

Citrus Academy Bursary Fund



Sonwabo Ncera
Intern, CGA

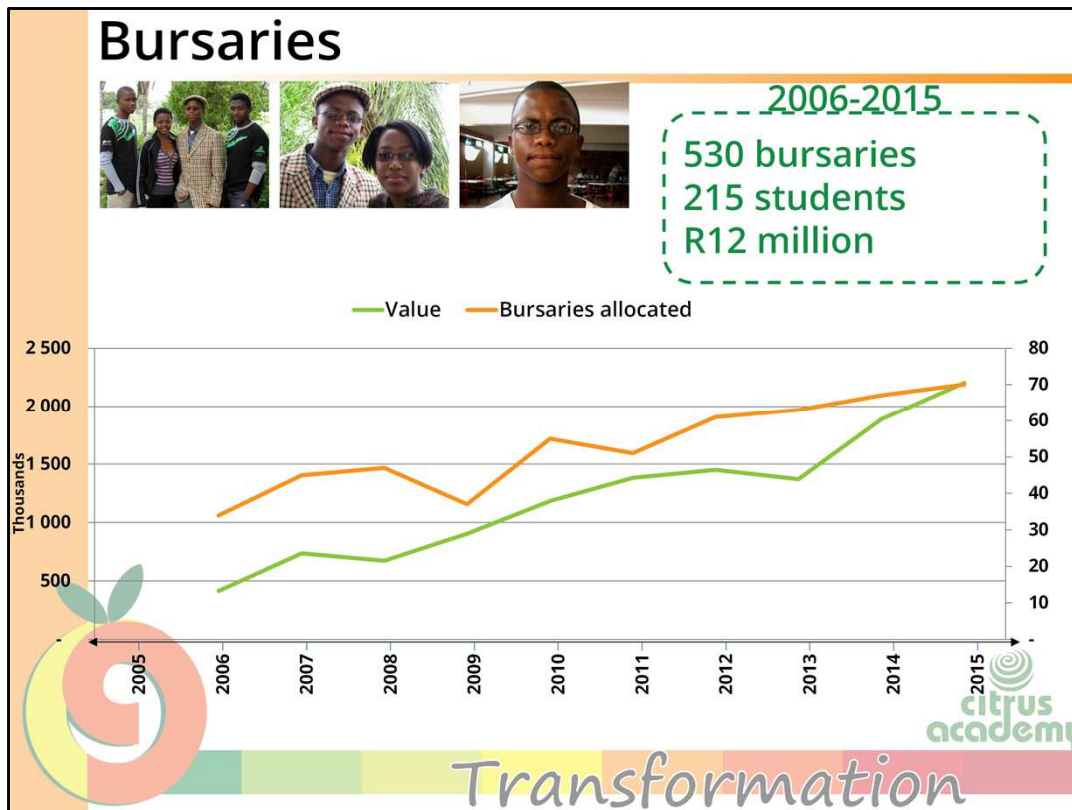


CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

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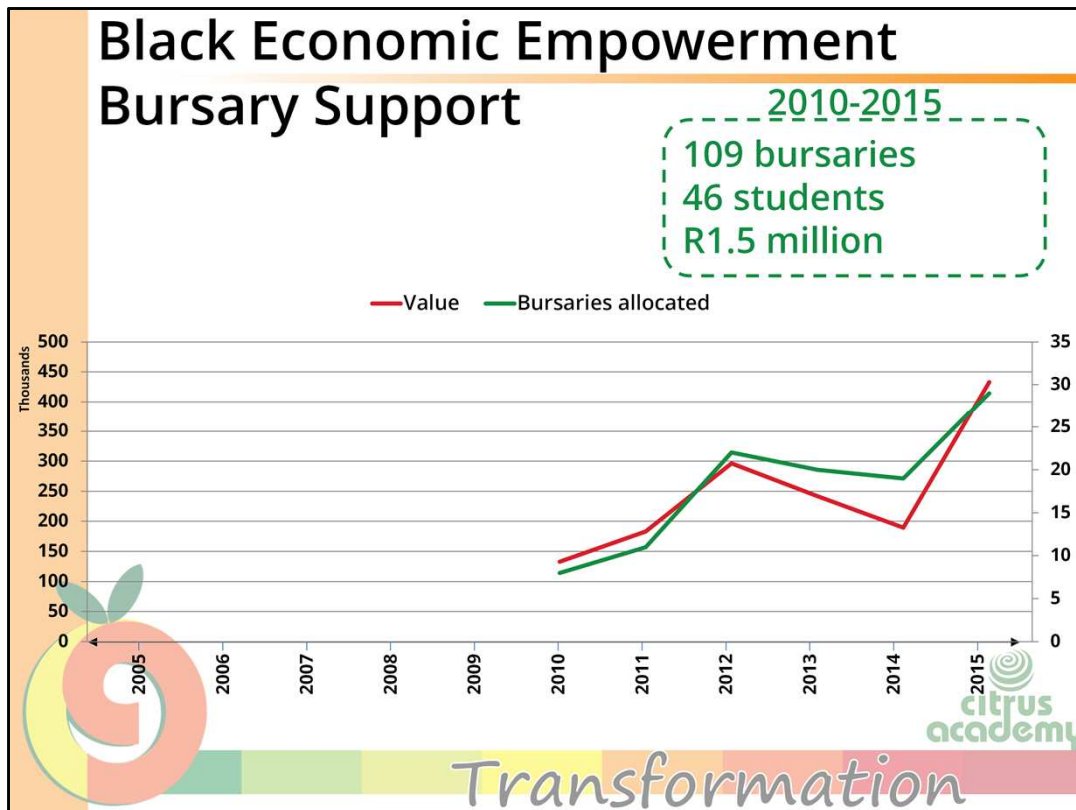


My name is Sonwabo Ncera, and I have benefited from the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund since 2010.

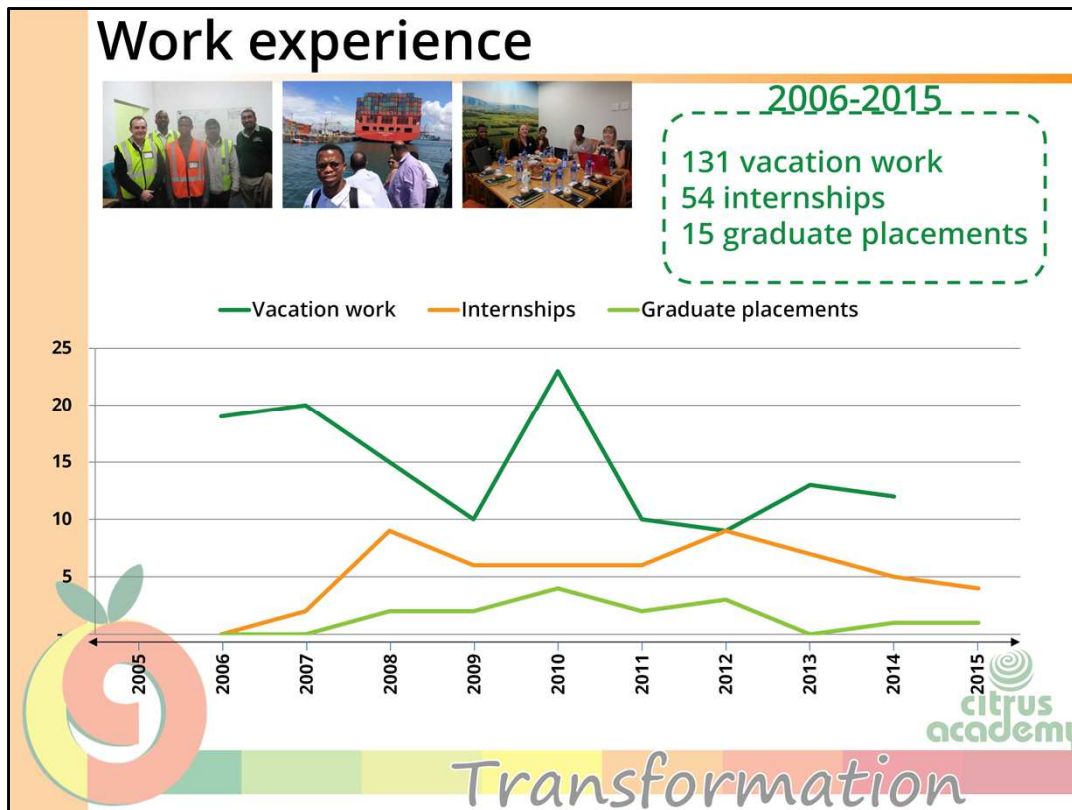


In 2010 I was studying BSc Agricultural Economics at the University of Fort Hare. I received bursaries in 2010 and 2011.

Since the establishment of the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund in 2006, 530 bursaries have been awarded to 215 students, at academic institutions around South Africa, with a total investment of more than R12 million. In this graph you can see how the Fund has grown in both value and numbers over this time.

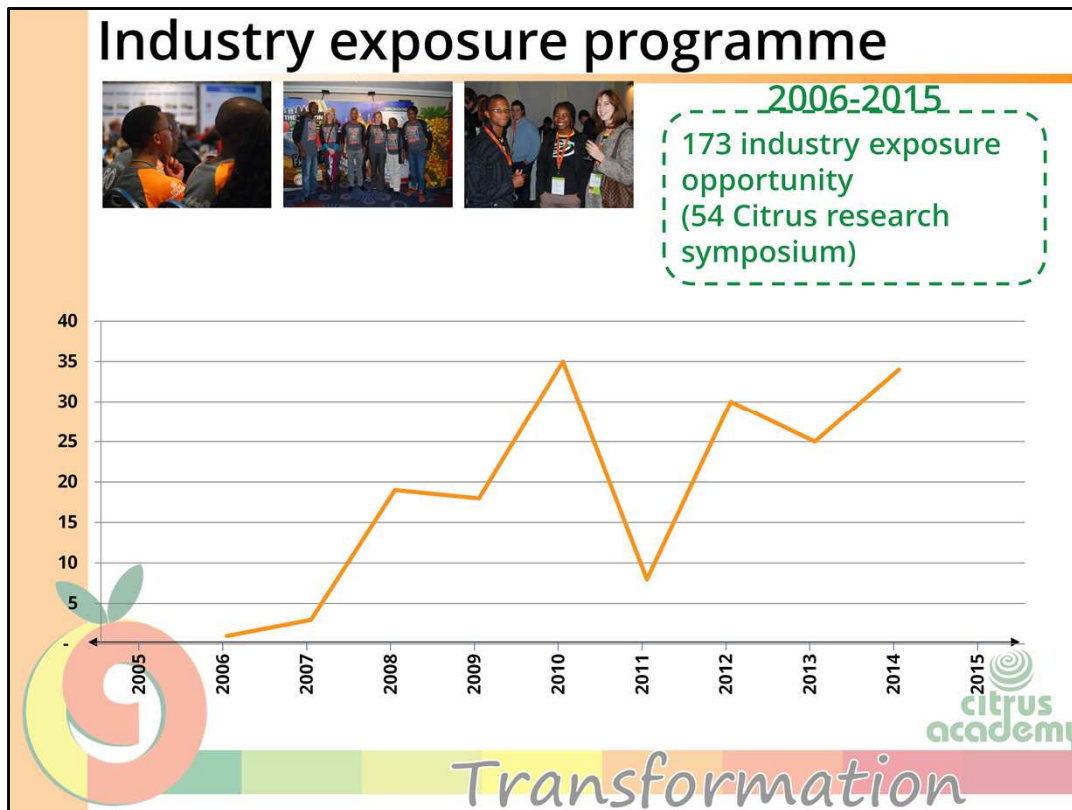


I am not related to a citrus grower, but I did grow up in the Kat River Valley, where there are many citrus farms. The Citrus Academy gives bursaries to students who are already involved with emerging citrus growers. Here you can see how this portion of the Fund has grown since it was started in 2010.

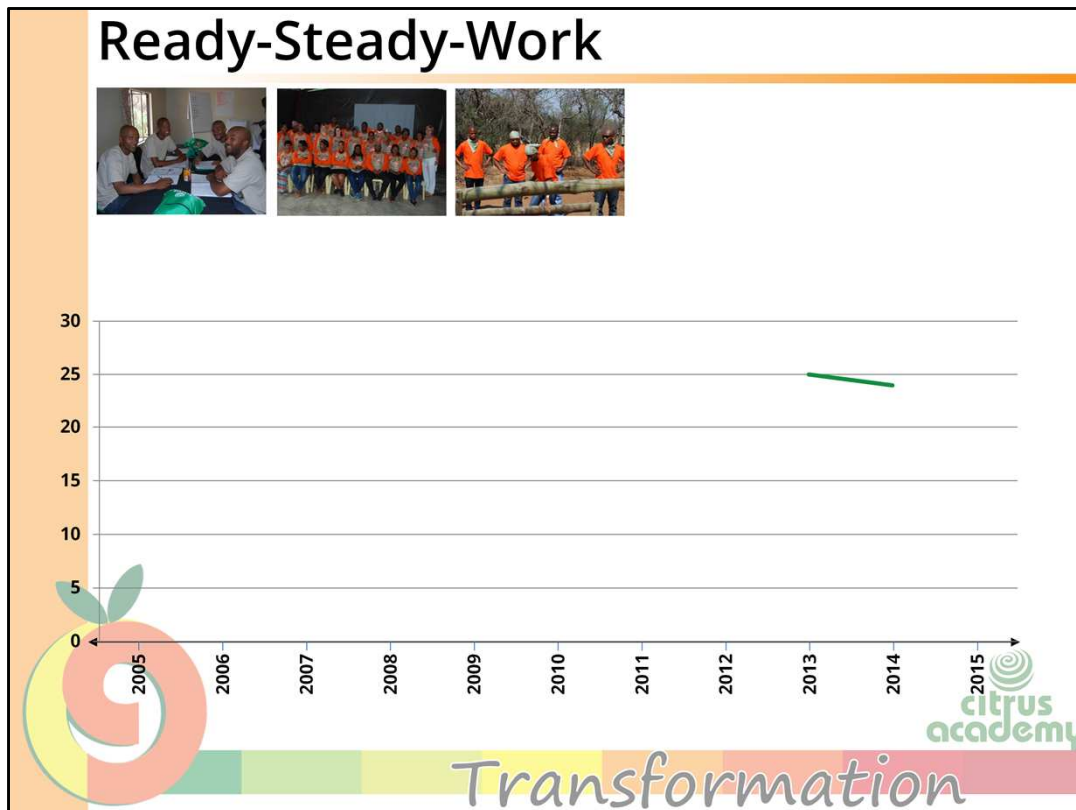


I have benefited from the Citrus Academy work experience programmes. I did vacation work in 2010 and 2011, and I have been an intern at the CGA in Hillcrest since April last year. I believe that you can learn more from three weeks of hard work than a year of study.

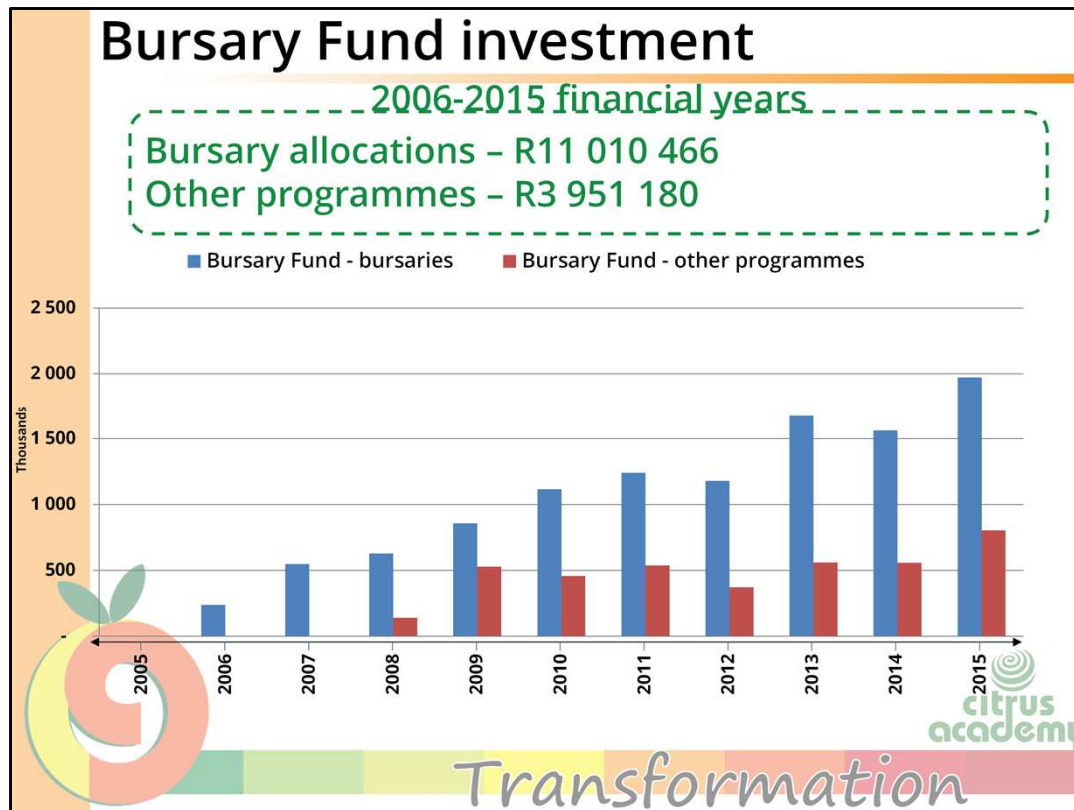
Since 2006, 131 Citrus Academy Bursary Fund students have done vacation work, 54 have completed internships, and 15 graduates were subsidised to work at companies in the industry.



The industry exposure programme is my favourite part of the Bursary Fund, because it allowed me to go to many places and have great experiences. Last year I even went to the London Produce Show. There is so much that you can learn from the top people in your field, and it is a great opportunity to meet leaders and employers in the industry. Many other students have benefited from this programme, which has been run since 2006. If you have been to the Citrus Research Symposium in the last few years, you would definitely have seen the group of Citrus Academy Bursary Fund students there. In this graph, you can see how the numbers for this programme increase in years when there is a symposium.



The Ready-Steady-Work programme only started in 2013. The programme helps Bursary Fund students to prepare for starting work and tells you what to expect. Some of the students find it very difficult to fit in when they start a job. This programme helps you with that, teaching you to work with others in a team, and to understand yourself and your own weaknesses and strengths.



So, if we look at what has been invested in young people in the industry in the financial years from 2006 to 2015, we see that R11 million has been paid out as bursaries, and another R4 million has been spent on the other programmes I have told you about. Almost none of this money has come from the CGA levy, it has all come from other sources.



So, what do you get for this investment? You got me, who have just been appointed as a Research Assistant at the CGA. And you got all of these guys, educated, a little experienced, familiar with the industry, and ready to make a contribution to the inindustry.



Thank you

Sonwabo Ncera

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