



Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

10/01/2014 WEEK 2 - 2014

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Hope in the New Year

Louw Steytler, Chairman: Grain SA

»May each one of you have a prosperous 2014 - the best year ever!

To everybody associated with our organisation, members as well as staff: you understand the enormous challenges that the New Year holds for us. Like in the past, only commitment will allow us to promote our cause with the necessary courage and guts.

Questions have already arisen on whether food security in South Africa will be attained during this production year, and as to whether enough food can be produced with the rain having fallen very late in large areas.

The planted crops look good at this stage, although crops were planted very late in many regions. We hope that all the grain producing regions will receive plentiful rain during the season. Certain areas are already reporting shortages because of the lack of sufficient soil moisture.

The understanding of and benefits that every citizen of the country experienced with respect to food security during the past year may perhaps be tested, and opinion formers who have accepted food security as a given may become aware of the privileged position in which all South Africans find themselves, without thinking much about this vital fact.

Grain SA understands the milieu in which the future debate will take place. We will not deviate from our undertaking to continue with the greater discussion on our future and that of our fellow countrymen, we have already achieved the successes of food security. The responsibility to protect our constitution and the free market are also imperative.

Let us carry out our positive message of hope, based on the voice of reason, to the furthest corners of our country, and specifically to all grain producers - large and small.

All the best with the challenges of the year ahead.

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Time again to communicate on grass-roots level

Diana Rabie, Communication and Media Liaison Consultant

»We are very excited about 2014 and are looking forward to build and strengthen relationships with our members, role players in the industry, and government. We also want to draw more people's attention to agriculture in order for them to understand the importance of food security and so that they will realise the significant role producers play in this.

We invite all producers to the next **regional meetings** that will take place countrywide from **20 January to 21 February**. The theme of these meetings, ***The next generation***, is also the theme of our annual **congress** that will take place from **5 to 6 March** at NAMPO Park. Please diarise these dates!

During the regional meetings we are going to discuss the focus areas of 2014 in detail and of course you'll have the opportunity to mingle with other producers of the area.

Keep your ear to the ground, because we will shortly send out SMSs with the date, time and venue of each regional meeting. This info will also appear on our website soon. When you receive this SMS, please also remind your neighbours about these meetings and invite all producers who are not yet members of Grain SA.

Our best wishes for the New Year!

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Progress made with the Highveld gerbil research project

Petru Fourie, Economist, Grain SA

»A video is available at <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bT9ZLACQ6os> about the progress made with the control of Highveld gerbils.

For more information contact Frikkie Kirsten at the ARC Plant Protection Research Institute on 012 808 8217 or kirstenf@arc.agric.za.

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