



To: All Media Houses

For Immediate release

15 September 2024

MEC FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS HOSTS A SERIES OF CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AT THE DISTRICTS LEVEL

The MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs (DARDEA), Ms. Elzabe Rockman is on a mission to develop the next generation of farmers and address key issues such as poverty, inequality and the high rate of youth unemployment, by hosting consultative dialogue with young farmers in the various districts in the Free State province. These district dialogue sessions are part of the build-up activities for the upcoming Youth in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (YAFF) Awards ceremony to be held in October 2024.

The objective of YAFF is to provide favourable opportunity for young farmers to share and discuss their experiences, frustrations, constraints and challenges, on the other side of the coin, expected interventions from the department that could assist them to succeed in their farming enterprises.

The dialogue sessions will be held under the theme, ***“An Integrated Approach to Youth Participation in Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security, and Economic Growth”***. The purpose is to spark essential conversations aimed at empowering/capacitating youth to actively participate in the agricultural sector. DARDEA remains steadfast in its commitment to provide young farmers with the necessary skills, knowledge, and infrastructure support.

MEDIA RELEASE



More than 50 young farmers from the various districts in the Free State province will be attending the dialogues, demonstrating the widespread interest in shaping the future of agriculture.

Details of the said consultative dialogue with targeted stakeholders will take place as follows:

Date	District/ Metro	Town/Venue	Time
16 September 2024	Fezile Dabi	Kroonstad	09H00
21 September 2024	Lejweleputswa	Welkom	09H00
23 September 2024	Xhariep	Trompsburg	09H00
26 September 2024	Mangaung	Bloemfontein	09H00
28 September 2024	Thabo Mofutsanyana	Bethlehem	09H00

Members of the media are invited to join MEC Rockman in her engagement sessions.

For further media enquiries, please contact:

Ms. Moliehi Moeng

Director: Strategic Communications

073 260 5173

OR:

Ms. Mpho Nhlapo

Media Liaison Officer

082 400 0168

Issued by the DARDEA: Strategic Communications and Information Services