



THE SRCC TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING KEY COMPONENTS

- **Ownership**
- **Participation**
- **Education**
- **Community Upliftment**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Projects	1
♦ Participation	
♦ Education	
Current Projects	2
♦ Ownership	
Training & Accreditation	4
♦ Education	
Healthcare	6
♦ Education	
♦ Community Upliftment	
General	7
♦ Achievements	
♦ Media	

SRCC's

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Times

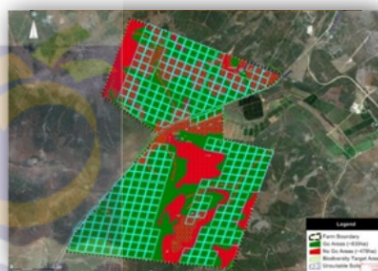
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SRCC / IKAMVA LETHU CITRUS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Good progress has been made so far this year with regard to the exciting SRCC/Ikamva Lethu Citrus Empowerment Project. — the land and water licence are in place and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is underway. As a result more detailed planning has commenced relative to the first phase of the development which will include the provision of the water supply and the water infrastructure. Actual work may only commence once EIA approval has been granted which is hoped to be early in 2018. The EIA will confirm the exact number of hectares available for citrus cultivation and the full development of the farm is expected to be completed over 4 phases from 2019 to 2022. Governance is of utmost importance in the SRCC organization so much work is currently being done with regard to the finalization of the company and shareholding structures and related legalities.

Fairly wide media exposure has recently been provided to this project which has resulted in very encouraging feedback and support from readers along



Proposed Ikamva Lethu Farm layout

with additional motivation to all concerned! Some of the news articles published are include or those who may have missed them.

The project is all about inclusivity and participation and, notwithstanding the fact that it is a long-term venture that will only produce profits in 6-7 years' time, it is certainly rewarding

to be structuring an initiative that will benefit a large number of previously disadvantage people and their families. Around 350 – 400 farm and packhouse workers are expected to become shareholders in this enterprise. The company, Ikamva Lethu Farms (Pty) Ltd., will be 60% black-owned and, as such , will add significantly to the emerging farmer profile of SRCC's grower base. It is envisaged that a significant number of employment opportunities will also be created, around 800 in total, including both permanent and seasonal staff, which will provide a fillip to the communities of the Sundays River Valley.

After a much-needed break to recharge energy sources, all concerned with the project are looking forward to ensuring that all ducks are in a row during 2017 so that the planned commencement of work early in 2018 will become reality!!

CITRUS ACADEMY ON THE CARDS IN ADDO

One would think that education, as for the country at large, is also the ingredient that will provide real momentum to transformation in agriculture. Well, if the plans for the proposed Citrus Academy to be established on the farmland known as KK113 in the Addo area come to fruition, then this ingredient will be added to the transformation recipe in the Sundays River Valley! The land in question is owned by the SRV Municipality and proposals have been submitted for the establishment of a commercially operated vegetable and citrus farm on this property. The citrus component will become a citrus academy at which young black agricultural graduates will be trained on the job to become the citrus farmers and farm managers of the future.—exciting stuff! Future profits are also planned to be used for community projects. If the various approvals and participation arrangements can be concluded work could begin early in 2017.....watch this space!!!

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Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Siyaphambile

The dam at Siyaphambile, the new development within the SRFT group of farms, will be filled up during November with the assistance of the Sundays River Water Users Association.

Security gates are in the process of being erected at the entrances of Phase 3.

The foundation of the assistant farm manager's

house has been completed and the building of the house will soon commence. The presence of the assistant farm manager

on the premises will contribute to the security measures on the farm.

All disc, rip and ridging work for Phase 3 has been



completed and a security trench was dug. The planning is to start with planting in February 2017.

Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Glengrove

At Glengrove farm, two lemon and two nova orchards were replanted as seen on the right.

A new fence was erected where the farm borders on the main road, as seen below.



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Siyathemba

The workers' houses are in the process of being converted into a hostel for pickers for next season—lyk asof ons dan sal kan braai!!!!



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Sophumelela

More fencing!... a new fence of 1 030m was erected between Sophumelela and San Miguel to identify the borders of the farm portions.

Windbreaks have been removed on the west side of the farm and planting in the open areas is in progress. Nadorcott Mandarins have been replanted in orchards 43 and 53.

The development of additional irrigable land of 7,99ha has been completed and cambria, navels and deltas are being planted in the areas prepared.

Lemon trees will also be cut back and replanted in new open areas as well.

A Puri-Care water management and enhancement system was also installed, which means that the entire farm's Puri-Care system is now fully functional.



"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer." Will Rodgers (not from SRCC !!)

Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Willowtree

All systems go for next season....the mainline irrigation pipeline on Willowtree Farm, which runs across the Sundays River, has been replaced.

New fencing is going to be erected and navels are going to be replanted.

Orchards 50 and 18 have

been removed and replanted with midknights (valencias)

More windbreaks were removed, chopped up and used as compost.

The building of a new shed will start during November 2016.



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : General

Compost is currently being applied under the citrus trees as part of preparations for next season as well as for water conservation and soil improvement.

Sanitation is also now an ongoing priority on all the farms. All remaining fruit is removed

from the trees for citrus black-spot control.

All audits have been successfully finalised and our permanent workers are all attending training courses.

A tree census is also being conducted on all the farms at present for an accurate tree count.

Glengrove, Siythemba, Sophumelela and Willowtree now have computers in their individual farms' offices and Igen is in the process of installing the computer lines to establish connection and operation.



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Luthando Farm (Pty) Ltd

Luthando Farm is in superb condition. The aggressive replant and development work done over the last 3 years has contributed to the improvement of the farm's tree age distribution. The expected temporary drop in volumes will therefore be replaced in due course with improving volumes as the new

trees mature. A total of approximately 14 ha have now been replanted over the last three years and new development of 20 hectares has been added. The farm is therefore well set for continued future success

The projections are that the volumes on the farm will pick up from 2017 onwards as the new plantings come into pro-

duction.

Orchard 38 was replanted with midknights (valencias) and orchard 49 with lemons.

The old hostel on the farm is in the process of being renovated into an area to be used for staff dining, meetings and general gatherings.

"The capacity to learn is a gift; The ability to learn is a skill; The willingness to learn is a choice"
Brian Herbert

Accreditation

In the past, all workers working with chemicals were required to visit the local doctor's medical room for blood tests to comply with audit regulations, but this year our processes have improved....the workers gave blood samples at the farm clinics and our qualified nurse, Ms. SR Roliso, collected all the samples, completed the documentation and sent all to Pathcare in PE. Time, money and effort was saved by having the blood samples drawn at the farm clinics!



Training

Level 2 of Permaculture Training, consisting of both theory and practical training, was provided this year. Level 2 includes a section where the group visits each learner's veggie garden at his home. Mr. Muggford from Permaculture assisted learners with the necessary plan-

ning, placing and correct planting processes and also provided all seedlings and plants.

A funding application for level 2 learnership training, NC-Plant Production NQF Level

2, was approved by AgriSeta and classes have commenced which will continue next year until completed.



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Training : Annual Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony 2016

The Annual Certificate Handover function was held on the 2nd of December. The purpose of this function is to give recognition to farm workers who during the year successfully completed various training programs and courses. We were fortunate enough to welcome some of our Service Providers (Anida Training, Media-works & Skills for Africa) at the function who each gave a short overview of their area of expertise. They also encouraged learners to have a plan for their lives, to improve their knowledge and skills and to make use of the opportunities presented to them by the SRCC Primary Production Department. This year more than 90 learners received training certificates. Continuous improvement remains a priority theme with our people!

Learners received Training Certificates of Completion in the following interventions:

- Adult Education Training: Various Levels
- Basic Management Principles
- Be the difference – Development Training
- Capitec Bank: Budgets
- Committee Training
- Free to Grow – Development Training
- Health & Safety Representatives
- Lift Truck Operators
- Money Management
- Plant Production: Various NQF Levels
- SHE Facilitators



Wellness Program

As part of their practical work for the year, two social workers from UNISA arranged a successful Alcohol & Substance Abuse event for farm workers in the Masifunde Sonke ETC and various role-players like SANCA, SAPS, Financial Advisors from Capitec Bank etc

attended. As a result of the Social Worker program addressing problems on farms, 25 workers indicated that they need help with alcohol and substance abuse and are now being attended to with in- and out-patient treatments.



"The greatest wealth is health."
Virgil

Media Exposure

The transformation work being undertaken by SRCC has recently received some good exposure in the media. The publications in the Rapport on 13 Nov 2016, in The Herald on 17 Nov 2016 and 8 December 2016, as well as in Die Burger on 22 November 2016, included a comprehensive article on our new Ikamva Lethu project. If a copy of these articles may be required please do not hesitate to contact Anne-Marié Le Roux on 042 - 233 0320.



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Media Exposure (continued)

A productive place for rural women in SA's citrus industry

WHEN considering the agricultural sector, one tends to think of a male-dominated sector where women are only visible on the peripheries. But often it takes events like the International Day of Rural Women, which took place in October, to highlight the contrary (at least in the South African citrus industry).

Remarks like that of UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, when referring to rural women as "the backbone of sustainable livelihoods", alert one to the pivotal role that women play in agriculture around the world. But are they really recognised for their contribution?

In some third world countries women are still marginalised by prejudicial legislation that denies them access to land or requires them to jump through many more hoops than their male counterparts have to.

Closer to home, we're still straining under the burden of the worst drought in 55 years and food security is a very real economic concern in our country. So our stance at the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) is that excluding our women from agriculture would be tantamount to shooting ourselves in the proverbial foot.

We draw great strength from integrating our female citrus growers into the industry and celebrating their role. Outstanding exporter Buyiswa Ndyenga is one such citrus grower.

While growing up on Willowtree farm and attending high school in Motherwell, Port Elizabeth, playing an active part in the citrus industry and exporting 85% of her citrus crop was probably not on the cards. Yet today, Ndyenga celebrates being part of a team who provide consistent food security in the form of jobs.

It's what she loves most about farming. Ndyenga was the proud recipient of three awards last year: top entrepreneur; export category; overall winner, provincial top entrepreneur; export; and overall winner at national level, as well as top entrepreneur; export.

Currently trustee and general manager of five farms in the Sundays River Farming Trust, Ndyenga cut her agricultural teeth at the age of 24 when she started working as a part-timeworker on Willowtree farm. She then gradually climbed the ranks to general manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, which is part of the Sundays River Farming Trust.

Collaboration between the owners and shareholders has enabled the trust to provide 500 jobs.

The owners also share an unwavering commitment to supporting the local community, which has resulted in five pupils at the St Ignatius Primary School benefitting from the payment of their school fees and purchase of their school uniforms. Ndyenga has also taken responsibility for maintenance of the grass at Vusumzi Primary School.

When it comes to the workers' wellbeing, the team at Sikhula Sonke Enterprises (Pty) Ltd has, under her leadership, provided medical aid for its permanent workers, who also earn an incentive bonus. Workers' accommodation comes in the form of hostels on three of the farms, with established clinics on all five farms.

The monetary prizes from Ndyenga's accolades have made it possible to purchase machinery that the team can use to dig trenches, which is invaluable when planting new orchards. Her achievements have also elevated her as a consultant for other growers who need industry advice, as well as small business owners in the area who seek general business savvy.

But, like with any profession, there are challenges. The fluctuating exchange rate, which translates into unpredictable export income, is a major source of stress, not to mention the elements.

With South Africa having suffered the most

In my View



Lukhanyo Nkombisa

severe drought in half a century – with (debilitating but necessary) water restrictions in tow – constant strategy around farming practices and mitigation measures is crucial.

Ndyenga lauds mentorship, skills development and financial support as the mainstay of her agricultural success. And she's spot on.

The expertise of the Citrus Research Institute (CRI) and the CGA have been invaluable to her and scores of other growers.

Historical and socio-economic ills have presented many emerging farmers with untold impediments, before they'd even got started. The citrus industry works hard to redress these imbalances by making educational opportunities and tools available – especially to emerging growers.

The CGA's Citrus Grower Development Chamber (CGDC) and Citrus Academy work very closely to provide critical support adequately to equip black citrus growers.

Therefore, the Citrus Academy has since its inception in 2005 driven transformation within the industry as one of its main objectives. The academy's bursary fund has been invaluable in equipping fledgling growers with the right skills by making available bursaries to relatives and employees of black citrus growers.

In 2014, the citrus business management course was developed in the Kar River Valley by the Citrus Academy to address the need for developing business skills. The programme aims to ensure that farming skills are matched with the necessary business management tools to achieve sustainable success.

Then last year the citrus emergent export excellence programme was implemented by the academy. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the CGA co-founded this pro-



TOP EXPORTER: Sundays River Farming Trust general manager Buyiswa Ndyenga inspects a crop of export oranges
Picture: DAVID MACGREGOR

gramme.

Emerging black growers gained much-needed expertise in citrus exports, learning about the mechanics of the international market and about other relevant elements in the trade chain.

It's also heartening to note that the Sundays River Citrus Company singles out the Sundays River Farming Trust as its biggest BEE initiative to date. It's proud to have supported emerging farmers with accounting services, technical and administrative support, and mentorship programmes.

In her address on the International Day of Rural

Women, UN Women executive director Phumzile Mlambo-Neckula said, "We have an unparalleled opportunity and commitment to end poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, and guarantee sustainable livelihoods by investing in rural women and climate-resilient agriculture."

We echo Mlambo-Neckula's sentiments. May our growing initiatives and ongoing practical support of female farmers continue to be the tailwinds behind real transformation.

Lukhanyo Nkombisa is general manager of the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) Development Company.

2016 Toyota New Harvest Competition

As mentioned in the previous publication, Ms. Buyiswa Ndyenga, General Manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, was nominated to participate in the 2016 Toyota New Harvest competition.

The objective of this competition was to identify and reward the most successful previously disadvantaged farmer in South Africa and to provide credit/recognition to those people/institutions/organisations/agencies that are involved in the development of new farmers.

Ms Ndyenga was awarded a trophy for being selected as a finalist in the Toyota New Harvest Of The Year competition!



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*From the editorial team, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas
and many good wishes for a prosperous and Happy New Year !!!*



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