

LAND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

A meaningful partnership

The CGA Grower Development Company has entered into an agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on a commodity approach, to support land reform projects. By Yolanda Ntlakaza



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The partnership between the CGA Grower Development Company (CGA-GDC) and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is part of the President's Economic Stimulus and Recovery Plan initiative – one of government's levers for sectoral transformation, job creation and economic growth.

In the citrus industry four farms were identified in this regard: Batlhako Temo in the North West, Thulwane and Intathakusa in KwaZulu-Natal and Three Pence in the

Eastern Cape. These farms were assessed and analysed by the Project Management Unit and the results were compiled in comprehensive farm assessment reports detailing their capability and viability.

Only projects classified as medium to large scale – commercially – were considered. Additionally, a tripartite agreement between the industry, DALRRD and the bank for the disbursement of funds was signed. This model is designed to help beneficiaries progress from financial dependence on grants, to a position where they have full control of their farming activities.

These projects are catalytic and impactful in terms of their contribution to growth and employment. The target interventions in these farms include orchard expansion and rehabilitation, infrastructure rehabilitation and support with mechanisation and equipment. Implementation of these projects was targeted to commence early in 2020, however, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the funds were redirected towards relief (with the exception of Batlhako Temo Farm). The latter commenced with a phased approach to implementation starting with mechanisation and equipment. The other projects have since been resuscitated and implementation will commence soon. The collective

expansion target for these farms is 101 ha as follows: Batlhako Temo (13 ha), Thulwane (38 ha), Intathakusa (30 ha) and Three Pence (20 ha); and the approximate total investment amount is R32.7 million. The intervention is expected to yield 33 permanent workers and 50 seasonal workers.

The CGA-GDC is participating in the project as a development partner and monitors the following:

- farm assessment and business plan
- quality of machinery, equipment and production inputs acquired, and that they meet the industry and regulatory norms and standards of SA government
- infrastructure (fence, buildings, irrigation, etc. installed)
- installation of farming preparations in line with the production cycle
- product harvested, packaged/stored
- produce marketed.

The current status of the orchards in the participating farms:

Batlhako Temo currently has 25 ha of planted citrus with the following varieties: minneolas, Valencia, tambor and premiers. About 21 ha of their orchards are between the ages of 17 and 22 years and they plan to expand by 13 ha.

Intathakusa currently has 103 ha of citrus in the ground, with the following cultivar mix: grapefruit (red and white), oranges and lemons. The orchard distribution is 17 ha older than 25 years and another 16 ha older than 22 years, with an additional 30 ha planned.

Thulwane has 190 ha of citrus planted with 104 ha younger than five years, and 38 ha planned. The current cultivar mix includes grapefruit, oranges and lemons.

Three Pence comprises 47 ha under citrus with 16 ha older than 20 years. The cultivar mix includes navels, soft citrus and lemons. The orchards yield according to industry standards, since most of them produce optimally. The intervention is expected to present great opportunities for future growth – in yields and profitability of the farms. D



Tanya Ungerer



Gloria Weare

New executive assistant for CGA CEO

The CGA welcomes Tanya Ungerer as the new Executive Assistant to CGA CEO Justin Chadwick. By Louise Brodie

Tanya Ungerer has taken over as Justin Chadwick's executive assistant, from Gloria Weare who retired at the end of December last year after 22 colourful years.

Gloria was appointed as Justin's executive assistant at the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) in January 2000. And he had been appointed as CEO in October 1999. Gloria reflected on them having initially worked in a single rented office in the Hillcrest CBD, with two desks and a shared phone.

She views her time with the CGA as extremely rewarding, particularly having witnessed the growth of the association as it kept in step with the increasing needs of the citrus industry. Gloria adds that the hard work, commitment and teamwork of her colleagues have contributed meaningfully to growing the

CGA into a company that they can be proud of.

Over time Gloria's job description grew exponentially and she rose to the challenge. A glance at her job description reveals six pages of comprehensive responsibilities, yet Gloria coped well, undeterred by the demands. When pressed to comment, Gloria stressed that she believes that if you are going to do a job, you should do it to the best of your ability, be loyal and have a sense of humour. The CGA team will miss her efficiency and sense of humour, and hope to keep in touch.

Tanya was previously the executive personal assistant to the director of the Techniques Group of Companies, and her curriculum vitae boasts an impressive list of relevant qualifications and experience. Clearly a perfect fit for the post, Tanya's skill set stood out to the recruitment company hired by the CGA. She looks forward to embracing this exciting challenge with efficiency and aplomb. D



AGRI'S GOT TALENT

Citrus industry features in top three

Agri's Got Talent is a singing competition in the form of a social development programme for agricultural workers in the fruit and wine industries. By Sive Silo



The Agri's Got Talent (AGT) competition is all about giving talented farm, packhouse and cellar workers in the fruit and wine industries the opportunity to develop their singing talent. It is a joint venture between Hortgro, the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA), Vinpro, the South African Table Grape Industry (SATI), and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA).

This year, the citrus industry was proudly represented by Jack Jonas, from the Citrus Foundation Block in Uitenhage. Jack secured third place with a riveting performance, and the industry couldn't be more proud.

Thanks to the team from Hortgro for another fantastic and well organised competition. D

