

# Transformation in progress in the Citrus Industry

Organising emerging growers in the Citrus Industry is one of the core activities within the Transformation Portfolio in CGA.

Recently Limpopo province, followed by the Eastern Cape, formed their own study groups and technical committees that will provide support to the emerging growers within the Industry.

The Transformation Administrator recently visited Mpumalanga, the purpose of the visit being to try to get the growers organised and also to have the growers represented in the Citrus Growers Development Chamber. Up until now Mpumalanga has not been properly represented in the CGDC. The second area, the Eastern Cape, was also visited to see if any of the projects there require any assistance from the Provincial Government, and also to visit the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

The visit by the CGA Transformation Administrator (Lukhanyo Nkombisa), the extension personnel from CRI (Andrew Mbedzi) and the mentor in the area (Bruce Andrews) was successful in the two projects that were visited (Champagne and Sibonelo).

## Champagne Farm meeting with the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries explained all the promised intentions for development of the project by the Department of Agriculture in Mpumalanga. The Department promised the beneficiaries that they will be doing infrastructure in the farm, from fencing, irrigation renovation of the houses and re-planting citrus trees in the projects.

The beneficiaries also highlighted the fact that they are still happy with their representative in the CGDC (Mr. Richman Mavimbele) who is the farm manager, and Mr. Philemon Sambu one of the beneficiaries for the time being until everything gets sorted within the governance of the beneficiaries.

## Sibonelo Farm meeting with the beneficiaries

This meeting between the beneficiaries, transformation administrator, extension officer from CRI and their mentor, and they explained to us the difficulties that they are experiencing with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in terms of the support they have been requesting. To date they have never received any support from the government's CASP grants. They requested that the transformation administrator engage with the province on their behalf. With regard to their representative in the CGDC they have appointed Ms. Susan Shabangu and Ms. Sarah Mabusa. The board members of the projects who attended the meeting also highlighted the fact that the projects are faced with some misunderstandings with regard to the operations of the projects.

## Meeting with the officials from the Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries

After the meetings with the beneficiaries from the two projects, the transformation administrator, the extension officer from CRI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15 the cultivars which have their trademark should contribute to the market development of the respective cultivars. *The original article in its entirety can be viewed on [www.cga.co.za](http://www.cga.co.za) > what's new*

*The table below supplied by the Citrus Foundation Block shows the sale of lemon bud-wood since 2002 indicating a big increase in sales since 2008 which will translate into a significant increase in lemon production in a few years.*



Variety	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 #	Total
Eureka	27,700	117,450	116,350	67,120	51,480	66,750	113,840	207,455	331,856	1,100,001
Eureka SL	41,500	78,910	59,432	13,800	5,300	16,100	9,700	33,705	8,124	266,571
Genoa		21,180	17,900	12,460	6,100	5,500	1,500	5,000	92,130	161,770
Limoneira 8A		30,400	21,360	21,500	7,900	4,400	19,640	26,945	30,670	162,815
Lisbon						1,000	2,900	22,050	58,600	84,550
Lisbon YB		12,200	29,280	5,600	1,600		600	1,000		50,280
Fino				500						500
Elongated Eureka							60	10	30	100
2PH Eureka Seedless							60	10	10	80
Triploid					12	20		10	10	52
Femminello								50		50
Chaparro								40		40
Messina								20		20
	69,200	260,140	244,322	120,980	72,392	93,770	148,300	296,295	521,430	1,826,829

Board members of Champagne Project.



and the mentor visited the Department, and had a meeting with the government officials. The purpose of the meeting was to try to find out about the intended project for development at Champagne and if there is any help that can be provided to Sibonelo from the CASP fund. An update on the mentorship programme was also on the agenda for discussion. The information received from Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration was that in this financial year, they are investing in two Citrus Projects (Champagne and Saringwa) located in Bushbuckridge Municipality. Both farms deal with citrus and other commodities such as mangoes.

The need for assessment of skills gap for beneficiaries in these two projects as a matter of urgency was also discussed as the government investment is seriously under threat. It was also highlighted in the meeting that Citrus Academy could assist on this skills gap training with the province facilitating training of beneficiaries on the two projects. Also discussed was the possibility of Citrus Academy assisting in finding the relevant service provider to provide training to these beneficiaries.

With regard to Sibonelo Farm there were no plans by the department for this financial year. The province also promised to send us information with regard to the scope of the work that needs to be done in these projects.

### Agribusiness Development Agency/ CGA Phase Two Social Facilitation

The Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) and the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) have signed a memorandum of understanding and a transfer of funds agreement. This agreement includes technical support and implementation, and a joint capacity building programme.

### Phase One - Investigation and Assessment

This phase has been completed for nine projects in Kwa-Zulu-Natal. The assessments were undertaken by CGA for the following projects:

The projects have legal entities to hold the land that has been transferred, and in some cases separate operating or business entities have been established. Business plans were also prepared previously for the projects.

The challenges that have emerged in the phase 1 assessment relate to the understanding of the business plans, the effectiveness of the governance structures (as land owning entities) and the beneficiary understanding of the businesses.

The main outcome of the phase one review is the identification of the activities to be undertaken in phase 2 and the selection of the 5 priority projects for immediate assistance. The focus of phase two will be to work on the institutional capacity and the financial management aspects of the projects.

### Phase Two – Support and Mentorship

This phase will focus on the following projects for capacity building and also support for funding for inputs of two projects from the five mentioned below.

- Bhekeshowe
- KwaHlaza
- Inthathakusa
- Tala
- Fakazi

### Extension MoU's Update!

CGA/CRI has an MoU with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture for the extension personnel that will assist the two extension personnel from CRI that are based from North and South region. The following is an update with regard to the signed MoU and the pending ones:

Limpopo CGA/CRI will soon sign the renewal of MoU with the Limpopo Department, as the previous MoU has expired. Eastern Cape and KZN MoU's are still pending under discussion with the top management from government. Mpumalanga. There is still nothing in place up to the present moment.

District	Project Name	Completed Phase 1	Selected for Phase 2
uThungulu	Bhekeshowe	Yes	Yes
uThungulu	Inthathakusa	Yes	Yes
Thungulu	Kwahlaza	Yes	Yes
Umgungundlovu	Tala Valley	Yes	Yes
Zululand	Fakazi	Yes	Yes
Umgungundlovu	Donovale Farm	Yes	No
Umgungundlovu	Doornkloof Cluster	Yes	No
Sisonke	Vukani	Yes	No
Uthukela	Nkaseni - Sun Valley	Yes	No