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Harvest

Securing South Africa's
Food Resources

Scaling up success

Flagship agriculture project
makes impact

Agritech focus

Farming joins the Fourth
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TSHAKHUMA BAROTTA UIGC FARM

Background

Tshakhuma Borotta UIGC Farm was established in 2016 as a result of the community of Tshakhuma benefiting from government's land redistribution programme and forging a partnership with UIGC (Univen Innovative Growth Company). UIGC is a business arm of the University of Venda; its role in the partnership is to build the capacity of the farmers, develop infrastructure and create markets to ensure food security, poverty alleviation and creation of jobs for the community. The unlimited goal is to have the farm producing at its full capacity and profitable with minimal support from UIGC. The farm produces avocados (39.3 ha), bananas (64.1 ha), macadamia nuts (45.49 ha) and sweet potatoes (2 ha). As a result of the support provided by the partnership, production has increased significantly. Going forward, focus is on increasing production and training more farmers, development of infrastructure (macadamia nuts processing plant and student housing). Overall, the partnership between the community of Tshakhuma and UIGC has enjoyed successes.

Revitalization of the farm

Most of the milestones with regards to the revitalization of the farm have been attained. Consequently the following tasks have been completed; renewed banana, macadamia nuts and avocados orchards; de-bushed guava orchard, installed new irrigation systems (Micro jets), repaired of a canal and farm dam, installed new borehole pumps, constructed new barbed wire security fence, constructed guard house, mechanization of farm (despaired of tractors and purchased new farm implements). The revitalization did not only benefit the farm by

boosting production, but also created jobs for the local community as they provided labour.

Production

The farm is currently operating close to full capacity as per the production plan. Compared to before the partnership was forged, production has increased significantly. Production is primarily depended on artificial irrigation. As a result, good quality and market accepted bananas, macadamia nuts and avocados are produced on the farms. Of recent, the farm has ventured into sweet potato production which is yet to be harvested.

Marketing

The farm has a marketing plan in place, consequently has entered into strategic agreements with various stakeholders to supply, distribute and sell their produce in Vhembe District and outside the District. Bananas are highly in demand and are sold locally all year round, macadamia nuts are harvested and sold between March and May to local processing companies and vendors. Avocados are harvested and sold between March and June. Sweet potatoes will be harvested twice a year, between April and May and again between October and December. The sweet potatoes will be sold locally to test market demand.

Infrastructure Development

Part of the farm's long-term plans is the establishment of a Macadamia Nuts processing plant which will also be beneficial to the community of Tshakhuma and other local Macadamia Nuts producers. Currently the market prefers processed Macadamia Nuts and that is quite a challenge. The



Dr. John Mudau, UIGC CEO

establishment of a processing plant will also benefit the community through Jobs. Furthermore, the farm plans to renovate farm houses to be used by students who visit the farm for experiential trainings.

Community Engagement

It is imperative for Tshakhuma Barotta UIGC Farm to offer trainings to Smallholder Farmers of Tshakhuma Community to help them manage their farms profitably and sustainably. Trainings on irrigation, mechanization planning, and development of production plans, budgeting as well as record keeping are offered at zero cost to the farmers on a quarterly basis. This is done as part of community engagement to empower farmers to enhance their livelihoods through farming. Furthermore, the farm provides experiential training to TVET colleges and university students who are in their final year of study. To date the farm has trained 20 undergraduate students, 2 graduates and 6 small holder farmers.

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Corli Botha is the Face of Rooibos 2018



Sowing the seeds for sustainable Growth: Masisizane Fund



Zizipho Nyanga
(nee Mqwala),
CEO of the Masisizane Fund

The small business sector in South Africa has been identified as having the potential to make a significant contribution to economic growth, employment and development of our country. The SMME sector can act as the catalyst in the quest for real socio-economic development and transformation.

Identifying the importance of this critical sector, in 2007 Old Mutual established the **The Masisizane Fund**, following the closure of the Unclaimed Share Schemes Trust and in consultation with the National Treasury of South Africa. The Masisizane Fund focuses on enterprise development and job creation with the aim to contribute measurably to job creation that in turn contributes to poverty eradication, and to improve food security in South Africa.

The Masisizane Fund not only provides access to funding but also non-financial support in the form of business support and capacity development. The focus is primarily on high impact production sectors that have high employment potential with a strong rural, township and peri-urban bias. These key sectors are:

- a) Agribusiness Sector
- b) Supply Chain & Manufacturing
- c) Franchise Sector

The Masisizane Fund Agribusiness model is designed to contribute to enabling positive change in rural communities. This is achieved through sustainable development finance that contributes to the creation of rural jobs, among other social impact objectives.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT: AGRI-CLUSTER APPROACH

It is a fact that economies of scale are critical in today's farming environment, and in 2013, Masisizane Fund launched the Agri-flagship project that entails clustering small scale farmers together to gain economies of scale.

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, in the municipalities of Alfred Nzo (Eastern Cape) and Harry Gwala (KwaZulu-Natal) the flagship project found a home in Kokstad.

As a leading responsible business and corporate citizen Old Mutual recognises that the growth and sustainability of our business depends on the strength of the economies in which we operate. We recognise that it is our duty to participate in building and strengthening the fibre that forms the future of South Africa.

The Masisizane Fund (NPC) is an initiative of Old Mutual South Africa, established in 2007 following the closure of the Unclaimed Shares Trust. The mandate of the Fund is to contribute meaningfully to employment creation, poverty eradication and reduction of inequality, economic growth and the attraction of investment. This is achieved through the promotion of entrepreneurship, enterprise finance and support to small, micro and medium enterprises.

The fund's focus is on enterprises that are 51% or more owned by previously disadvantaged individual(s) giving priority to rural and peri-urban/township areas. Masisizane gives preference to businesses that are owned by youths, people with disabilities or are owned by (51% or more) women and targets productive and labour absorbing sectors.

The Fund's success is driven by a focused approach on high impact industry sectors, coupled with a comprehensive SMME finance solution that includes business support. The Fund provides loan finance in the following sectors:

► Agribusiness ► Franchising ► Supply Chain

The Fund supplies non-financial value adding post investment services including capacity development, business management and technical support, financial education, market development and product/service quality standards and compliance. A Business Accelerator Programme has been established where potential clients receive targeted skills training and support to grow into a business eligible to receive financial support.

Masisizane operates nationally with its head office in Gauteng and regional offices in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

Submit the following documents for an initial screening by the relevant provincial office:

- Comprehensive business plan with market analysis and projections;
- For established businesses – past financials (preferably 3 years) and latest management accounts;
- For start-up businesses – financial projections;
- Tax clearance certificate;
- Off take agreements and/or letters of intent; and
- Signed consent for a credit check.

Contact details

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Eastern Cape	043 704 0116
Limpopo and Mpumalanga	015 295 9741

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www.masisizane.co.za.

EDS NOTE



GREG PENFOLD
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It feels as though the agricultural sector is on the brink of tremendous change, which is reflected by numerous articles within this NAMPO issue of Harvest SA. Of course, change is always either for the better or for the worse. Many commentators have identified the ongoing land reform debate as having the potential to bring about catastrophically negative results.

The short version is that handing over land, with or without compensation, to would-be farmers lacking the capacity to succeed as farmers would be tantamount to cutting the agriculture industry's throat. Only if new farmers receive the right support can they succeed. This includes not only the right sort of training, but also the financial support to ride out the tough times. Small-holder farmers are already going down precisely because their pockets are not deep enough, not because they don't know how to farm. You can read different opinions on this topic in this issue.

Change of an entirely different sort is in the air, in the form of the rapidly evolving field of agritech. Drones, satellites, and Big Data are transforming agriculture in ways that would have been impossible to foresee in the past. Agritech holds out the promise of enabling farmers to become not only more productive but more climate resilient as well. Find out more about the future of farming in these pages.

Call for opinion: land reform is the most hotly debated topic in South Africa at the moment; one strongly expressed view on the matter can be read on page 54 and in the next edition, we would like to feature the counterargument. In the interests of a robust exchange of ideas, please email the editor with your views pro or contra.



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Scaling up success

Creating the conditions for agri-entrepreneurs to thrive

With the topic of land reform and agricultural transformation looming large in the public eye, another topic has slowly but surely begun to assume a position of vital importance. This is the role that small-scale farmers will play in the agricultural sector of tomorrow. It has become increasingly obvious that emerging agricultural entrepreneurs have tremendous potential to grow the economy and achieve food security, but only if they receive the funding, mentorship and partnerships that they need. We spoke to Wandisile Makwabe, Investment Head: Agribusiness at the Masisizane Fund, to find out more.

What is the background to the Masisizane Fund?

The Masisizane Fund is an Old Mutual initiative that was established in 2007 following the closure of the Unclaimed Shares Trust in consultation with the National Treasury of South Africa.

Masisizane was set up as a non-profit funding company to provide loan financing and support to Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa. The purpose is to develop and support entrepreneurship in South Africa, particularly in three high-impact sectors contributing to socioeconomic transformation in rural, peri-urban and township areas throughout South Africa.

The three sectors are: Franchise, Supply Chain/Manufacturing and Agribusiness.

We strive to contribute measurably to job creation that in turn contributes to poverty eradication in South Africa. This is achieved through enterprise financing, encouraging entrepreneurship and capacity

development, thereby contributing to the sustainability of SMMEs.

Five years after its first pilot, how is the Masisizane Fund's Agricultural Flagship Project progressing in the agri-sector of the Eastern Cape's Alfred Nzo District Municipality, and Harry Gwala District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)? How has the fund been contributing to job creation and empowerment in these targeted areas?

It is a stated fact that economies of scale are critical in today's farming environment as is evident from the increase in scale and size of farming units in South Africa and around the world.

Farmers need to have access to land to farm on to ensure the viability of the enterprise in terms of output, infrastructure (particularly irrigation) to ensure that farmers achieve sustainable yield, sustainable local markets, and affordable financing that does not expose them to over-indebtedness.

To this end, Masisizane Fund established an Agri-cluster approach that entails clustering small scale farmers together to gain economies of scale and provide emerging farmers with a range of opportunities and benefits.

Farmers are clustered in order to meet the demands of the market and secure inputs at negotiated prices, through bulk buying.

When you are buying in bulk, you have bargaining power and the cost of is reduced in the process.

The specific objectives of the Flagship project are to:

- Stimulate economic activity in rural economies
- Forge meaningful partnerships



Wandisile Makwabe, Investment Head: Agribusiness at the Masisizane Fund

- Enhance an Agri-value chain
- Achieve and demonstrate positive socioeconomic impact.

Five years on the project has achieved the following:

- R100 million invested in the area towards agricultural enterprise development
- R60 million secured from meaningful partnerships
- A 100% black-farmer-owned mechanisation company
- Funding secured for farmer owned grain (silo) facility and a grain processing facility (mill) which demonstrates achievements in terms of the value chain.
- Close to 1 000 jobs created across the two districts
- About 3 500 household members benefit from the project through capacity building and food security.

How has the Masisizane Fund's investment changed the prospects of the rural farming community in the Alfred Nzo and Harry Gwala district municipalities?

The profile of rural economies is one of minimal infrastructure. There is a low base level of skills. Poverty is very high. Tools and equipment are barely existent to initiate any economic activity and there is no industry to support the rural economy.

The Masisizane Fund Flagship Project introduced financing to clients with no asset base, low skill levels and clients who ordinarily would not be funded by commercial entities.

The financing was used to secure machinery that would ensure a scale up in terms of production which would feed into a sustainable and established market.

The Masisizane Fund introduced capacity to assist their clients by way of setting up the local based Flagship office where clients and partners are provided with access to the office resourced with agricultural specialists and agronomists who are there to help provide capacity and support to clients.

Because of these interventions, infrastructure development was prioritised and impactful upgrades were developed—such as fencing, which was introduced and upgraded, road networks (farms to markets) to enable industry development and growth.

Who are some of the public sector stakeholders, Flagship Project clients and partner organisations?

At the cornerstone of the Masisizane Fund's ethos and values is the tagline that the Fund stands for "Partnerships for a Brighter Tomorrow". This guides proactive stakeholder engagement approach. Our stakeholder engagement strategy is executed by informing partners, securing

buy-in from partners and being directly involved in projects.

This kind of proactive approach allows the Masisizane Fund to be involved in our partners' strategic plans and activities from the onset and enables us to help ensure that there is continuous programme and policy alignment.

In living up to the ethos, the Flagship partners include government departments, parastatals, rural farming communities, community and traditional leaders and various private sector institutions.

All partners share the common values and vision of developmental financing with the aim of reducing inequality in South Africa.

What are the criteria for success the success of this Flagship Project? What legacy do you aim to create?

The success of our Flagship project will be measured when we see fully fledged entrepreneurs operating in the mainstream economy and learning from each other. This will in turn enable entrepreneurs to create jobs, close the inequality gap, and have a sustainable future.

We want to upskill and empower entrepreneurs to the point where they have the ability to introduce technology solutions and skills into their operating environment, and raise the bar in terms of their production and future success. We would also deem success to have been

achieved in our Project when the youth and communities play a key role in these new business developments.

What does the Flagship Project's success mean for the regional economy?

By supporting and encouraging entrepreneurs to be successful, which is the aim of the Flagship Project, we are contributing not only to the regional economy but also the national economy. By creating jobs and bringing more people into the mainstream economy we play a role in driving a far better and brighter future for South Africa and its people.

The success of our Flagship Project means that rural economies will be transformed, enabling them to be economies in which industry can thrive.

Our aim is to enable sustainable outputs that feed into a sustainable market, linked to a prominent value chain. This in turn, would accelerate efforts to create job creation amongst youth, as well close the disparity between rural and well developed economies in urban areas. In so doing, we would also facilitate/encourage more investment into the rural areas.

Recent migration patterns of communities moving from rural areas to cities in the hope of finding wealth and success has placed enormous pressure on already overpopulated cities with ailing infrastructures.

If we can improve the rural environment for productive SMMEs and entrepreneurs, we can open meaningful opportunities in local rural areas, which currently provide little/to no opportunities, and alleviate the pressure on our urban areas.

Is it possible to drive both business value and social value at the same time?

Yes, it is possible. Entrepreneurship should inherently empower both the entrepreneur and the community within which the business is located. The community benefits directly from the services, products and job opportunities provided by the entrepreneurial ventures.

Old Mutual's brand promise is to "Do great things". The Fund believes that through effective long term and sustainable partnerships with our clients as well as the provision of the right advice and products, we can help them—and their communities—achieve success.





Harvesting hospitality

It is time for agritourism in South Africa to be taken seriously, writes Jacqui Taylor

Tourism generates more revenue and provides more employment for the rural economy than farming in the United Kingdom and in several other European countries, notably, Italy. Why?

Because farming has had to reinvent itself to become relevant in an economy where trade has intensified and climate change is a reality.

The Norwegian Department of Agriculture is also highly supportive of agritourism as it has helped change the negative perceptions of farmers as users of scarce resources, for example, forestry. So, what is agritourism? An agritourism farm must be a working farm.

Farmers need to aggressively approach the changing environment around them and as farmers are not subsidised in South Africa, diversification, maximising income, adding value and marketing a brand all play

an important role in agriculture. Farmers cannot afford to be passive in the current economic environment. They need to think like entrepreneurs in order to succeed: as Denene Erasmus has written, "Tourism can become one of the most profitable ventures on any farm."

So where does a farmer start? Look at your farm through the eyes of a visitor. A visitor would like to experience farm life and meet the "elusive" farmer. Visitors are inquisitive and will expect an experience that is different to an experience they can have elsewhere. Bear in mind that there are many different types of visitors to farms—not all visitors want accommodation or sophisticated catering. An uncomplicated, simple, relaxing experience is what most visitors expect.

So, what influences the success of an agritourism venture? Being within a three-hour drive from a city (i.e. location) certainly; working with other farmers in the same

vicinity so that a diversified tourism route is offered to entice visitors; and offering a unique experience, whether story-telling by a farm worker or offering "kaiings, kolwyntjies or slaphakskeentjies" (food that we as South Africans eat) and having friendly, welcoming staff, are just a few pointers. If the farmer does not want to be involved in the agritourism experience, then outsource it to a family member or entrepreneur nearby.

It is important for farmers to consider speaking to those who have experience in agritourism to gain advice. There are legal implications, for example, liability and business decisions, for example, does the farmer want the business to register as a private company for tax purposes? Different municipalities have different by-laws with regards to land-use rezoning, so ensure that you know whether you need to rezone or not. Signage is vitally important. Visitors easily get lost on farm roads. Provide some advance

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warning if the conditions of the roads are bad. Also important is for farmers to address visitors safety concerns—tell the visitor what safety precautions you have taken to ensure their well-being.

There are many examples of successful agritourism farms in South Africa:

The Gamtoos Tourism Route promotes the Gamtoos Valley Farms from Baviaanskloof, through the Patensie, Hankey, Loerie and Thornhill farming areas. The Gamtoos Valley has become a very popular tourist destination with many B&B's, self-catering and camping establishments.

Honeywood Farm has been in the Moodie family since 1817 and borders the wild and wonderful Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve up against the Langeberg Mountains.

It is a nature lover's paradise and offers hiking, mountain biking, birding, horse riding, and swimming in rivers and pools - all in a peaceful and secure environment. John Moodie offers Beekeeping courses. He was chairman of the South African Bee Industry Organisation (SABIO) for many years and is still an active member of SABIO and the Southern Cape Bee Industry Organisation.

Millsleigh Irish Sport Horse and Pony Stud in Ladybrand breeds quality Irish Sport Horses and Connemara Ponies. Mares and Stallions (South African bred and imported) of Thoroughbred, Irish Sport Horse and Connemara breeds have bred with South African Irish Sport Horse, Irish Draught and Connemara breeding lines. To visit is a treat for a horse lover.

Tzaneen Country Lodge is in the heart of the north eastern Lowveld of the Limpopo Province. Exclusive and private, the lodge is nestled on 150 hectares of farmland and indigenous forest.

Imla Luxury Guest Farm is on the Waterfall Farm in Clocolan of more than 4000 ha. The third generation of Groenewalds farm this land. Maize, soya and sunflower are produced, with livestock comprising Bonsmara cattle and Merino sheep. A grand sandstone house, dating from the late 1800s, has been beautifully restored and expanded to a modern guest house. Various accommodation options are available for single guests, couples, families and groups. Dinner, bed and breakfast or self-catering, the latter available in one unit.



The activities on the farm include accommodation, birding, farm experience, fishing, flowers, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, game meat and the sale of other farm products.

The concept behind Agritourism South Africa is the creation of an information hub highlighting tourism farm experiences across the country, thereby allowing tourists (local and foreign) to incorporate visits to farms as part of their travel plans.

Agritourism South Africa provides advice to its members, marketing (social media, exhibitions, conferences) as well as representing the agritourism category at stakeholder meetings, whether with government, tourism or agricultural bodies. ASA also has a videographer who takes free video footage to enable us to market the farm visually as well. The Agritourism South Africa team has years of experience in tourism, agriculture and marketing.

Jacqui Taylor, Managing Director, Agritourism SA

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Moment of truth

Land reform rhetoric is between a rock and a hard place

The golden thread that has run through government declarations on land since Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa became president of the ANC late last year has been ambiguity: “We will take the land,” he declared at a funeral in East London, and in the next breath he declares that food security must not be put at risk!

Anyone who knows agriculture knows that one option cannot exist with the other. The government itself acknowledges that more than 90% of productive farms handed over to land reform beneficiaries have failed. More than 4 000 farms have been lost, this in a country with only 12% arable land of which only one percent is irrigated.

With only 35 000 farmers left, this 4 000 loss makes it nearly 10% of the formerly 40 000

farms, a truly daunting quantity of food production reduction.

Those squandered farms comprised owners and families and workers, and these people have been lost to farming. Many small towns have been affected by these failures: a ripple effect on the economy of these areas means that small businesses aligned to farming have also disappeared. This tenuous situation must be known to the new president, acknowledged as being careful and measured in what he says, yet he declares that land will be taken “without compensation”.

This recklessness simply makes no sense to many South African and overseas observers, especially those in developed countries. Africa is no longer outside the box in terms of knowledge of what happens there: food security on the continent doesn’t exist anywhere except in South Africa, so why

would this country's president deliberately introduce a policy that would relegate South Africa to the list of Africa's failed states? Political expediency can be the only answer, and this then casts doubt on Mr. Ramaphosa's purported pragmatic nature.

Trying to govern South Africa's disparate groups so that everyone is satisfied is an exercise in futility, so compromises have to be made. But surely there is no contest when food security is at stake, particularly when so many of those whom the government says want land actually want a house in the urban areas and a job!

Presenting the "land for the people" scenario on a political platform where millions of people would carve up productive farms into little mealie patches is hardly the stuff of a "new dawn" in South African politics: the African continent is littered with the results of this same pie in the sky scenario. And taking the land without compensation? This is decidedly a huge turn-off to investors who have seen this story unfold before!

Then why continue the farce of taking from the productive and giving to the unproductive? Elections loom in 2019 and as we have seen since Mr. Ramaphosa came to power, unity within the ANC is his prime goal. To lose the election is unthinkable, so harebrained remarks about taking land have become something of a parrot cry on the hustings. Enter Mr. 6%, the leader of the EFF Julius Malema, who has been snapping at the government's heels with his promises of land nationalisation. Fearful of losing support among the hapless masses, the president has to one-up the EFF, hence his capricious pronouncement about taking the land. But Mr. Ramaphosa is the president and he has to govern so he has to walk the political tightrope. Thus we have the "on the one side" (taking the land) and "on the other side" (food security) declarations that make no sense whatsoever. The president is indeed between a rock and hard place, and everyone knows it.

Hard facts

Let us place a few facts before the president in case his advisors have overlooked them. Land isn't what it used to be. By demanding "land for the people", the president and the EFF leader are simply revealing to the world that they haven't come very far since 1652

when "land" was the linch-pin of Africa at the time. But the world has moved on—land is now generally for large-scale farming to produce food surpluses. So why hasn't Mr. Ramaphosa's thinking moved on to creating jobs for millions of people who are not interested in farming?

Mr. Ramaphosa's wild statement about taking the land has had serious consequences. Thousands of people are now occupying land illegally. When a private land owner confronted those who were putting up tents on his property in Gauteng, he was aggressively rebutted by the invaders and was thus forced to go to the police. Despite a charge being laid, nothing happened and this particular landowner and five others were forced to go to court to force the police to do something. The legal costs of course are borne by the aggrieved landowners.

Empty plots are not sacred. Vacant plots in Waterfall, Midrand are there to be occupied, according to a Mrs. Rivele of nearby Alexandra Township. An empty stand "represents an opportunity for dignity, privacy and a home she can finally call her own," declares a Sunday Times journalist. (1.4.18). Mrs. Rivele says that if the land belongs to someone, "then they should use it." The land has been "standing open" she said. So when members of her community decided to put up poles and a corrugated iron roof, the situation for the owners changed dramatically. A dwelling on a piece of vacant land means the police can do nothing and the owners must go to court. Community leaders were encouraging people to take the empty stands and these leaders started "registering" people to occupy someone else's land! Will Mr. Ramaphosa be able to turn back the clock on this incredible conduct?

Other facts:

- If mealie production is less than 11 million tons per annum, the price will double overnight. (Mr. J. De Villiers, head of Grain SA). The average farmer is in debt to between R5 million and R8 million to the bank. Mr. Ramaphosa must ponder whether South African banks will just sit on their hands and allow their land (because in many cases it is their land) be taken willy-nilly?
- Will the government take land with no compensation from the tribal leaders in the homelands? This is communal

land which is not productive in terms of large surpluses. Will land be taken from black commercial farmers who only contribute 1% to surplus food production?

- Private ownership is the bedrock of capitalism and wealth creation. How will the president create wealth on the scale needed to support South Africa's huge welfare population if the state owns the land, given the state's dismal failure so far with their land redistribution policy? Municipalities for example use their taxes on property owners to build and maintain infrastructure. According to SA's Auditor General Mr. Kimi Makwetu's June 2017 report, municipalities' irregular expenditure shot up 50% compared to the previous year and was R16,81 billion for the 2015/6 financial year.
- As the country is further plundered, taxes to the Treasury will further diminish. The Auditor General says that the country's irregular expenditure rose 55% since the previous year to a current R45,6 billion. The irregular expenditure of the Passenger Rail Association of SA – PRASA – where audits were incomplete – showed a shortfall of R14 billion last year. The departments with the highest amounts of irregular expenditure were Health (R11,7 billion), Transport (R6,37 billion) and Education (R6,09 billion). Accountability is virtually non-existent in many government departments, so how the president will convince South Africans and the world that his government will be able to manage the land taken "without compensation" is risible.

It is clear that the "take the land" clarion cry is a catchy political slogan, but the moment of truth will come. Or has it already come? The go-ahead has already been given, inadvertently or not. Who will stop it? Will the world turn its back on an intractable South Africa? Mr Ramaphosa's tightrope will wobble further and there is no safety net.

Bennie van Zyl, CEO, TAU SA

Empowering communities through agriculture

Investing in opportunities across the agricultural value chain

At Land Bank, we are constantly working to empower the communities around us through agriculture. Our commitment to community development is an extension of the Bank's mandate to grow the agricultural sector in a more inclusive and transformed way.

Through high impact strategic social investments, Land Bank is investing in the creation of opportunities across the agricultural value chain that will bring more previously disadvantaged groups like youth, women and black people, into the sector.

Our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme is designed to support communities through three distinctive focus areas to boost participation within the agricultural sector. These include:



- **Food Security:** upskill and provide resources to households to improve food security and reduce vulnerability to hunger.
- **Employment Quality:** Capacity building for smallholder farmers in order to upskill them to pursue sustainable agricultural practices and employment opportunities.
- **Sector growth and transformation:** Building the agricultural sector skills pipeline focusing on youth development and women headed households.

Building an impactful CSI programme

Over the last year, work has progressed to implement an impactful CSI strategy aligned to the Bank's mandate. Land Bank's growing CSI programme currently supports the following initiatives:

- **Buhle Farmer's Academy:**

Buhle Farmer's Academy has been training and developing entrepreneurial skills for the agricultural sector for 16 years already, growing from strength-to-strength. Trainees come from all over the country to learn at its two campuses, one of which is

near Delmas, Mpumalanga, and the second at Mkhondo (Piet Retief), in KwaZulu-Natal. The Academy offers holistic and practical training courses covering vegetable, crops, poultry and livestock production, as well as mixed farming. The Academy has helped to create over 8000 jobs in the agricultural sector to date. Through its CSI Programme, Land Bank has partnered with the Academy to create even more opportunities for youth to participate in the agricultural sector.

- **Agri-Teen Symposium:**

Land Bank was instrumental in supporting the launch of a new youth agriculture initiative called the Agri-Teen Symposium this March. The initiative aims to facilitate greater youth participation across the agricultural value chain by providing youth with relevant information, opportunities and platforms for them to thrive in the sector. Through Land Bank's support, the programme is set to expose thousands more youth to opportunities across the agricultural sector.

- **Communal Wool Growers Association Programme:**

Through its CSI Programme, the Bank is supporting the training of over 1500 communal wool growers in the Eastern Cape. The idea behind the project is to not only train these growers but to create access to local and international wool markets so that they are able to grow their businesses sustainably.

- **Employee Volunteerism:**

Giving back is embedded in our development culture at Land Bank, and our employees regularly get involved to make a difference in the communities in which we operate. Land Bank's employee volunteerism programme is closely aligned to the objectives of its CSI strategy which is to empower women and youth by creating sustainable opportunities within the agricultural sector for them to take hold of. These community initiatives have included Mandela Day activities across the country as well as activities on World Food Day.

Many more projects are scheduled to come online during 2018 and Land Bank will continue to facilitate meaningful and sustainable transformation and development in the agricultural sector.



A FARMER

knows that seasons change, but growth
lies in **cultivating partnerships...**

We believe that collaboration is essential in unlocking the true value of South Africa's agricultural sector. That is why we are working with farmers, industrialists, financial intermediaries and a wide range of other stakeholders to grow and transform the agricultural sector as well as improve food security for all.



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the agricultural sector since 1912.



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Empowerment project strangled by drought

More needs to be done to make equity schemes a success

“It’s like watching your own child die,” said former farm manager Gert Dempers.

The citrus orchards, which make up the biggest portion of the 140 hectare Fynbos Vrugte en Wyn farm (Fynbos) in Wolseley, have been abandoned. The lemons on the trees are a pitiful size this season.

In the years after its inception in 2007, the farm was heralded as a black economic empowerment success story. The project was initiated by the owner of the land, Louis Lategan, between the Lategans and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

The first grape harvest was in 2015. “Back then we thought this was the best part of the farm, but now just look at it,” said Lategan, scanning the dead vineyards. “All these vines will have to be pulled out now; there’s nothing we can do with them anymore.”

Six of the 18 hectares of citrus trees have already been removed. The five-hectare vineyard yielded “only a third of what it should have”, and 11 hectares of peaches have been removed. The only living part of the farm is an 8.5 hectare section of pears.

“80 bins of pears were harvested last season; it should have been 240,” said Dempers.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform granted 116 black

farmworkers R30 862 each to become shareholders in Fynbos in 2007. The beneficiaries were divided into four workers’ trusts, with the farmworkers having 60% of the shareholding, while the Lategan family had 40%. Dempers said there are 88 shareholders remaining as some have passed away or sold their shares.

The board of directors makes the decisions for the farm and is comprised of six black members and four white members, of which Dempers and Lategan are both members.

The beneficiaries don’t get the education or support they need to make a success of their business

Dempers is 47 years old and is one of the original 116 beneficiaries. He was the manager of Fynbos from 2010 to 2018, except for four months in 2015. In April he and 21 other

workers were retrenched with one week’s salary for every year worked and any leave owed to them. The farm is now eerily quiet.

“I had to finally accept that there is no more farming left to be done here,” said Dempers. “I haven’t got advanced education, but I know the plants and the land. I have learned through many years of experience, and I can see that this land is done.”

“You can’t grow fruit trees without water; it’s impossible,” said Dempers.

“Fynbos just doesn’t have the reserve fat to deal with the drought,” said Lategan. His family have been farming wine and fruit along the Breede River for 150 years. Lategan acted as the mentor of Fynbos, offering the shareholders advice on running the farm.

The farm relied on water from the one-billion-litre Romansrivier Dam located above the farm. “The dam is now at less than 10% of its capacity,” said Lategan. “When I first built the dam in 1999, I thought it was a perfect location for a dam ... To see it this low is really painful.”

Fynbos shares the Romansrivier Dam with its neighbour, Romansrivier Farm, owned by Robert Graaff, an established commercial farmer.

“When I saw how low the dam was I told [Robert] Graaff we need to drill more boreholes,” said Christi van den Heever, Romansrivier Farm manager. “So we drilled three new ones. Now we have six in



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operation... If it wasn't for the boreholes, it would have been a disaster. We did very well this season and it's all because of the number of boreholes we sunk."

Van den Heever said a single borehole could cost R300 000 to drill. "It costs about R15 000 a month to keep each one running," he said.

Fynbos received an allotment of eight million litres from the Romansriver Dam this season. Dempers said the farm had used it up by the first week of January.

"Fynbos has two boreholes," said Dempers. "One is equipped with a pump and is operational; it provides water for the pears, but it is not enough for the whole farm. The other does not have electricity because Eskom has not installed a power point yet."

Lategan said the Department helped by providing fertilizer, chemicals and equipment. Dempers feels that although this helped, more could have been done. "If they [Department] knew more about our situation they could have helped us," he said.

Abraham Julies, also one of the original beneficiaries, complains that as shareholders they were excluded from decision making on the farm. "They make their own decisions without consulting us. I have already made other plans."

Julies said he left Fynbos in 2011, but he remains a shareholder. He said he had felt pressured at work and eventually resigned. He now works in Ceres at a plant and tool hire service.

Dempers and Julies said shareholders had not received dividends. Lategan said that "the slight

profits that have been made were invested back into the farm to improve and expand it".

Naomi Betana, a paralegal at Witzenberg Rural Development Centre which advises community members about housing and land issues, is sceptical of these shareholder schemes. "The shareholder beneficiaries cannot access trust deeds and finances. There is so much information they don't have... So they cannot make properly informed decisions about the business," said Betana.

"The beneficiaries don't get the education or support they need to make a success of their business... Fynbos is not the first of its kind [to struggle]. The Department and commercial farmers can do more to make equity scheme projects in Witzenberg a success," said Betana.

Lategan said the directors met with bank officials on 10 April. "We met up with the bank, enquiring whether we could only pay interest for two years before we resume paying off the capital amount. If the bank was not going to allow that, then renting wasn't an option," said Lategan. "Two options are available to the farm now; sell the farm or hire it out until farming conditions improve. If neither of these options is attainable, an auction by the bank is inevitable."

Lategan said Graaff had offered to rent the farm for a period of two years. "I'm still waiting for a draft contract from Robert's [Graaff] lawyers so that we can consider it," said Lategan. "I believe the bank will consider a rental contract favourably, but they first have to come and value the farm and then they want to see the lease."

"I think the farm needs to be inspected and the books looked at," said Julies, who is convinced that more can be done. "They are just letting our farm go."

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture did offer some help to Fynbos. "In 2015, we assisted with funding for the establishment of a 7.5 hectare orchard and a borehole was drilled to assist with irrigation water. This borehole is still working," said Bianca Capazorio, spokesperson for the Western Cape's Ministry of Economic Opportunities. (This is the one that waters the pears, but it's not enough water to run the farm.)

"It is sad to see the farm like this. I was involved in everything that was planted on the farm," said Lategan. "It was an opportunity for the workers and we really wanted to help them utilise the land. We think that commercial agriculture must help the government to achieve transformation goals."

Dempers, along with some of the other shareholders, now works on a farm owned by Lategan a few kilometres away, Klaarfontein, which is better situated on the banks of the Breede River.

Dempers said he rents out a tractor and bakkie and provides some farmworkers from Fynbos to Klaarfontein to earn a bit of money for Fynbos.

"It was a beautiful farm," said Dempers. "I left Fynbos with tears in my eyes because of the condition of that farm."

Aidan Jones
groundup.org.za



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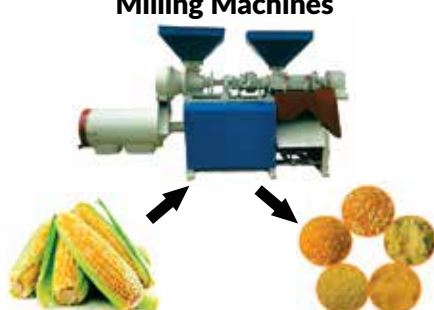
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From penury to prosperity

Supporting African agriculture as a business

The President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina has made a strong case for increased American and global investments to help unlock Africa's Agriculture potential.

He made the remarks as the Distinguished Guest Speaker, at the USDA's 94th Agriculture Outlook Forum in Virginia on Thursday, on the theme The Roots of Prosperity.

According to Adesina, "For too long, agriculture has been associated with what I call the three Ps: pain, penury, and poverty. The fact though is that agriculture is a huge wealth-creating sector that is primed to unleash new economic opportunities that will lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty."

Participants at the Forum included the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue; Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Stephen Censky; President of the World Food Prize Foundation, Kenneth Quinn; Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Robert Johansson; Deputy Chief Economist, Warren Preston; and several top level government officials and private sector operators.

Adesina appealed to the US private sector to fundamentally change the way it views African agriculture.

"Think about it, the size of the food and agriculture market in Africa will rise to US \$ 1 trillion (R12 trillion) by 2030. This is the time for US agri-businesses to invest in Africa," he said. "And for good reason: Think of a continent where McKinsey projects household consumption is expected to reach nearly \$2.1 (R24) trillion and business-to-business expenditure will reach \$3.5 (R40) trillion by 2025. Think of a continent brimming with 840 million youth, the youngest population in the world, by 2050."

The U.S government was urged to be at the forefront of efforts to encourage fertilizer and seed companies, manufacturers of tractors and equipment, irrigation and ICT farm analytics to ramp up their investments on the continent.

"As the nation that first inspired me and then welcomed me with open arms, permit me to say that I am here to seek a partnership with America: a genuine partnership to help transform agriculture in Africa, and by so doing unlock the full potential of agriculture in Africa, unleash the creation of wealth that will lift millions out of poverty in Africa, while creating wealth and jobs back home right here in America," the 2017 World Food Prize Laureate told the Forum.

Adesina told more than 2 000 delegates that the African Development Bank is spearheading a number of transformative business and agricultural initiatives.

"We are launching the Africa Investment Forum, as a 100% transactional platform, to leverage global pension funds and other institutional investors to invest in Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa from November 7-9."

The World Bank, International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, are partnering with the African Investment Forum to de-risk private sector investments.

The African Development Bank is also pioneering the establishment of Staple Crop Processing Zones in 10 African countries, that are expected to transform rural economies into zones of economic prosperity and save African economies billions of dollars in much need foreign reserves.

"We must now turn the rural areas from zones of economic misery to zones of economic prosperity. This requires a total transformation of the agriculture sector. At the core of this must be rapid agricultural industrialization. We must not just focus on primary production but on the development of agricultural value chains," Adesina added. "That way, Africa will turn from being at the bottom to the top of global value chains."

In his keynote address U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, said that the U.S. Administration has removed more restrictive regulations to agriculture than any other administration. "Our goal is to dismantle restrictions that have eroded agricultural business opportunities."

"Agriculture feeds prosperity and accounts for 20 cents of every dollar. As global prosperity grows, it in turn fuels the demand for more nutritious food and business opportunities," he added.

In his concluding remarks, Adesina informed participants about a new \$ 1 billion initiative, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) to unlock Africa's huge potential in the savannahs.

Expressing strong optimism that the future millionaires and billionaires of Africa will come from agriculture, Adesina said:

"Together, let our roots of prosperity grow downwards and bear fruit upwards. As we do, rural Africa and rural America will brim with new life, much like I witnessed in Indiana, during my time as a graduate student in America. Then, we will have changed the 3 'Ps' to Prosperity, Prosperity and Prosperity!"

Dr. Victor Oladokun

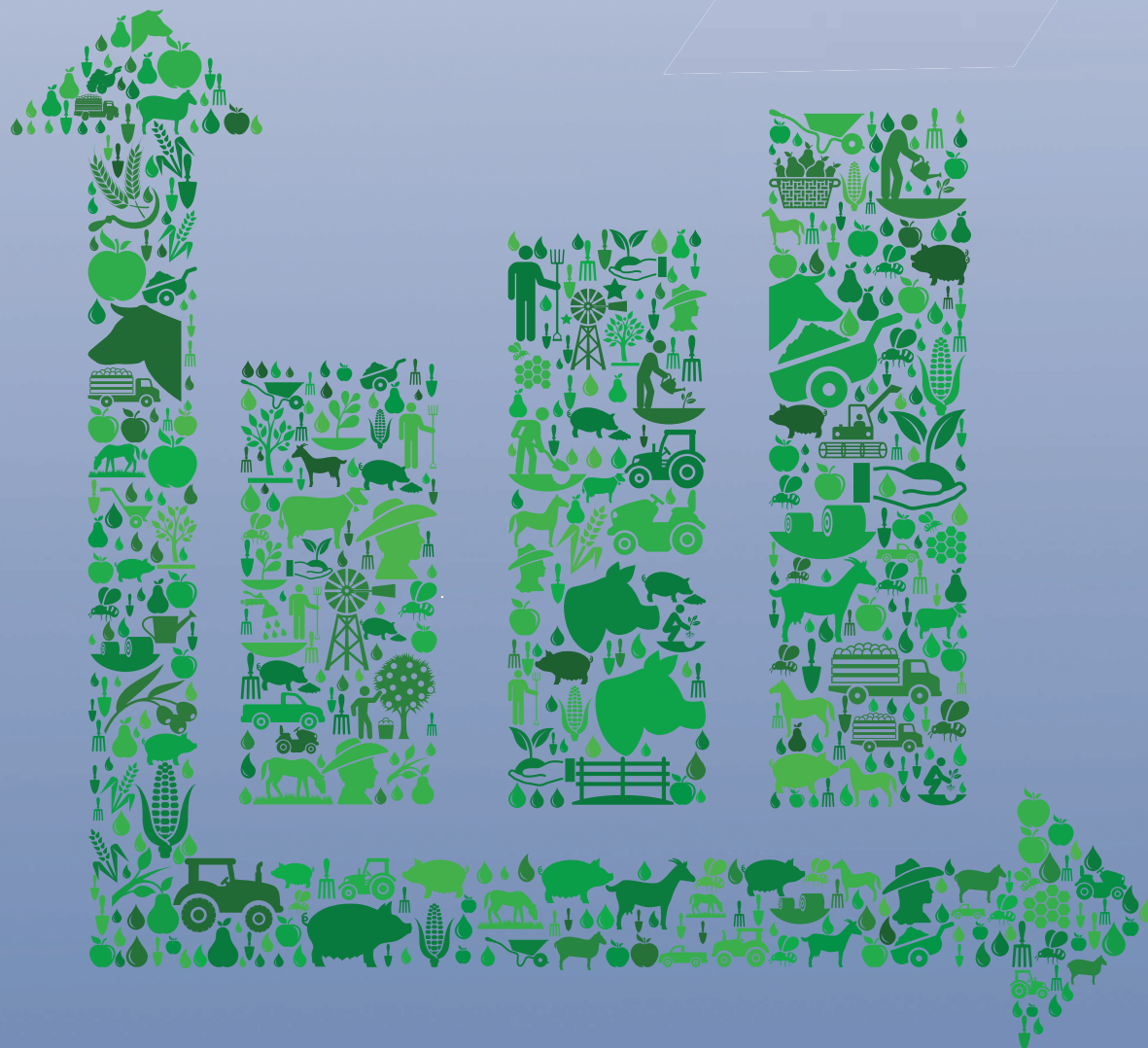
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Agro processing and the fourth industrial revolution

The 4th Industrial Revolution poses challenges and opportunities for agriculture and agro-processing

No commercial activity, and agriculture is no exception, can escape the implications of the 4th Industrial Revolution, the 21st century blending of the physical, digital and biological domains that is building on the digital revolution of the last century to bring massive change to agriculture and across value chains into the agro-processing industries of South Africa.

As with all previous Industrial Revolutions, the 4th revolution will introduce new challenges and opportunities across industry as a whole. For the agricultural sector, it means changes through the agricultural value chain from crop production and through the agro-processing chain by improving processes, increasing productivity and reducing costs.

In South Africa there is no doubt that increased use of technology that begins in the fields presents opportunities to transform our agricultural base and the agro-processing industries that process agricultural products. Already, agro-processing is the largest employer within the manufacturing sector and could if challenges of this new revolution are met, further increase its importance within the local economy.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, in 2016 the contribution of the agro-processing industry to the real value added (GDP) by the manufacturing sector and the economy was 32.2% and 4.4% respectively. The contribution of the agro-processing industry to the real output of the manufacturing sector and the economy was 31.6% and 7.7% respectively.

Furthermore, Agro-processing exports relative to the manufacturing sector were

19.1%. Its share of exports across the entire economy was 10.9%. Total imports in relation to the manufacturing sector and the economy was 18.2% and 9.7% respectively."

The potential of the converging technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution lies in providing South Africa with an opportunity become early adopters of technology and accelerate its agro-processing development. This in turn would improve access to resources both up and down the agricultural value chain.

Some of the most recent advancements in technology and biotechnology that are sweeping across the world and are transforming food production and impacting on agro-processing efficiency include:

- The use of drones at the start of crop cycles to produce accurate 3-D maps for early soil analysis and seed planting patterns, crop spraying and crop

monitoring. Start-ups have created drone-planting systems that have decreased their planting costs.

- Using data and analytical tools to create 'smart farming' tools that can help improve yields and crop quality, increase farmers' returns, reduce water consumption and even greenhouse gas emissions;
- International R&D companies creating analytical tools that use decades of research with new technologies (such as wireless data transfer and cloud computing) to transfer data regarding soil quality, nitrogen levels and the overall quality of soils and other operational requirements direct to farmers;
- The future use of nanotechnology—the manipulation of matter on an atomic, molecular, and supramolecular level. For example; Nano porous zeolites are already used to slowly release efficient dosage of water and of fertilisers for plants, and of nutrients and drugs for livestock.

In Africa, some of the tools that have already emerged and are in everyday use include:

- Scientists in Nigeria creating a pest-resistant black-eyed pea that will resist pests that destroy US \$ 300 million of crops annually;
- The development using mobile technology of the "Farm Shop", Kenyan franchise network of agro dealers located in rural and under-served areas of Kenya. Each store has an Android-powered tablet with software that

allows users to easily order inventory and track transactions in real-time, giving the company a unique ability to track prices and inventory levels.

- The mobile-based "iCow" app, an agricultural information service to help farmers enhance productivity of their cows. For example, it helps in the prevention and cure of milk related diseases by tracking each cow, enabling a farmer to maintain all relevant information specific to each animal.
- Esoko, an app used in 10 African countries that assists rural farmers to identify markets where their products and produce will receive the best prices.

One of the challenges for agriculture and agro-processing locally is the potential negative impact more adoption of technology could have on jobs in the sector. Experience has indicated that demand has decreased for workers with lower skills level.

However, in South Africa, authorities, although conceding that large enterprises in the agro-processing industry contribute significantly to income and employment, point out that the relative share of small and medium agro-processing to total employment numbers is higher than their share of total income in the industry. Accordingly, they say, small and medium-sized processing enterprises have great potential for generating sustainable jobs whilst using technology to increase their incomes.

Barriers to entering the mainstream economy for small and medium-sized agro-processing operators include:

- High post-harvest losses;
- Lack of appropriate agro-processing technologies suited to start-up agro processors;
- Non-compliance with stringent agro-processing norms, standards and regulations; and
- Inconsistent supplies of raw material.

In addition to these challenges are those of having to achieve economies of scale, meet the high capital requirements within certain agro industries and the difficulty of competing with entrenched, major brands in the wholesale and retail space.

In South Africa, many activities within the agro-processing space are characterised by large companies that are vertically integrated along the entire value chain. For instance, the poultry industry has players that have grown activities within one sector of the chain into others. By using their original outputs, for instance production of feeds, they have entered the broiler and other areas of the chain.

Typically, a small operator entering the poultry value chain would have to cope with repetitive production cycles before he/she could expect to become profitable, whilst competing with established players.

Ultimately, however, as the 4th Industrial revolution gains traction, competition will ensure that technologies available will become simpler and cheaper. This in turn will create opportunities for smaller operators to improve outputs and take up their places in the agro-processing chain.

Nico Groenewald, Standard Bank Agricultural Division





Getting smart about agriculture

Enhancing productivity intelligently

The Internet of things offers enormous potential to farmers seeking to increase yields, reduce resource wastage and improve efficiencies. At present, there are over seven billion people on the planet, a figure that's expected to reach close to 10 billion by the year 2050. Such a massive rise in population will undoubtedly mean that food production will need to increase significantly, if production is to keep pace with the population growth.

This, in turn, means farmers need to find better and more efficient ways of growing food, increasing their yield and reducing the risks of crop failure. The conventional approach to obtaining data relevant to such requirements would entail physical crop inspection, which is not only time-consuming, but can also prove quite inaccurate.

The same goes for fixed and tractor-mounted sensors, which cannot deliver a thorough real-time picture of what is happening in the fields. Moreover, even when farmers are able to get their hands on data via the methods above, there is still the difficulty in translating this into operational insights that can actually help them to improve their methods.

However, we feel that technology like the Internet of things (IoT) will help farmers overcome these challenges and in the next few

years' application of this technology will be witnessed in enhancing agricultural productivity as well.

What we refer to as smart agriculture incorporates IoT-based advanced technologies and solutions designed to improve operational efficiency, maximise yield and minimise wastage. This is achieved through real-time field data collection, data analysis and deployment of control mechanisms. Diverse IoT-based applications designed specifically for the agricultural industry will soon be playing an instrumental role in the enhancement of farming processes.

For example, as water scarcity is becoming an increasingly significant problem, it will be key for farmers to look at effective ways of smart irrigation. More so, an IoT-based smart irrigation system will be able to measure various parameters such as humidity, soil moisture, temperature and light intensity, to calculate the precise irrigation requirements.

Another area where the IoT will offer advantages is in terms of yield monitoring, which is the mechanism to observe areas related to agricultural yield, like grain mass flow, moisture content and total quantity of harvested grain. Yield monitoring offers real-time information to farmers to facilitate decision-making and to reduce operational costs and enhance productivity.

IoT sensors can even be used to monitor the soil, assisting farmers in tracking and

improving the quality of soil, with the aim of avoiding degradation. These sensors allow for the monitoring of a number of physical, chemical and biological properties - everything from texture and water-holding capacity to the soil's absorption rate. Soil monitoring is key to minimising erosion, densification, salinisation, acidification and pollution, to name a few.

Of course, a major point of contention is that more than 60% of farmers agree on is that the high investment costs of smart farming technologies, along with coverage issues, are the major pain points which must be addressed before there will be a major uptake in smart farming. Obviously, the network that these objects and sensors connect to will have to be cost efficient, if costs are to be reduced enough to make this a viable approach.

SquidNet, a wholly owned subsidiary of DFA, is busy rolling out a dedicated IoT network, designed purely to connect objects to the network. SquidNet currently covers 83% of the population of South Africa. Since virtually every device that is connected only transmits a small amount of data, and usually in bursts, means that the cost of connectivity is minimal. This network, therefore, offers the perfect opportunity to accelerate the development and deployment of smart farming solutions, among countless other applications.

Phathizwe Malinga, Acting CEO, SquidNet

The Internet of Things is here.

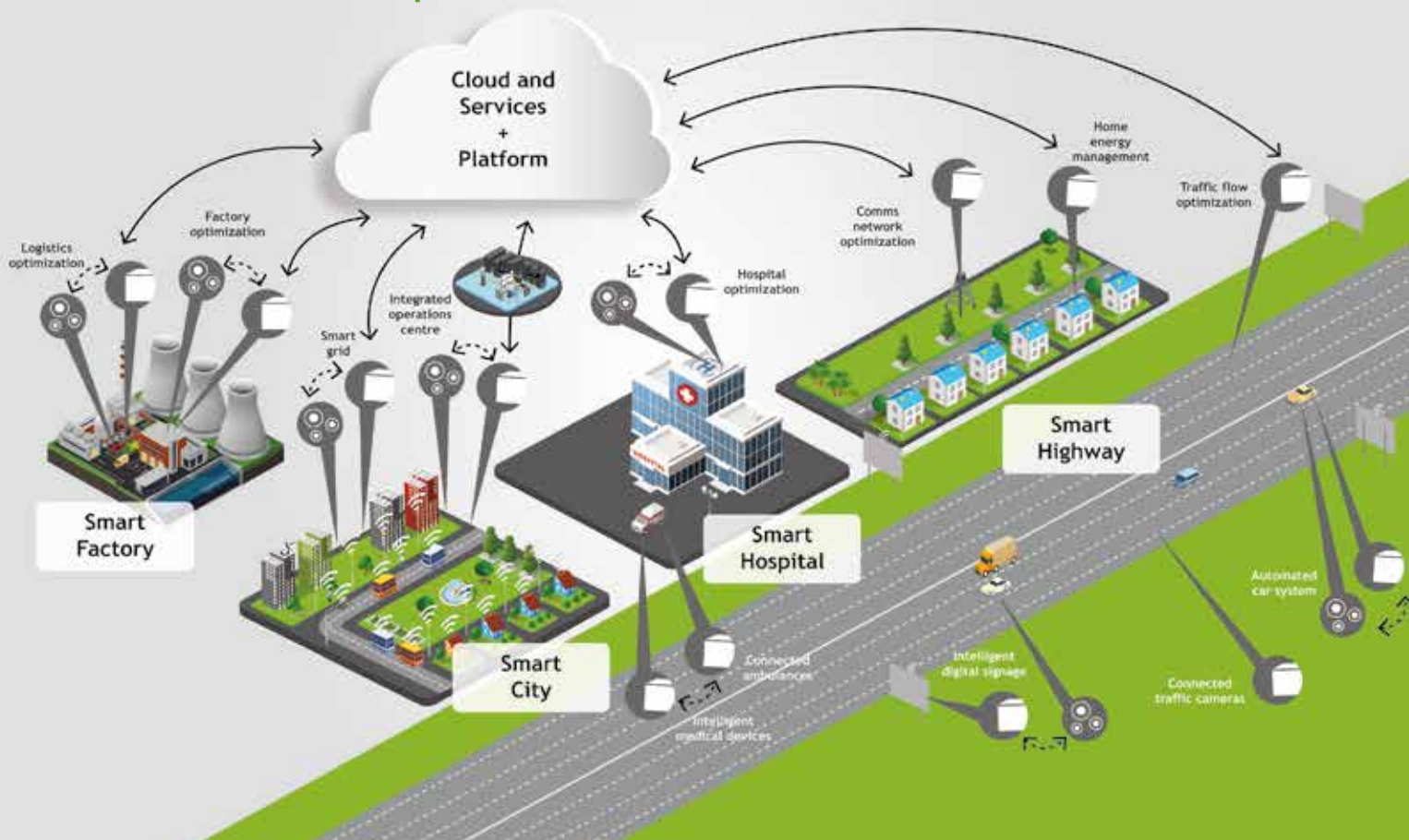
SquidNet is the SIGFOX network operator for South Africa. It provides an ecosystem for IoT innovation and for developing and delivering IoT solutions that are enabled through:

- the deployment of long-range networks that are purpose-built for IoT
- access to low-cost and highly secure connectivity
- access to low-cost, low-power devices and modules.

SIGFOX is a global IoT network deployed in 36 countries across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The SquidNet network roll-out started in January 2017 and now covers close to 65% of South Africa's population. National coverage will extend to 85% of the population by the end of this year.

For more information or to sign up as a SquidNet partner, visit www.squidnet.com





Farmers of the future

Agriculture at the Intelligent Edge



Josua Taljaard, BU Manager

Technology has disrupted every industry from transport to finance, and not always in a good way – witness the first fatality claimed by Uber's driverless car this year, not to mention violent

clashes between Uber and taxi drivers in Gauteng. In agriculture, however, the technological tide that has been hailed as the Fourth Industrial Revolution promises to have an altogether beneficial effect – nothing less than the total transformation of the way we farm today in favour of productivity, efficiency, and even fun. We asked Josua Taljaard of Datacentrix to shed some light on the subject.

How can the Internet of Things increase agricultural yields?

IoT provides real-time feedback and visibility to farmers, enabling quick decisions to address, mediate or mitigate constraints, minimise expenses and increase profitability. For farmers, capitalising on technology means making good use of data and applying intelligence to deliver competitive advantage and business value. IoT is placing farmers at the 'Intelligent Edge', which translates to conserved resources, minimised wastage, increased productivity and maximised yield.

"IoT means every action has more context, more intelligence and more automation," according to Vinay Anand, VP and GM

at ClearPass Security, Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company.

Where can we see the actual benefits of technology deployments in farming?

IoT brings more intelligence to every area of farming. This means enabling more efficient operations that are underlined by water and resource preservation; waste management; asset, HR and risk management; preventative maintenance, pest control; and lifecycle management. The potential for these improvements exists across a broad range of agricultural areas, from smart tractors, equipment maintenance, weather monitoring and silo management, through energy management, irrigation monitoring, earth condition monitoring, to security monitoring, livestock monitoring and feed production – each delivering business efficiencies that will enhance competitiveness and ensure future relevance.

What are the applications of digital technology for planting, watering and harvesting?

The data collection, real-time insight and process automation capabilities of IoT are

being proven in agriculture. The sector is already seeing increased production with more accurate planting, watering and harvesting.

In water challenged areas, technology empowers conservation by alerting through weather prediction and soil moisture sensors that enable watering only when and where necessary. From their desks, farmers can check and fix solar powered pumps remotely, check water quality and optimise irrigation based on soil and plant needs.

Drones, fitted with applicable software, analyse the quantity of crop/plants to evaluate the success ratios within the farmers yield. This data is used to implement corrective actions to secure on-going improvement. And, from a harvesting perspective, the application of artificial intelligence calculates the best fertiliser for optimal crop growth.

Are traditional farming techniques on the way out?

Forrester tells us that today's young generation of farmers will be the last to use traditional farming techniques. The next generation will probably never even travel on a gravel road, choosing instead to farm virtually, an option that is actually available to them today.

The logic behind smart connected agricultural products and systems encompasses a step approach that starts with connecting and digitising the farm's systems, moving towards implementing controls, followed by optimising and enabling

self-controlled operations, finally ending off with automation. The farming techniques themselves may remain unchanged, but the delivery methodology will evolve from being manual in nature to automated.

Connectivity in rural areas is one of the biggest constraints in the market

What does this mean for farm workers?

Automation is a shunned innovation in labour-intensive industries around the world. But, automation does not need to be a disaster. Automation increases output, creating new opportunities. Another prominent theme around automation is skills development, resulting in improved workforce skills levels and employment value.

Can small-scale farmers benefit too?

Many small-scale farmers lack the technology to maximise their yield. Heightened by the lack of connectivity, small-scale farmers are at risk of lagging behind the technology curve. What is key here is government's role in making the infrastructure, technology and connectivity more accessible to sway the technological impact on our local farmers.

How can farmers in rural areas get the necessary connectivity?

Connectivity is key to the digital transformational journey, with smart, connected devices at the heart of this process. Connectivity will not just enable the delivery of IoT, it will also allow for greater collaboration between all players within the agricultural supply chain – from the producer, right through to government and the public.

Connectivity in rural areas is one of the biggest constraints that we've come across in the market. Most local providers have limited capability to provide rural connectivity. We use "software-defined Wide Area Networking" (SD-WAN), a revolutionary capability that enables these sectors to use any connectivity medium and that provides control and visibility to the user instead of the legacy provider.

Software-defined networking can change how farms operate, and consume cloud-based services and applications. This increases overall cost efficacy, increases agility and decreases operational complexity. Datacentrix facilitates a path for the agri sector to enter the software-defined world and to realise the profound benefits of software-defined networking. It gives agricultural operations the ability to provide new services and new ways of engaging, and to do this with speed and agility. SD-WAN is clearly a "game-changer" and is going to become the foundation of all future connectivity technologies.



Agriculture's digital angels

Accurate, affordable monitoring at the touch of a button



Nobody ever claimed that farming is easy, and farmers are used to getting up while the rest of the world is asleep and going out into the field to do what needs to be done. Production has to be checked, irrigation has to be monitored, and then there's the constant need to keep track of the pests and diseases that are always threatening to infest and destroy what hard work has created.

At the same time, rising input costs means that farming has to take place at a larger scale in order to remain profitable. At a certain point, it becomes impossible to physically go out into the field and check up on crops, drips and pests with the accuracy that modern agriculture demands. Fortunately, it also isn't necessary anymore.

Agricultural technology has already changed the game so radically that farmers of the future will battle to comprehend the struggles of their predecessors. This rapid progress is due to dynamic young startups like Aerobotics, who are bridging the gap between the soil and digital technology.

Aerobotics' data-analytics platform Aeroview uses satellites, drones and artificial intelligence in ways that allow farmers to optimise crop

yields and cut down on input costs. It's as simple as creating an account and calling in the experts.

Aerobotics have created a tree crop analytics platform that clients can use to track health, height, volume and canopy size on a per tree basis

Aerobotics Drone Lead, Saadiq Jacobs, explains the process:

"After a client requests a flight, the Aerobotics operations team makes sure we have all the correct boundaries drawn up on Aeroview. We will confirm service provider availability for the selected date. Aerobotics will then share the

farming client's farm boundary data to the Aeroview account of the service provider."

"The service provider will make contact with the farmer to confirm the date of data collection again. The flights will happen on the scheduled date. The service provider will upload the data to the farmer's account on Aeroview. The Aerobotics data operations team will process the data after which the tree-finding algorithm and tree statistics will run on that data. Before the data gets released, the Aerobotics data operations team will run one final quality control. The client will then receive an email to say that his data has been uploaded to his account. At the client's request, someone from our support team can run him through the data."

It's no wonder that Aerobotics' innovative vision has attracted the attention of institutional investors. As Stuart van der Veen, Disruption Lead at Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking comments, "Aerobotics was part of the Startupbootcamp InsurTech London programme and, due to Nedbank's corporate partnership with Startupbootcamp, we track the talent coming out of their programmes very closely. Aerobotics has developed a product that combines technologies in which we're very interested, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's)



and machine learning algorithms, to visually present and transmit data to farmers on an easy to engage with platform. Their offering was targeted to a specific segment of the market whose needs were not met by current satellite analysis technologies."

Nedbank's experimentation methodology uses technologies to test client value hypotheses. In the case of Aerobotics, the hypothesis was that clients would be able to use the technology to improve precision-farming capabilities. To prove this, Nedbank offered to cover the cost of a pilot on a client's farm. To date, the reception has been exceptional.

"In one engagement," says van der Veen, "Nedbank and Aerobotics co-presented the results of the client's pilot on the Friday and the client signed a commercial agreement with Aerobotics the following Monday."

The benefits to clients are very clear. "Aerobotics provides affordable, high-resolution aerial imagery and turns this imagery into actionable insight. They have created a tree crop analytics platform that our clients can use to track health, height, volume and canopy size on a per tree basis. This has enabled scalable precision farming capabilities for our clients," explains van der Veen.

Van der Veen believes that teams like Aerobotics are set to transform the agricultural industry. "Farmers are moving to a more data-driven world and software platforms like Aerobotics have the ability to disintermediate a number of traditional stakeholders in the agriculture value chain," he comments.

Aerobotics is also helping Nedbank to achieve its stated goal of "client delight":

"Nedbank's aim is to compute the realities of our clients and integrate our services into the products and channels our clients enjoy using. We believe there is a massive opportunity to co-create financial offerings with teams like Aerobotics and other data-driven opportunities," concludes van der Veen.

Eliminate blind spots and find problems you can't see from the ground



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Piloting prosperity

Food security through land care

A successful pilot project demonstrated climate smart urban farming's potential to address the multiple challenges facing urban development in eThekweni Municipality, including pollution, unemployment and poverty.

As a result of coastal topographies, around 40% of land remains undeveloped as unmanaged open spaces, a site for pollution and informal settlement with limited access to services, resulting in increased pollution risk to open spaces, rivers, estuaries and the ocean.

Urban farming is already widespread in these open

space areas, but is generally done unsustainably, and often in wetland areas which are environmentally sensitive. The contaminated rivers mean that river water used in irrigation threatens safe and secure food supply for these communities. The model affirms the importance of looking after the land in order for the land to produce safe food.



Ottawa AgriHub farm

Communities living in neighbourhoods along river catchments are assisted to form cooperatives and trained in land care through practical work, clearing alien vegetation, pollution, recycling, and propagating indigenous plants for restoration. Upon mastering this skill, they are then trained in organic farming, graduating as climate smart farmers, who are allocated a large open space area to manage as a concession for farming a limited footprint area for their benefit.

To ensure that they are successful, unemployed environmental and agriculture graduates are appointed as extension officers to provide technical support and links to the local commercial markets (hospitality and supermarkets) are facilitated. These climate smart farmers are producing to supply and not to sell, thus ensuring that they are protected from price competition with volume commodity producers. The initiative results in a win-win as the environment, neighbouring communities and graduates all benefit.

The AgriHub is run as an enterprise, responsible for managing both supply and demand for a specific area. It provides technical skills transfer and inputs to these farmers. A 12-month internship programme, guided by an agricultural scientist mentor trains agricultural graduates in extension services while environmental interns are

mentored by environmental consultants. Upon completing internships graduates feed into government land reform programmes which will benefit from this new breed of climate smart farmers supporting land reform beneficiaries.

The pilot project addressed oHlanga river pollution in a seven kilometre area, from the estuary to inland Ottawa/M41, resulting in the collection of 300 tons of waste, and established the Ottawa Agrihub. The project was implemented by Tongaat Hulett in partnership with eThekweni municipality under the Department of Environmental Affairs' national Resource Management Programme.

The project is now being rolled out as part of the government's Radical Agrarian Socioeconomic Transformation (RASET) programme where each river catchment will have several river valley small organic farming cooperatives all linked to an AgriHub.

On 23 March 2018 the eThekweni Agribusiness and mechanisation programme, under the RASET theme, was launched by Her Worship the Mayor, Zandile Gumede, at Ottawa AgriHub.

Speaking on behalf of the Mayor was councillor Siphosiso Kaunda, who outlined the city's role in unlocking potential for small, medium and micro-sized enterprises for black entrepreneurs.

"The city has been supporting subsistence, small-scale farmers and agri-entrepreneurs for 15 years, however it is difficult to get them to be self-sustainable because of limited technical skills and a lack of market access," explained Kaunda. "In the city, we are buying food from outside, but we are capable of producing our own food. This programme rationalises the city's support for the agricultural sector, aiding at every step. Our aim is not only to address the challenges but also to enhance access to government and private sector markets in food supply."

"Applying Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 provides the framework for managing river systems which are pollutant highways to the oceans, to ensure that we have clean rivers from which to irrigate safe food, access to basic services and environmental health," said Bongani Gumede, Tongaat Hulett Developments Executive. "It reflects, so clearly, the joint ambition eThekweni Municipality and Tongaat Hulett has for the empowerment of the disadvantaged through sustainable practices. Ecological economy as a multidisciplinary theme, sees food security as more than just a stand-alone activity, but as a way to connect people, business and the environment to a sustainable and successful future."

eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede, Ward 102 Councillor Siya Thango and Bongani Gumede, Tongaat Hulett





Best in class

New tractors on display at Nampo 2018

Case IH and its South African distributor, Northmec, will showcase the brand's full line of agricultural solutions at Nampo 2018, one of the most important equipment exhibitions in Africa, now in its 52nd edition. The show will see the first public appearance of the brand new 2000 Series Early Riser® planter and the new AIM Command FLEX® advanced spray technology for the Patriot sprayer range.

Daniel Bordabossana, Marketing Manager for Case IH Middle East and Africa, said: "The Nampo show is the perfect platform to give our new 2000 Series Early Riser planter great exposure. This is a unique product, which has already shown its value in the tests we ran last year, where it really distinguished itself from the competition. At Nampo we will be able to share with the attending visitors all the advantages of this excellent new product as well as our wide offering of farming solutions."



High precision and productivity

The Case IH planter is the first to factory-integrate industry-leading seed placement technologies from Precision Planting® into a completely new system featuring a best-in-class, all-new, rugged row unit. This new planter is not only extremely accurate, it's also robust enough to deliver precise placement across all terrains, crop types and speeds for faster, more uniform emergence.

Designed for modern seed types, treatments, populations and conditions, the new planter can be easily customized to a range of soil types, terrain, fertilizer/chemical application needs and varying crop residue management practices. Plus, a streamlined design and tool-free crop changes and adjustments result in simpler maintenance.

The 2000 Series Early Riser planter proved its worth in field tests conducted in 2017, which revealed that its seed placement accuracy resulted in early emergence one to three days faster than with other planter row units.

Extensive tractor offering

The wide range of Case IH tractors will be showcased at Nampo—from the very

popular JX45T Compact (36kW) utility tractor all the way up to the mighty Steiger 600 (447 kW) and tracked Quadtrac 600 (447 kW). Also on display will be the Limited edition Puma, created last year to mark the 175th anniversary of the brand.

Revolutionary combines

Case IH will display its 140 Series and 240 Series combines featuring the brand's proven Axial-Flow® single rotor technology that revolutionised combine harvesting for its simplicity, grain quality, grain savings and crop adaptability.

The Axial-Flow 240 Series now features the brand's telematics system as standard, enabling the customer to monitor the machine and its working functions from their mobile devices, laptop or PC, increasing the overall efficiency of the harvesting operation. The AFS AccuGuide system is also available as standard, simplifying wheat, barley, canola and soya bean harvesting.

A sprayer for every need

The Patriot® 250 Extreme sprayer, which was introduced to the market at Nampo 2017, is

making again its appearance at the show. It is fitted with a 2500 litre plastic tank, 27 metre boom, full Auto-Pilot and section control. The new AIM Command FLEX® advanced spray technology, which will make its debut at the show, enables operators to deliver consistent, flexible and accurate application, regardless of speed and terrain. Also in the range are the Patriot®3230, featuring a 3078 litre Stainless steel tank, the new AIM Command FLEX® with a 30m boom (market leader in its segment); the Patriot®3330 with a 3800 litre stainless steel tank, AIM Command FLEX® with a 30m boom; and the Patriot®4430 fitted with a 4500 litre stainless steel tank, AIM Command FLEX® with a 36m boom.

NORTHMEC is the Case IH distributor for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia, selling and supporting the full range of Case IH agricultural equipment through 13 branches and 37 dealers, within those territories. Dedicated to farming and agricultural growth in these countries, it supports farmers in reaping the benefits of Case IH agricultural equipment, forming a solid foundation for long-term growth and production.



TAKING PERFORMANCE TO A NEW LEVEL.

THE AXIAL-FLOW® 140 SERIES. MAKES YOUR HARVEST A SUCCESS.

Axial-Flow® 5140, 6140 and 7140 combines are designed to meet the requirements of the most demanding specialists running mid-sized arable operations, from professional farms to progressive estates: with the significant reinforcement of the feeders and the increased power of the 6140 and 7140,

they all deliver big performances. At their heart are the powerful FPT Tier 2 engines and the proven principle of Axial-Flow® single rotor technology and the benefits that it brings; thorough threshing leading to lower losses, but with the gentlest of grain handling.

Rebate relief

Diesel refund reforms will help farmers

The promised reforms to the current Diesel Tax Refund system promise welcome relief to struggling SA farmers.

Whilst nothing has been confirmed by Treasury as yet, the diesel tax refund system and its administration are set for an overhaul which will see a reduction in the increasingly onerous compliance requirements to qualify for the refund.

The Diesel Rebate system has been in place since 2000 in order to encourage production in the agricultural sector (amongst others), with SARS providing a refund on the fuel and RAF levies charged on diesel to qualifying farmers.

However, Christine du Toit, a director of CAP Chartered Accountants advises that in order to be eligible for the Diesel Rebate, SARS insists on onerous record-keeping requirements in the form of purchase and sales invoices and comprehensive logbooks which detail both the storage and the use of fuel supplied to each and every vehicle and piece of equipment.

"The level of detail required by SARS includes: the source of the diesel; date of purchase, storage and use; capacity of diesel storage tanks; opening and closing balance of diesel in the equipment and storage tanks; specifics of the equipment; opening and closing meter readings of distance, duration, or speed; the specific activity eligible for diesel rebates and location the activity took place; and details relating to any non-eligible operations performed by the equipment."

"Unsurprisingly, most farmers have found it almost impossible to comply with this level of detail, and have had their Diesel Rebates reversed when audited by SARS, and also given penalties and interest charges too," says du Toit, who explains that before April 2013, SARS allowed for 80% of the Diesel Rebate to be paid to farmers when records were not sufficiently kept.

"However in April 2013 it was ruled that no discretion is allowed and if the logbook does not comply strictly with all the detailed requirements it is disregarded and the rebate denied, irrespective of any efforts the farmer may have exerted to comply in good faith. This naturally led to a sharp decrease in the number of farming enterprises receiving a rebate - and the share of the diesel refund being paid to the agricultural sector declined from 46% to 11%."

Things set to change

The 2015 Budget Review announced the reform of the diesel refund administration system. In 2018, following a comprehensive review of the administration of the diesel refund system, National Treasury and SARS will engage with affected industries and other role players as a next step in the reform process. A new diesel refund administration system will be announced in Budget 2019.

"The reform will also separate the diesel refund system from the VAT system. From the date at which the new diesel refund system commences, vendors will no longer be entitled to a VAT deduction in respect of the purchase and use of diesel for the development of small-scale farmers," explains du Toit.

"Section 16(3)(l) of the VAT Act will be repealed and no longer applicable once the new Diesel refund system kicks in. This section specifically is overlooked by SARS as it provides specified VAT deductions which are allowed to be made in the calculation of VAT liability or refunds owing."

"As has been seen, SARS generally disallow such deduction without solid grounds, and levy a 10% penalty and interest for the late payment. An even in instances where all relevant supporting documentation has been provided, SARS still make the adjustment on assessment. The taxpayer must then object against such decision where SARS was wrong to make the adjustment in order to "win" time by paying out the refund. This is commonly seen in cases where a refund is due to the taxpayer."

"The Diesel Rebate is extremely important for the viability of commercial farming. Due to the devastating successive droughts in the past years, many of SA's commercial farmers are having to consider shutting down their operations and selling their farms - a move that will lead to massive job losses and will affect food security," says du Toit. "Government has an immediate and obvious avenue to ease the burden of farmers, and help cash-flow and profit generation and we hope that the coming months will see speedy legislative reforms that introduce a practical and more lenient approach to Diesel Rebates so that farmers are able to fully benefit."

Catherine Pate

www.chartered.co.za

EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE

BI to showcase its Agri-Smart solutions for farmers at NAMPO 2018

Beatings International (BI) will showcase the latest design of its agricultural hub bearings at NAMPO 2018. In addition, it will also launch a bearing hub for planters, and display its full product range for the agricultural industry, under its new Agri-Smart banner for the agricultural industry.

Agri-Smart allows the leading supplier to offer its agricultural customers a total solution for their specific requirements and conditions. "We continuously strive to develop new products for the farming community," BI Business Unit Head Ross Trevelyan notes.

"We believe that the agricultural industry is of utmost importance to food security, and therefore to the economic development of our country. We strive to offer excellence to our customers in both service and product provision," he comments.

With the agricultural sector under increasing pressure to cut costs and improve productivity, BI has both the experience and expertise, backed up by some of the best products available on the market, to assist farming customers in reducing their downtime and boosting productivity significantly.

BI's diverse product line-up for the agricultural industry, under its Agri-Smart banner, runs the gamut from supplying bearings and chain to couplings and transmission products for arduous farming applications such as ploughing,

planting, harvesting, and baling. It carries a comprehensive stockholding of critical spares, in addition to chain and V-belt drives, that can be dispatched to customers' sites at short notice.

BI supplies bearings for agricultural equipment such as combine harvesters, planters, balers, tractors, spreaders, mixers, and hammer mills. Sprockets, chains, and accessories are available for major combine-harvester brands such as John Deere, Claas, Case, Clayson, Fahr, Laverda, Massey Fergusson, and Slattery.

A range of sprockets is available for most agricultural implements, in addition to standard V-pulleys with adaptor sleeve bosses and axle couplings. Gearboxes can be supplied for slashers and cutters, production equipment, and other agricultural implements. Oils, hydraulic seals, and hoses are also available, as well as power take-off (PTO) shafts and variable speed drives (VSDs).

Main BI brands on display at NAMPO 2018 will be:

KML bearings and transmission components: KML Bearings offer a range of mounted and unmounted bearings and bearing housings. KML has proven highly successful in the agricultural industry as a brand that does not sacrifice quality, while offering significant cost benefits. This year, BI will also have a new range of hub units on display, designed and developed in conjunction with KML.

Loctite adhesives, sealants and surface treatment: Loctite offers a complete product range and system solutions in industrial adhesives and sealants, from design and product development to the production process and simulation tests, right up to dosing tests. The diverse range of high-quality industrial adhesives and sealants from Loctite can be used everywhere there is a need for efficient specialised solutions, such as agriculture.

Bauer electric motors: The Bauer range of aluminium three-phase 380V and 525V motors is ideal for industrial applications such as fans, compressors, pumps, sanding machines, and pedestal drilling machines, among others. The main benefit is that the range is far more lightweight than its cast-iron equivalents due to the aluminium casing and end shield. This MS range of aluminium three-phase 380 V and 525 V motors has been supplied successfully to the South African market for the past decade. The cast iron range has also become very popular in the agricultural industry for pump drives in irrigation. It offers a quality, reliable motor for critical irrigation applications.

Citronol environment-friendly hand cleaners and degreasers: Citronol Hand Cleaner (Pty) Ltd. was established in July 2004 in Midrand Industrial Park, Johannesburg. It manufactures industrial hand cleaners (with or without grit), barrier creams, multipurpose cleaners, heavy-duty cleaners/degreasers,

liquid hand soap, pine gel, all-purpose cleaner, and even dishwash liquid.

Makita power tools: Makita is a brand leader in power tools in Southern Africa, a success based on its reputation for high quality, new technology, durability, and service back-up. With 100 years' experience in advanced motor design, Makita applies the latest innovation to engineer and manufacture top-class power tools. Features particularly suited for the agricultural industry are high power and low weight, high efficiency, and a compact design, which translates into increased productivity and reduced maintenance. The new range of cordless tools is a must-have, and will be displayed prominently at NAMPO 2018.

Rocol lubricants: Rocol forms part of ITW, a US multinational and Fortune 150 company. It develops, manufactures, and markets technically-advanced industrial lubricants and

line-marking systems globally. For example, the Rocol Sapphire bearing-grease range provides effective long-term lubrication for demanding operating environments such as agriculture. There are 13 key greases under the Sapphire brand for maximum flexibility and adaptability.

Dodge housed bearings and shaft mounted gearboxes: Dodge has been a leading supplier of power transmission and bearing components for over 120 years, supplying one of the highest-quality selection of mounted bearings available in the industry.

Jonnesway hand tools: Jonnesway has been a well-established brand since 1983. With more than 30 years' experience in the professional and industrial tool market, it provides total solutions for professional mechanics to perform everyday duties more efficiently and cost-effectively. Products

include hand tools, air tools, automotive repair tools, and tool trolleys with mechanic tool sets. This year, BI will launch a 'must have' toolbox with a selection of tools selected by farmers for farmers. The toolbox will be available for viewing and purchase especially at NAMPO 2018.

Trevelyan concludes that various product managers and branch representatives will be on the BI stand to field any technical enquiries, while various promotions and competitions will be on offer to entice stand visitors.

*Visit BI in the NAMPO Hall at Stands 45 and 46 at Grain SA's NAMPO Harvest Day from 15 to 18 May 2018 at Bothaville in the Free State. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/1kRvCR5>. Connect with Bearings International on Social Media to receive the company's latest news
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BearingsInternational/
Twitter: [@bearingsint](https://twitter.com/@bearingsint)*





An image of the Witte Wijn as described by Knoop in *Fructologia*

When Tru-Cape visited the inspirational Sara Pandle in May 2016, we were so impressed by her determined self-improvement and dedication to being of service to others and her goal to become a nurse that we asked to meet again, almost two years later.

"I'm helping people now with their doctor's letters", she tells me. Let's take a moment to measure how far Pandle has come.

"From about the year 2000 at Ouplaas farm in the Witzenberg Valley which grows Tru-Cape apples and pears I developed my pruning skill and become familiar with dealing with late developing branches. I found myself drawn to the training centres and community development as I knew that I wanted to work with the community. Actually, my dream was always to become a nurse but as I had to go out to work and help support my family at a young age, I wasn't able to complete my schooling as a teenager living in Calvinia.

"Currently I am principal of the farm creche at Ouplaas and responsible for looking after about 20 children. I work on creating activities and educational programmes for them. I also work to raise funds for the creche by

putting on community events. During harvest I still work as a senior Quality Controller on the farm and, because of my Level Three First Aid qualifications, I'm also the person that our workers come to with problems," she says.

Calla du Toit, a third-generation grower at Ouplaas and still in the business with his father Joshua and wife Orla, says that what makes Sara's story so inspirational is that she is entirely self-motivated: "Sara's decisions and determination to improve herself are hers alone even though her committed relationship with God helps guide her in the right direction. Not only does she ask for what she needs but she also finds a way to make it happen - from improving her ability to communicate by learning to speak English and IsiXhosa to raising the money she needed to complete the First Aid courses herself."

Pandle explains: "I understand people's problems as I've faced most of them myself. I know what it is like to be under pressure. I've been depressed in the past and then Johnson, my husband, has really helped me. I've made peace with it that this is my work and my calling."

She says her typical day begins at the creche at 06.15 before opening the Quality Control rooms at 07.30 where she checks that everything is ready for the day's harvest. When she isn't at the creche or in the QC room, she is helping farm workers purchase electricity tokens and assists with letters from the doctors and what steps need to be taken next. "For the moment this is about as near as I am to my dream of being a nurse", she says and mentions that she needed to get eye glasses

before qualifying for a public driving permit license with which she is still in progress.

She says she gets home to her husband and children at about 18h15. "It is then when my job as a mother, wife and housewife starts." There may be a community meeting as she is one of the community representatives and before getting to bed at around 22h40, she says, "I bake bread."

Pandle is currently busy arranging a community visit to the aquarium as well as a sports day.

Tru-Cape Fruit Marketing managing director Roelf Pienaar says that Pandle's story serves as inspirational proof that vision and staying power are guarantees for future success and is a good example of the many positive stories coming from Tru-Cape growers.

Sharing in the love of the land

Calla du Toit, an owner of Ouplaas Farm along with his wife Orla and father Josua says that the example of Sampie Baron is a good one as it demonstrates how when a staff member takes initiative that the results can benefit everyone.

According to Du Toit, Baron has lived at Ouplaas for over 50 years, arriving as the son of farm workers. "His mother asked my father to speak to young Sampie about continuing his education at the time when he wanted to quit school. And I remember all those years ago how impressed my father was with him. When it was my turn to take over the running of the farm from my father, I was pleased to have someone of Sampie's experience on my team," Du Toit says.

For Baron, the relationship continues to be a positive one: "With the encouragement of the Du Toit family I have grown my role on the farm from general worker to driver and now and have even started my own

A healthy heritage

Honouring people and tradition bears fruit



Sara Pandle

transport business following their financial assistance in purchasing a new Ford Ranger Double Cab", Baron says, "And I also wanted a piece of land to grow my own hay and raise a herd of sheep."

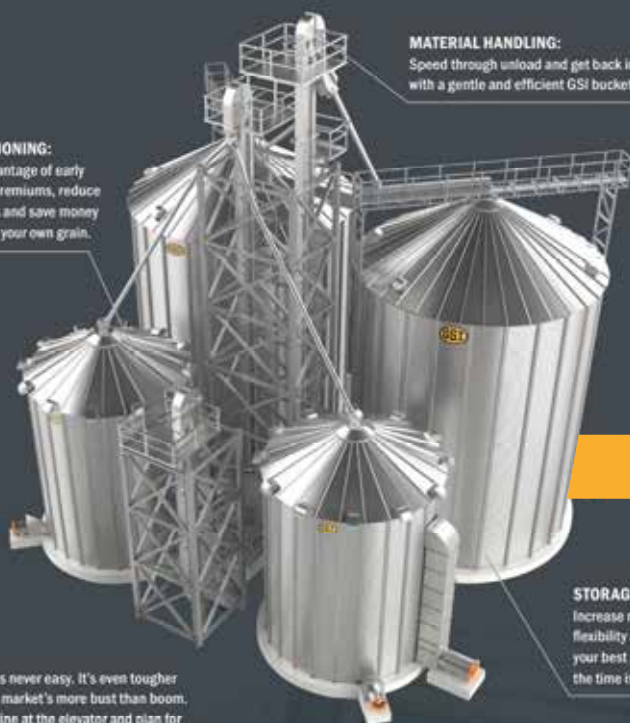
Today Baron uses land at Ouplaas for his 18 sheep (which he sells at auction for his own account) and for growing hay. "Josua du Toit lets me use his bale-making machinery to compress the hay into sellable bales," Baron explains.

Today Baron's wife Rachel and adult daughters Alverine and Sheroney all work on the farm. "I am very happy to work here. I respect the owners and managers and they respect me. I like living here and feel free and if I need something I speak to them for help," Baron says. He adds: "There are always opportunities on farms for work even for unskilled people although the Du Toit's encourage everyone to take advantage of the training and skills development offered by the state."

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Tru-Cape's managing director Roelf Pienaar says there are many such positive stories coming from agriculture and for Tru-Cape news, that illustrates the mutually positive relationship between owners and the workforce is especially of value.

First apple picked in SA is back home

For the first time in hundreds of years the progeny of the first apple picked at the Cape is back on South African soil.

Although still in quarantine until 2019, the Witte Wijn Appel, the first apple recorded in the diary of the Dutch governor at the Cape as picked in the Company's Garden on April 17, 1662, has been found in Holland and imported back into South Africa by Hortgro, the pome industry research support body and Tru-Cape Fruit Marketing, the largest exporter of South African apples and pears selling produce into more than 104 countries.

Tru-Cape began noting and celebrating April 17 as the official birth of the apple industry, today one of the major Western Cape employers, after publishing a book, *Apples in the Early Days at The Cape*, and replanting heritage apple and pear varieties. As a company responsible for selling more than half of all the apples

and pears grown in the Western Cape, Tru-Cape also sees itself as the custodian of South African apple and pear genetics for future generations.

Tru-Cape managing director Roelf Pienaar says that when he took over operations in 2013, Tru-Cape new variety expert Buks Nel and Tru-Cape quality assurance manager, Henk Griessel had already launched their book and planted the first Heritage Orchard. "I knew then that the company was as serious about heirloom varieties as it is about developing new and improved apple and pear strains and when the opportunity arose to import the budwood for the original South African apple, the Witte Wijn Appel, it was an easy choice."

Griessel explains how they first knew about the Witte Wijn: "Hermann Johann Knoop in *Fructologia*, described the fruit in 1763 (freely translated from the Dutch) as a large, irregular shape and rough to look at although he added the skin was smooth, coloured red, but sometimes green or yellowish on the one side. "The flesh is soft, very juicy with a good taste. It is a good-looking apple and very tasty when stewed. It is also suitable for making apple wine. The tree is strong and bears well when it

becomes older. The Witte Wijn Appel very much resembles the shape of its red name-sake, but is of rather a whitish green. The taste is also very similar, but not as flavour-some and therefore of less value. It makes a good tree that is reasonably precocious."

Buks Nel adds that tracking the fruit down was a long journey but everyone at Tru-Cape is looking forward to finally planting the trees in the Tru-Cape Heritage Orchard next year at Oak Valley in Grabouw and, hopefully, in The Company's Garden from where it was first picked.

Hortgro's Executive director Anton Rabe said: "The impact on and contribution of the apple industry to the modern economy of the Western Cape is huge. This massive industry, which today contributes to more than 45 000 jobs, food security, rural stability, infrastructure and foreign earnings, was however built on a small and nearly forgotten historical event of 356 years ago. We are really proud and privileged to participate in this initiative to bring the historical plant material back to South Africa and will continue to honour the roots of our industry for many years to come."

Brian Berkman



Sampe Baron



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The science of maize

New plant health pathology laboratory opens at Petit

Monsanto is celebrating 50 years in South Africa this year, a journey that began 50 years ago on 14 February 1968 when the company was registered as a supplier of agricultural products. Throughout this period, it has been Monsanto South Africa's proud claim to have had a positive impact on farmers and agriculture in South Africa.

"While we are reflecting on our rich history in South Africa, we must also acknowledge that we find ourselves in an extremely exciting time in the agricultural industry. In partnering with growers across the globe, Monsanto has been a key player in sustainably increasing yields and bringing healthy food to the growing world population," says Kobus Steenekamp, Commercial Lead for Monsanto in South Africa.

To contribute towards this goal, Monsanto recently celebrated another important milestone with the opening of a state-of-the-art Plant Health Pathology laboratory at its maize breeding and research facility at Petit, a move intended to reinforce the company's commitment to bring better products to farmers.

"Monsanto has always strived to provide the best possible products to farmers to improve on-farm productivity and this is a major step

forward to achieving our sustainability goals in Africa. The opening of the new Plant Health lab is a huge milestone for Africa maize breeding. This world class new facility should enable us to further improve our DEKALB product portfolio and deliver more value to our farmer customers," said Kobus.

This facility will provide plant disease diagnosis, consultancy and testing services not only to the research team, but also to the Technology Development, Seed Production and commercial teams. This new laboratory supported by field testing, will enable the teams to analyse and interpret a vast range of diseases, providing relevant and practical solutions for maize plant health issues. The pathology team will focus on the monitoring and assessments of major diseases on the continent, developing pertinent reaction plans, and pro-active breeding initiatives.

The services at the laboratory will include:

- The identification and diagnosis of plant diseases on maize
- Disease control advice
- Disease assessment for fungicide trials evaluating chemical and biocontrol products
- Seed testing for plant pathogens
- Site visits and consultancy
- Planning and conducting maize crop disease surveys
- Research projects on maize plant diseases

- Advice for seed and production research as well as seed production teams
- Advice for sales and marketing teams regarding product placement.

"It is really exciting to be part of the team and to open our new Plant Health Pathology Laboratory. For many years the team has worked really hard to improve the quality of our hybrids and with this new facility, our products will continue to deliver success to our customers into the future," says Loren Trimble, Monsanto SA Research and Development Lead.

The facility took eight months to complete, without a single safety incident occurring throughout.

As a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that aim to improve farm productivity and food quality, it is Monsanto's stated claim to focus on enabling both small-holder and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of the world's natural resources such as water and energy.

"We know that one company or organisation alone, will not have all the answers for the global challenges we face—it will require combinations of solutions, strong leadership and world class collaboration," concluded Kobus.



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No drifting away

Lock down your spray investment

Off target spray has been an issue in crop protection for quite a few years. Recent developments in chemistry, spray techniques and equipment, however, provides multiple strategies to deal with the problem.

A key in controlling drift is to use best management practices, from very basic to more advanced practices. For instance, a simple part of spraying is calibration. Even the best units need fine-tuning before they actually hit the field. Nozzle selection is also an important aspect because different nozzles produce different droplet sizes. For optimised pesticide efficacy, different nozzles should therefore be used with different pesticide applications.

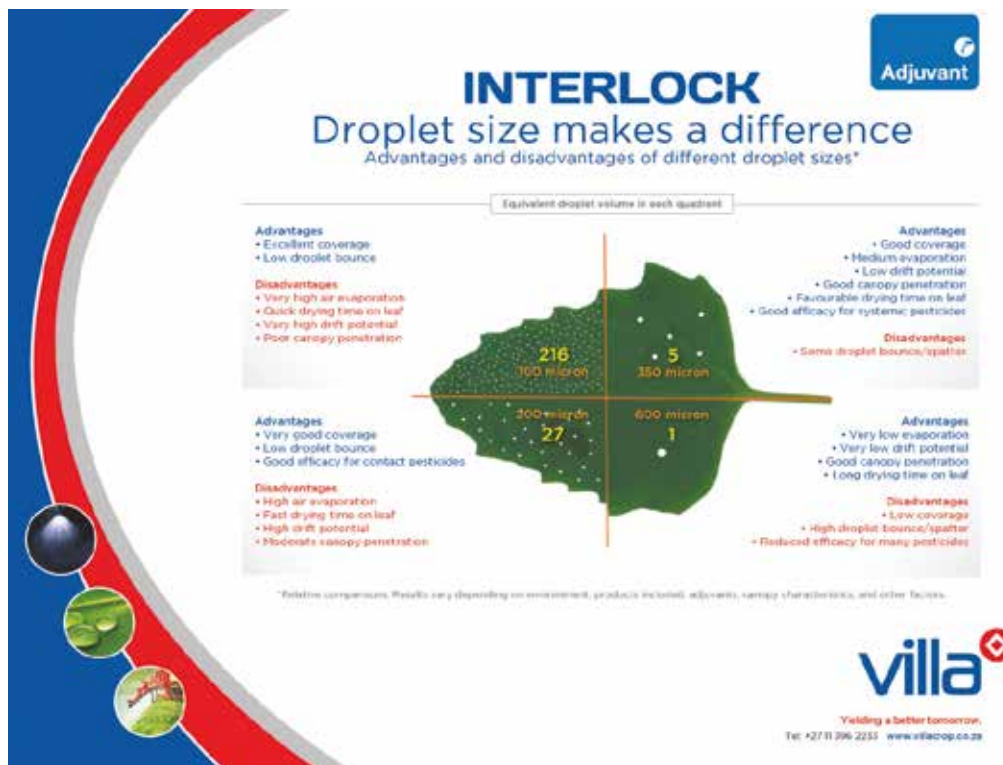
Applicators also need to make sense out of which adjuvants are required with application and how to best use them. Adjuvants are designed to provide significant benefits to applicators by improving pesticide spreading, wetting, canopy and leaf penetration, and adhesion. All are key to effective pesticide coverage. When used properly, they help pesticides to perform at their maximum efficacy.

The disadvantages of driftable fine droplets

The loss of fine droplets due to drift is a significant contributing factor to poor pesticide efficacy. It has four main disadvantages, namely:

1. Decreased coverage on target weeds and crops.
2. Decreased droplet penetration lower down in the crop canopy.
3. Increased evaporation of fine droplets.
4. Drift and possible herbicide damage to non-target crops.

A large percentage of pesticide sprays may be lost due to drift and evaporation



of fine droplets. This has a direct influence on production costs and crop yield, mainly through:

- Loss of the pesticide in the crop target area, and possible damage to non-target crops.
- More competition from weeds, less insect and disease control, all of which have a direct negative impact on crop yield.
- Multiple pesticide applications, with all of the associated costs.

A solution presents itself

INTERLOCK is a unique, new generation adjuvant that reduces the volume of driftable fine droplets in spray applications. It locks in deposition and depth of canopy penetration, while locking out drift. Pest control is increased and therefore it has a direct positive effect on yield.

This technology has the following advantages:

- New technology in South Africa.

- Reduced spray drift and evaporation, increased canopy penetration and deposition.
- Easy to use and a low use rate.
- Does not increase the viscosity or compatibility of the spray solution.
- Does not change the spray pattern of nozzles.
- Can be used with any spray nozzle, including the air-induction versions.
- Does not shift the droplet spectrum to ultra-coarse droplets that are prone to bounce and run-off, but rather works on the small droplets making them slightly larger.

Interlock has been used successfully in the United States and is poised to change the local crop protection market in South Africa for good. It works effectively with fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

To lock down your spray investment, lock out drift and lock in improved coverage and effectiveness: Interlock!

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spray investment

INTERLOCK is a deposition-agent adjuvant that improves spray deposition and canopy penetration while it reduces spray drift and evaporation.

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Deep learning

CO2 + A.I + US = Environmentally Friendly Efficiency

At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries, including South Africa, adopted the first-ever universal and legally binding global climate deal to strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate changes.

The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate changes by limiting global warming to below 2°C, and one of the goals is to reduce carbon emissions on the environment. Each signatory country has an environmental responsibility to take its own measures and freedom to implement Carbon Tax the way they see necessary.

As a proudly South African company that specialises in agricultural equipment and supply chain management services, Bagtech has a responsibility to the environment and the sustainable development of the region, which also counts on the participation of employees and artificial intelligence applied to products.

What is Carbon Tax and how does it impact on business?

Carbon Tax, on the tax horizon since 2015 and due to be implemented in 2019, is a tax on fossil fuels intended to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and its aim is to ensure that we as a country do not exceed those limits. Our main area of concern will be the diesel emissions from the forklifts and trucks involved with the operation.



Bagtech International latest Blending Plant showcasing efficient warehouse layout design.

What about electricity?

Our current understanding of the Carbon Tax is that electricity will not be an issue as it will be taxed at source which would be Eskom, consumers would obviously bear the brunt of that increase but it will not be a direct tax on the company.

How can these areas of concern be addressed?

We recommend a multifaceted approach to dealing with the areas. Responsible environmental citizenship demands the recycling of all scrap metal, printer cartridges and paper. Environmental waste is handled by a company that specialises in the disposal of environmental waste. A further commitment is to the implementation of ISO standards in the manufacturing workshop. ISO has been chosen for two main reasons:

1. It is an internationally accepted standards organisation
2. It drives continuous improvement.

It is the continuous improvement where the benefits are brought to the fore. One of the most interesting aspects of implementing ISO is the development of relationships with suppliers, which provides insight into the drivers of Carbon Emissions, leading to a partnership that focuses firstly on controlling and secondly reducing emissions. In addition, ISO leads to continuous improvement as well as accountability: ISO entails surveillance audits every six months which ensures accountability.

Suppliers and clients should always be viewed as partners in the manufacturing process. Service cannot be limited to selling clients a machine and stepping away: it is necessary to act as a partner in the process by looking at the client's whole operation when designing a machine for them. We are happy to offer advice on warehouse design and layout planning. The most efficient layout and design will reduce emissions due to the more efficient use of space and time.

Another exciting development is revealed by extensive research into Artificial Intelligence or A.I., defined as the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. Of particular interest is the Deep Learning aspect of A.I whereby the system is actually able to learn but more importantly remember what it has learnt.

To mention a concrete example, we have already implemented a system in our blending plants whereby the machine calculates the flow rate of the fertiliser and more importantly remember the flow rates. This allows the plant to recognise the fertiliser based on flow rate and adjust as required without necessitating human intervention. This exciting development will streamline the process and ultimately lead to a more efficient process with regards to particularly time, labour and most importantly accuracy. We are encouraged by the results and believe that this the way of the future with regards to most fields but especially machinery.

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In everybody's interest

Why property rights matter

Different from today's politicians, farmers tend to have a long investment horizon. While the typical politician wants to win the next election, the typical farmer wishes to preserve his farm for the next generation.

It is with their long investment horizon that farmers—amid demands for expropriation without compensation from radical, intransigent politicians—have an important role to play. Not only in their own interest, but also in the interest of society at large.

The ANC and the EFF as radical minority

The ANC and the EFF would like it to appear as if they are acting on behalf of most people in South Africa when they talk about land reform. They want it to seem as if there is a general and unstoppable demand for land—specifically agricultural land.

Surveys by the Institute of Race Relations consistently tell a different story, however.

As Dr Anthea Jeffery writes: "Comprehensive opinion polls commissioned by the IRR from 2015 to 2017 have repeatedly shown that the great majority of black South Africans have little interest in land reform."

And of about 79 700 land restitution claims submitted during the previous land restitution process, only a small number of people chose land over compensation. As former Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gugile Nkwinti, put it: "We thought everybody when they got a chance to get land, they would jump for it. Now only 5 856 have opted for land restoration."

This and other information tell us that a majority of the ANC and EFF's leadership are furthering their own ideological and opportunistic preferences rather than those of voters on ground level. And although this radical group within the ANC and the EFF makes up a majority of the party leadership,

they (and their spin-offs such as Andile Mngxitama and his Black First Land First) are in fact a minority in the popular sense of the word.

That is the good news.

The bad news is that radical minorities, when they are intolerant enough and the rest of the population too tolerant, can cause great harm. We see the signs of this harm in about 30 land occupations that occurred in March this year alone; greater and greater attendance at the EFF's public gatherings; and in the ANC's commitment to expropriation without compensation.

This bad news is not the last word on the matter, however.



Piet le Roux, CEO of AfriBusiness



When you are confronted by an unreasonable, intransigent minority's radical demands, it is important to not cede your ground. Concessions to unreasonableness invite predatory behaviour. This is the case too with expropriation without compensation.

A reasonable approach to property rights

When the EFF and the ANC state their case for expropriation without compensation, it is done with a great degree of unreasonableness. They underestimate the importance of property rights, and make false promises on how land can be seized without compensation, somehow without endangering the economy, food security and social stability. And they hardly ever differentiate between land restitution and land reform, which is a major problem.

Restitution is to return land that was unlawfully taken (with or without compensation) to the lawful owners. This affirms property rights. Redistribution of land is to unlawfully take land for ideological and political reasons and to give it to unlawful owners. This undermines property rights.

Apart from the unreasonableness, their facts too are simply incorrect, seen for example

in the motion on expropriation without compensation carried in Parliament. Land ownership in South Africa is spread far more widely across racial groups than what the motion alleged. It is a subject for another day, however, because although it is important to have good information on land ownership in South Africa, it is equally important to have good arguments in favour of property rights.

Why should we be in favour of property rights? It is a ternary answer.

In the first place, it is in the owner's interest: It is perfectly justified for an owner to protect his property – the things that are duly his. He had earned it, obtaining it through the goodwill of others, trade or production. His property is the material things for which he should act as steward and to which he has a right.

In the second place, it is in the public's interest: The weakening of property rights of one group leads to economic harm for the public. It is only in environments of strong property rights that economies can deliver prosperity, from which everyone – from the richest to the poorest – must draw their daily bread. Backwardness and

misery have been the results everywhere in the world where property rights were institutionally undermined.

In the third place, it is in the interest of civil society: Without property rights no rule of law can exist, only the arbitrary will of rulers and their functionaries. As Prof. Koos Malan wrote on Politicsweb: "... the right to private property serves as the guarantee for the autonomy both of individuals, as well as for civil society and private institutions."

The calls to expropriate land without compensation are mostly unreasonable. We should oppose it in a reasonable manner, that is by differentiating between restitution and redistribution, as well as by defending property rights comprehensively.

And while the threat to property rights affects everyone in South Africa, it is of special importance to farmers and major land owners. May it be that farmers, who set their gaze on the next generation and not the next election, play a special role with a firm voice of reason.

Piet le Roux

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SA potato focus

Crop remains above 200 million bags

Since 2010 the size of the potato crop has not dropped below 200 million 10 kg bags. The biggest crop ever was realised in 2015 when about 250 million 10 kg bags were produced. In 2016 the crop dropped to 215 million bags, because of the drought and unprecedented heat experienced in some potato production regions during their production season. In respect of 2017 the production regions in the southern part of the country continued to suffer due to the continuing drought. However, their below-par yields were off-set by normal production conditions in the rest of the country, especially in the Limpopo and Eastern Free State, which resulted in a potato crop of close to 245 million 10 kg bags.

Monthly sales volumes versus market prices

A comparison between monthly potato sales volumes on all the fresh produce markets and actual prices indicates that the current state of the economy does not have a real impact on potato sales and potato prices, especially if it is taken into account that the purchase price the consumer pays for the same quantity of potatoes has continuously increased over time. In addition the demand for potatoes is also on the

increase. The result is that in real terms about R1 billion more are currently being spent on potato purchases compared to a decade ago.

To get a realistic picture of actual market prices in 2017, it is not possible to compare it with the 2016 prices because of the abnormal production conditions, and it would therefore make sense to compare it with 2015's market prices. In 2017 market prices were about 21% better (not taking into account the inflationary effect) and about one percent more potatoes were sold.

As is customary, market prices were under pressure during the first three months of this year. This is ascribable to an increase in consignments sent to the markets because the Eastern Free State started marketing their crop earlier. In addition, the hot weather adversely affected the potatoes' keeping ability and naturally consumer spending power decreased because of the festive season aftermath and the start of the new academic year.

Labour cost remains a headache for the potato industry

Because the potato industry is extremely labour intensive, the continuous increase in the labour cost is increasingly becoming a headache for the industry. It is therefore a primary reason why prominent potato producers are opting for mechanisation.

Increasing production cost a concern for the industry

The increase in potato production cost over time is a concern for the potato industry, especially if it is taken into account that the production cost is increasing more rapidly than inflation. The current trend in respect of production cost versus market prices points to actual market prices moving sideways whereas production cost have increased sharply. For the potato producer to survive, it is of utmost importance that ways are found to increase yields even further, and everything hints to genetics and management being the answer.

To illustrate the dilemma of the potato producer, the Eastern Free State production region, which is classified as a dryland production region, can be taken as an example. The total potato production and actual marketing costs per hectare amounts to R96 206.00 which includes owner's remuneration, depreciation and leasing of land where applicable. The average yield per hectare for this region is 30 ton/ha hectare, which means that the producer must receive a price of R31.41 per 10 kg bag to break even. In 2017 the average price was R28.20, which underlines the fact that the sustainability of the potato producer and the industry is dependent on increased yields.

Potatoes SA



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A statement of fact

There is nothing ambiguous about murder

This is a response to an article titled: “Genocide on the farms? Show us the facts” published by Sunday Times on 25 March 2018.

I believe many, especially those deeply affected by the murder of farmers, either directly or indirectly, will find the abovementioned article extremely disturbing.

My parents were victims of a farm attack. After being severely assaulted, they were abducted and dumped in a field 50 kilometres away from where the initial incident took place, namely, in their farmhouse. Their survival was a miracle, but their lives changed irrevocably.

How insensitive of the author to refer to this national tragedy as “this farm murder story”? This is no “story”; this is real, but of course not for anyone who is so far removed from this reality that it does not affect them at all.

Even the first sentence of this article is in poor taste and I quote: “A week ago I had one of those moments on social media when you get turned on for nothing. Well, almost nothing”. Perhaps I do not understand the context; perhaps I misunderstand the author, but I find this repulsive. I say this because every life counts, and every murder darkens the blood stains on our collective hands. We, as a nation, have become desensitised to this terrible ordeal.

The author's choice of words in this article (for example "this farm murder story" and "the white genocide story"), possibly unintentionally, results in diluting the seriousness of these crimes. It also seems as if he attaches a commercial value to the farm murder: he wants to know whether the victim is a farmer on a "5000-hectare cabbage farm in Limpopo" or a farmer on a "smallholding in Muldersdrift", and the age of the farmer.

I find it quite absurd that the author, and according to him many others, find it difficult to agree on what constitutes a "farm" or even a "farm murder". Isn't a farm murder simply the murder of a farmer, whether it is a commercial farmer or a small farmer, whether young or old, rich or poor, whether a primary food producer or simply making an honest living, or even an old semi-retired farmer (because farmers seldom fully retire), spending his last days on the land he treasures?

Farmers are exposed to a remote and solitary existence, causing them to be exceptionally easy prey for those possibly motivated by the likes of the late Peter Mokaba and Julius Malema's inciting, propagandistic song "kill a boer, kill a farmer". Is the fire of slaughtering and torturing not kindled by a song of this nature? I am of the view that it is.

After all, when does a murder become slaughter? When will the loss of human life move the author? Does anyone expect an official announcement, based on the number of murders and the brutal nature thereof, that farmers have become politically motivated targets, whose protection deserves priority attention? Only time will tell. What we currently have is deliberate denial - for the sake of political convenience.

The author of the abovementioned article expresses the view that the agricultural boom which has taken place since 1994 could not have taken place "in the middle of a farmer genocide". I disagree: the fact that farmers are continuing to produce efficiently, even under these very difficult circumstances, is simply testimony of their resilience, resolve and their absolute devotion to and love for farming - and not of the absence of the severe and life threatening challenges they are facing daily.

I fully agree with the author: a murder is a murder and appalling whether it takes place on the "Cape Flats, in rural Transkei or in downtown Johannesburg". There is nothing wrong however when the plight of farmers is highlighted - by those who identify with them, those reliant on them and those with an in-depth understanding of the severity of this tragedy currently playing out. However, much more needs to be done to alleviate the plight of all victims of crime across South Africa.

In conclusion, isn't it sad that the world is waking up to this reality while South Africa is in denial?

This article is by Gerhard Papenfus, Chief Executive of the National Employers' Association of South Africa (NEASA). He writes this in his personal capacity.



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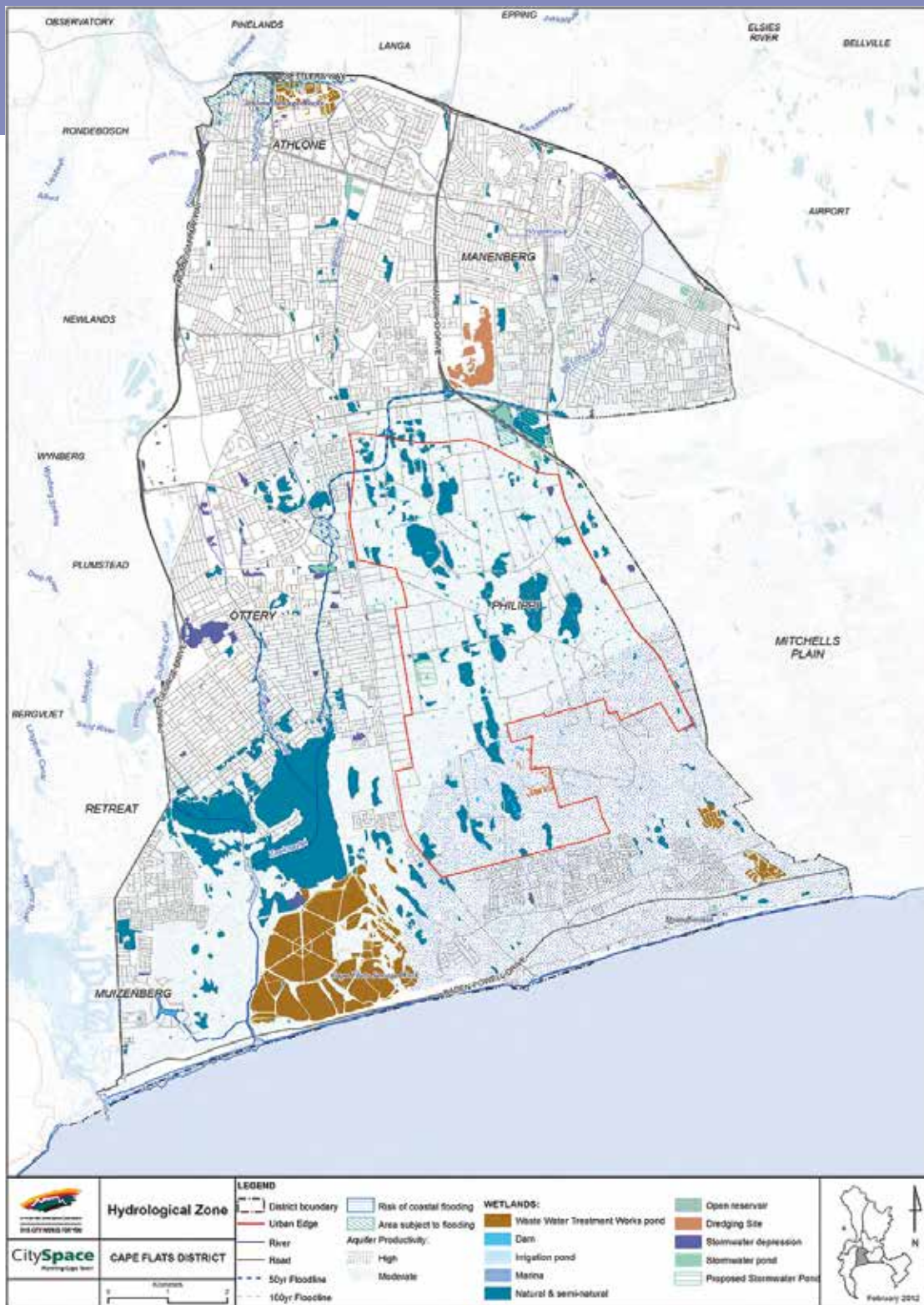
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City of Cape Town aquifer recharge map

City breadbasket battle

Independent PHA study shows major agro growth and jobs contribution of zone

The status of the Philippi Horticultural Area, known as the breadbasket of the city of Cape Town, has been hotly contested in recent years, with a city administration that, in its zeal to garner property rates and taxes, has been accused of laying out the red carpet for developers and turning a deaf ear to the protests of concerned stakeholders. A turning point in that battle appeared to have been reached recently with a statement by Minister Alan Winde that, in light of a recently commissioned study, the PHA should be treated as an agricultural asset.

Not so fast, says the PHA Campaign. A careful study of Winde's statement, they say, reveals that the study is a Trojan horse that paves the way for one third of the PHA to be paved over. This would constitute a threat to water and food security. The City speaks with a forked tongue.

Both statements are reproduced below.

Independent PHA study shows major agro growth and jobs contribution of zone

An independent study commissioned by the Department of Agriculture into the importance of the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) has confirmed that the area is a significant employment generator and agricultural asset to both the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape, especially in light of the current drought.

The study, which was conducted by Indego Consulting, investigated the social, economic and environmental significance of the area from an agricultural perspective.

Eighty-six percent of the PHA is actively farmed, supporting 3000 direct and 30 000 indirect jobs. It contributes approximately R484 million in direct turnover, and R 938

million in indirect turnover, towards the regional economy.

Thirty vegetable crops and a range of other activities such as livestock farming, horse breeding, pig farming and the production of flowers take place in the PHA.

A large portion of the lettuce, brassica products such as cabbage and cauliflower, spinach and herbs sold by major retail stores, spaza shops and informal traders is sourced directly and indirectly from the PHA. The consumer also benefits from lower vegetable prices owing to the proximity of the PHA to City markets.

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While most of its outputs are currently sold in market, there is significant scope to access niche and export markets through improved technology, and by leveraging the position of the PHA in relation to the airport, which is also currently undergoing an expansion strategy. An increase in turnover could also be achieved if additional land comes under production.

The report found further that the direct jobs in the PHA mainly benefit unskilled women. This has a positive impact in society as women tend to expend their earnings within the family home, on the education, healthcare and nutrition of young people. The indirect jobs are in the regional

agricultural value chain: the input suppliers, agro-processors, formal and informal markets, transport and logistic networks and business services, that support the production space in the PHA.

Western Cape Minister in charge of Agriculture, Alan Winde, said: "I support efforts to increase the level of protection and management of the PHA to enable a competitive and flourishing agricultural node. Our vision is for a horticultural area which supports thriving production activities, agri-tourism, extensive public works programmes, informal settlement upgrading and compatible business activities in neighbouring areas. It should also have strong linkages to the aerotropolis."

Based on the findings of the study, a proposed socio-economic plan for the area which seeks to preserve its agricultural significance was developed. This plan is currently undergoing stakeholder engagement.

The short-term focus is proposed as follows:

1. Providing policy and planning certainty regarding the protection status of and land use within the PHA through all the legal and planning instruments available;
2. Enhanced agricultural production and competitiveness driven through agrarian reform and regional market linkages;
3. Addressing the safety and security concerns of PHA farmers, farm workers and communities;
4. Proactive land-use and environmental management and regulation of the PHA core horticultural area and its "buffers"; and
5. Proactive management of the Cape Flats Aquifer.

In respect of the environment, the PHA lies within the Cape Flats District of the City of



MSDF boundaries approved 18 April 2018

Cape Town and is situated above the portion of the Cape Flats Aquifer with the greatest groundwater potential. It acts as a valuable natural aquifer recharge zone.

The availability of this substantial and quality groundwater, together with a moderate climate and suitable soil, create ideal conditions for all year-round vegetable production and climate change resilience within the Philippi Horticultural Area.

The study found that the importance of the PHA has increased owing to the current drought. While vegetable production has declined by 20 percent over the past year in the Western Cape, production in the

PHA has remained stable, demonstrating its valuable contribution to food security. The desired long-term outcome would be the joint establishment of a precinct management structure and implementation plan which embraces agriculture as its essence, and is inclusive of a range of stakeholders, with overall financial sustainability. This collaborative structure would protect the PHA for horticulture and drive agrarian reform as well as compatible economic activity. The human settlement needs of agri-workers and informal settlement dwellers must be addressed and ethical business practices and sound labour relations encouraged.

For the full vision of the PHA to be realised, it will require a whole-of-society approach, with government departments and community stakeholders playing vital roles.

Minister Winde concluded: "The Provincial Department of Agriculture recognises the need to protect our natural environmental assets to ensure the sustainability, food security and resilience of the City and province into the future.

"Achieving the vision for the PHA and realising its true value will require a partnership amongst the public sector (including parastatals), the private sector (farmers, supplier and markets) and civil society (farm workers, informal settlement dwellers, broader community, NGOs and universities). My Department, through its intergovernmental linkages, will use the instruments that it has available towards the attainment of this vision, and we look forward to working with all stakeholders in doing so."

Issued by the Ministry of Economic Opportunities

Where did 1/3 of the PHA go?

Already, 1285 hectares of the PHA have been ceded to developers and mining via unlawful and unconstitutional permissions granted over eight years. Instead of awaiting a ruling from the high court on this, a city Municipal Spatial Development Framework, and a Provincial Study have in the last week conceded prime PHA land, including the primary Cape Flats Aquifer (CFA) recharge zone.

This is a matter of grave concern. If someone took the best one third of your house, would you celebrate having the rest of it "protected"? The best part of "the house", without which the PHA cannot function, needs to be preserved in full.

The ten-year long struggle of the PHA Campaign, looks set to continue. The PHA Campaign's experience shows that we need unequivocal, FULL protection that is gazetted at city and provincial (Municipal Planning By Law and National Environmental Management Act) levels, and full compliance with the 1968 Proclamation and Act 770/70, both national acts, which protects the FULL 3 169 hectares of the PHA.

A positive study, initiated by MEC Winde, has however triggered commitments from

various city and provincial departments. This we hope will unlock much needed resources for the area after decade-long of neglect as part of the Project Pave over the PHA. The ten-year standoff over the PHA has meant major loss of community trust, disillusionment with government and farmer's material resources to ongoing crime in the area. Safety and Security must be prioritised; a reliable electricity supply, a farmworker housing solution, clean-up of illegal dumping, and strict land use enforcement is needed.

But an uncritical acceptance of the City and Provincial level Public Relations effort to convince citizens that the Philippi Horticultural Area is "safe", is the greatest danger to our 130 year old breadbasket. Far from entrenching a 1968 proclamation that reserves the full 3,169ha farmlands solely for horticulture and sand mining, the government of the Western Cape is playing word games that will ultimately, as experts warn in four previous studies, lead to the complete loss of the area.

The new MSDF entrenches exactly what we are fighting against in court:

- deletion of the primary recharge zone of the CFA
- REMOVAL of the hard urban edge: leaving agricultural land and our green

spaces in continued peril (look what has happened so far)

- ceded ONE THIRD of the PHA its most fertile area to developers
- chopped the PHA into three, with two roads which will have their own incremental creep, disrupt entirely the natural wetland, fauna and flora flows, causing more flooding and ecological damage, threaten the viability of the aquifer, and cause heavy metal and petroleum pollution of our vegetables.

The Western Cape Government says one thing but is doing entirely the opposite:

- the City of Cape Town and MEC Bredell of Environmental Affairs are going to court alongside developers AGAINST the PHA Campaign
- have made no undertaking to gazette protections using the MPBL and NEMA; which should cover the primary recharge zone of the Cape Flats Aquifer and the PHA in their entirety. Which the MSDF does not.
- has selected a three-man Provincial "task team" seated in the Department of Agriculture, including the MEC (Bredell) who has given full permissions for 1000 hectares of developments and open cast sand

mining in the PHA, and is going to court AGAINST the PHA Campaign

- not mentioned the Consol Sand Mine permissions granted for a piecemeal 50 hectare starter site, open cast mine which will ultimately delete the northern 1/6 of the farmlands, and put the aquifer and farmer's water supply, as well as put Rondevlei and Zeekoevlei Ramsar Site (which Consol's own EIA admits) in certain peril.

The Indego Study release and the MSDF would seem to be a carefully orchestrated undermining of our ten-year campaign to protect the area. Using the machinery at their disposal, the Western Cape government outguns our Community Based Campaign, which is run by volunteers, by millions. They also use processes that can only be challenged in the high court - a mechanism which consciously dismisses, then excludes 90% of citizens' input. This must change.

Our only defence currently is an active citizenry prepared to come to their own conclusions.

Know where your food comes from: Save ALL of the PHA.

Issued by the PHA Campaign Steering Committee



The Oakland City development



Indigenous image

Corli Botha is the Face of Rooibos 2018

The Face of Rooibos is a big attraction in the upcoming National Rooibos Day on 16 January 2019, and is the proud public ambassador of the South African Rooibos industry. This individual is elected by the organisers of National Rooibos Day and represents the Rooibos industry and the plant's diverse potential in a local and even global capacity.

With her unique Rooibos recipes and tips on infusing techniques for Rooibos confectionary and dishes, Corli Botha—2016 winner of popular baking competition Koekedoor—is sure to take the world of Rooibos to new heights.

Since she was able to roll out her first chunk of dough, Corli knew she wanted to live her passion for baking. With her very own cookbook *Corli se Kombuis* on the shelves, this astonishing lady has achieved many milestones in her life and is going stronger than ever in the culinary industry.

Her cookbook features recipes inspired by the time she spent living in France, and also recipes from her younger years. As the Face of Rooibos, she will utilise her creativity to introduce recipes that uniquely incorporate Rooibos.

One of South Africa's leading Rooibos brands, Rooibos Ltd, is the proud sponsor of the Face of Rooibos 2018. This is what Communications Manager Gerda de Wet has to say about being part of the campaign.

"With Corli Botha representing the industry as the Face of Rooibos, we're expecting exciting things. Corli often uses Rooibos in her baking and we believe her public popularity, coupled with her talents in the kitchen, will appeal to the public."

The aim of the Face of Rooibos campaign is to encourage the use of the uniquely South African product in its entirety. Rooibos Day aims to connect the world in sharing its love for this uniquely South African plant.

With her passion for cooking, Corli Botha will be showcasing how to incorporate the usage of the indigenous Rooibos plant from South Africa in the kitchen.

Give your next event a touch of Rooibos by booking the Face of Rooibos today.

Contact: www.rooibosinfohub.com or admin@rooibosinfohub.com or phone (+27) 0 27 482 1007.

Visit the Rooibos Day Facebook page (@RooibosDay), Twitter page (@RooibosDay) and Instagram (@rooibosdag) to stay updated on the latest happenings from The Face of Rooibos.



Joanne Yawitch

CEO of the
National Business Initiative (NBI)

What partnership with Tongaat Hulett means to me



“Initiated by the NBI, WWF-South Africa, Mondi, Tongaat Hulett and the GIZ-International Water Stewardship Programme, the uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership has brought together key role players from business, government, agriculture and communities within Richards Bay and the wider uMhlathuze catchment. Together we are beginning to catalyse initiatives that will improve water security, develop skills, create jobs and secure investment for the restoration of important ecological infrastructure in the region. Tongaat Hulett has been instrumental in the partnership’s formation, and we look forward to strengthening this important collaboration in the years ahead.” said Joanne Yawitch, CEO of the NBI.

The uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership looks to identify and implement measures to support a systematic and long-term approach towards mitigating water risk in the catchment, based on the principles of water stewardship. This forms part of Tongaat Hulett’s broader commitment to sound environmental stewardship.

In 2017 Tongaat Hulett was recognised as a global leader in sustainable water management, being awarded a position on the CDP Water A List, in acknowledgement of its actions to manage water more sustainably.



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