

TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – October 2012

Within the agricultural sector, the consistently high quality of fruit in general and citrus in particular is critical as it encourages more consumers to add citrus to their shopping baskets. It is also critical for market access, and the only way to maintain that and sustain good quality is to have a good extension service in place. Extension is the core service that enables good agricultural practices.

Review of the Norms and standards of Extension Service –Shaping the future of extension and advisory services in SA :

CGA Transformation desk recently participated in roadshows that were conducted by DAFF in all nine provinces on extension. The main purpose of these workshops was to engage with all stakeholders in agriculture around the re-shaping of extension service in SA's Agricultural sector.

Participants at these roadshows were from the commodities, extension personnel, farmers, research institutions and institutions of higher learning. What came out strongly from the workshop the CGA participated in, in the Eastern Cape was that there is a genuine need for information sharing not only with research institutions, institutions of higher learning and the department but most importantly to share that information with extension personnel. There were different case studies and models from the international community in terms of the best practice of providing this service to the farmers.

CGA's submission to this exercise was advising DAFF that the best way of providing this service is to implement the commodity approach model that is currently being implemented with Limpopo's department of agriculture. This submission to the workshop was strongly supported by the extension personnel and farmers that were participating. CGA/CRI is currently writing a model that can be submitted to DAFF especially for citrus production in terms of extension services. Anyone who has further suggestions towards this model can submit them via CGA's Transformation Manager lukhanyo@cga.co.za

Progress on recap between CGA and department of rural development

Due to the fact that some citrus growers struggle to gain access to the current government recapitalization programme, CGA and rural development departments are in the process of working together in assisting the citrus farmers in the country.

In the month of October CGA and the department met again with provincial departments to form a structured implementation plan for this programme for citrus farmers. In that meeting CGA and the provincial and national departments agreed on an MoU that will stipulate areas of collaboration in complimenting each other with our current services to assist our growers. The MoU is currently underway with different stakeholders for inputs.

The CGA transformation desk will also compile a list of all farms that have applied for recap and request the status from the department so that we can follow up on the progress of those projects. CGA will also assist

where possible, so growers are urged to submit all relevant documents in order to be assisted. If you have submitted your application please forward that information to Lukhanyo@cga.co.za

Citrus Growers Development Chamber Exec (CGDC) Strategic Session

Good planning and implementation with all relevant people involved always results in a fruitful outcome. The Chamber Executive Committee met to strategize the best way to ensure a well coordinated transformation process within CGA. The Chamber Exec realized the importance of having a comprehensive plan for each year as this will enable them to evaluate if it is making progress or not.

The strategic plan for the coming year will be presented to the Chamber for their endorsement at their next Chamber Meeting in November. The people who will be assisting the transformation desk and the Chamber's Exec to implement this plan will also be discussed.

CGA/ADA- Tala Valley Nkumbuleni Citrus Project

CGA and ADA have a long standing MoU to assist the growers in need of finance or support. ADA have recently approach CGA to assist in providing guidance with regard to funds that ADA have for Tala Valley – Nkumbuleni citrus.

The Terms of reference for these funds is for inputs and also for farm management. CGA/ADA had their first meeting with the beneficiaries of the projects and also the farm manager currently managing the project. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a plan and also engage the beneficiaries. The meeting agreed on a steering committee that will ensure the proper usage of the funding. The committee will consist of delegates from ADA, CGA and beneficiaries.

L Nkombisa
CGA Transformation Manager

