



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

COSMETICS & ESSENTIAL OILS INDUSTRY SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2025/26

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), under leadership of the Hon. MEC Rev. Musa Zondi, through its Sector Development: Agribusiness Programme, hereby invites applications from qualifying agribusinesses in the cosmetics and essential oils sector to participate in the Cosmetics and Essential Oils Industry Support Programme for the 2025/26 Financial Year.

About the Programme

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) is tasked with driving sustainable economic growth in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). This mandate is executed through the implementation of policies aimed at inclusive economic growth and job-creation in line with the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) for 2024-2029 as adopted by the seventh administration. The cosmetics/beauty and essential oils sector has consequently been prioritized by the department as one of the emerging sub-sectors within the agribusiness' value-chain that requires a targeted support. Focused towards enterprises from the rural and township areas, the programme is intended to support the existing enterprises within the sector that are already in the production/manufacturing and selling of cosmetic and essential oils products (small to medium scale) towards commercialization by helping them improve the quality, safety, compliance and competitiveness of their product-offerings.

Who Should Apply?

Applications are expected from existing agribusinesses/manufacturers that are actively involved in the production and/or processing of cosmetic and essential oil products derived from raw agricultural inputs/raw materials.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- CIPC-registered emerging or small agribusinesses.
- Operating within the KwaZulu-Natal province.
- Owned by Previously Disadvantaged Individuals (PDIs), including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- Engaged in the processing or formulation of products such as:
 - Essential oils (*rose geranium, lavender, tea tree, etc.*)
 - Natural skincare products (*soaps, lotions, body butters*)
 - Haircare products (*oils, conditioners, treatments*)
 - Aromatherapy and wellness products (*balms, inhalers, bath oils*)
 - Plant-based health supplements (*immune boosters, herbal tinctures*)
- In need of technical assistance to improve compliance with regulatory and quality assurance standards (*ISO, GMP, SABS, product labelling, testing, and certification*).



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Support Offered

Selected businesses will receive:

- Technical support for product development and formulation.
- Product testing and quality assurance.
- Assistance with regulatory compliance and certification readiness.
- Support in developing market-ready product prototypes.
- Hands-on guidance to enhance packaging, branding, and labelling.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted to the Department's Head Office on **270 Jabu Ndlovu Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201** and must include:

- Business profile;
- Description of current products and operations;
- Proof of business registration and other supporting documents;
- Demonstration of sale volumes and/or existing markets etc;
- Clear indication of interventions required by the enterprise as per this call;
- Motivation outlining how the business will benefit from the programme.

Closing Date for Applications: 15 August 2025

For more information, please contact:

Ms Nqobile Hlabisa

Deputy Director: Agribusiness and Agro-processing

Contact Details: 066 023 6251 / 033 264 2832 | Email: nqobile.hlabisa@kznedtea.gov.za