

AGRICULTURE OVERVIEW



Taken from the internet

Given the region's good and reliable rainfall, together with fertile soils, KwaZulu-Natal's agricultural sector has become extremely productive and is known for its specialist capabilities across a number of types of farming. KwaZulu-Natal has a total of 6,5 million hectares of land for farming purposes, of which 82% is suitable for extensive livestock production, while 18% comprises arable land.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURE

The province's agricultural sector is well diversified with sugar production in the north and south coasts, dairy and irrigation maize in the Midlands region and mainly cattle and commercial poultry production inland. The province has seen a dramatic increase in the production of macadamia nuts and avocados, mainly for export markets.

There remains, however, tremendous still un-tapped potential for agricultural expansion in KwaZulu-Natal. It has been conservatively estimated that if the province's agricultural natural resources were optimally managed, the present production yield could be increased dramatically, so unlocking the full agricultural production potential of KwaZulu-Natal.

The following have been identified as areas of high potential agri-business in KwaZulu-Natal:

Aquaculture
Biotechnology;
Food processing;
Growing of grains (maize and soybean);
High value commodities such as flowers and vegetables, ranging from turnips and cucumbers to lettuce and cherry tomatoes;
Livestock;
Veterinary services and
Research & development

AGRO-PROCESSING

Sugar

The Sugar industry makes an important contribution to the provinces agro-processing contribution based on revenue generated through sugar sales in the SACU region as well as world market exports. This is evident in the large contribution to the country's economy and direct employment within the sugar industry is approximately 85 000 jobs.

Meat

The province is home to RCL Foods is South Africa's largest processor and marketer of chicken. RCL FOODS is a fully integrated broiler producer that breeds and rears its own livestock which it feeds from its own feed mills, processes, distributes and markets fresh, frozen, value-added and further-processed chicken. The province is also endowed with indigenous resources such as goats, nguni, game and crocodile that is processed.

Idube Cold Storage

This is a multi-temperature store that handles all frozen perishables both imported and “for export” frozen goods. Located at the Dube Trade the location of the facility offers easy access to the King Shaka cargo terminal for any air cargo requirements. one of the major benefits of our location is that we are within an IDZ (Industrial Development Zone) which offers high security for our clients product.



AQUACULTURE



South Africa's aquaculture sector has high growth potential, given increasing demand for fish in the face of declining ocean-wide fish stocks, coupled with South Africa's abundance of marine and freshwater resources. The sector also offers significant potential for rural development for, especially, marginalised coastal communities. The port of Richards Bay, in KwaZulu-Natal, has been identified as viable site for commercial marine sea cage finfish farm. The Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Stellenbosch University have collaborated to conduct a technical, environmental and financial feasibility of farming dusky kob in sea cages on 7 ha of sea water. The study yielded positive results thus providing a platform for the growth of the sector. Dusky kob, is one of the largest members of the kob family, is the chosen species of fish being farmed to boost the country's aquaculture industry.

FORESTRY



The forestry sector (forestry and forest products) contributes about 1% to GDP and forestry in KwaZulu-Natal remains a large contributor in terms of national GDP. The Government is currently engaged in an extensive forestation programme, being undertaken in rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal where few other viable opportunities for job creation and economic activity exist. The forest sector in KwaZulu-Natal contributes 4,4% to national forestry GDP contribution. In its efforts to foster economic growth and development that forestry offers, the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries is working closely with other government structures in KwaZulu-Natal to fast-track the afforestation licensing process. It is hoped that the development of these additional raw material resources will attract greater processing capacity in the form of sawmills, board mills, chipping plants and treatment plants, leading, in turn, to broad economic growth.