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NAMPO represents the entire sector, says Minister Didiza

This year's NAMPO Harvest Day exceeded expectations with a solid attendance of 73 000. The week was characterised by an energetic atmosphere that prevailed among exhibitors, producers and visitors – which confirms that NAMPO was missed as a shopping, socialising and networking event during the past two years it could not be held.

The Harvest Day week started off on Monday with a visit by Minister Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The minister's delegation included her two deputy ministers as well as the department's director general, Mooketsa Ramasodi. During the visit, the Minister also held talks with the Ministers of Agriculture and Land Reform of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as the Argentine Ambassador.

"I tell people that NAMPO is my home. When I was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1994, NAMPO was the first agricultural show I participated in. My visit is about being with the farmers and the industry and looking at what is new regarding machinery and other industries in the sector. At NAMPO, farmers have the opportunity to interact with each other and with stakeholders, but also to see new technologies that exist. "NAMPO represents the vastness and integration of the entire agricultural sector," Didiza said during a press conference.

Grain SA's chairperson, Derek Mathews, said in response that the NAMPO Harvest Day is a phenomenal event and opportunity to meet the suppliers and the whole family that creates the world of agriculture, not only in South Africa, but around the world. "Grain SA appreciates Minister Didiza and her delegation's visit to NAMPO to get to know the producers. This is what we as South Africans must do; we need to get to know each other," Mathews said.

The exhibitors at NAMPO 2022, large and small, deserve a pat on the back for the standard, effort put in and

variety of their exhibits. Nearly 150 of the 800 exhibitors are new this year. "It is remarkable that there are new ideas that exhibitors have brought to NAMPO. This is part of the value that producers themselves can experience here. Two years of development in technology and a lot of new innovations – which could not be demonstrated in the past two years – can be seen," said Dr Pieter Taljaard, CEO of Grain SA.

The Nation in Conversation Forum's discussion topics focused on the state of the economy, the responsible use of chemicals, infrastructure and logistics, the regeneration of rural communities, diversification and integration of livestock, data in agriculture and the future of agriculture. Broadcasts of the conversations are available on the Nation in Conversation website. The digital channel, Agrixtra, which was launched during Nampo Virtual and can be found on YouTube, broadcast live from NAMPO Park and takes a look at everything that was on display at NAMPO this year.

Dr. Dirk Strydom, Nampo, Marketing & Research Coordination Lead at Grain SA, says it is important that there are not only good attendance figures, but that the exhibitors do quality business, have quality conversations with producers and obtain quality sales leads. "It is one great blessing that NAMPO was able to take place this year despite all the challenges. We trust that the non-profit organizations and local communities have benefited as much from this year's NAMPO Harvest Day ", said Strydom. "Together with the good attendance figures, NAMPO has only received positive feedback from exhibitors, guests, visitors who have experienced NAMPO for the first time and those who have experienced it many times," said Strydom. This year, several companies within the automotive and agricultural sectors had new product launches during NAMPO.

Over the course of the week, no fewer than 335 planes and 70 helicopters landed on the runway, resulting in 925 visitors to pass through the airspace. The week was characterised by pleasant weather conditions, although heavy rain on Friday afternoon concluded this year's NAMPO Harvest Day on a wet note.

Grain SA also held a wreath-laying ceremony at NAMPO Park's Wall of Remembrance in memory of producers who died in farm attacks and due to Covid-19.

The dates for next year's NAMPO Harvest Day have been set for 16 - 19 May 2023.

Photo caption: Ms Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (middle), on her visit to the Nampo Harvest Day earlier this week. The chairperson of Grain SA, Derek Mathews and vice-chairperson Jeremia Mathebula accompanied her on a tour of the show.

~ Ends

NAMPO verteenwoordig die hele sektor, sê minister Didiza

Vanjaar se NAMPO Oesdag het verwagtinge oortref met 'n stewige bywoningsyfer van 73 000. Die week is gekenmerk deur 'n energieke en ontspanne atmosfeer wat geheers het onder uitstallers, produsente en besoekers – wat bevestig dat NAMPO as koop-, kuier- en netwerkgeleentheid behoorlik gemis is gedurende die afgelope twee jaar wat dit nie gehou kon word nie.

Die Oesdagweek is ingelui deur ‘n besoek van minister Thoko Didiza, minister van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling. Die minister se afvaardiging het haar twee adjunkministers asook die departement se direkteur-generaal, Mooketsa Ramasodi, ingesluit. Sy het ook tydens die besoek gesprek gevoer met die Ministers van Landbou en Grondhervorming van die Demokratiese Republiek van die Kongo asook die Argentynse ambassadeur.

“Ek sê vir mense dat NAMPO my tuiste is. Toe ek in 1994 as Adjunkminister van Landbou aangestel is, was NAMPO die eerste landbouskou waaraan ek deelgeneem het. My besoek gaan daaroor om by die produsente en die bedryf te wees en om te kyk na wat nuut is rakende masjinerie en ander industrieë in die sektor. By NAMPO het produsente die geleentheid om interaksie te hê met mekaar en met belanghebbendes, maar ook om nuwe tegnologie wat bestaan, te sien. NAMPO verteenwoordig die uitgestrektheid en geïntegreerdheid van die hele landbousektor,’’ het Didiza tydens ‘n perskonferensie gesê.

Graan SA se voorsitter, Derek Mathews, het in reaksie gesê die NAMPO Oesdag is 'n fenomenale gebeurtenis en geleentheid om die verskaffers en die hele familie te ontmoet wat die wêreld van landbou skep, nie net in Suid-Afrika nie, maar regoor die wêreld. “Graan SA waardeer minister Didiza en haar afvaardiging se besoek aan NAMPO om die produsente te leer ken. Dit is wat ons as Suid-Afrikaners moet doen; ons moet mekaar leer ken,” het Mathews gesê.

Die uitstallers by NAMPO 2022, groot en klein, verdien ‘n pluimpie vir die standaard, moeite en verskeidenheid van hulle uitstallings. Nagenoeg 150 van die 800 uitstallers is nuut vanjaar. “Dit is opmerklik dat daar nuwe idees is wat uitstallers NAMPO toe gebring het. Dit is deel van die waarde wat produsente self hier kan beleef. Twee jaar se ontwikkeling in tegnologie en ‘n klomp nuwe innovasies – wat nie die afgelope twee jaar ten toon gestel kon word nie – was te sien,” het dr Pieter Taljaard, HUB van Graan SA, gesê.

Die Nasie in Gesprek-forum se gesprekspunte het ondermeer gefokus op die stand van die ekonomie, die verantwoordelike gebruik van chemikalieë, infrastruktuur en logistiek, die herlewing van plattelandse gemeenskappe, diversifikasie en integrasie van lewende hawe, data in landbou en die toekoms van landbou. Heruitsendings van die gesprekke is op die Nasie in Gesprek webtuiste beskikbaar. Die digitale kanaal, Agrixtra, wat tydens Nampo Virtueel bekendgestel is, en op YouTube gevind kan word, het direk vanaf NAMPO Park uitgesaai en werp ‘n blik op alles wat by NAMPO die jaar te sien was.

Dr. Dirk Strydom, hoof: Nampo, Bemarking & Navorsingkoördinering van Graan SA, sê dit is belangrik dat daar nie net ‘n goeie bywoningsyfers is nie, maar dat die 800 uitstallers kwaliteit besigheid doen, kwaliteit gesprekke met produsente het en gehalte verkoopsleidrade bekom. “Dit is een groot seën dat Nampo die jaar kon plaasvind ten spyte van al die uitdagings. Ons vertrou dat die nie-winsgewende organisasies en naby geleë gemeenskap baat gevind het by dié jaar se Nampo Oesdag”, het Strydom gesê. Te same met die goeie bywoningsyfers het NAMPO nog net positiewe terugvoer ontvang vanaf uitstallers, gaste, besoekers wat NAMPO vir die eerste keer beleef het en dié wat dit al telkemale beleef het” het Strydom gesê. Die jaar het verskeie maatskappye vanaf die motor- en landbou industrieë nuwe produk bekendstellings gedoen tydens NAMPO.

In die loop van die week het nie minder nie as 335 vliegtuie en 70 helikopters op die aanloopbaan geland, wat gesorg het vir 925 besoekers wat deur die lugruim gekom het. Die week is gekenmerk deur aangename weersomstandighede, hoewel harde reën Vrydagmiddag die jaar se NAMPO Oesdag op ‘n nat noot laat afsluit het.

Graan SA het ook ‘n kranslegging by die Muur van Herinnering op NAMPO Park gehou ter nagedagtenis aan

produsente wat in plaasaanvalle en weens Covid-19 gesterf het.

Die datums vir volgende jaar se NAMPO Oesdag is vasgestel op 16 - 19 Mei 2023.

Fotobyskrif: Me Thoko Didiza, Minister van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling (middel), tydens haar besoek aan die NAMPO Oesdag vroeër die week. Die voorsitter van Graan SA, Derek Mathews asook vise-voorsitter Jeremia Mathebula het haar op 'n toer van die skou vergesel.

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