Media Advisory

Unisa's AgriSETA Research Chair to host a Community Empowerment celebration to commemorate Women's Month

Approved for Public Release
Thursday, 6 August 2026

The University of South Africa (UNISA)'s AgriSETA Research Chair will host a Community Empowerment Celebration on Friday, 7 August 2026 at Unisa Muckleneuk Capus in Pretoria as part of Women's Month commemorations.

The event aim celebrates the remarkable contribution of women across the agricultural value chain while creating a platform to inspire the next generation of women leaders, innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration among higher education, government, industry, and communities to advance inclusive and sustainable agricultural development.

The Minister of Women, Youth, and People living with Disabilities **Honorable Sindiwe Chikunga** will deliver a keynote address under the theme "***Women Transforming Agriculture: Cultivating her Legacy",*** to reaffirming the government's commitment to empowering women and promoting inclusive participation in agriculture and the broader economy. A welcoming address will be delivered on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UNISA, Dr Matsheliso Molapo, Vice Principal: Strategy, Risk, and Advisory Services, reflecting the University's commitment to research excellence, community engagement, and social impact.

The programme will feature a distinguished panel of women leaders representing government, academia, skills development, agribusiness, and commercial farming. Panel discussions will explore the opportunities and challenges facing women in agriculture, leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, marketing, and skills development, while highlighting practical pathways to strengthen women's participation across the sector.

The Celebration is also aligned with national priorities to promote gender equality, skills development, agricultural innovation, rural development, and inclusive economic growth, and embedded within the Unisa's Catalytic Niche Area, Women, Bosadi Theorisation. It further reflects the AgriSETA Research Chair's commitment to translating research into meaningful societal impact through collaboration with government, industry, communities, and higher education institutions.

The event is expected to strengthen dialogue on advancing women's leadership while encouraging young women and girls to pursue careers in agriculture, science, technology, entrepreneurship, and research.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event as follows:

University of South Africa
Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392 UNISA 0003 South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 429 3111 Facsimile: +27 12 429 4150
www.unisa.ac.za

Date : Friday, 7 August 2026
Time : 09:00 – 14:00
Venue : Dr Mariam Makeba Concert Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria

Ends/.

For RSVP's and interviews requests, please contact Unisa Senior Media Officers: Mr Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS
Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA)

University of South Africa
Preller Street, Muckleneuk Ridge, City of Tshwane
PO Box 392 UNISA 0003 South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 429 3111 Facsimile: +27 12 429 4150
www.unisa.ac.za