

Operation Phakisa: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Agbiz Grain recently participated in the Operation Phakisa consultation meeting for Grains. The key participants in the Operation Phakisa were government, civil society and the private sector. The event was facilitated by a central team of experts consisting of Government Technical Advisory Services (GTAC) in National Treasury, DPME, DAFF, DRDLR and the DTI. Operation Phakisa seeks to strengthen the plans of Revitalization of the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC). The RAAVC requires partnerships through interventions wholly owned by all key stakeholders.

Agbiz Grain was actively involved in all the plenary and break-away discussions and as a panellist, also shared ideas during the panel discussion on some of the issues affecting the grain industry.

Effecting the implementation of key policies remains a challenge for Government. The adoption of Operation Phakisa has yielded tangible success within the oceans economy, health and more recently the Mining sector. The grain industry is one of the largest in South Africa, producing between 25% and 33% of the country's total gross agricultural production. The largest area of farmland is planted with maize, followed by wheat. Operation Phakisa, by way of formulating 3-year deep plans and a rigorous 5-week heavily focused problem-solving 'lab', aims to bring together all stakeholders to overcome key challenges within the sector.

[Linked](#) is a detailed document explaining what it is all about, and how the process may unfold. Outcomes for the grains industry, indicated that the biggest challenges hampering the progress were: land, finance and skills.

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