

TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – May 2013:

‘Together we can make a Difference’

Our government, through the two Ministries of DAFF and Rural Development, are striving to better the situation of the upcoming and developing famers in the country through many different programmes. This is one of the transformation economic initiatives as stipulated by the white paper on transformation and guided by eight principles of Batho Pele. The two Ministries alone cannot make it happen, which is why state owned businesses and industries in the different commodities need to participate in the initiatives. This will make a remarkable impact and will add value to the livelihood of our communities by eliminating some of the challenges that our communities and famers are facing. Better life for all will be achieved through coordination and maximum participation by all parties involved. The Citrus Growers Association is no stranger to this relationship, and are participating and working with government in support of our upcoming and new citrus famers in the country.

Famer Support Commodity Approach and MoU Signed

As mentioned previously, the Citrus Growers Development Chamber mandated the Transformation Manager, after evaluating transformation within the industry, to develop a model of citrus famer support. When we look at our transformation initiatives we identified various gaps that need to be addressed. Rather than having a relationship with Provincial and National Department DAFF or Rural Development focusing only on one aspect of support, the CGA Transformation team developed a model that will focus on a holistic approach in providing support. To date the CGA have managed to sign four MoU's with National and Provincial Departments. CGA have a long-standing MoU with Limpopo focusing on extension support to citrus famers, and now CGA have signed another two MoU's with Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga, the focus being on the following areas of support:

- Extension Service Support
- Mentorship Programme
- Skills Development and capacity building (citrus production and business management)
- Social facilitation
- Projects business planning, assessment and presentation
- Logistics and transport initiatives

The CGA believes that the abovementioned areas will provide meaningful support if coordinated properly between government and industry. In implementing these initiatives CGA have already formed a provincial working committee that will be responsible for implementation. The working committee is made up of government management and provincial citrus famers from the chamber, the transformation manager and the extension officer from CRI responsible for the area. We will work together on each and every initiative aiming to support our citrus famers in each province.

The other MoU that CGA signed is with the Department of Rural Development which is aimed at supporting our upcoming famers with the Recap Programme.

The MoU focuses on the following output:

- Sustainable Agrarian Reform, with a thriving small and large farming sector
- Ensuring improved access to affordable (citrus) products

In a nutshell CGA and Rural Development will work together in all initiatives aiming at the support of citrus growers, and where the Department is giving land to farmers with a citrus producing section. The CGA will work closely with National and Provincial Department's Recap Programme. The Department will consult with CGA when buying farms and transferring those farms to communities and individuals. This will assist CGA in terms of having a sound database.

Meetings attended

CGA's Transformation team attended a number of meetings during the month of May, all those meetings were to engage the stakeholders and also get more information of the progress and status of supporting programmes. The Transformation portfolio attended a CASP quarterly review meeting that took place in KZN. The Transformation Manager presented CGA's commodity approach to all nine provinces. CASP is a government programme that has different initiatives that are aimed at supporting the developing famers in the country. Within CASP there are certain initiatives and programmes that our developing famers benefit from. It was good for CGA to present this model at such a function so that whatever plans the Provinces have for citrus famers they now know who to contact and plans can be made together in providing that support.

The Transformation portfolio also attended a PMU meeting held by Rural Development and the Minister, where the appointed project management unit that was appointed to do monitoring and evaluation of the Recap Programme tabled their report to the Minister, strategic partners and mentors. The report reflected on good and bad situations on the ground from mentors, strategic partners and provincial departments. The Minister cautioned the famers and everyone present that the Recap Programme is now midway through it's term of implementation, as it is the five year programme that was started in 2010. We are now in the third year of implementation so any citrus farmers who have not yet benefitted from the program need to act as soon as possible.

The Transformation Manager attended the Budget Vote by the Minister of DAFF in Cape Town. The budget vote is a very important speech by the Minister as it sets the tone of the programmes that the department will be involved in for this current financial year. The CGA Transformation team will study the speech and see where we can come on board in accessing one of the programmes that is aimed at supporting our famers. There will be provincial budget votes where some of our famers will be invited. It is therefore important that emerging farmers to attend so that the transformation portfolio can be advised of the provincial initiatives that we can access in support of the citrus famers in the province.

Upcoming meeting:

There is a scheduled meeting for the **14th June 2013** in Polokwane with the Department of Rural Development. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Recap Programme and all GCDC representatives in the province are urged to attend this important meeting. The time and venue will be communicated with the Chamber representatives. If you have any query please contact Lukhanyo @ 010 0030206.