



## TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – March 2014

Sound planning is a very important activity for all businesses and projects; no or poor planning can result in disaster. The Citrus Industry normally focuses on planning for the forthcoming season during the month of March to, as best that it can, ensure a successful season.

The Citrus Growers Development Chamber likewise undertakes planning during this period. The benefits of planning can be seen in the progress that the Chamber has made since its inception in 2010. Comparing discussions and decisions over the period give a clear indication of the progress made.

The major portion of the Chamber's focus during 2013/14 was on ensuring that growers in all areas were beneficiaries of development support measures. This was prompted by the observation that not all provinces or regions were benefiting from government initiatives in respect of citrus production.

The approach that the Chamber took was to ensure that government extension support during the year was both practical and visible. Support programmes delivered by the national and provincial governments needed to be directly focused on all growers. The question faced by the Chamber was how could this be ensured and how practical was its vision? The result was that the Chamber supported the signing of MoUs between the CGA and national Department of Agriculture and between CGA and the various citrus producing provinces to ensure the effective delivery of extension services. The MoUs require that annual extension and training plans be produced and that these be adhered to. CGA is involved with the respective departments in ensuring that the plans are implemented and that they achieve the desired outcomes.

The approach did not imply that the government did not support growers previously but did indicate that improvements needed to be made. Growers in the various regions were advised to be more proactive with regard to extension and training rather than to be reactive and wait for support.

Progress was made in various forums/meetings as follows:

### AgriSA – Integrated Farmers Forum

AgriSA, the structure that represents most of the commodity organizations, has a transformation related structure called the Integrated Farmers Forum. This comprises all the transformation managers from the different industries. The forum meets to discuss issues faced by farmers on the ground. Most of the meetings involve various government departments being invited to address members about their support programmes focused on farmers and how these can be accessed. The DTI and the Land bank recently addressed the forum.

The DTI and Land Bank presented their programmes, products and incentives that can be accessed as well as the procedures to be followed when applying for such support. It was noteworthy that there is a great deal of support out there that a number of farmers are not aware of. The Forum suggested that the two institutions need to communicate with commodity organisations on their products/services to ensure that all farmers have an opportunity to benefit from them.

Rural development and land reform consultative meeting – policy proposals for strengthening the relative rights of people working the land

The CGA transformation desk was invited by the national department of rural development and land reform to a consultative workshop on the proposed policy on strengthening the relative rights of people working the land. The workshop aimed at looking at all submissions made by different stakeholders on the rights of farm workers.

There were a number of inputs made by different farm worker organizations as well as from organizations of people working with farm workers. Commodity organisations also made an input. The Minister of rural development and land reform requested that commodity organisations present their products and support that they provide to assist farm workers and famers. CGA presented its recently completed situational analysis report.

The Minister and the members of NAREG were impressed with the CGA report and requested that CGA engage with the national department to look at the way forward with regard to interventions and challenges raised by the report.

In the same meeting the Minister brought various items of legislation and bills etc. to the attention of those present. It was suggested that all agricultural stakeholders should have this documentation on hand to assist them. The Minister referred in particular to the following:

- State Land Lease and Disposal Policy.
- Policy on Recapitalization.
- Draft Policy for Proactive Land Acquisition by the Department of rural development and land reform.
- Property Valuation Bill.
- The Land Management Commission Bill.