



## *TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2013:*

The month of February was a very busy month. As we know, for most companies and government departments it is the end of the financial year, and it is also the month of the opening of the Parliament and the State of the Nation address and Budget Speech. Both speeches are meant to give direction to the nation of the plans for coming financial year.

For CGA transformation portfolio it was hectic as usual as we engaged with a lot of stakeholders in making sure that they prioritise the citrus industry in their programme of action for the coming year.

As has been mentioned before, the CGA transformation desk decided to focus on the following areas for this coming year making milestones in these areas:

- Maximum extension support
- Technical and Business Skills development
- Access to finance – govt programmes Recap, CASP, AgriBEE Fund etc.
- Market access – Locally and International
- Logistics- transport prices
- Engage in different MoU's that seek to assist and support our developing citrus growers.

### Progress on recap and MoU with rural development

The Recap programme continues to make a difference in the operations of most of the developing growers in different regions. Recently some growers in the east of the EC have received recap funding and some are also targeted for the coming financial year. We thank the provincial department and national department for making a difference to our growers with regard to this programme.

The national department also had a meeting within the month of February with CGA and provincial delegates from all nine province to engage around the progress made thus far on the MoU between CGA and national department. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the provincial departments are aware and understand the contents of the MoU and also to make sure that we work together in speeding up the programme to ensure everyone who applied benefits and we deliver on time. The MoU between CGA and national department for the implementation of recap is at its final stage to be signed.

### Situational Analysis and lobby for support

The Citrus Growers Development Chamber through the transformation portfolio is to conduct situational analyses for 130 citrus development farms in the country. The reason for this exercise is for the chamber and transformation portfolio to have a report that gives guidance to the areas of intervention, and also the report that will advise our stakeholders of the areas of support that they will need to focus on.

Currently the chamber and transformation desk is still trying to lobby funding to finance this initiative. As much as we have consulted with some financial institutions we have not received a positive response.

## Stakeholders Engagement:

### Provincial Meetings:

#### EC

Transformation portfolio engaged with the west of the EC, the PE office. The reason for the meeting was to request the District manager to also prioritize the Gamtoos/Patensie and Sundays River Valley in their support initiatives this coming financial year. The District manager welcome the request from CGA and promised to work closely with the chamber and CGA transformation desk in each and every initiative aiming at supporting the citrus developing growers in the area.

#### AgriSETA-Limpopo

AgriSETA early last year requested CGA to assist them in two identified citrus projects in Limpopo, being Limburg and Sunningdale. CGA appointed Lima to conduct situational analyses in these projects so that we can be in a position to know what needs to be done to assist.

There has been a lot of work done and progress has been made in spite of the many challenges that are faced by these projects. The work by Lima is still in progress, and reports show some changes and more support since CGA /AgriSETA joined with Lima.

#### ARC/PPECB Initiative on capacity building

ARC/PPECB have joined hands in developing and coming up with the initiative on capacity building of our developing growers, not only in citrus but also other commodities. CGA transformation desk had a meeting with PPECB to try and find out more of the initiative. There are some projects that have been identified and will be addressed by PPECB/ARC.

#### State of the Nation Address

Listening to the state of the nation address where the president made mentioned under agriculture that there is a great need to review the incentives on mentorship programme, it came to my mind that we still need to lobby for more mentors that can avail themselves in assisting the developing growers.

I therefore again request all successful citrus famers who are willing and available to come forward to assist our growers, they can email me at [Lukhanyo@cga.co.za](mailto:Lukhanyo@cga.co.za) .