

# Fanyana Nursery and Garden Services



**“The hardest part was going from being a housewife to being the manager and owner of a business” – Doris Tshabangu**

When the founder of Fanyana Nursery, Fanyana Nkosi, passed away suddenly in 2014 soon after the business was established, his wife, Doris Tshabangu, bravely stepped up to take over the reins.

With support from Mondi Zimele, she managed the transition remarkably smoothly, was able to honour the contract that the nursery had with Mondi, and has expanded the business which today has 27 employees and produces 3.1 million seedlings a year.

“The hardest part was going from being a housewife to being the manager and owner of a business,” says Doris.

## **Sewing the seeds of success**

The process of growing Eucalyptus seedlings begins when the seeds are deposited into the growing medium by a mechanized ‘sewing’ machine. The trays are then moved into a germination room where temperature and humidity is carefully controlled until the seedlings have sprouted and started growing.

From there the trays are moved to the greenhouse where the seedlings are grown and ‘hardened’ until they are ready for the planting teams.

The Fanyana team also looks after wattle and pine seedlings for other nurseries and contractors in the area, and provides gardening and office cleaning services to the nursery facility.



## **Business support**

Mondi Zimele has supported Fanyana from the beginning, providing the crucial start-up capital needed to purchase a bakkie, tractor and four seedling trailers, which helped the new business meet the initial production target.

Business support from Mondi Zimele covers financial management, UIF compliance, business training and computer literacy.

The initial loan from MZ has been repaid in full. Fanyana has won awards for outstanding safety performance for three consecutive years, has achieved a 4 Star NOSA grading, and has secured a renewal of the Mondi contract until 2021.



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