

US agriculture aims to strengthen SA trade

SA GRAAN/GRAIN EDITORIAL TEAM

A US agricultural trade mission met the South African food industry delegates in Sandton during April for talks on developing trade relations between South African and US food producers.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), in 2012, the United States imported \$285 million worth of South African agricultural products, led by wine, macadamia nuts, citrus fruit and other consumer-oriented food products. It is interesting that South Africa's imports of agricultural products from the United States in the same period totalled almost the same value at \$287 million, led by intermediate goods for further processing locally and consumer-oriented food products. "Diversifying our respective food baskets has been mutually beneficial, says Mr Ross Kreamer, minister counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, USDA.

During a seminar entitled "Diversifying the Southern Africa Food Basket," delegates addressed local importers, wholesalers, traders, retailers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, NGOs, institutional feeding organisations, food industry professionals and government representatives. Organisers introduced the audience to members of the USDA's Global Based Initiative, which includes some of the US's leading food trade associations such as the American Peanut Council; the US Dry Bean Council; the US Dry Pea & Lentil Council; the US Potato Board; and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH).

Aiming to increase trade with Southern Africa, the mission highlighted the high nutritional value and relatively low cost of soya, peanut, dry bean, peanut and lentil and dried potato products. They also noted the US growers' ability to supply quality, cost-effectiveness, and a reliable, uninterrupted supply from a politically stable nation. ■



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Nuwe minimum loon is R2 274,82

In die artikel "Sekere opsies en implikasies rakende die verhoogde minimum loon vir plaaswerkers" op bladsy 70 van SA Graan/Grain se Mei-uitgawe, is die verhoogde loon vir plaaswerkers weergegee as R5 574,82. Lesers moet asseblief daarop let dat dit foutief is. Die korrekte bedrag is R2 274,82.

Die outeur, Elize van der Westhuizen van Agri SA, én die Redaksie vra om verskoning vir die drukfout en stel dit graag reg – Red.