



2016 ANNUAL SMALLHOLDER SUGARCANE GROWERS COMPETITION SNAPSHOT

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Introduction

The annual smallholder sugarcane growers' competition was successfully held on 12 August 2016 at the Matsenjwa Farmers Association in Gamula. This year's event was graced by the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Agriculture who represented the minister, the representative of the Regional Administrator, key industry officials, Development and Commercial Financing Institutions representatives, key industry stakeholders, the local traditional authorities and all Small-scale sugarcane growers (SSGs) on Swazi National Land (SNL). Over 400 growers were in attendance on the day.

Aim of competition

The aim of the competition is to encourage the adoption of Best Management Practices by SSGs through recognizing and rewarding best performers. Currently, grower

participation is only limited to those on SNL, however discussions are on-going that all SSGs according to the SSA categorization be included in the competition.

Ranking

In the competition, growers are ranked based on production i.e. tonnes sucrose per hectare per annum (TSH/AN). Out of a total of 139 SSGs who produced cane in 2015/16 season, the top 30 growers who attained highest TSH/AN were awarded prizes, medals and certificates. The prizes included a variety of agrochemicals, farm hand-tools and equipment, water tanks, tuition fees for training courses and cash. These prizes were funded by different sponsors. The ever presence of these sponsors is greatly appreciated.

The top 30 winners

The growers who made it to the top 30 are listed in the table provided

overleaf. In general, Mhlume, mill growers performed better than growers from Big-Bend and Simunye mills. There were seven Mhlume mill growers in the top 10 positions. Overall, there were fourteen growers from Mhlume, another fourteen from Big-Bend, and only two from Simunye who made it to the top thirty. This year's top grower attained 18,73TSH/AN, an increase of 1,92% when compared with the previous year's (2014/15) 18,38TSH/AN in spite of the prevailing drought.

Veteran growers shine

Veteran growers were given special recognition during the competition for the second time beginning last year. These are growers who started sugarcane production before the government and EU interventions started. In the top five bracket, four of the winners were veteran growers.

This is very encouraging as extension will be working with these growers to establish study groups to benefit growers through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

Contribution by the host grower and local traditional authorities

Special thank you goes to Matsenjwa Farmers Association and the local traditional authorities, particularly the chief. The host went out of their way to make sure that this year's event became a

success. They contributed in terms of finance, manpower and time while preparing for the competition. The local authorities are acknowledged for allowing the event to be held in the area.

Words from the guest of honour

The PS in the Ministry of Agriculture, representing the Minister, acknowledged the significance of the sugar industry and its contribution towards the country's economy. He highlighted

that the industry is worth over 4,6 billion emalangeneni. He recommended the industry's model and mentioned that the ministry will continue to work with the industry and encourage other commodity industries to learn from the successes of the sugar industry. The PS also presented the top 10 winners with their prizes.

RANKING	GROWER	TSH/AN 2015/16	TSH/AN 2014/15*	TSH/AN 2013/14*
1	Ntisheni Farmers Association	18.73	18.38	20.64
2	Mpilimbe Farmers Association	18.44	18.10	19.44
3	Sivukile Farmers Association	18.42	17.95	18.38
4	Mankontshane Farmers Association	18.29	17.50	18.28
5	Makhabeni Farmers Association	18.18	17.45	18.24
6	Mavula enterprise Pty Ltd	17.71	17.37	18.06
7	Calamuva Farmers Limited	17.69	17.25	17.88
8	Nhlanguyavuka Farmers Association	17.50	17.10	17.84
9	Vilakati Lofana	17.32	16.93	17.74
10	Lilanda Farmers Assoc.	17.16	16.82	17.72
11	Mbabala Mngongomaneni Investments	17.10	16.71	17.71
12	Tikhumbule Limited	17.07	16.67	17.59
13	Asibebahle Mbabala investment	16.61	16.23	17.33
14	Vukutimele Farmers Limited	16.51	16.16	17.25
15	Nhleko Nhlanhla	16.43	15.96	17.06
16	Kuhle Kubonela Farmers Limited	16.41	15.89	17.03
17	Mangcineni Investment	16.38	15.88	16.98
18	Bambanani Farmers Association	16.37	15.85	16.87
19	Kuhle kutentela investment (pty) ltd	16.35	15.70	16.85
20	Mabovane Farmers Association	16.30	15.68	16.84
21	Ngcamphalala khulani investments	16.03	15.64	16.77
22	Intamakuphila Malibeni Association	16.01	15.62	16.77
23	Intamakuphila Farm	16.01	15.53	16.68
24	Embusweni Matjentima	15.93	15.52	16.35
25	Buhle Besive Multipurpose Coop	15.88	15.48	16.34
26	Emadvodza Ayayengana Farmers Association	15.87	15.43	16.3
27	Maphikweni Farmers Assoc.	15.85	15.42	16.28
28	Tikane Investment	15.81	15.41	16.26
29	Mganyaneni Farmers Association	15.70	15.40	16.22
30	Ndinda Farmers LTD.	15.60	15.36	16.13
*Grower list not shown				