



THE SRCC TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING KEY COMPONENTS:

- Ownership
- Participation
- Education
- Community Upliftment

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SRCC / IKAMVA LETHU CITRUS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT...

Citrus Farmers commit to investment and participation

Well, as mentioned in our previous issue, our ducks are slowly but surely being ushered into line as we move forward with this exciting and unique empowerment project!

Another important milestone has almost been reached, which is the finalization of the shareholder participation in the SRCC/Ikamva Lethu Citrus Empowerment Project. All SRCC citrus growers who have shown interest in participation have been consulted individually so that all the questions relative to participation in the project could be addressed. The group of citrus growers who are committed to invest in the project, on behalf of themselves and their permanent farm workers, will therefore be finalized within the next few weeks!

Thereafter the various legal documentation and governance matters related to the shareholding structure will be addressed.

In the meantime, work on the environmental impact assessment continues. By its nature this is a lengthy and time-consuming process which is being thoroughly managed by the EIA consultants and which should be completed and



Ikamva Lethu Farm Layout

approved early in 2018. Once finally approved, work can commence on the water infrastructure which constitutes the first phase of the project. This includes essentially the main water pipeline and storage dams to provide sufficient water for the planting of the citrus trees which are planned for phases 2 and 3 of the project. The remaining storage dams and planting of trees in phases 4 and 5 will follow thereafter. So, if all goes according to plan, the final trees will be planted at the end of 2022.....all 337,000 of them!!

The most exciting aspects of this project are undoubtedly the broad-based model being proposed, along with the job creation opportunities which are presented, all of which are geared towards transformation and development.

The focus of this whole initiative is, firstly, the inclusion of 350-400 farm and packhouse workers as shareholders and

beneficiaries in a successful and sustainable citrus business which will, over the long term, be able to provide income and support to them and their families. The cost of this shareholding will be borne by the participating farmers on behalf of their farm workers!

Secondly, because of the size of the enterprise....700 hectares of citrus represents a very large citrus unit....at least 800 new jobs will be created, which will provide opportunity to the inhabitants of the Sundays River Valley. Using a support factor of 5, at least 4000 people will then be able to benefit from the creation of these jobs! Importantly, the future employees on the Ikamva Lethu Farm will all be from a previously disadvantaged background and the necessary training and development will be provided and undertaken by the Primary Production Department of SRCC, both in its excellent training facilities and on the farm itself. The farm will actually be managed by the SRCC Primary Production Dept. under direction from the Ikamva Lethu Board of Directors, which will be elected from the participating shareholders. So, excitement continues to build as we move forward with this outstanding empowerment initiative which is probably the only one of its kind in the country.



“Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labour of man. When tillage begins, other arts will follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.”

Daniel Webster

Start of the 2017 Season

Final preparations have been completed and the 2017 picking season is upon us. The results of the 2016 citrus season were excellent and our empowerment farms all enjoyed a very successful year in terms of profits and income. However, the volumes predicted for the 2017 season are likely to be slightly down on the previous year with Navels taking most of the impact of the influence of weather conditions. The Lemon crop is looking good though and early indications of market prices are very positive. Valencia varieties will probably deliver similar volumes to last year.

Pictured are Mr B Jali, Mr. S Pondo, Mr P Ndyenga, Mr J Seteni, Ms. B Ndyenga (Steri) and Mr V Mbona, all from SRFT, ready to start picking!



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Siyaphambile Farm

All 3 phases are now completed at Siyaphambile and 87ha have been planted with 41 000 lemon trees. Preparations are in progress for the first picking season at phase 1. A house is being built for the assistant farm manager at phase 3 (below right) and the erecting of an electric security fence is also in progress.

The pumphouse and dams are in full working condition and the windbreaks that were removed and chipped up, were scattered among the trees in phases 2 and 3 (below left).

A truck-trailer was bought for the transport of fruit and a bobcat to handle the fruit.

As a contribution to the local community, an alarm system and electric security fence are in the process of being installed at a nearby sewage controlling station, in order to prevent theft of the pumps and electrical equipment.

The beneficiaries of SRFT can be very proud of this development as it will add enormous value to their farming business in the future.



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Glengrove Farm



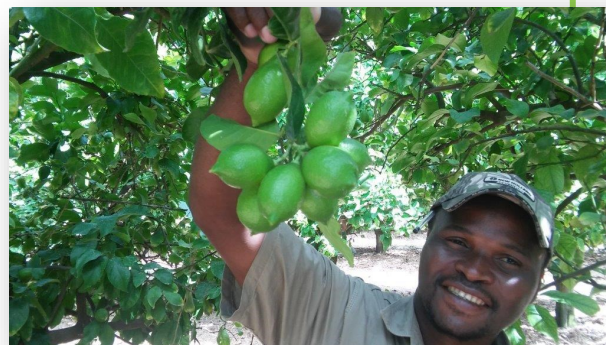
A beautiful view of the Sikhula Sonke Enterprises farms (above)

At Glengrove farm, the roads are in the process of being maintained with limestone in order to prevent damage to the fruit in transit as well as wear and tear on the vehicles. The windbreaks that were removed and chipped up, were also scattered among the trees for nourishment. The farm is in excellent condition and the crop for the 2017 season ready for harvest.

Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Siyathemba Farm

The roads here too are in the process of being maintained with limestone in order to provide protection to the fruit and reduce wear and tear on the vehicles.

The chipped up windbreakers have provided some good nourishment among the trees and some old buildings are being converted into a hostel for pickers before the picking season starts in earnest.



Farm Manager of Siyathemba, Mr Thando Mto (above)

Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Sophumelela Farm

Similar attention is being given to the roads on Sophumelela Farm as the condition of the fruit, once picked and in transit, is of paramount importance if good export prices are to be achieved. Vehicle condition also benefits in terms of reduced wear and tear.

The conversion of irrigation pipes to double drip lines in 9 of the orchards is in process in order to further improve production from these orchards.

A total of 5 ha of unutilised soil was used for the planting of Deltas and a soft citrus variety. Approximately 100 large lemon trees are in the process of being replanted as well (bottom right).

The entrance gate to the farm (bottom left) as well as the houses of the workers are being renovated.



Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Willowtree Farm

In preparation for the new season, the roads on Willowtree Farm are also being improved to enhance fruit and vehicle condition.

The dam is in the process of being made larger (bottom left) while the dam wall is also being strengthened. The remaining and unused area surrounding the dam is being prepared for new tree plantings.

An extension to the office parking area (bottom right) was also incorporated to accommodate attendees of training courses and workshops in the Masifunde Training Centre.



KK 113 Project

Unfortunately, progress on this very worthwhile project has slowed. The Sundays River Valley Municipality, which owns the land on which this educational citrus and vegetable farming initiative is planned, is in a state of disarray and the decisions required to move this project forward are not being made. SRCC is a firm believer in the merits of this project so we will continue to offer our assistance where required.

Accreditation and Training



DAFF verification audits for all the farms of Sikhula Sonke Enterprises, Luthando Farm and Mbuyiselo Plase have taken place and SIZA Ethical audits are scheduled to take place from 24th April until 5th May 2017. These audits are an essential part of providing the necessary comfort and qualification to our overseas customers that we comply with the international requirements in terms of good farming practices.

Global GAP External audits and Occupational Health & Safety Inspections are in process.

Training will proceed in the following fields - SIZA induction training; Learnership Training Program Level 2, AET training and SGOV training - at various times during the season when the activities will be able to accommodate the absence of the trainees.



Clinics & Wellness Program

The farm clinic schedule is running particularly well and farm workers are really benefitting from this service. The establishment of a clinic at Mbuyiselo Plase is in process so that the workers there can also reap the benefits of this initiative.

Sister Rolisiso has recently written her Medication Dispensing exams as this qualification will allow her to also dispense chronic medication.



"To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear"

Buddha

The Wellness Programs are ongoing and very positively received. Where the treatment of identified out-patient candidates is required, they now don't have to travel to Grahamstown every week for their injections, but are treated at the farm clinics by the qualified nurse. These workers are also counselled by social workers on a weekly basis where appropriate. These social workers were placed at the farms by Unisa to complete their practical work and have become an integral part of the Wellness Programs.

CGA Summit 2017



The Citrus Growers Association hosted a summit at the Boardwalk Complex in Port Elizabeth during March 2017. It was attended by SRFT management above - Mr. E Noketshe (Farm Manager : Sophumelela) Mr. T Mto (Farm Manager : Siyathemba), Mr. R Le Roux (SRCC : Production Manager), Mrs. B. Ndyenga (General Manager : Sikhule Sonke Enterprises), Mr. J April (Farm Manager : Glengrove) and also by Mrs. N. Mzamo (General Manager : Luthando Farm) together with SRCC senior management.

The aim of this event, which takes place every second year, is to bring growers of the different citrus regions together to create a platform where issues relevant to the industry can be discussed across a broader spectrum. It was attended by a wide range of citrus industry role players including international guests as keynote speakers. Transformation and Land Reform featured strongly on the agenda and some very interesting views and scenarios were presented relative to the challenges the country faces in this regard.

The MEC for Agriculture in the Eastern Cape, the Hon. Mr. M. Qoboshiyane, attended the gala dinner and delivered an excellent speech covering agricultural development and transformation in his region.

With the excellent progress being made by SRFT, Luthando and Mbuyiselo Farms and the prospects presented by the new Ikamva Lethu Project, SRCC and its growers are in a leading position regarding the changing landscape of our industry and our country.



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