

TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – July 2013:

July is a busy month for the transformation desk. The CGA is making a remarkable progress in assisting the upcoming citrus growers especially with challenges that they are faced with in running their own business, although a lot more still needs to be done.

Recap meeting –Eastern Cape

If you have been following my monthly newsletters you will notice that I have been reporting on the progress made to date around the Recap programme. It was brought my attention that some farmers within the EC have still not benefitted from the programme since its inception.

Although these farmers have not yet been assisted the business plans have been sent to the Provincial Screening Committee and some of them have been approved already. It is part of the Transformation Manager's job to ensure that we assist the growers to access finance that is made available by our government. To date great progress has been made with some of those growers having received funding. Others are still pending but the outcome looks promising.

The new amended Policy on Recap is available and all growers and mentors are advised to get a copy. Please email me @ lukhanyo@cga.co.za so I can send you one.

Opening of Training Centre - Sundays River Trust

The Transformation desk was invited by Sundays River Trust to the opening of their Training Centre. The training Centre will assist in the training of farm workers and the beneficiaries. It was highlighted that the training Centre will also be a perfect venue for the CRI study group meetings. This will assist the CRI's Southern Region Extension Officer as he will have a guaranteed venue for study group and farmers' meetings.

Mpumalanga working Committee meeting – MoU implementation

The CGA and the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Provincial Chamber members met for the second time to discuss the way forward in developing the proposal and gathering information of the status of the citrus farms in Mpumalanga.

The meeting was a success as everyone present understood their roles. Time frames were put into place to confirm who is to action what and when. This meeting must be noted for the level of commitment from the Department, especially from the district and local municipality level. CGA was requested by the Department to prepare a funding proposal for the next three years which must be tabled at the next Working Committee Meeting.

Eastern Cape and CGA Working Committee Meeting- MoU Implementation

The EC DRDAR and CGA also had their provincial Working Committee meeting for planning the way forward in implementing the MoU. The meeting followed the same lines at the Mpumalanga meeting and was a success. The EC Province and CGA also identified the anchor projects that will be tabled with the Department for inclusion in the planning for next year's budget in September.

CGA will develop the proposal and include the identified anchor projects that will cater for all upcoming citrus farmers in the province as agreed. The Committee agreed that fewer meetings should be held to allow for more implementation.

