Food Sovereignty Indaba
Okhahlamba Local Municipality
14 and 15 October 2013

The government of South Africa recognizes the need for smallholder farmers to be mainstreamed in the economy. However, various impediments confront the farmers in trying to achieve this objective. Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA), an alliance of NGOs in land and agrarian reform, marked the centenary of the Native Land Act of 1913 in June 2013 to show how the Act continues to affect rural livelihoods negatively. In regard, Farmer Support Group (FSG) of SAEES, University of KwaZulu-Natal will host a Food Sovereignty Indaba in Bergville – Okhahlamba Local Municipality on 14 and 15 October 2013. The event will coincide with the International Rural Women’s Day (15 October 2013) and International Food Day (16 October 2013).

The purpose of the indaba is to allow smallholder farmers to discuss their potential and constraints among themselves and with relevant stakeholders, and engage on how they can achieve food sovereignty. Farmers will discuss various approaches to food production, value chain and market linkages. The event will bring together farmers from different provinces and provide them a platform to engage and learn from each other in a friendly environment. The event will be centered on the following specific themes:

- Traditional seed saving and exchange
- Livestock farming and animal traction
- Agro-ecology practices
- Communal and household food gardens
- Water harvesting and conservation agriculture, etc.

The theme of Access to markets is crosscutting

On the 14 October farmers will interact among themselves and discuss issues around the themes. On the 15 October, all farmer participants, joined by other stakeholder, will convene in plenary to share the outcomes of deliberations from 14 October.

FSG would like to invite the SAEES members to participate in the Food Indaba on 15 October 2013. On this day participants will synthesize lessons learnt and decide what to take forward from the discussions.

**Venue:** Obonjaneni – Thandanani Mazizi Craft Centre (On the right-hand side towards Royal Natal)

**Time:** 10:00 am

Please RSVP by return e-mail or call to: bukelwag@ukzn.ac.za, Tel: 033 260 6275 by 07 October 2013.

Your presence and participation will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Miss Zanele Shezi
Farmer Support Group – Project Facilitator