

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND

taking black citrus growers one step further

The Enterprise Development Fund is an initiative by the Citrus Growers' Association Grower Development Company to provide catalytic support to black citrus growers, in accordance with the mandate of the company. By **Nomonde Ntloko**



Nomonde Ntloko



The Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) aims to address specific needs – both short- and long-term – of black-owned citrus enterprises within the business.

One of the strategic goals of the Grower Development Company (GDC) is to provide business development and management support services to the growers to empower them to effectively manage their enterprises. And in the spirit of "Grower levies working for you", the EDF is one of the vehicles used.

Black producers struggle to access finance for their entities to purchase assets to help improve their balance sheets. Finance is also needed to cover their production input costs, to apply industry guidelines for production of quality export fruit. This challenge has prevented many black growers from growing their entities or progressing to commercial grower status. And it's further exacerbated by the rising inputs costs, particularly fuel and fertiliser.

As a start, the EDF seeks to assist in partially bridging that gap by assessing and providing support for these growers' needs. Although there are limited funds available for all 124 black citrus growers in the country, the fund is stretched to aid the growers by providing the building blocks to aid their momentum.

Many growers across the country have been supported through the fund with various contributions like purchasing of production inputs, irrigation infrastructure, mechanisation and equipment.

The support has been greatly praised by growers countrywide with many citing that the support has assisted them in providing the necessary equipment and mechanisation for continued daily farm activities. So, however little, the financial support has gone a long way in providing support at a critical time.

"I'm so excited and relieved. Thanks very much for the Grower Development Company, you are making the impossible possible." (Susan Herman, Torties Farm, Eastern Cape)

"We hereby wish to express our greatest gratitude to you and your institution for the bush cutter and mulcher that was given by the CGA. We really appreciate your generosity. May you be blessed." (Mbuyiselo Farm, Eastern Cape)

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank CGA-GDC for the Enterprise Development Fund. We as beneficiaries of SSE appreciate your support. It always comes at the right time. Thank you guys." (Steri Ndyenga, Sikhula Sonke Enterprises Farms, Eastern Cape)

"I commend you on the support you provide for our citrus enterprises." (Nkosi Siseko Maqoma, Gonzana Farm, Eastern Cape)

"Thank you for the good work and continuous support to the farmers." (Bennet Sdumo Malungane, Mabunda Farm, Limpopo)

"I appreciate the work you've done for us as farmers." (Tompson Mankhili, Makonde Cottage Hill, Limpopo)

"Thank you, this will take my farm to the next level, indeed." (Terry Ramabulana, Shuma Farms, Limpopo)



From left: Sandile Gxoyiya, Edward Noketshe and Thamsanqa Ndyenga

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