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3-5 December

Johannesburg | South Africa

The 3rd Global Conference

ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



04 December 2013

### Becoming self-sufficient

*Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, 04 December 2013.* The challenge faced by the global agricultural community is daunting. Low income countries already face serious challenges in satisfying basic needs, including food, water and energy. Population and income growth will drive food demand in the coming decades.

Prof. Mandivamba Rukuni, Barefoot Education Africa Trust, Zimbabwe, addressed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Agriculture Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change, which was opened by the honourable Ms Tina Joemat- Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Prof. Mandivamba Rukuni said: "Farmers need better and more easily available information in terms of learning to farm efficiently. The way to achieve this is through virtual Barefoot Colleges and community based motivation. "Most importantly, African leaders need to take responsibility to set this in motion as soon as possible. I think development of this kind is important as it assists innovation, he explained.

He also said that in the next 10 years, African countries should not rely on food aid, but should produce their own food to become self-sufficient and possibly get to the stage where they can export their products.

The Forum for Africa Research in Africa put the continent's current food import bill at more than 40 billion dollars; money that would be better spent enabling African farmers to become self-sufficient.

Ends

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