

The Transformation Times



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IKAMVA LETHU FARMS (PTY) LTD

Despite facing challenges around Covid-19, the Ikamva Lethu Project progressed as originally planned. Phase 1 is now fully planted, an impressive 77,000 trees on 188 hectares was planted in approximately 2 months. 120 hectares of bush has been cleared for phase 2, with the land preparation of 90 hectares of this, being completed to date.

The construction of Dam 3 and the pipeline to feed it, is also nearing completion as we write this. Phase 2 will comprise of 50 hectares of Lemons and 50 hectares of Midnight's, which will be planted in August 2021.

The legal structure should be finalized early 2021. The SRCC Board has taken the decision to decrease the shareholding of SRCC and increase that of the SRCC Workers' Trust, which will give Ikamva Lethu a 60% empowerment shareholding structure, a testament to its commitment to transformation.

An official opening will be planned at a later stage, once the risk surrounding the pandemic is lower.

(Planting of first trees as seen below)

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SUNDAYS RIVER FARMING TRUST (SRFT) / SIKHULA SONKE ENTERPRISES

The five farms of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, namely Siyaphambile, Willowtree, Siyathemba, Glengrove and Sophumelela reacted well to all the Covid-19 challenges and had a productive picking season due to favourable weather conditions. Service providers were used to assist in finishing the picking, whereafter pruning of the orchards were done. Pockets of fruit was sold to the public. Spraying of the orchards is now in process.

Siyaphambile farm was the main contributor with the increased volumes. Maintenance and the upgrade of electrical fences around the orchards were done in an attempt to keep criminal elements out as lemon theft was high.

At Willowtree, an old cement trench was removed in order to plant more trees.

The fertiliser system was upgraded at Siyathemba.

Old dripper lines were replaced in the cultivar, Midnight, orchards on Glengrove farm and a second water cleaning system were added to the staff houses.

At Sophumelela, replant in the orchards took place and pumps in the pumphouse was upgraded for better water supply.

During April, the MEC, Ms. Nomakhosazana Meth, visited Willowtree farm, to encourage communities to adhere to regulations in an effort to curb Covid-19 and handed out sanitisers.



MBUYISELO PLASE (PTY) LTD

Mbuyiselo Plase had a very good year on production and quality in general. There was an increase in crate volumes by 33% compared to 2019.

The boundary fence between Mbuyiselo Plase and the company, Xsit, was repaired, which also protects the orchards from roaming livestock.

Pruning was done after the picking season ended and spraying of the orchards are now in full swing.

The GlobalGAP pre-audit and audit took place respectively in October and November, which went well.

LUTHANDO FARMS (PTY) LTD

At Luthando Farms, fencing was erected around newly planted and young orchards to prevent damage caused by livestock (as pictures below).

Extra fire extinguishers were bought for the farm as per audit and insurance requirements. On that note: the double cab of Mrs. Mzamo, the General Manager of Luthando Farms, burned out in her garage minutes after she got home. A short circuit on the wiring is suspected and fortunately the insurance paid out.

On the production side, there was a volume increase in the late mandarin Mor/Nadorcot crop and new crates were received from the CGA



ACCREDITATION & TRAINING

During the early quarter of 2020, training was completed in levels 1 and 3 National Certificate: Plant Production Learnerships. Learners are now busy with level 4 after a grant was received from Agriseta. They will complete their certificates in April 2021.

Citrus Academy and Agriseta funded the Level 2 learnerships, enabling 13 unemployed students from around the Valley to attend this learnerships.

Although ABET (Adult Basic Education and Training) trickled to almost a halt during picking season, it has started up again during October this year.

Generic training such as Health & Safety, First Aid, Fork Lift Drivers etc took place but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no other training was considered this year.

One (1) SIZA social / ethical audit took place this year and GlobalGAP pre audits and audits are currently in process until the end of November.

COVID-19 TRAINING

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agriculture sector was seen as an essential service. As operations continued, farmworkers were much more high risk to contract the COVID-19 virus as they literally work side by side, mostly in the orchards, picking. This has made the need to empower workers with knowledge on how to keep themselves as well as their families' safe, so much more urgent. With the funding of The Albert Heijn Foundation, the necessary training was provided to the Safety Reps and Peer Educators so that a much larger audience could be reached.

The training, provided by Boland Agri Training Centre (BATC), was received by 15 learners and questions surrounding the stigma of the virus could be cleared up. Some of the topics were: The legislative background; How the virus spreads and social distancing measures; Signs and symptoms; Assessing and mitigating the risk; Prevention; Protection; Preparation of workplace and home including specialised training for First Aiders.



CLINICS & WELLNESS PROGRAM

Due to the pandemic, the Peer Educators took a back seat this year.

The Social Worker, who is with Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, has taken it upon herself to do group sessions regarding Substance Abuse.

GIVING BACK

The General Manager of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, Mrs. Ndyenga, was contacted by a local school, Dunbrody Primary to request assistance towards a project they have initiated to clean up and create a child friendly environment.

By removing scrubs around the school and establishing a vegetable garden, the learning environment as well as the safety for the learners would be improved. The school receives a minimum amount of funding for their feeding scheme so the vegetable garden would have two goals: to assist in the feeding scheme as well as teach the learners how to start their own garden.

Up until now, the ongoing picking season made it difficult to assist the school, but after the pre-audits and audits have finished as well, Sikhula Sonke Enterprises will provide assistance as requested. We hope to publish the progress made in the next addition of The Transformation Times.

(Below) The scrubs that needs to be removed



(Below) Space where the vegetable garden is to be planted



SRCC FOUNDATION TRUST

The SRCC Foundation presented a golf day on the 29th of October at the Kirkwood Golf Club, to raise funds for community projects. The day was very well supported and enjoyed by all.



*From the editorial team, we wish you health, happiness,
inner peace and a joyous Christmas.*

May peace and hope fill your life.



Merry Christmas!

