

NORTH WEST BUSINESS

THE GUIDE TO BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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Create jobs by starting small food manufacturing plants

Extrusion technology, a food and feed processing process, is ideal to establish small to medium-sized processing plants on farms or rural areas to produce food or feed products in close vicinity where staple foods (e.g. maize, wheat, sorghum) are produced. This was one of the messages conveyed during a recently held workshop and seminar, ExtrAfrica, organised by the North-West University (NWU) in South Africa, where food and feed manufacturers from Southern Africa came together. ...[read more](#)

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ExtrAfrica, the first workshop of its kind to be held in Africa, was organised by the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing at the North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus to provide a platform for individuals and companies to learn about extrusion. The title of this workshop was 'Applications of Food Extrusion in Africa'. ...[read more](#)

New North West Premier announced

ANC deputy secretary general Thandi Modise has been appointed the new premier of her home province North West, a provincial task team said on Friday. ...[read more](#)

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NEWS

Create jobs by starting small food manufacturing plants

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"Extrusion technology, used as a cooking process, is particularly suitable for Africa as it is a relatively inexpensive, energy-efficient and easily operated method to produce a wide range of animal feeds and ready-to-eat food products. It is also environmentally friendly as it produces minimal waste products," said Prof L.J. Grobler, Head of the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing (CoE) at the NWU.

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The agro-industries (that is industries that convert raw agricultural produce into consumable products) contributes about 37% of the Gross Domestic Produce (GDP) and is recognised as one of the major sectors contributing to economic growth. One quarter of this contribution comes from agro-industrial processing. The agriculture and agro-processing sectors (especially foods, clothing, leather and leather products) tend to create more low-skilled jobs, which is so desperately needed in South Africa.

Employment generators in the economy are found in manufacturing sectors such as tobacco products, oils and fats, basic chemicals, meat products, animal feeds, other foods, dairy products, grain milling, sugar products and paper products and canning. The vital role of the agricultural and agro-processing industry sector clearly indicates that agricultural investment is necessary for industrial, urban and regional development. This will achieve food security, create jobs for all, generate and redistribute income and improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

One of the ways in which value can be added to farm produce, is extrusion. In South Africa job creation and poverty alleviation is one of government's major focus areas and this technology can support these objectives. The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is one of government's bodies that are constantly seeking people with a drive and vision to start agro-processing plants, but are in need of funding. A main focus of the IDC is on assisting agro-processing plants

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especially in the rural or poor areas. It is evident that government has a willingness to support such job generating industries.

Such support is illustrated in the fact that the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) contributed towards the establishment of the CoE at the NWU in order to support industry by providing technology solutions and assistance.

Mrs Nontumeke Majala, Chief Director of Advanced Manufacturing at the dti, said that agro-processing plants can help communities to become involved in manufacturing and reap the benefits of technology. Only a single computer-controlled machine is needed to start a plant. Majala further said that Extrufriica is a good interaction initiative to show the possibilities of extrusion.

Extrufriica offered delegates networking opportunities with other role players and also gave new ideas in terms of technology that can add value, how to obtain financing and the practical aspects of starting food manufacturing plants. South Africa has created the technology to move us forward in creating jobs.

One-day practical seminars on extrusion are planned in different provinces between October and November 2011 and February to April 2012. These seminars will be organised by the NWU, in conjunction with the provincial invest-offices, the DC and the Department of Trade and Industry. Furthermore, the Extrufriica 2012 conference is planned for 29 July to 3 August 2012 at the Protea Hotel Kruger Gate, Kruger National Park in South Africa.

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