban will provide guidance on fixing the urban edge boundaries.
  \item Any planning applications for the rezoning or subdivision\textsuperscript{14} of agricultural land in the rural areas (outside the urban core) should only be considered if appropriate framework planning for the larger areas is in place. Applications should also:
    \begin{itemize}
      \item motivate why the proposed use cannot be accommodated in alternative locations within the urban core;
      \item indicate the contribution that the proposed new use will make to job creation and rural economic development; and
      \item commit to taking actions to mitigate against the negative impact of the development on longer term rural economic development, e.g. land for redistribution, equity in developments, improvement of local infrastructure etc.
    \end{itemize}
  \item Low income housing projects in rural areas should (1) not extend beyond the current footprint, and should (2) be sensitive to the role of (subsistence) agriculture in rural communities. In areas where communities are currently actively engaging in subsistence agriculture, or where communities wish to engage in agriculture, planning, specifically with regard to site sizes, should be sensitive to this need.
\end{itemize}

The value of agricultural development as a tool for “land banking” should be considered in future planning, i.e. reserving land for a variety of possible future land use options, but in the interim using it for agricultural production purposes.

4.3 LAND RATES

The Municipal Rates Act now provides a clear framework for the rating of all land within a municipality, including agricultural land. In terms of the Act, each municipality is to develop a rating policy that will guide the determination of rates and the potentially important impact thereof on agriculture is acknowledged. Within this context it is important to ensure that the rating policy:

\begin{itemize}
  \item will promote the intensification and diversification of agricultural activity in the rural periphery (i.e. differentiation of rates for different forms of agriculture is to be considered); and
  \item will encourage agricultural activity in rural areas and promote the densification of areas within the urban core (i.e. the level of rating should provide an incentive for agricultural development).
\end{itemize}

The mechanisms for the implementation of the Act are not in place as yet and it is anticipated that it will take another two to three years before these are in place and the 450 000 properties within eThekwini have been re-valued. The current system whereby land certified as agricultural (on application by the landowner) receives a rates rebate of approximately 95% (paying 0.5c on the rand for the value of the land as opposed to the rate on vacant land which is approximately 10.8c on the rand) is expected to promote and support agricultural development.

It is important to note that the new Municipal Rates Act does not address the issue of the rating of communal or Ingonyama Trust Land and indicates that this is still to be resolved. The future rating of specifically non-residential development on Ingonyama Trust Land should be considered and appropriate systems for the levying of rates should be established. In terms of the Municipal Rates Act all redistributed agricultural land will receive a 10 year “rates holiday”. Guidelines for the

\textsuperscript{12} See definition of “rural areas” in Footnote 1 on Page 1.
\textsuperscript{13} As identified in the Spatial Framework of the Rural Development Framework (2003)
\textsuperscript{14} This would be subdivision for non-agricultural purposes.
implementation of this requirement should be considered as a matter of priority.

5. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1 METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

All stakeholders in agricultural development will adhere to the Metropolitan Open Space System footprint and the eThekwini Environmental Services Management Plan (2003) guidelines. Where agricultural development opportunities are expected to encroach on the Open Space footprint, the sustainability thereof will be investigated on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the eThekwini Environmental Management Department.

Areas where the Open Space System is under threat from subsistence production activities and / or the collection of products from the wild will be identified. These areas, and specifically the leadership of these areas, will be targeted by environmental information programmes and agricultural extension programmes. Capacity building programmes focussed on environmental awareness will target agricultural extension officers specifically.

Medicinal plant cultivation (both within and outside D' MOSS areas) and its contribution to human and environmental health are acknowledged. The existing capacity of eThekwin i in this regard should be effectively utilised and built on.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Through capacity building programmes focussed on environmental awareness that are aimed specifically at extension officers (e.g. the existing land husbandry initiative of the Department of Agriculture) and community leadership15, improved environmental sustainability of agricultural development will be attained. Specific areas in terms of which a better understanding of impacts will be developed include:

- the impact of overgrazing;
- soil erosion and factors such as incorrect agricultural practices contributing thereto;
- depletion of soil through unsustainable cultivation and harvesting practices;
- the destruction of biodiversity through unsustainable agricultural and harvesting practices and the impact on rural residents;
- the impact of pollution of water, soil and air through the use of insecticides and pesticides; and
- the introduction of exotic species and specifically alien invaders.

15 Including future land administration committees.
Simple and practical guidelines relating to the above will be made available to rural communities using various media. This, together with the requirement for conducting Environmental Impact Assessments, will ensure greater sustainability of future agricultural activity.
6. SUPPORT SERVICES

6.1 EXTENSION SUPPORT

The KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs is responsible for the provision of extension support services to subsistence farmers, as well as to emerging and established commercial farmers. It will remain the responsibility of the Department to provide such services. The type of extension support services to be provided is to be needs driven (as opposed to research driven) and the effectiveness of extension support services will be monitored through the Rural ABM Office and its Coordinating Structure.

To further ensure higher levels of accessibility to extension support services the Rural ABM Office will:

- actively encourage the establishment of extension support offices within Rural Investment Nodes (either in offices of the Department of Agriculture or in Multi-purpose Community Centres which are to be established); and
- through the coordinating structures encourage the establishment and building of relationships between emerging and established farmers leading to specific mentoring programmes.

Established agricultural sectors offer sector specific extension support services. The continued development of such support services will be encouraged where activities are sustainable. It is essential that close cooperation between the various agencies involved in providing extension support is encouraged.

Agricultural research support will be needs driven and will be closely linked to the extension support programme. The Coordinating Structure should monitor ongoing research relevant to the rural areas of eThekwini.

6.2 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

6.2.1 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: THE ISSUES

A diverse range of agricultural services is relevant to agricultural development in eThekwini. This range includes:

- **Input Suppliers**: As agriculture, other than sugar cane growing, has not been a major focus within the current boundaries of the eThekwini Municipality, the network of input suppliers is underdeveloped. The rural areas of eThekwini are often dependent on input suppliers located outside of the municipality. Often these supplier are not located on established transport routes. Long travel distances and inadequate transport linkages make input suppliers largely inaccessible.

- **Agricultural Support Services**: Emerging farmers, specifically those located within the traditional settlement areas of eThekwini, generally find it difficult to access such services.

- **Marketing Services**: Marketing of agricultural produce is viewed as one of the major stumbling blocks to rural agricultural development. The absence of appropriate transport, or transport service providers, contributes to excessive cost for transport of produce.

6.2.2 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

The range of agricultural services is diverse. An integrated and coordinated approach to ensuring appropriate access to such services for rural dwellers is encouraged, this should include:

- **Strengthening the Spatial Framework**: The strengthening of the 2003 Rural Spatial Development Framework, through the upgrading of key road linkages and the establishment of a system of rural nodes, will improve general accessibility.

16 It should be noted that some specific sub-sectors and NGOs also provide this type of support.

17 The sustainability and appropriateness of small scale timber and sugar cane farming in rural eThekwini is often questioned.

18 Input suppliers for agriculture in the rural areas of eThekwini include suppliers of livestock feed, veterinary supplies, fertilisers (organic or chemical), agricultural chemicals, (herbicides/pesticides, etc.), and planting material.

19 Relevant agricultural service providers include suppliers of machinery and implements, providers of irrigation technology and equipment/infrastructure, marketing consultants (assisting with the export of agricultural produce), agricultural consultants (services include drawing up business plans, land-use planning and specialist advice), veterinary services (including private veterinarians and state veterinary services), transportation agents/freight (especially important for the cane industry), training institutions and financial support institutions.

20 Marketing of rural agricultural produce is currently done in a variety of locations and a variety of market types, this includes local rural selling of surplus production, the informal sector in the urban core and the more formalised markets.
Developing Rural Agricultural Services and Marketing “Hubs”: Setting up service and marketing hubs within specific rural nodes, as identified in the Spatial Framework, will provide easy access to agricultural services. The establishment of such hubs will need to be facilitated by the public sector, but should aim specifically at creating opportunities for rural entrepreneurs, supported by the established private sector service providers. Land for this purpose should be identified in the rural nodes.

Developing Partnerships: The establishment and development of partnerships between rural farmers, public, and private sector institutions and NGOs should be promoted. The establishment of partnerships, specifically with municipal markets and business support services located in the urban core, is viewed as particularly important.

Promoting and Supporting the Establishment of Organised Farmers Groups: Organised farmers groups provide a range of opportunities for the marketing of produce, and can be an effective tool for the purchase of agricultural inputs, services and equipment. The national focus on promoting the establishment of cooperatives should be supported in the rural areas of eThekwini.

Promoting Special Events: Special events such as “Farmers’ days” should be promoted. Such events will focus on establishing a general awareness of farming opportunities, but should also be aimed at providing rural households with access to services, and information on services. The events should become regular and possibly be linked to other regular activities such as pension payment days. The events should be linked to servicing and marketing hubs.

Providing Access to Finance: Access to finance is generally an obstacle to emerging farmers entering the market. Access to affordable finance will open up opportunities for farmers. This in turn will generate a range of opportunities for service providers and input suppliers (who will also benefit from accessible finance).

7. PRODUCTION FOCUS

7.1 EXISTING PROJECTS AND ENTERPRISES

A strong focus on building on existing initiatives, as opposed to a focus on new projects, is promoted. An understanding of the existing agricultural status quo will ensure that the existing agricultural base is built on, as opposed to seeing a clear separation between the existing and new. This information base should include three basic components, viz. (1) a database of existing agricultural projects, (2) a database of existing producer organisations and commercial enterprises, and (3) a survey of subsistence farming activities.

Database of Existing Agricultural Projects: A single database of all existing agricultural projects supported by public sector institutions and non-governmental organisations will be compiled and maintained (through an annual survey) by the eThekwini Rural ABM. The exact spatial location of each project and current production focus and levels will be established. This will inform future production planning.

Database of Existing Producer Organisations or Producers: A database of existing producer organisations, currently or potentially represented in the rural areas of eThekwini, will be maintained by the Rural ABM. The purpose of this will be to facilitate linkages between producer organisations, the municipality and local producers. Through the producer organisations updated information on production activities within eThekwini will be obtained and mentorship programmes can be established.

21 This could include allowance for a quota of produce to be supplied by small scale rural producers.
22 This could range from a savings group to a registered company with Directors. It is suggested that no single approach should be promoted as participants in such groups should ultimately select the structure that best suits their needs.

23 The focus here is on loan facilities, as opposed to grant funding, however, the ideal would be to ensure that grant funding (e.g. the housing subsidy, the LRAD grant, the SLAG grant etc) be effectively combined with loan funding, and that where possible it is utilised to leverage the required loan funding.
7.2 FUTURE AGRI-BUSINESS FOCUS: PRIMARY PRODUCTION

7.2.1 BROAD AREAS OF FOCUS

The eThekwini Municipality will continue to promote the establishment of appropriate support for agricultural development by all stakeholders concerned. The broad focus areas to which such support will be geared will include support for:

- subsistence agricultural production activities in order to ensure improved household food security;
- commercialisation of existing subsistence production activities to establish larger numbers of commercial producers; and
- establishment and ongoing operation of commercial agricultural enterprises (new or existing).

7.2.2 PRIMARY PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

A broad range of opportunities for primary production in the agricultural sector exists within rural eThekwini and each proposed venture will be assessed based on specific criteria aimed at determining sustainability thereof. Specific primary production opportunities can be divided into the following broad categories:

- Livestock
- Niche Market Products
- Perishables for Local and Export Markets.

LIVESTOCK: Opportunities in livestock to receive specific attention include:

- the commercialisation of indigenous livestock;
- various options relating to poultry including indigenous poultry;
- the establishment of small dairies;
- piggeries, of which a successful example already exists in Umbumbulu; and
- goats which could be either Boer or Nguni Goats (for meat and cultural purposes).

NICHE MARKET PRODUCTS: To date substantial work has been done by the Provincial Department of Economic Development in the investigation of specific niche market products and elsewhere in the province support has been provided to such projects. The potential of various high value crops such as chillies and essential oils will be considered. Medicinal plants are another niche market product in which eThekwini has already established considerable capacity (through initiatives such as Silverglen) and a number of projects. Such initiatives will continue to be promoted.

PERISHABLES FOR LOCAL AND EXPORT MARKETS: The rural areas of eThekwini are uniquely located to allow it to become a major supplier of perishables to the substantial metropolitan and export markets. Primary production relating to subtropical and other fruits, vegetables (including organic production) and cut flowers will be encouraged.

In general, an intensification and diversification of agricultural production in the rural areas of eThekwini is supported and promoted. This is motivated by the potential impact of the Dube Tradeport as a fresh produce and niche product exporting hub, the higher value of agricultural land in eThekwini, the climatic advantages and the considerable transport cost advantages experienced by eThekwini producers.

Agricultural projects will be supported in principle if they aim to produce products related to sub-sectors receiving national, provincial or local government support. Feasibility assessments illustrating viability will be required (existing feasibility studies can be utilised where applicable).

7.2.3 CRITERIA TO GUIDE PROJECT SELECTION

Private and non-governmental sector funded and driven agricultural initiatives will be supported and encouraged subject to their being in line with the policies and planning of the eThekwini Municipality. It will, however, be important that public sector and donor funded and supported initiatives comply with basic criteria. Such criteria will also be utilised as a basis for the prioritisation of projects in cases where a range of projects compete for a finite amount of funding or support.

The criteria, in no specific order of priority, are discussed below:

- Technical skills and equipment required: The level of technical skills and equipment must be appropriate to the
abilities of the beneficiary group and the access the project will have to technical support and mentorship over a period of time. Project planning must clearly illustrate how this aspect will be dealt with.

- Income generation potential: The criteria to be specifically considered will be the financial returns generated by the project per beneficiary per year over various terms (specifically in cases of delayed returns such as timber and fruit).

- Job creation / entrepreneurship development opportunity: The focus in terms of job creation should be the cost per job created and the ongoing sustainability of such an opportunity. Related to job creation is the potential for associated entrepreneurship development, i.e. the potential for the establishment of individual small business ventures related to a specific initiative.

- Impact on the Environment: All relevant environmental policies, legislation and guidelines (incl. eThekwini Environmental Management Plan) must be adhered to. The management plan for projects should specifically stipulate how potential negative impacts will be mitigated.

- Adherence to spatial framework planning and land use management schemes: All projects will be assessed in terms of available spatial framework planning and land use management schemes.

- Sustainable sources of water: Agricultural enterprises are often highly reliant on water. The water demands of new projects should be assessed against the available sources of water.

- Confirmed markets: Projects to be supported by the public sector should have clearly identified and, where applicable, confirmed markets. Such markets may be of a local, metropolitan, domestic or export nature.

### 7.3 FUTURE AGRI-BUSINESS FOCUS: PROCESSING

Agri-processing opportunities relating to agricultural activities, specifically new initiatives, in the rural areas of eThekwini will be promoted. The resources of specifically the eThekwini Economic Development Department and the KZN Department of Economic Development (specifically the Agri-business, Local Economic Development, and Business Support Sections) will be drawn on for this purpose. The resources referred to include the information base, the human resource skills and the financial resources available.

Agri-processing opportunities relating to rural production activities will be marketed widely. The involvement of the various business support centres located within eThekwini in supporting the formation of agri-businesses will be encouraged.

### 8. THE WAY FORWARD

This agricultural policy document provides the basis for the preparation of more detailed agricultural framework plans for the two agricultural regions. However, it is also intended to inform and influence a range of policies relevant to the future development of eThekwini; these include the Integrated Development Plan, the Housing Strategy, the Land Use Management approach, the Economic Strategy, strategies aimed at reviving/supporting markets and the informal economy, the Environmental Management Strategy, the continued planning for D’MOSS, the future Rates Policy and last but not least the Urban Agricultural Policy.

### SPECIFIC FUTURE RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS:

- Understanding the impact of traditional land ownership on agricultural production;
- Improving access to water for agricultural production in the rural areas;
- Models for small farmer group organisation;
- Alternative approaches to marketing small farmer agricultural produce; and
- Feasibility assessment for specific products (to be identified through consultative processes).