



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## **EU GRANTS 14 MILLION EUROS TO SWAZILAND TO SUPPORT ITS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SADP) THE PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED BY FAO**

The European Union through its European Development Fund has committed over 14 M Euros (E200-million Emalangeni) to support the Swaziland Agricultural Development Programme (SADP). The project will also get support in the tune of 341,000 Euros (E4.5-million Emalangeni) from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and will be implemented all across the country, although certain activities will be particularly focused on the two most vulnerable regions, Lubombo and Shiselweni to improve smallholder livelihoods. The National Agricultural Summit (NAS) of 2007 identified a number of issues that will be addressed under the Swaziland Agricultural Development Project. One of the critical areas was that of increasing agricultural productivity and competitiveness as the key to addressing the root causes of poverty and food insecurity in the country. The situation in Swaziland for small producers is approaching crisis point, and the convening of a special National Agricultural Summit in 2007 was a response to a widely-felt need to change the way agriculture is managed in the country.

Reaching out to support the diversity of Swazi rural smallholders in achieving these objectives is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). However, the ability of the Ministry of Agriculture to provide such support has been limited by a failure to adjust agricultural service provision to the changes that have taken place in the country since they were last updated in the 1980s. The project will work to improve smallholder production and marketing systems that lead to sustainable food security and to an improved quality of life for rural households through assisting MOA to develop coherent and relevant policies, institutional structures and field programmes that will result in more effective, demand-driven research and agricultural services to small producers. In complement, the project will advise the Government of Swaziland on investments in facilities, equipment and field operations, as well as in water and livestock management, to provide the foundation for a reinvigorated and sustainable smallholder agricultural sector, while also supporting small producers, local entrepreneurs and agribusinesses to develop improved linkages and investments among smallholders and commercial markets.

---

### **Delegation of the European Commission to the Kingdom of Swaziland**

P.O. Box A36  
Swazi Plaza  
MBABANE, Swaziland

4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lilunga House  
Somhlolo Road

Tel: (268) 404 2908  
Fax: (268) 404 6729  
E-Mail: [delegation-swaziland@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-swaziland@ec.europa.eu)