

TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – June 2013:

The month of June was categorized by a lot of meetings seeking to ensure that everyone is aware of government initiatives and that we participate in creating the best strategies to implement these initiatives. The Transformation desk continued to engage government and other stakeholders in lobbying farmer support. Even more importantly, we are working hand in hand with our government departments to ensure that no one blames anyone else, but rather work together to make the changes we want to see.

Recap meeting –Limpopo

As was scheduled from the previous month, the Transformation Manager and provincial Chamber representatives visited the Limpopo Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to check the progress on the citrus farms involved in the Recap process. At the meeting the Department explained that currently the provincial department is faced with lots of applications for recap and there are not enough funds available to accommodate every applicant. That means that most of the projects won't be funded this financial year.

Re-birth of new markets project – DAFF Marketing Directorate

DAFF also recently called a Stakeholder Meeting around the project they called the re-birth of new markets. The project's focus is on the local Fresh Produce Markets, and looking at the capacity of the Fresh produce market in terms of human capacity, infrastructure, governance, accessibility and if they are user friendly for all commodities.

DAFF tabled their report after visiting almost all the Fresh produce markets in all provinces. The report presented by DAFF was not good at all in most of the provinces, as there are seen to be a lot of challenges around human capacity, infrastructure, governance and accessibility. The task team from different representatives who represent certain commodities was formed to work on the findings and craft interventions. The fruit industry is also represented in the team to address their particular needs.

NAMC SIP 11

The NAMC, which has been mandated to undertake and oversee the implementation of the Strategic Integrated Project 11 (SIP11), conducted a workshop to present an introduction to aspects focusing on agriculture. SIP 11 is focusing on improving investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure that will support the expansion of production and employment in small scale farming and rural development.

The workshop explored how anchor projects could respond to the areas of focus and addressed the infrastructure that is being proposed for rural communities for agricultural purposes. NAMC indicated that it would provide a template for business plans that can be used for identified anchor projects.

AgriSETA – Limberg and Sunningdale

AgriSETA requested CGA some time ago to assist with the turnaround strategy of the two projects in Limpopo - Sunningdale and Limberg. It was now time to review and evaluate the work done so far by CGA in these projects. AgriSETA requested a meeting with CGA to explain the new measures that AgriSETA operates under in terms of contracting service providers to render services like the one CGA is doing. The meeting went well and CGA will soon make a presentation to AgriSETA of their findings and what is recommended for the two projects.