

# 2025 BRICS+ Agriculture Investment & Trade Summit



**Theme:** From Vision to Venture - Women Shaping the Future of Agricultural Investment and Global Trade

**Date:** 27-29 March 2025

**Venue:** Durban International  
Convention Centre, South Africa

Designed & developed by:



**AFRICAN INVESTORS COUNCIL**  
Unlocking Africa's Potential. Building Global Partnerships



**EXPANDED  
BRICS**  
**WOMEN FOUNDATION**





# ABOUT HOST CITY

KWA ZULU NATAL

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# about HOST CITY

eTHEKWINI (DURBAN), KWA ZULU NATAL

eThekwini, also known as Durban, is the largest city in KwaZulu-Natal and a thriving economic hub that offers a perfect blend of business, culture, and leisure. Positioned along the Indian Ocean, eThekwini enjoys a year-round subtropical climate, making it an ideal destination for both tourists and business travelers. The name "eThekwini" is derived from the Zulu word "itheku," meaning "bay" or "lagoon," which fittingly describes the city's natural harbor.

Founded in 1835, eThekwini is steeped in history, with landmarks like the Old Fort Museum and ties to the legendary Zulu king, Shaka. Today, the city is renowned for its cultural diversity, with a mix of African, Indian, and European influences that shape its rich heritage. Visitors can enjoy the iconic Golden Mile beaches, stroll along its beachfront esplanade, or take in the scenic views from the Berea hills. Cultural highlights like the vibrant markets, Botanic Gardens, and the Moses Mabhida Stadium, which hosts major sporting and cultural events, make eThekwini an exciting destination for leisure. Economically, eThekwini is a powerhouse, playing a pivotal role in South Africa's trade and industrial sectors. The city's port is one of the largest and busiest in Africa, supporting international trade and the export of minerals, sugar, and manufacturing goods. Additionally, the city is a key centre for industries like automotive components, petrochemicals, and engineering.

Agriculture is a significant part of the economy in the surrounding KwaZulu-Natal region, contributing around 4% to the provincial GDP. The region is one of South Africa's top agricultural producers, responsible for approximately 30% of the country's agricultural output. eThekwini is a strategic hub for processing and exporting key agricultural products, including sugarcane, which dominates the region, along with subtropical fruits such as bananas, macadamia nuts, avocados, and citrus. KwaZulu-Natal's agricultural sector provides employment for thousands, with over 200,000 people working in the sugarcane industry alone. eThekwini's Dube TradePort, located near King Shaka International Airport, further enhances the city's agricultural potential by providing cutting-edge logistics for fresh produce exports, facilitating faster access to international markets across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. This infrastructure positions eThekwini as a vital player in South Africa's agricultural economy.

The city's proximity to natural reserves, including game parks and nature reserves, adds to its appeal as a leisure destination, offering visitors a chance to experience both the urban attractions and the scenic beauty of KwaZulu-Natal's landscapes. In eThekwini, business and pleasure come together seamlessly, making it a prime destination for investors, entrepreneurs, and tourists alike. Whether you are conducting business in the bustling commercial districts or enjoying the relaxation of its pristine beaches, eThekwini offers a unique balance of economic opportunity and cultural richness.

Beyond its vibrant culture and scenic beauty, eThekwini is at the forefront of South Africa's industrial and economic landscape. The city's strategic location along the Indian Ocean positions it as a critical gateway for international trade, especially with emerging markets in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. eThekwini's bustling port, one of the busiest in the Southern Hemisphere, handles a substantial portion of South Africa's imports and exports. This includes not only traditional goods such as minerals and agricultural products but also capital goods, industrial equipment, and a growing volume of manufactured goods. As a result, eThekwini is a magnet for businesses seeking to expand their reach into global markets, making it an attractive destination for foreign investment, trade, and industry.

Furthermore, eThekwini's economy benefits from a rapidly growing agro-processing industry, which adds value to the raw agricultural materials produced in the surrounding region. The city's diverse economic sectors include food and beverage production, paper and packaging, and textiles, all of which are tied to the region's agricultural output. With the support of advanced infrastructure like the Dube TradePort, eThekwini is leading the way in ensuring that KwaZulu-Natal's agricultural products, including sugar, fruits, and forestry products, reach international markets efficiently. This agricultural-economic synergy creates immense potential for sustainable growth, particularly as global demand for food security and climate-resilient farming practices increases. As eThekwini continues to build on its competitive advantages, the city is poised to play a significant role in the future of South African and global trade.





# ABOUT DURBAN ICC

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

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# about Durban ICC

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Durban International Convention Centre (Durban ICC): A Premier Destination for Global Events and Investment The Durban International Convention Centre (Durban ICC), inaugurated by former President Nelson Mandela in 1997, represents a pioneering investment in South Africa's international event infrastructure. As a world-class facility, it has continuously attracted prestigious global events, earning a reputation for excellence in service delivery. This commitment to quality has seen the Durban ICC recognized as “Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre” by the World Travel Awards for an unparalleled 17 times in 18 years. Additionally, the ICC ranks among the world's top 17 convention centers, according to the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC).

Spanning an expansive 112,000 square meters, the Durban ICC is Africa's largest flat-floor, column-free, multi-purpose event space. It includes the Durban ICC Arena and Durban Exhibition Centre, offering a combined indoor exhibition capacity of up to 9,000 square meters, with versatile layouts accommodating up to 22,000 delegates. This makes the ICC one of the leading exhibition and convention venues in the Southern Hemisphere. The flexible spaces are designed to host a wide range of exhibitions, from trade shows and consumer expos to industry-specific exhibitions, ensuring adaptability for any event scale. Strategically located, it offers seamless connectivity to over 3,600 hotel rooms within a 10-minute radius, and is just a 30-minute drive from King Shaka International Airport, ensuring ease of access for international delegates..

The Durban ICC is the perfect venue for hosting the 2025 BRICS+ Agriculture Investment and Trade Summit, offering unmatched infrastructure, accessibility, and service standards. Located in the heart of Durban, South Africa's gateway to trade across the Indian Ocean, the ICC is ideally positioned to facilitate discussions, exhibitions, and deals focused on agriculture, trade, and investment within the BRICS+ countries and beyond.

Why Durban ICC is the Ideal Venue for the Summit:

1. Unrivaled Capacity and Versatility Spanning 112,000 square meters of multi-purpose event space, the Durban ICC is the largest flat-floor, column-free convention center in Africa. It boasts a 9,000 square meter exhibition capacity, ideal for showcasing agricultural technologies, innovations, and sustainable farming solutions. The venue can accommodate up to 22,000 delegates, allowing for large plenary sessions, focused breakouts, B2B meetings, and exhibitions all under one roof. This flexibility makes the ICC an ideal choice for the large-scale nature of the BRICS+ Agriculture Investment and Trade Summit, which will bring together government officials, business leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs.

2. Proximity to Agricultural and Trade Hubs Durban's strategic coastal location offers direct access to major agricultural export markets via its busy seaport—the largest in Africa—and King Shaka International Airport, making it a natural hub for discussions around agricultural trade, value chains, and logistics. Delegates attending the Summit will benefit from the city's deep connectivity to agricultural production regions, such as KwaZulu-Natal's sugar, fruit, and dairy farms, and easy access to logistical facilities for shipping agricultural products globally.

3. Cutting-Edge Technology for a Global Event Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the Durban ICC ensures the seamless execution of global events. With comprehensive broadcasting capabilities and four on-site generators, the venue is equipped to handle live media coverage, digital presentations, and online participation for international attendees. This technological capacity is crucial for the BRICS+ Agriculture Investment and Trade Summit, which aims to showcase agricultural innovations, facilitate high-level trade discussions, and link delegates from BRICS+ countries with potential partners and investors.



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## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

4. Sustainability and Global Certifications The Durban ICC is not only a world-class venue but also a leader in sustainable event hosting, a key element for an agriculture-focused summit. The venue holds ISO14001 certification for Environmental Responsibility, which aligns with the theme of sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient solutions that will be central to the 2025 Summit. Its additional certifications, including ISO9001 for Quality Management and ISO22000 for Food Safety, further reinforce its suitability for hosting high-impact, global events.

5. Accessibility and First-Class Infrastructure The Durban ICC is just a 30-minute drive from King Shaka International Airport, ensuring easy access for international delegates. Additionally, over 3,600 hotel rooms are located within walking distance of the venue, making logistics seamless for participants. The ICC's comprehensive facilities, including services for physically challenged individuals, reinforce the venue's commitment to inclusivity, making it an ideal location for hosting a diverse audience of international and local attendees.

6. Proven Track Record in Hosting Prestigious Events Having been named Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre for 17 years by the World Travel Awards, the Durban ICC has a proven record of delivering exceptional service and hosting prestigious global summits. Previous high-profile events include the World Economic Forum on Africa, COP17, and International AIDS Conferences, showcasing the venue's ability to handle complex, high-stakes, and multi-stakeholder events—key attributes for the 2025 BRICS+ Agriculture Investment and Trade Summit.

7. Tailored Facilities for Agricultural Discussions and Trade The Durban ICC offers ideal spaces for focused B2B meetings, exhibitions, and workshops, making it the perfect venue for fostering agricultural trade and investment partnerships. Dedicated exhibition areas will allow companies to showcase cutting-edge agricultural technologies and solutions, while breakout rooms and meeting areas facilitate networking, negotiations, and deal-making between government officials, investors, and entrepreneurs from across the BRICS+ region.

8. Cultural and Economic Gateway As a melting pot of African and global cultures, Durban offers a unique backdrop for discussions on agricultural investment, trade, and sustainability. Its strong connections to agriculture through KwaZulu-Natal's farming industries—such as sugar, fruit, and dairy—reinforce the city's relevance to the Summit. Durban also serves as a major trade hub, making it a fitting location for fostering South-South cooperation in agricultural investment and trade among BRICS+ countries.

*The Durban International Convention Centre provides the perfect environment to host the 2025 BRICS+ Agriculture Investment and Trade Summit, offering state-of-the-art facilities, a strategic location in Africa's trade and agriculture heartland, and a strong track record of hosting prestigious international events. The Durban ICC will enable BRICS+ countries to come together, explore investment opportunities, and drive meaningful conversations on agriculture, trade, and sustainable development, contributing to global food security and economic growth.*