



Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

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In this issue...

- **50% of farm to workers**
- **Grain SA NAMPO Harvest Day 2014**
- **Nation in Conversation @ NAMPO**
- **Empty Agricultural Chemical containers**
- **The role of tillage in sustainable production on sandy soil**
- **Stay inspired...**

50% OF FARM TO WORKERS

Louw Steytler, Chairman, Grain SA

» Grain SA has taken note of Minister Nkwini's proposal to give 50% of each farm to the farmworkers. This is the second time the proposal has been made. Grain SA is totally against such a proposal! Following the Minister tabling the proposal, Grain SA consulted with Advocate George Bizos to obtain his opinion on the matter. He was of the opinion that such a proposal would be unconstitutional and that the ANC would probably not garner enough support in the next elections (7 May 2014) to be in a position to change the Constitution. He further advised that Grain SA should proceed to assist new Black farmers to become established as successful commercial grain farmers, and to table proposals to improve the circumstances of farm workers.

The leadership of Grain SA as such is prepared to address this matter if the Minister proceed after the elections. Even the African Farmers Association of SA (AFASA) is against this proposal. We would like to call on our members to remain calm and await the outcome of the elections. Grain SA undertakes to protect the grain farmers' rights as per the Constitution of SA, should it be affected.

[Back to Top](#)

GRAIN SA NAMPO HARVEST DAY 2014

The highlight of the year and the ultimate showcase for all role players involved in Agriculture in South Africa - the annual Grain SA NAMPO Harvest Day is approaching! Presented from 13 to 16 May, this years' theme is **The new generation Agri-partner** and provides a platform for generating discussion, networking opportunities and access to the latest technology and practices.

Extension of Exhibition Space

The second phase of the expansion of NAMPO that already started in 2013 includes the relocation of the southern parking area. This expansion provides much needed space for new exhibitors and includes an exciting aircraft display.

New Members' Hall

Another exciting development is the opening of the new Grain SA members' hall, which was moved to the venue previously known as Klub200. Paid-up members of Grain SA will receive free parking on all four days, as well as entrance tickets. Transport will be available from the entrance gate to the members' hall. Members will receive their invitations, which will include the electronic access codes and a map to the parking area and access gate, by mail shortly.

As is customary, our female visitors to NAMPO can look forward to an exciting programme including decorating, fashion shows and meeting with the Kokkedore: Mynhardt Joubert & Chef Tiaan, over and above the variety of shopping opportunities presented.

[Back to Top](#)

NATION IN CONVERSATION @ NAMPO

» Presented for the first time in 2013 under the banner "Senwes Future Focus Discussion Forum", this exciting annual initiative of Senwes has been rebranded as "Nation in Conversation", making it more accessible and relevant, not just to the agriculture sector, but also to audiences beyond. Grain SA is one of the co-sponsors of this event.

This live discussion forum, led by the well-known economist Theo Vorster, promises to provide leadership, knowledge and insights on different agricultural topics. Each day's panel discussion will focus on the following:

- The producer value chain - the extent to which producers must invest to ensure profitability and sustainability.
- The historical status of agricultural businesses - how to build sustainable businesses.
- Organised agriculture as an industry organisation - how agriculture can assist to achieve sustainable food security for Africa.
- A forward-looking approach to the role of multi-national organisations in the development of the agricultural sector

Guest speakers will include, amongst others, Prof Willie Esterhuyse, Dr John Purchase, JP Landman, Max du Preez, Theo Venter and Dawie Roodt. Join us in the Members' hall or the Fanie Ferreira Hall daily from 10:30 to 12:00 to watch the live broadcast, with a rebroadcast at 13:30.

[Back to Top](#)

EMPTY AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Corné Louw, Senior Economist: Inputs, Grain SA

» The accumulation of empty agricultural chemical containers remains a problem and also creates risks. AVCASA (the representative body of agricultural chemical companies) has developed practices on how to work with empty chemical containers and compiled a list of companies able to recycle these containers.

This important information can be accessed on their website (www.avcasa.co.za) or downloaded from the following links:

Plastic processors that can process triple-rinsed empty pesticide containers:

<http://www.avcasa.co.za/Portals/15/News%20Updates/Recyclers.pdf>

Instructions for the disposal of empty plastic pesticide containers:

<http://www.avcasa.co.za/Portals/15/News%20Updates/Instructions%20for%20empty%20containers.pdf>

[Back to Top](#)

THE ROLE OF TILLAGE IN SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION ON SANDY SOIL

Dr Hendrik Smith, Conservation Agriculture Facilitator, Grain SA

A Farmers' Day, themed *"The role of tillage in sustainable production on sandy soil"* was held on 9 April on Danie Minnaar's farm, Springboklaagte, situated near Kroonstad. The event, jointly organised by Grain SA and the "Sandgrond Ontwikkelings Komitee" (SOK) attracted a group of 85 farmers who cultivate grain crops on sandy soils. These unique soils, found mainly in the North West Free State and North West Province, typically consists of less than 10% clay with a deep water table that requires unique management practices to productively utilise it in a sustainable manner. Two of the most negative characteristics of these soils are that they tend to be easily compacted and remain very susceptible to wind and water erosion. This necessitated farmers and other experts to develop innovative conservation practices, such as the 'rip-on-row' system, in order to simultaneously provide a solution to the problems and greatly increase production.

The participants in the Farmers' Day was fortunate to hear from people who have pioneered these practices since the early 1970's. Carel Koch shared his many years of experience with participants having worked with amongst others, farmers such as Andries Botha, WH van Zyl and engineers, such as Errol Reid in order to develop these practices. Currently, the SOK is funded by the Maize Trust to continue this conservation agriculture research in sandy soils and several trials that have been established on co-workers' farms, such as those of Thabo van Zyl (Losdoorns), Cobus van der Linde (Wesselsbron) and Danie Minnaar (Springboklaagte). Following a visit to the trials at Springboklaagte, the three farmers shared their experiences and results with the audience, which was then summarised by Hendrik Smith, conservation agriculture facilitator at Grain SA. Jannie de Villiers, CEO of Grain SA shared some insight on the way forward, and concluded the proceedings.

Please have a look at the photos on our Facebook page or [click here](#)

[Back to Top](#)

STAY INSPIRED...

» *"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."*

~ Wendell Berry, Bringing it to the Table: Writings on Farming and Food

[Back to Top](#)

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