

15 MAY 2026**ECHELON REFLECTS ON KEY AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS EMERGING FROM NAMPO 2026**

Echelon acknowledges the important conversations and insights that emerged from the 2026 NAMPO (National Maize Producers Organisation) Harvest Day conference which ran from 12–15 May 2026 at NAMPO Park in Bothaville, Free State particularly around the future of sustainable agriculture, food security, infrastructure development, climate resilience, and the role of innovation in strengthening Africa's agricultural sector.

Mr. Tsepiso Mofokeng, Chief Operation Officer at Echelon said, "this year's discussions also highlighted the significant challenges currently facing the agricultural industry, including the ongoing impact of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) on livestock farming, trade, and food production". The spread of the disease continues to place pressure on farmers, disrupt market access, and create economic uncertainty across the agricultural value chain. These realities reinforce the urgent need for strengthened biosecurity measures, collaborative industry responses, and long-term support mechanisms for affected farming communities.

Beyond animal health concerns, conversations at NAMPO further reflected on issues such as rising input costs, water scarcity, energy insecurity, climate change, and the need for greater investment in agricultural infrastructure and innovation. "These challenges continue to test the resilience of the sector while simultaneously creating opportunities for more sustainable and adaptive approaches to farming and food systems", Mr. Mofokeng added.

At Echelon, we believe these conversations are critical not only for the agricultural sector, but for the broader sustainability and economic development agenda across Africa. The emphasis placed on resilience, responsible growth, and collaboration strongly aligns with our commitment to supporting solutions that contribute meaningfully to environmental stewardship, social development, and long-term economic sustainability.

We remain encouraged by the level of engagement and innovation showcased through platforms such as NAMPO.


Echelon calls on industry leaders, policymakers, private sector stakeholders, and communities to continue working collaboratively towards practical, sustainable solutions that strengthen the resilience of South Africa's agricultural sector. Addressing challenges such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, climate pressures, infrastructure constraints, and food security will require collective action, innovation, and long-term commitment to safeguarding the future of agriculture across the continent.

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