THE SRCC TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING KEY COMPONENTS:

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

SRCC's Transformation Times

Volume 12 January 2020

Inside this issue:

Ikamva Lethu Empowerment Project	1
Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Farm Activities	2
Mbuyiselo Plase Activities	4
Luthando Farm Activities	4
Accreditation & Training	5
Clinics & Wellness Program	5
Achievements	6
Sport	6
Giving back to the community	7
The Albert Heijn Foundation	8
Green Fingers	9
Toyota New Harvest Competition	10

IKAMVA LETHU FARMS (PTY) LTD

2019 has been an eventful year for Ikamva Lethu. After the EIA approval in the first half of the year, the team hit the ground running with the construction of the pipeline, phase one bush clearing, and later on, the construction of the phase one dams.

The impressive 8 km pipeline is expected to be tested in January 2020 and commissioned early February. The contractors are currently busy with the trickiest section of the pipeline, where the pipeline needs to go through the river.

The two 45000 cubic metre dams are about 80% complete and it is expected to be commissioned with the pipeline. All future dams for the farm will be built on the same level as the phase 1 dams, therefore no pumps will need to be started to fill up the dams still to be constructed.

The bush clearing is mostly complete with some ridging still to be done in areas with lime soil.

The next phase one projects being planned are the installation of the irrigation system and the planting of trees. Planting is planned for late February, all depending on the timing of the completion of the other projects underway.

If the plan doesn't work, change the plan. But never the goal.

~ Anonymous ~

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

Siyathemba farm experienced water pump problems which affected its crop production. Two water pumps (below) were recently upgraded to increase the water supply to address the matter.

Lemon theft is still a problem and a razor fence was erected to help combat the theft.

A new 3000Lt spray machine was acquired for the farm and overflows were also build for its two dams.

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

A 3000Lt Nieuwoudt spray machine was purchased for the farm as well as an additional tractor.

All windbreaks were cut down to improve crop production as the citrus trees competed with the windbreaks for food and water. This is also expected to result in water savings. The nova orchards especially suffered due to also receiving insufficient sunlight. Picking can now also start earlier in the morning as the orchards will dry quicker. All these factors will contribute to higher future volumes.

SRCC Primary Production: Farm Services do not have hostels, therefore the accommodation at Willowtree is currently being used for the season workers.

The Sikhula Sonke Enterprises bus is back on the road to transport workers after much needed maintenance was done. Currently pruning and spraying is taking place.

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.

~ Pele ~

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

Sophumelela farm lost a tractor when an electric problem on the tractor caused it to catch fire, causing damage to the roof, walls and lighting of the shed (as seen below).

Replanting is ongoing in open areas and deltas is being planted at Sophumelela. A new 3000Lt Nieuwoudt Spray machine was bought for the farm.

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

A new 3000Lt Nieuwoudt spray machine, one tractor and a fruit crusher were bought for the farm to cater for new trees which came into production. The crop volume is estimated to more than double.

Theft of lemons is an ongoing problem and everything is being done to try and control the situation and minimize losses, including using permanent workers as security.

A pipeline is being installed through the farm to supply water to the Valencia community.

On the right: Mr Gxoyiya, Farm Manager of Siyaphambile, and Mr. Philip Ndyenga, Farm Manager of Willowtree Farm, with the new tractors.

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

At Glengrove farm, windbreak chips are being put under the trees in the orchards.

A new 3000Lt Nieuwoudt spray machine was purchased for Glengrove . All five farms of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises are up to date with picking, spraying and fertilizing.

A new security company, using canines for patrolling, is now also being used on all five of the Sikhula Sonke Enterprises farms to try and prevent fruit theft and other crime.

Mbuyiselo Plase (Pty) Ltd

Although it was a tough season with the "port go-slow" and other management problems at Transnet, Mbuyiselo Plase had a good year overall. After the picking season, special attention was given to pruning practices to manage the trees for optimal returns. Replanting and development programs have also been put in place to ensure that new plantings are continuously coming into production. The next phase in the replanting and development program for Mbuyiselo Plase is to replant 2ha of deltas.

Mr. Gqozo retired at the end of 2018 and Mr. Maloni took over the position of Farm Manager at Mbuyiselo Plase. He is also a Director of Mbuyiselo Plase. Ms. Vallerie du Toit, the only lady in the office at Mbuyiselo, is doing a sterling job assisting with the administrative duties of Mbuyiselo Plase.

Luthando Farms (Pty) Ltd

As with other citrus farms in the Sundays River Valley, Luthando Farm had a tough season. The spraying and pruning practices will follow the picking season to ensure optimal returns. The farm is slowly increasing in fruit volumes due to new developments which were done in 2014 and 2015. Volumes will also increase more in future as older orchards were replaced and new plantings.

At Luthando Farms, fruit theft, neighbouring local community livestock (as seen below) and baboon damage to the young trees and crop, remain a risk and management continues to monitor it in an effort to minimize losses.

Accreditation & Training

Five (5) SIZA audits took place during April and May this year on the farms of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, Skinner Farming Trust, Belvoir Trust, Bunton Trust and SRCC Primary Production: Farm Services. Altogether 22 farms were audited. Fifteen producers have management agreements with Farm Services for assistance in specific areas and it was the first year that these farms were audited under SRCC Primary Production. A Gold Status was awarded to Farm Services for these audits, which means that the next audit will only be in 2021 again.

Global Gap audits will take place at the end of the year and preparations are already being made for it.

With much gratitude, Sikhula Sonke Enterprises received funding from Africa Biomass Company (ABC) and Agriseta for twenty people to attend a Learnership for Hope Program. The Leadership for Hope Program teach the learners how to change their mindset from poverty to leadership thinking. They will also be taught how to set goals, do planning for a project, setting up a budget and the financial management thereof. This program is based on the important points: changing a mind-set to succeed and the success of working in a team.

The Farm Management Training funded by the Albert Heijn Foundation is continuing, which prepare and teach the course-goers all aspects of farming. The Albert Heijn Foundation has supported this initiative for a number of years and we thank them for their continuing support.

With the financial assistance of the Albert Heijn Foundation, Adult Basic Education and Training will be presented again this year. This course educates adult learners in the fundamental skills of mathematics and literacy, as well as in fundamental life skills. It will assist leaners in their personal development and enable them to build a positive future.

The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing.

~ Henry Ford ~

Clinics & Wellness Program

Sister Faku , who assisted at the Farm Clinics, has resigned. Sister Hanlie Joubert was appointed by Incon Health and will assist at the Farm Clinics as well as at the SRCC packhouse clinics.

A Wellness Day is being planned for later this year and will take place on each farm rather than a big one at the centre which must accommodate all.

Shirts and caps (as seen on the right), sponsored by the Albert Heijn Foundation, were received by the Peer Educators. It will be used on Wellness Days as well as when they are moving among farm workers and staff, educating them on health matters like HIV.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Nomhle Selani-Jack, a beneficiary and employee of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, was awarded an certificate of achievement, as seen below, after successfully completing Cyber Safe training, which teaches users how to use technology more securely to minimize security risks.

She also came second at the AgriSETA National Excellence Awards Ceremony for ABET Best Performing Learner during 2013. Nomhle was also trained during 2013 to become an ABET facilitator and is currently facilitating classes on a regular basis.

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.

~ Jessica Guidobono ~

SPORT

On the 10th and 11th of August 2019, The Kirkwood Masters Tournament 2019, an annual soccer tournament, took place at the Moses Mabida Stadium. The 16 participating teams were from the Sundays River Valley, Uitenhage and Humansdorp areas, including a team of Luthando Farm. Luthando won the tournament by beating the Golden Arrows 2 – 1 in the final. The team received a cash price of R4 500 together with the floating trophy. Congratulations to Luthando!

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

During the month of August 2019, a local school in Kirkwood, St. Colmcille, celebrated their 80th anniversary with a fun run. Sikhula Sonke Enterprises supported this event by sponsoring the medals and trophy. This fun celebration was supported by all ages of the community, as seen below. (Photos: with thanks to Mrs. Knoesen, from St. Colmcille)

The Albert Heijn Foundation

Much reference to The Albert Heijn Foundation have been made over a period of time but not many realize the value they add to communities.

Albert Heijn is the largest Dutch supermarket and the Dutch market leader in fruit and vegetables with a wide assortment of high-quality products throughout the year. The suppliers of Albert Heijn employ hundreds of workers, indirectly supporting countless communities. As it is important for Albert Heijn to improve the circumstances and prospects of its suppliers employees and their families, the Albert Heijn Foundation was established in 2017 and works in partnership with ICCO Cooperation (the Interchurch Coordination Committee Development Aid).

Albert Heijn requests ICCO to do the assessment of project proposals and bring them to their board for decision-making. After approval ICCO is responsible for the contracting, fund transfer, and monitoring of the implementation and gives strategic advice where needed.The Foundation invests in 7 African countries. In South Africa , they have partnered with SRCC, Mouton Citrus and Suiderland Plase amongst others, and provided support by funding projects and improving the lives of many in the process.

Partnering with SRCC, the following projects, just to name a few, were made possible over the years:

A wide range of courses (i.e. AET—Adult Education & Training; National Certificate: Plant Production NQF Level 2; Computer training) ; 8 computers and a data projector; Farm Workers Wellness Programs; building of the Masifunde Sonke Education & Training Centre (as seen below) which can accommodate 60 learners in the lecture room and 12 students in an AET class; Establishing 5 clinics on various farms; Two mini busses and the list goes on.

SRCC is grateful to the Albert Hein Foundation for their continued support, assisting with the continued growth and development of BEE projects. We hope to continue our relationship with the Albert Heijn Foundation for many years to come and in the same spirit as it has been conducted in the past, by making a meaningful and tangible improvements to the lives of our workers and farms.

Before:

After:

GREEN FINGERS : PUTTING TRAINING INTO PRACTICE

Choose a job you love & you will never have to work a day in your life.

~ Anonymous ~

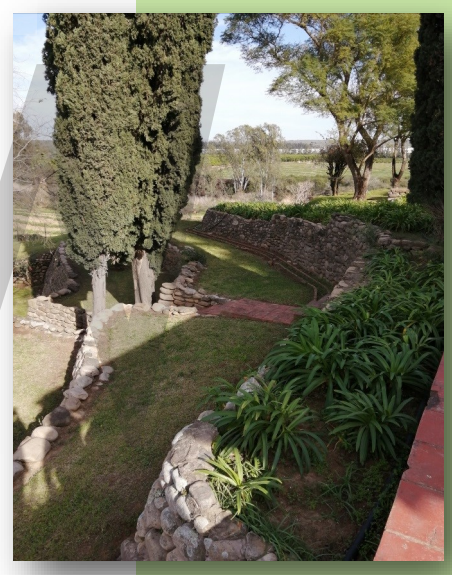
During 2014 and 2015, Permaculture Training, funded by The Albert Heijn Foundation, was attended by learners from various farms. They were taught how to grow their own vegetable gardens, where and when to plant, how to treat the soil, the different types of garden beds as well as companion planting. The training also focused on worm farming and various ways of making your own compost.

One of the attendees, Mr. T.C. Ngxitho, known by staff as Tami, a Sikhula Sonke Enterprises employee and beneficiary, has been implementing what he was taught at Willowtree farm, offices of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, where he is the grounds man. Mr. Ngxitho uses his own inspiration to keep the gardens colorful and the layouts interesting (as seen below) while he is also growing a vegetable garden which has supplied staff in the past with beautiful vegetables as well as being used in the kitchen of the Masifunde Sonke Training Centre to prepare lunches for leaners in the Training Centre. He has every reason to feel proud!

Right: Mr. Ngxitho and Ms. Solanie with potatoes from the garden

Below: Mr. Ngxitho with his spinach garden at the offices at Willowtree farm.

Below and on the right: some sections of the garden Mr. Ngxitho proudly manages daily



Toyota New Harvest Competition

Ms. Buyiswa Ndyenga, General Manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, Ms. Nokwanele Mzamo, General Manager of Luthando Farm (Pty) Ltd and Mr. Aubrey Malone, Farm Manager and Director of Mbuyiselo Plase (Pty) Ltd, were nominated to participate in the 2019 Toyota New Harvest competition.

The objective of this competition is 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.

All the nominated farmers/candidates are evaluated based on the information in the entry form and rated independently by the adjudicators according to nine major criteria. The allocated marks for all categories for all candidates by all the adjudicators are then totalled and the five people with the highest marks are the finalists then to compete in the competition.

Ms. Ndyenga (below) was informed at the end of September that she is a finalist for the 2019 Toyota New Harvest of the Year competition. Congratulations to Ms. Ndyenga for her participation. The on-farm adjudication was scheduled for the 15th October and on 7 November the winner was announced at a formal function in Kempton Park.

Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.

~ Dwayne Johnson ~

SRCC Foundation Trust

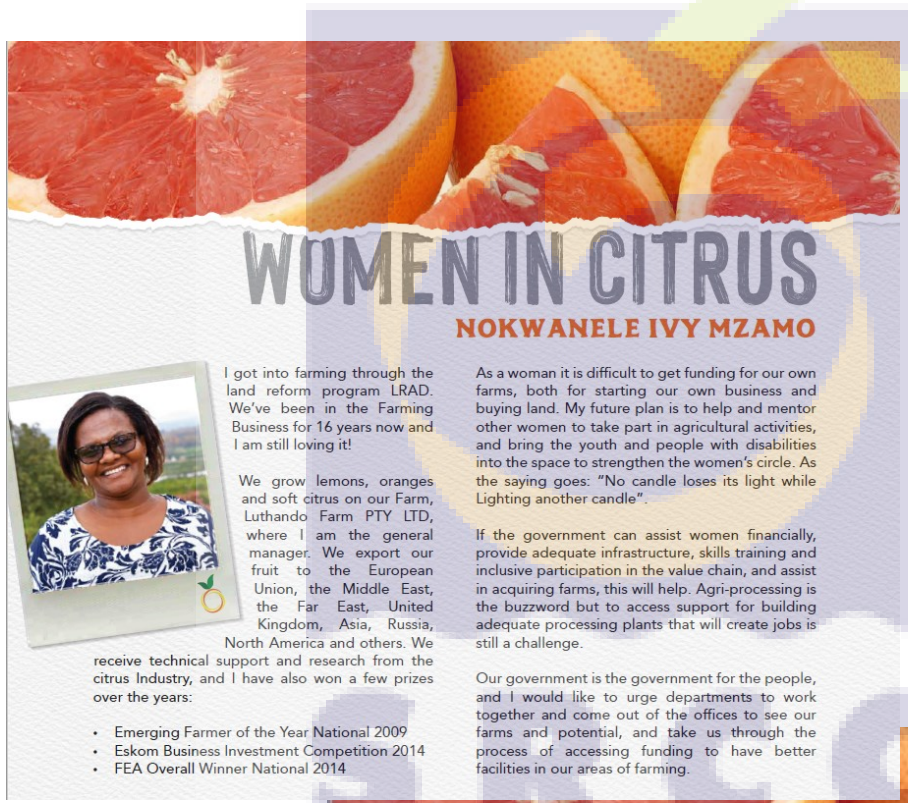
Ms. Nokwanele Mzamo, General Manager of Luthando Farm, received a request earlier this year from Adopt a Life Body Corporate , an NPO in Enon, Kirkwood for much needed toiletries for disadvantaged children in the community.

With the assistance of the SRCC Foundation Trust, Mrs. Mzamo handed six (6) boxes of personal hygiene items to the Adopt a Life Body Corporate to assist in their program to change lives.

We're on the web
www.srcc.co.za

CGA Grower Development Company

In the October 2019 issue of the CGA - GDC, the focus was on women in the citrus industry across South Africa as women make up a significant portion of the agricultural labour force. Mrs. Buyiswa Ndyenga, General Manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises and Mrs. Nokwanele Mzamo, General Manager of Luthando Farm, were featured (as below). We are very proud of the impact they are making in the broader spectrum of agriculture in our country.



WOMEN IN CITRUS

NOKWANELE IVY MZAMO

I got into farming through the land reform program LRAD. We've been in the Farming Business for 16 years now and I am still loving it!

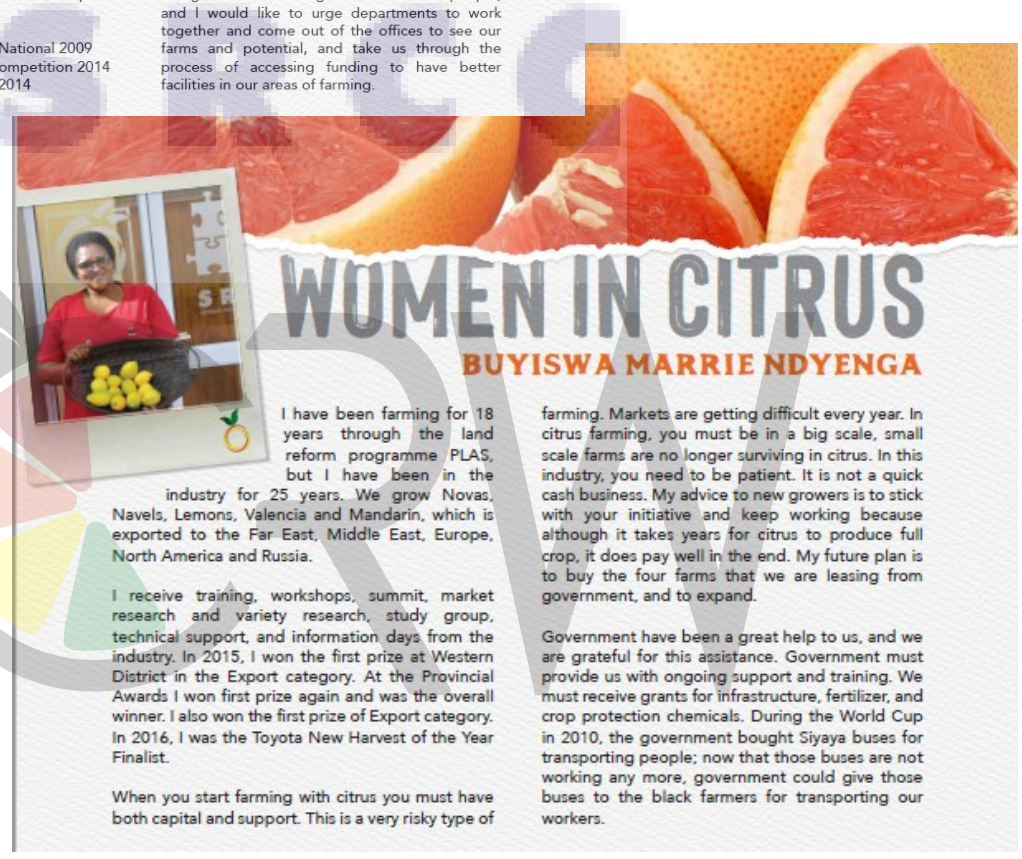
We grow lemons, oranges and soft citrus on our Farm, Luthando Farm PTY LTD, where I am the general manager. We export our fruit to the European Union, the Middle East, the Far East, United Kingdom, Asia, Russia, North America and others. We receive technical support and research from the citrus Industry, and I have also won a few prizes over the years:

- Emerging Farmer of the Year National 2009
- Eskom Business Investment Competition 2014
- FEA Overall Winner National 2014

As a woman it is difficult to get funding for our own farms, both for starting our own business and buying land. My future plan is to help and mentor other women to take part in agricultural activities, and bring the youth and people with disabilities into the space to strengthen the women's circle. As the saying goes: "No candle loses its light while Lighting another candle".

If the government can assist women financially, provide adequate infrastructure, skills training and inclusive participation in the value chain, and assist in acquiring farms, this will help. Agri-processing is the buzzword but to access support for building adequate processing plants that will create jobs is still a challenge.

Our government is the government for the people, and I would like to urge departments to work together and come out of the offices to see our farms and potential, and take us through the process of accessing funding to have better facilities in our areas of farming.



WOMEN IN CITRUS

BUYISWA MARRIE NDYENGA

I have been farming for 18 years through the land reform programme PLAS, but I have been in the industry for 25 years. We grow Novas, Navels, Lemons, Valencia and Mandarin, which is exported to the Far East, Middle East, Europe, North America and Russia.

I receive training, workshops, summit, market research and variety research, study group, technical support, and information days from the industry. In 2015, I won the first prize at Western District in the Export category. At the Provincial Awards I won first prize again and was the overall winner. I also won the first prize of Export category. In 2016, I was the Toyota New Harvest of the Year Finalist.

When you start farming with citrus you must have both capital and support. This is a very risky type of farming. Markets are getting difficult every year. In citrus farming, you must be in a big scale, small scale farms are no longer surviving in citrus. In this industry, you need to be patient. It is not a quick cash business. My advice to new growers is to stick with your initiative and keep working because although it takes years for citrus to produce full crop, it does pay well in the end. My future plan is to buy the four farms that we are leasing from government, and to expand.

Government have been a great help to us, and we are grateful for this assistance. Government must provide us with ongoing support and training. We must receive grants for infrastructure, fertilizer, and crop protection chemicals. During the World Cup in 2010, the government bought Siyaya buses for transporting people; now that those buses are not working any more, government could give those buses to the black farmers for transporting our workers.

From the editorial team, we wish you a fresh start with renewed energy and confidence throughout 2020 -

may you have a

prosperous year!

Editorial Team: Andries Meiring,
Frikkie Olivier,
Anne-Marié le Roux,
Proof reading by Hazel Lake
Contact details: (042) 233 0410
srftadmin@srcc.co.za