

# PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 June 2021

## PIETER TALJAARD: NEW CEO OF GRAIN SA



Grain SA today announced that Dr Pieter Taljaard is appointed as the organisation's new CEO. He will take over the reins from Jannie de Villiers from 1 September 2021 following Jannie's earlier announcement that he will be stepping down as CEO at the end of August.

Pieter is well known in the agricultural sector and brings a wealth of expertise to this role, having served in a number of senior leadership capacities over the past years, currently as the Cereals and Industrial Crops Go-to-market strategy Lead at Bayer Crop Science. He worked with Grain SA for many years in his capacity at Bayer, Monsanto, NWK and as lecturer at UFS.

Pieter obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State and spent the past six years in the seed industry. He is passionate about agriculture, which has also been his hobby as a part-time farmer for the past 19 years and he has a trained background in Agriculture and Applied Economics, specialising in Consumer and Production Economics, Econometrics as well as Mathematical Optimisation.

The appointment of Pieter follows a thorough recruitment process overseen by a special Committee of the Executive using the recruitment company The Talent Connection, which saw a wide variety of exceptional candidates vetted and interviewed. *"It was very crucial for Grain SA to make the right appointment that can lead the organisation into the next era. Pieter has vast experience in the grain sector and worked very closely with farmers."* Derek Mathews, chairperson of Grain SA said.

Mathews closed in saying, *"I would also like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank Jannie for his years of commitment and hard work to bring the organisation where it is today, as he now steps down as CEO. He will not be lost to agriculture and his mentorship and spiritual journey will continue to influence the industry in times ahead. We wish him all the best of luck for the future."*

**Ends**

**Issued by:**

Grain SA Communications

**Further enquiries:**

Derek Mathews, Chairperson, Grain SA  
082 878 005646 | [djmethanol@gmail.com](mailto:djmethanol@gmail.com)  
[www.grainsa.co.za](http://www.grainsa.co.za)

# PERSVRYSTELLING



## VIR ONMIDDELLIKE VRYSTELLING

18 Junie 2021

### PIETER TALJAARD: NUWE HUB VAN GRAAN SA



Graan SA het vandag aangekondig dat dr Pieter Taljaard aangestel is as die nuwe uitvoerende hoof van die organisasie. Hy neem die leisels by Jannie de Villiers oor vanaf 1 September 2021, na Jannie se vroeëre aankondiging dat hy einde Augustus as uitvoerende hoof sal uittree.

Pieter is welbekend in die landbousektor en bring 'n rykdom van kundigheid na hierdie rol. Hy het die afgelope jare in 'n aantal senior leiersposisies gedien, insluitend tans as die Bestuurder: Kleingraan en Nywerheidsgewasse by Bayer Crop Science. Hy werk reeds verskeie jare saam met Graan SA in sy hoedanigheid by Bayer, Monsanto, NWK en as dosent aan die UFS.

Pieter het sy PhD in Landbou-ekonomie aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat verwerf en was die afgelope ses jaar in die saadbedryf werksaam. Hy is passievol oor landbou, wat ook die afgelope 19-jaar sy stokperdjie as deelydse boer is. Hy het 'n opgeleide agtergrond in Landbou en Toegepaste Ekonomie en spesialiseer in Verbruikers- en Produksie ekonomie, Ekonometrie sowel as Wiskundige Optimalisering.

Die aanstelling van Pieter volg op 'n deeglike werwingsproses onder toesig van 'n spesiale komitee van die Hoofbestuur met behulp van die werwingsmaatskappy The Talent Connection, wat 'n wye verskeidenheid buitengewone kandidate gekeur en ondervra het. *“Dit was baie belangrik vir Graan SA om die regte aanstelling te maak wat die organisasie in die volgende era kan lei. Pieter het wye ervaring in die graansektor en het baie nou saam met produsente gewerk.”* het Derek Mathews, voorsitter van Graan SA gesê.

*“Met sy bedanking as uitvoerende hoof, wil ek ook van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om Jannie van harte te bedank vir sy jarelange toewyding en harde werk om die organisasie te bring waar dit vandag is. Hy sal nie vir landbou verlore gaan nie, en sy mentorskap en geestelike leiding sal die bedryf steeds beïnvloed in die toekoms. Ons wens hom alle voorspoed vir die toekoms toe,”* het Mathews ter afsluiting gesê.

#### Einde

#### Uitgereik deur:

Graan SA Kommunikasie

#### Verdere navrae:

Derek Mathews, Voorsitter, Graan SA

082 878 005646 | [djmethanol@gmail.com](mailto:djmethanol@gmail.com)

[www.grainsa.co.za](http://www.grainsa.co.za)