

ECONOMIC transformation of black citrus growers

The Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) has initiated a programme to provide grant and loan funding to black-owned citrus enterprises. By Sam Louw



The objective of offering financial assistance provided by the CGA to black-owned citrus enterprises is to:

- fund the establishment of new orchards
- rehabilitate existing orchards, infrastructure development (including building new and rehabilitating existing packhouses)
- purchase equipment
- cover production costs for new orchards.

Added to this are skills development initiatives to ensure that new and existing employees of beneficiaries have the necessary skills and capacity.

The CGA is responsible for the overall implementation, management and overseeing of the project, and has engaged the Citrus Academy as the implementation agent for the skills development initiatives, and the CGA Grower Development Company (CGA-GDC) for the enterprise development aspect of the project.

The AgriSETA funded Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers

(ETBCG) skills development initiative has been actively offering training interventions since October 2020. The programme is being implemented in the Kat River, the Sundays River and the Nkweleni valleys, as well as in the Brits and Thohoyandou areas. Provision has also been made to award limited bursaries through the programme.

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The Citrus Academy currently offers learnerships and skills programmes. The five learnerships in progress are the Plant Production NQF level 2, with 125 learners enrolled. This learnership specifically targets unemployed persons in the mentioned citrus producing areas. The Citrus Business Administration skills programme was



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implemented in March and April 2021, and was presented to 150 learners.

The Citrus Academy Bursary Fund played a significant role in identifying 10 ETBCG bursary recipients for the programme. COVID-19 regulations and restrictions have altered the academic year schedules of tertiary institutions, and consequently, the planned schedule of the ETBCG Bursary programme. The Citrus Academy is assisting its 2021 bursary recipients to register and collect the supporting documents required by the AgriSETA agreements.

Going forward, the ETBCG will continue into mid-2021 by rolling out the Citrus Business Management NQF level 4 learnerships, as well as the Citrus Farmworker Skills Programme. ▶

For further information about the ETBCG programme or to get involved as a citrus enterprise, please contact Sam Louw at sam@citrusacademy.org.za or 031 765 3410.