



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TIA's Technology Stations Programme

The Technology Stations Programme (TSP) was established to enable Universities of Technology (UoT) to provide technology development services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The Technology Stations (TSs) provide innovative Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) solutions for complex engineering challenges within the relevant industrial sectors aimed at supporting government's socio-economic priorities. There are 18 Technology Stations (TS) based at 11 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, managed by the Technology Stations Programme (TSP) Unit based in Pretoria at the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) office. The TSP is a management and systems-wide support unit responsible for all Technology Stations across the country.

Technology Stations are well positioned to support industry, particularly SMEs and Higher Education Institutions. Their activities offer opportunities to bridge the gap between local suppliers and industry to take advantage of the recapitalization and expansion programmes by enhancing competitiveness of local suppliers through technology improvement. They also provide technology transfer infrastructure that plays a critical role for transferring technologies from Higher Education Institutions to technology users. The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) provides financial support through TIA, to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) which house Technology Stations to provide technical support to SMEs in terms of solutions for services and training.

Limpopo Agro-Food Technology Station (LATS)

LATS reduces barriers of access to expensive high end skills and equipment for agro processing innovators by supporting technology based agrofood processing products, processes and services through research and development (R&D) and facilitating the development and improvement of agroprocessing, technology innovation and commercialization of agrofood products by startups and existing small and micro entrepreneurs in Limpopo Province. The TS is involved in turning primary agricultural products into other commodities for national and international markets. It is a dynamic and fast-growing sector and therefore has the potential to provide opportunities for income generation and employment in the Province and the country at large. The advantages of agro processing include among others, (1) reduction of crop and fruit wastage, (2) enhancement of food security and (3) improvement of livelihoods for low-income groups in the rural areas in the Limpopo Province.

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