

Press Release

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**ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij sees 201 smallholder farmers of the Eastern Cape graduate after completing their deciduous fruit production training.**

Two more farmer groups have completed the deciduous fruit production training of ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij. Graduation ceremonies were held for 42 graduates at Maluti A (near Matatiele) and 149 graduates at Mount Ayliff.

The project commenced during May 2007 in 14 villages with 530 farmers served. Training in basic principles and practices of deciduous fruit growing are annually presented within the different villages located near towns such as Qunu , Mthatha, Lusikisiki, Qumbu, Kokstad, Matatiele, Mount Frere, Mount Ayliff and Mount Fletcher. The project goal is to increase the income and standard of living of disadvantaged communities within O.R. Tambo and Alfred Nzo Districts. This is achieved by increasing the expertise and skills of smallholder farmers and villagers.

Virtually all the households within the villages have a number of peach and other fruit trees within their gardens, numbering from 10 to more than 50 in some cases. The training offered by ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij assists farmers in growing deciduous fruits using modern agricultural techniques. It provides farmers with the necessary skills to produce better quality fruit for their own consumption or to sell and generate a household income.

**PICTURES:**



**Caption:** Graduates of Maluti A, a town in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (EC), with trainer Sonwabo Boois of the ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij.



**Caption:** Project leader, Odette Beukes of the ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij deciduous fruit training initiative with some of the graduates of the Mount Ayliff area. Mount Ayliff is located in the Umzimvubu Local Municipality, which is part of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality.

Ends

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