

## **Agbiz participated at Agribusiness Africa Conference**

On Tuesday, July 4, Agbiz participated at the Agribusiness Africa Conference which was held at Emperors Palace in Johannesburg. The conference theme was crossing borders and building bridges, with a key focus on:

- The role of business in helping agriculture in Africa prepare for a volatile future.
- The bureaucratic challenges of doing business in Africa.
- Developing appropriate financing mechanisms and value chains for Africa's farmers.
- Correcting Africa's agricultural trade balance.

Wandile Sihlobo, Agbiz economist, moderated a session under the theme "Invigorating the value chain". Serving on the panel were Lucien Jansen, **CEO: Perishable Products Export Control Board**, Lindie Stroebe, **General Manager: Produce Marketing Association, Southern Africa**, Cecilia Khupe, **Programs Director: African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership**, Henri Minnaar, **Managing Director of AgriMentor** and Manoj Seonath, **Head of Agro Processing and Agriculture at the Industrial Development Corporation**.

The panellists discussed a number of issues, with a particular focus on weak links in African agro-value chains and further proposed solutions to fixing these weak links. The panellists also shared view and experiences on the development of value chains that are appropriate and beneficial for Africa's smallholder farmers – *Wandile Sihlobo*