



Revitalising Agricultural Education and Training in South Africa

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) launched an insightful study on [Revitalising Agricultural Education and Training in South Africa](#) on 27 September 2017. Mariana Purnell of Agbiz Grain attended the event where Prof Frans Swanepoel, Chair of the Agricultural Education and Training Panel, presented the findings and recommendations. The study was funded by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Three government departments, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Higher Education and Training participated in the consensus study.

The challenges facing South Africa's agricultural education and training (AET) sector are highlighted in this ASSAf study. The study seeks to identify and address the challenges facing the AET sector in South Africa in view of this sector's importance in meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to provide evidenced-based information and clear recommendations to policymakers and stakeholders with an interest in agricultural human capital development.

Some of the key findings of the study include inadequate funding for practical-level training; weak linkages to industry for understanding training needs; poor quality and inadequate numbers of educators who are appropriately trained to teach agriculture at school level; and poor linkages in the research–teaching–extension nexus.

Recommendations are wide-ranging and practical and aimed at informing policymakers thereby improving the quality of AET in South Africa.

<http://www.assaf.org.za/index.php/news/392-assaf-study-on-revitalising-agricultural-education-and-training-in-south-africa>

Mariana Purnell

General Manager, Agbiz Grain
Cell +27 82 336 8534 | Tel +27 12 807 3002 | Fax +27 12 807 7092
mariana.purnell@agbizgrain.co.za
www.agbizgrain.co.za