

Shoprite celebrates its standout suppliers

Shoprite's most innovative and reliable suppliers were honoured recently at the retailer's 2017 Supplier of the Year Awards.



Peter Engelbrecht with 2017 Supplier of the Year winners.

As Africa's largest food retailer, Shoprite works with 16,211 suppliers in South Africa, 7,202 in other African countries and more than 1,000 growers as far afield as Turkey and New Zealand. It spent R1.4bn in the last financial year on supply chain infrastructure.

Shoprite says it believes in sourcing locally wherever possible in every country where it operates. It also believes in sourcing as much as possible from smaller suppliers and local farmers and works with them to help them build their businesses.

Cream of the crop

At the 2017 Supplier of the Year Awards, the Group awarded the following 11 suppliers that stood out amongst its more than 23,000 suppliers:

Groceries - Stewart Rew, Jacobs Douwe Egberts: When Shoprite embarked on its premium coffee segment journey, Jacobs Douwe Egberts partnered with it and as a result, has become a leader in innovation and sales in the premium

coffee category. “We are very dedicated to our future with Shoprite - we have a lot of innovation, not just in product but in our way of working, and the alignment of our two businesses is really going from strength to strength,” said Rew.

Toiletries - Calvin McGregor, Beiersdorf Consumer Products: By bringing new products to the market and increasing basket spend in the toiletries section, this partnership has resulted in a drastic increase in sales.

Perishables - Mlu Dlamini, Earlybird Farm: “The chicken business keeps us on our toes all the time and avian flu has caused a major crisis with regards to food supply,” comments Dlamini. “People count on us being on Shoprite shelves at all times.”

“This year alone we grew by more than 100% with Shoprite in the KwaZulu-Natal division.”

Convenience Foods - Karel la Cock, Millenium Foods: According to Shoprite, Millenium always goes the extra mile when it comes to convenience. When the retailer launched the Oh My Goodness range and asked them to supply the whole country, they stepped up overnight. The company provides employment to over 100 staff and its volumes have increased 100% year-on-year for the last three years.

Liquor - Conrad Stickling, Warshay Investments t/a KWV: Shoprite’s partnership with smaller suppliers in the liquor industry enables it to provide customers with a wider range of products. “For the last two years we have managed to grow our business with Shoprite by more than 50%, and that enabled us to increase our sales force,” explains Stickling.

Upcoming Suppliers - Mike & Thina Maziya, Verigreen: Shoprite believed in Verigreen’s plan to empower black South African women through its Supa Mama programme. “Shoprite believed in our goal of creating employment for South Africans,” says Thina Maziya. “We want to empower others to achieve their goals too. Through projects like Supa Mama, we are empowering the community in an environmentally-friendly way,” she says.

Private Label - Jacques Hill, Lancewood Holdings: Lancewood’s hunger for business along with its willingness to innovate and collaborate with Shoprite is what sets this business apart. “In the space of eight years we have increased revenue fivefold,” comments Hill. “If you align yourself with Shoprite’s priorities, you will grow as a business. So we decided to join forces with Shoprite to conquer South Africa and Africa in the cheese category.”

Medirite Pharmacy - Jacques van Staden, Cipla South Africa: Cipla supplies Medirite (the in-house pharmacy in Shoprite and Checkers stores) with consumer goods products and scheduled medicines. It never fails to go out of its way for the retail group, for example by investing in the training of Medirite pharmacists and staff.

“Like any relationship, business partnerships are built on trust and loyalty and we definitely got that right with Shoprite,” says van Staden. Cipla’s growth in Medirite stores has been over 30% in the last three years.

Fruit and Vegetables - Johan Greyling, Aqua Farming: “Aqua Farming has improved dramatically as a business since partnering with Shoprite,” says Greyling. It has become a big employer in its region and set up a trust for workers who have been empowered to start their own farming venture. Shoprite started buying Aqua’s potatoes, and then other products such as onions and nuts, which is, in turn, providing skills development to its people and creating jobs.

Non-Foods - Niell Grobler, Weber Stephen Products: Weber Stephen sells quality products, has an excellent service level and is always willing to go the extra mile. Shoprite has been sourcing products from the company for 30 years. “It takes courage to bring something new to the market, but it makes it easier if you have a distributor like Shoprite. They sell more Webers than any other supermarket,” says Grobler.

Contractors - Walter Anderson at KK Shelving: KK shelving has always innovated, but since working with Shoprite, it is producing more products than ever before. “When we started working with Shoprite we were forced to up our game,” says Anderson. “We have built our business around this relationship and over the last 20 years our turnover has grown five or sixfold,” he says.

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