

Agbiz participated at Vision 2030 summit – sponsored by Tiger Brands

As host of a session at the Vision 2030 Summit, Agbiz facilitated a discussion on the role agribusinesses can in future play in attracting young people, especially entrepreneurs, to the agro-food value chain.

The summit, held at Birchwood Conference Centre on June 22, brought together public and private sector in an effort to pave a way forward for the implementation of the National Development Plan.

Professor Ferdi Mayer, Director of BFAP, moderated the session. Serving on the panel were Dr Langa Simela (ABSA), Louise de Klerk (Timbali), Mary-Jane Morifi (Tiger Brands), Wandile Sihlobo (Agbiz) and Bothe Pule (NW Dep. Rural Environment and Agricultural Development).

Amongst many things that were discussed, here are the key take-away:

- Urgent need to put plans into action to make agriculture attractive (valuable) to generate the future skills!
- Are there new paths that we can create for the new entries in the market? Transparent information.
- Putting the correct perspective – agriculture is more than just farming!
- NDP 2030 is only 13 years away – move step by step, BUT overall framework by government needs to provide the environment to make entrepreneurs “bankable”.
- Comprehensive services and support throughout the value chain.
- There needs to be a clear distinction between the different categories of farming.

Key interventions include:

- Efficient state institutions (Japan example).
- Land Bank, IDC, etc. should coordinate better in supporting new businesses.
- Learn from the private sector experience.
- Skills and knowledge transfer (institutionalised).
- Market access is a key.
- Access to land (security of tenure).
- Value chain involvement.
- Condition – big companies must extend a hand to small farms through development programmes (P-P-P's are key).
- Target youth for sustainable supplies – train from young age.
- Mentorships by big companies to small farms/businesses and give them BEE scores.
- Import substitution for agri-products.
- Deployment of new extension officers to commodity groups and company.
- Centralize institutions.
- Blending of funding.