

Cultivating Investment in Africa

In association with:



KZN Agriculture, Environmental Affairs & Rural Development

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kweMiphakathi yaseMakhaya*

ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU-NATALI

Investment in Agriculture, support of emerging farmers, the opening up of markets for farmers to various economies in the rural arena, maximising rural development and infrastructure are all part of the Agribusiness Investment Summit, as well as being high on the agenda for African Governments and at the forefront of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Africa investor (Africa's leading investment communications group) and the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development of Kwa-Zulu Natal are therefore pleased to present its 2010 Agribusiness Projects Summit, which will profile African investment opportunities in Agribusiness to the investment community, as well as bringing farmers, investors and rural entrepreneurs' together to maximize effective government spend in rural development and funding for commercial and small scale farmers.

Africa investor is the market leading convenor of investors for its annual sectoral forums which now include annual Africa: infrastructure projects summits, tourism investment summits, investment climate summits, capital markets summits at the New York Stock Exchange and its annual Fund Managers Forum in partnership with Bloomberg in London.

The Agribusiness Investment Summit will provide critical insights, and a venue for the business and development community to advance Africa's many agribusiness investment programs in this growing space through open networking sessions and dynamic panel discussions led by market leading investors, agribusiness project promoters and African Ministers of Agriculture. Topics to be discussed include Agro-processing, Rural Development, Trade & Export Finance, Value Chain Investment, Attracting Private Sector Investment, Infrastructure Corridors and The Biofuels Revolution.

Expand your networking with facilitated one-on-one meetings that will take place throughout the event, and hear from some of the continent's leading agribusiness players

The Summit will coincide with the prestigious Africa investor Agribusiness Investment Awards. The winners will be announced on the 31 August at the Gala Dinner. The Awards are organised in recognition of the companies being awarded for excellence in the industry.

DAY 1 – 31 August 2010

08:00-09:00 Seminar Registrations

09:00-09:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome and opening remarks. Speakers in this session shall open the forum by presenting the key sessions.

9:15-10:00 Africa's Agribusiness Overview – Investment Outlook

Panellists in this session will discuss the short, medium and long-term market and price outlook, the impact of the global recession, as well as overall supply and demand issues.

10:00-10:40 Attracting Private Sector Investment

Speakers will discuss the need to mobilise private sector investment into agriculture from both Africa and outside the continent, via investment promotion and facilitation, and creating an attractive business climate.

10:40-11:20 Investor Panel

In this session, brief presentations will be given by current active investors, including pension fund investors, who will set out the requirements that need to be met in order for them to support agribusiness projects.

11:20-12:00 Networking Break

12:00-12:40 Agribusiness Value-Chain Investment

The panellists in this session will address the advantages of a regional approach to investment, the benefits of combined economies and larger consumer base, as well as the regional integration programmes underway and in the pipeline that will lay the foundation for agribusiness value-chain investment.

12:40-13:20 Opportunities in Agriculture in Kwa-Zulu Natal Project Pitch Session 1

Developers and agricultural agencies from Kwa-Zulu Natal will have the opportunity to pitch agribusiness projects in their respective states to potential investors.

13:20-14:20 Networking Lunch

14:20-15:00 Rural Development in Agriculture

A large portion of Africa's poor live in rural areas. Panellists in this session will look at improving the well-being of rural people, by building productive, social and environmental assets, with part focus on Women in Agriculture and financing rural development.

15:00-15:40 Infrastructure Corridors

Partnerships that promote economic integration and support the development of intra-Africa trade are key to strengthening the agriculture sector, by improving the agricultural infrastructure and enabling smoother cross-border trade by improving customs regimes. Developing and implementing basic infrastructure is the key for Africa reaching the MDGs. Panellists will debate the need to create an infrastructure corridor where there are linked cross-border rail, road, air and sea networks so that a platform is created for increased cross-border trade and developing economic hubs that encourage industrial development around growing and improving these infrastructure networks.

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15:40-16:20 Networking Break

16:20-17:00 The Biofuels Revolution

Africa's low productivity of existing farming systems, combined with the large stretches of suitable cropland, is making it the area with the world's highest energy crop-production potential for growing the global biofuels market. It is critical to the continent's future to be part of this revolution. Panellists will look at the biofuels versus fossil fuels debate, given the increased demand for energy, and how a strong biofuels industry would attract increased investment in agriculture.

17:00-17:40 Opportunities in Agriculture

Project Pitch Session 2

Developers and Agricultural Agencies from across Africa have the opportunity to pitch agribusiness projects in their respective states/countries to potential investors.

17:40-17:50 Closing Remarks from the Chair

17:50-19:30 Africa investor Agribusiness investment Awards and Cocktail Reception

The Africa investor Agribusiness Investment Awards winners will be announced during the Agribusiness Investment Summit cocktail reception. The Agribusiness investment Awards are designed to recognise excellence in the industry.

The Agribusiness Investment Awards categories include:

- Agricultural Commodities Initiative of the Year
- Agribusiness Investment Initiative of the Year
- Export Credit Initiative of the year
- Development Finance Initiative of the Year
- Biofuels Initiative of the Year
- Structured Trade Finance Deal of the Year
- Agro-processing Initiative of the Year
- Trade Finance Bank of the Year
- Agricultural Development Bank of the Year
- Minister of Agriculture of the Year

19:30-23:30 Gala Dinner

Join us for the official Gala dinner, for all guests, delegates and speakers

DAY 2 – 1 September 2010

08:30-09:00 Seminar Registrations

09:00-09:10 Opening remarks and Review of Day One

Review of Day one

09:10-09:50 Agro-Processing

Agro-processing specialists will look at local and international trends, job opportunities, investment incentives; skills support programs, export marketing and small & medium enterprise development programmes within the sector.

09:50-10:30 Commodity Markets Outlook

Panellists will discuss the soft commodity markets outlook for 2010, as well as the macro-economic factors that may impact on the demand for commodities.

10:30-11:10 Networking Break

11:10-12:00 Export and Trade Finance

Export and Trade finance are key to any agribusiness. Panellists on this session will look at products designed to reduce the trade and credit risks when doing business abroad.

12:00-12:50 Agriculture and Climate Change

Climate change initiatives are essential in the agricultural sector, for sustainable growth. Speakers will evaluate different solutions – while protecting farming interests – as well as accuracy and cost effectiveness in measuring agriculture emissions, managing increased costs and mitigating trade exposure.

12:50-13:10 Closing Remarks from Chair

13:10-14:10 Lunch

Who should attend?

Investment banks, private banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, renewable energy producers, agriculture Ministry officials, agriculture organisations, biotechnologists, environment associations, government rural development officials, grain trade law professionals, consultants, food producers, agrochemical manufacturers, grain traders, academic organisations, etc.

Sponsors and Partners:

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UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

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