

# Agri SA

## E-nuusbrief / E-newsletter

Agri SA, Posbus/ PO Box 1508 Pretoria 0001, Tel +27+12 300 9500, Faks/ Fax +27+12 320 0557

Agri SA se E-Nuusbrief word saamgestel uit berigte en brokkies van die Algemene Sake-, Bedryfs- en Landboubesigheidskamers, vir u inligting en verspreiding  
The Agri SA's E-Newsletter is compiled for your information and use from articles and snippets supplied by the General Affairs, Commodity and Agricultural Business Chambers

30 April 2009

### In die nuusbrief:

- **Inflasie toon afwaartse neiging**
- **Sesde Prestige Sportaand in belang van plaasveiligheid**
- **Bywoning van IFAP Werkgroepe**
- **Stand van damme**
- **Publikasie van 2009 opnames van belang vir die landbousektor**

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- **INFLATION SHOW DOWNWARD TREND**
- **SIXTH PRESTIGE SPORTS EVENING IN AID OF FARM SAFETY**
- **G-14 FARMER LEADERS MEET IN TREVISO**
- **ATTENDANCE OF IFAP WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**
- **DAM WATER LEVELS**
- **PUBLICITY FOR 2009 SURVEYS ON INTEREST TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

### **Ondersteun ons vennote**

<u>Partners making a contribution in various fields within AGRI SA</u>	<u>AGRI SECURITAS TRUST FUND Partners</u>
With their financial contributions, these partners have already demonstrated their support for the farmer and agriculture	These partners make a contribution towards the safety of the farming community
<b>Absa AgriBusiness</b> Enquiries: 011-350 6854 or your nearest Absa branch	<b>Absa AgriBusiness</b> Enquiries: 011-350 6854 or your nearest Absa branch
<b>Barloworld</b> Enquiries: Adelé Smit 083 660 0799	<b>Nissan SA</b> Enquiries: Francois Jacobs 083 471 4855
<b>T &amp; E Finops</b> Enquiries: Esmé Theron 0861 440 666.	<b>Sanlam</b> Enquiries: Adv Kobus Engelbrecht 021-947 4506
<b>Agri SA Group Provident Fund</b> Enquiries: Sakkie Hurd at 012-431 3333 or sakkieh@absa.co.za	<b>CrisisOnCall</b> Enquiries: Marius Vermaak 083 302 7576
<b>Agri SA het groot waardering vir die vennote se betrokkenheid by die organisasie en die breë landbou</b>	

## **Inflasie toon afwaartse neiging**

*Dawie Maree, Agri SA ekonoom*

### **Verbruikersprysindeks**

Die verbruikersprysindeks (VPI) wat Woensdag bekend gemaak is vir Maart was 8.5%, 'n daling van 0.1 persentasiepunte teenoor Februarie se 8.6%. Die gemiddelde pryse van alle produkte het op 'n maand-op-maand grondslag egter met 1.3% gestyg teenoor Februarie se styging van 1.2%.

Die voedselindeks asook die indeks vir nie-alkoholiese drank het in Maart met 0.5% gestyg, vergeleke met Februarie. Die jaar-op-jaar styging vir Maart was 14.7% teenoor Februarie se 15.8%. Daar is dus 'n duidelike teken dat voedselinflasie besig is om te verlangsaam. Die neiging behoort verder ondersteun te word in die komende maande deur laer mielie- en koringpryse wat nog moet deursyfer.

Voedsel se bydrae tot inflasiekoers van 8.5% vir Maart het 2.3 persentasiepunte beloop teenoor die 2.4 persentasie punte in Februarie.

## **Produsenteprysindeks**

Die produsenteprysindeks (PPI) vir Maart het weereens 'n skerp daling getoon. Die jaarlikse verandering in die PPI vir Maart 2009 is 5.3% vergeleke met Februarie se 7.3%. Dit is die sewentiende agtereenvolgende daling in PPI.

Dié daling van 2% kan toegeskryf word aan dalings in die volgende sektore (Februarie se syfers in hakies):

- Basiese metale. Die koers het afgeneem na 40.2% (42.1%)
- Voedsel op vervaardigersvlak. Afgeneem na 9.4% (10.9%)
- Landbouprodukte. Die koers het afgeneem na -2.1% (6.0%)
- Mynbou, waar die koers afgeneem het na -10.5% (-5.9%)

Die maand-op-maand verandering in die PPI was slegs 0.1%, wat hoofsaaklik toegeskryf kan word aan stygings in die petrol- en steenkoolprodukte asook die prysindeks van ander vervaardigers.

Die produsenteprysindeks vir ingevoerde produkte het afgeneem tot -10.1% wat 1.3 persentasiepunte laer is as Februarie se -8.8%.

Die jongste PPI syfers bevestig dat daar 'n daling is in voedselinflasie en ondersteun verdere daling in inflasie in die komende maande.

## **Rentekoers**

Die Reserwebank het vandag die terugkoopkoers (repo koers) verder verlaag met 100 basispunte (1%) na 8.5%. Dit sal beteken dat die prima koers na 12% verminder sal word. Die verswakkende wêreld- en plaaslike ekonomie en die toekomstige afwaartse potensiaal in inflasie oor die mediumtermyn het die Montêre Beleidskomitee laat besluit om die koers te verlaag met effek vanaf 4 Mei 2009.

## **Sesde Prestige Sportaand in belang van plaasveiligheid**

*Kobus Visser, Direkteru: Korporatiewe Skakeling*

Met Senwes as hoofborg en Hugh Bladen, wêreldbekende rugbykommentator kan die Prestige Sportaand wat deur OFM aangebied word nie anders as om 'n groot sukses te wees nie. OFM, Suid-Afrika se nommer een radiostasie wat in sentraal Suid-Afrika uitsaai, bied vanjaar vir die sesde keer die spogaand aan as 'n fondsinsamelingsgeleentheid vir die Agri Securitas Trustfonds.

Kom beleef 'n gesellige aand saam met vriende en kollegas by die Prestige Sportaand wat gedurende die NAMPO Oesdag op 13 Mei 2009 by die Rio Tusk Casino kompleks in Klerksdorp, aangebied word.

Die bydraes wat deur hierdie geleentheid tot die Trustfonds gemaak word stel dit in staat om 'n verskil te maak tot die beveiliging van die landbougemeenskap en daardeur te verseker dat die Suid-Afrikaanse boer genoeg voedsel vir Suid-Afrika se bevolking kan produseer.

Die Trustfonds het reeds meer as 85 landelike beveiligingsprojekte gefinansier en daardeur 'n bydrae gemaak om 'n veiliger woon- en werksomgewing vir almal wat in die primêre landbou betrokke is, te skep. Van die projekte wat gefinansier is sluit in truamaberadingswerkwinkels, oprigting van valhekke, finansiering van beheerkamers en radiokommunikasie netwerke asook verskeie beveiligings-inligtingstukke.

Die geleentheid was in die verlede baie gewild en weens die groeiende belangstelling is daar voorsiening gemaak vir meer tafels om die toename in belangstelling te akkommoder. Belangstelendes wat graag die aand saam met Senwes en Hugh Bladen wil deurbring en 'n tafel wil bespreek is welkom om vir Hannika Struwig by OFM te kontak by 051 505 0900 of [hanna@ofm.co.za](mailto:hanna@ofm.co.za).

## **Bywoning van IFAP Werkgroepe**

*Koos van Zyl*

Koos van Zyl het namens Agri SA die werkgroep vergaderings van IFAP in Parys Frankryk bygewoon. Die volgende is 'n kort beskrywing van die gebeure. Volledige verslae sal voltooi word sodra die finale dokumente van die verrigtinge vanaf IFAP ontvang is.

### **Werk groep oor risiko bestuur in die landbou**

Hierdie vergadering wat op 6 April 2009 plaasgevind het, is bygewoon deur Albania, Brasilië, Finland, Indië, Kenia, Piliipyne, Suid Afrika, Spanje en Swede. Die eerste voorlegging het gegaan oor die opdatering van bestaande risiko bestuur stelsels in die onderskeie lande. Agri SA se voorlegging het gegaan oor die ramp bestuur wetgewing en die oorkoepelende ramp en risiko bestuur plan vir die Landbou sektor, wat heelwat aandag getrek het, terwyl ander lande se voorleggings het gegaan oor losstaande risiko programme in soos die hantering van spesifieke rampe soos die verkiesings geweld in Kenia, risiko's wat ondervind word met die beheer van verskeie diere siektes en voeding van plaas diere, prys strukture vir landbou produkte en die risiko van prys skommeling, fokus op die kwaliteit van landbougrond en landbou versekering.

Na 'n bespreking van nuutste verwickelinge oor rampbestuur in die onderskeie lande, kon Agri SA verwys na sy jongste inisiatiewe om 'n ondersoek na landbou versekering te loots en sy betrokkenheid in die finalisering van die Departement van Landbou se rampbestuursplanne. Vervolgings het die vergadering 'n konsep ramp- bestuurplan vir landbou bespreek waarin verskeie aanbevelings gemaak hoe om die bestaande risiko planne te verbeter ten opsigte van onderwys, navorsing en ontwikkeling. Verskeie voorstelle oor risiko bestuur van klimaat verandering, plant en diere siektes, voedselveiligheid, prys en markte, krediet verlening en boere se individuele risiko's is ook gemaak wat mettertyd aan lidlande se landbou organisasies voorgelê sal word vir verdere bespreking.

### **Werk groep oor landelike werkverskaffing**

Die vergadering het op 7 April 2009 plaasgevind en is bygewoon deur Albanië, Brasilië, Oostenryk, Ghana., Indië, Kenia, Filippyne, Suid Afrika, Spanje, Swede en Verenigde Koningryk. Verskeie lande het voorleggings gemaak om arbeids- toestande en praktyke in hulle onderskeie lande te skets. Agri SA was versoek om 'n voorlegging te maak oor die sosiale dialoog tussen georganiseerde landbou en ander rolspelers soos vakbonde, agribesighede, kleinhandelaars en die Regering en aanbeveling te maak om dialoog te verbeter. Daar is eerstens verwys na die omvattende arbeids wetgewing in Suid Afrika en die groot aantal wetlike nasionale strukture soos Nedlac, BUSA, 'n verskeie plaaslike regerings strukture wat daargestel is en waarop Agri SA en sy lede baie sterk verteenwoordigheid het en die voortdurende skakeling tussen Agri SA en sy affiliasies oor 'n verskeidenheid arbeid sake het. Die aanbevelings het hoofsaaklik gegaan oor georganiseerde landbou se deurlopende verteenwoordiging op amptelike strukture en dat senior en kundige verteenwoordigers betrokke moet wees. Dialoog op alle vlakke van georganiseerde landbou om lede voortdurend op die hoogte hou van arbeid sake is uiters noodsaaklik. Dit is laastens aanbeveel dat kundiges op die gebied van die arbeidsreg beskikbaar behoort te wees om boere met arbeids sake behulpsaam te wees

### **Werkgroep van kundiges oor klimaatsverandering en bio-energy**

Die vergadering het op 8 April 2009 plaasgevind en bygewoon deur Brasilië, Uganda, Indië, Filippyne, Jordania Suid Afrika, Costa Rica, Duitsland, Swede, Denemarke, Australië, Kanada en die Verenigde Koningryk. 'n Opdatering van jongste IFAP aktiwiteite en status binne die UNFCCC proses is aan die vergadering voorgehou, asook die voorbereidings wat die komende klimaat vergadering in Kopenhagen in Desember 2009. Heelwat aandag is bestee aan die bespreking van die 'Bali Road Map' waarin die landbou sektor op 'n globale basis sy standpunte oor klimaatsverandering, die belangrikheid van landbou vir voedsel sekerheid landbou se aandeel in die vrylating van kweekhuis gasse aangespreek word. Hierdie is 'n belangrike dokument vir die landbou sektor en die aanbevelings van die werkgroep sal mettertyd aan alle lidlande landbou-organisasies deurgestuur word vir verdere bespreking.

### **Ten slotte**

Dit was goed om ander Landbou-organisasies se bydraes, standpunte en beleid dokumente te kon aanhoor en te verstaan en die bydraes wat Agri SA reeds bereik het daarteenoor te kan meet. Dit

was geensins 'n verrassing dat Agri SA nie agter is nie, intendeel in baie opsigte is Agri SA voor baie ander lande –ons enigste probleem bly die implementering van planne en strategie.

## **Stand van damme**

*Martina Benadé, Ekonomie en Handel*

Volgens die Departement van Waterwese se damverslag het die gemiddelde stand van damme in hierdie week (27 April 2009) met ongeveer 1,2 persentasiepunte gestyg tot 87,8%. Vir die ooreenstemmende tydperk verlede jaar was die stand 86,6%. Damme in die Vrystaat, Gauteng, Mpumalanga en Noord-Kaap is meer as 90% vol, terwyl damme in KwaZulu-Natal (87%) en Noordwes (81,5%) meer as 80% vol is. Die Oos-Kaap, Limpopo en die Wes-Kaap se damme is onderskeidelik 64%, 79% en 56% vol. Onder die land se groot damme lê die Vaaldam op 101%, die Sterkfonteindam staan op 99,6%, Bloemhofdam is op 98%, die Garijepdam op 95% en die Vanderkloofdam op 96,4%. Geoordeel aan hierdie statistiek was dit duidelik dat die grootste deel van die land aan die begin van die winter veel natter was as wat in dieselfde tyd die vorige jaar die geval was.

## **Publikasie van 2009 opnames van belang vir die landbousektor**

*Martina Benadé, Ekonomie en Handel*

Aanhangsel A (aan die einde van die nuusbrieff) is 'n skedule van opnames deur Statistieke SA wat gedurende 2009 in u omgewing plaasvind.

## **INFLATION SHOW DOWNWARD TREND**

*Dawie Maree, Agri SA economist*

### ***Consumer price index***

The consumer price index (CPI), released on Wednesday, for March was 8.5%, which is a decrease of 0.1% from the February figure of 8.6%. Die average month-on-month change in prices for March were 1.3%, up from February's 1.2%.

The index for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased in March with only 0.5% month-on-month. Die year-on-year change for March were 14.7%, down from February's 15.8%. There are therefore signs that food inflation is busy declining. The trend will be supported by lower maize and wheat prices, which still have to be taken into account.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed 2.3 percentage points of the 8.5% CPI for March. In February it was 2.4 points.

### ***Producer price index***

The producer price index (PPI) for March again showed a strong downward trend. The annual change in PPI for March were 5.3%, 2 percentage points down on February's 5.3%. It is the seventeenth consecutive decrease in PPI.

The decline of 2% can mainly be explained by decreases in the following (February's figures in brackets)

- Basic metals declined to 40.2% (42.1%)
- Food at manufacturing declined from to 9.4% (10.9%)
- Agricultural products declined to -2.1% (6.0%)
- Mining and quarrying declined to -10.5% (-5.9%).

Die monthly change in PPI was only 0.1%, which can mainly be explained by an increase in the index for petroleum and coal products as well as other manufactures.

The PPI for imported products showed an annual rate of decrease of 10.1%, 1.3 percentage points lower than February's -8.8%.

The latest PPI figures confirmed a slowdown in food inflation and bode well for inflation in the coming months.

### ***Interest rates***

The Reserve Bank reduced the repurchase rate (repo rate) today with a further 100 basis points (1%) to 8.5%. It will result in a decrease of the prime interest rate to 12%. The downturn in the international and domestic economic conditions the potential of lower inflation over the medium term has resulted in the Monetary Policy Committee decision to reduce the repo rate with effect from 4 May 2009.

## **SIXTH PRESTIGE SPORTS EVENING IN AID OF FARM SAFETY**

*Kobus Visser, Director: Corporate Liaison*

With Senwes as chief sponsor and Hugh Bladen, the world-renowned rugby commentator, the Prestige Sports Evening presented by OFM cannot but be a success. OFM, South Africa's number one radio station broadcasting in Central Africa, will this year be hosting the event for this sixth time as a fundraising opportunity for the Agri Securitas Trust Fund.

Join us for an enjoyable evening with friends and colleagues at the Prestige Sports Evening function to be held during the NAMPO Harvest day at the Rio Tusk Casino Complex, Klerksdorp, on 13 May 2009.

Such contributions to the Trust Fund will enable the Fund to make a difference to the safety of the farming community and, in the process, will ensure that the South African farmer can produce sufficient food for the country's population.

The Trust Fund has already financed more than 85 rural safety projects, thus making a contribution towards creating a safer living and working environment for all involved in primary agriculture. These projects include trauma counselling workshops, the erection of booms, funding of control rooms and radio communication networks as well as various security information documents.

In the past this event has been very popular and, given the growing interest, provision has been made for more tables to accommodate increasing numbers. Anyone interested in spending the evening with Senwes and Hugh Bladen and who wish to reserve a table, is welcome to contact Hannika Struwig at OFM (051 505 0900 or [hanna@ofm.co.za](mailto:hanna@ofm.co.za)).

## **G-14 FARMER LEADERS MEET IN TREVISO**

Agri SA is a member of IFAP, Johannes Möller, president of Agri SA attended the meeting. The report that follows was distributed by IFAP:

On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009, IFAP held, with CIA, a meeting of G-14 farmer leaders in the mountain village of Pieve di Soligo in the Province of Treviso, Italy. It's purpose was to bring the farmers' voice to the first G-8 Agriculture Ministers meeting which would take place in the same region the next day.

Opening the meeting, IFAP Vice-President Elisabeth Gauffin, said that governments must recognize the role agriculture and farmers can play in bringing solutions to many critical problems facing society throughout the world. These include: achieving food security, mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, and sustainable management of natural resources.

The President of the Italian host organisation CIA, Giuseppe Politi, said that the G-8 needed to make a clear commitment to promote policies to develop agriculture worldwide, and make the necessary resources available. These policies need to place farmers at the heart of economic and social development.

The Vice-President of IFAP's other Italian member organisation Coldiretti, Giorgio Piazza, stressed that the world can be free from hunger if farmers are able derive a decent income from their work, otherwise there is a risk that more farmers will decide that there is no future for them in agriculture. He presented to the Chair a copy of the declaration drawn up by G-8 farmers in Rome in March. The Vice-President of Confagricultura, Antonio Borsetto, supported these messages, saying that farmers in both the developing countries and the G-8 need to increase agricultural productivity to

meet world food needs. It was also important to build an open global society with freedom of choice under different rules than those of today, but avoiding protectionism.

FAO representative, Richard China, said that before 2007 there were already 750 million undernourished people in the world. The global food crisis had lifted this to almost 1 billion in 2008. In 2009, the impact of the global financial crisis and recession is expected to raise this further, as capital inflows and remittances into developing countries are reduced. Many pledges are made to tackle hunger, he said, but these are rarely fulfilled. Even in a time of economic crisis it makes sense to invest in agriculture. Mr. China said that the cost of cutting hunger by half by 2015 would be \$30 billion per year; the return in economic growth for this investment would be around \$1 trillion. Thus there is a strong economic as well as moral argument, for increasing investments in agriculture, he concluded.

### **Farmers call for a global action plan for agriculture**

There was a rich discussion in which the G-14 farmer leaders called for governments to accept their responsibilities and follow their many declarations with a long-term global plan for agriculture, with clear time-bound objectives and strong stakeholder participation. They noted that there is a lot of development aid in the system to deal with world hunger, but farmers are concerned that this will be 'money out of the window' if it is not invested in sound development plans. Measures are needed to raise agricultural output sustainably, but also to increase the purchasing power of the 1 billion poor people who are suffering from hunger and cannot express their needs in economic terms. To be successful, a global action plan needs a strong political framework and active participation of the farmers' organisations. Farmers are willing to contribute to the development and implementation of plans in each country.

Farmers also called for more investment in research "to produce more but under better conditions". Most of the farm work throughout the world is done by women farmers, so it is especially important to improve conditions for them. Knowledge, education, research and technology were necessary to "get production systems right".

### **"Put food and farming first" says Minister Zaia**

The Chair of the G-8 Agricultural Ministers meeting, Luca Zaia of Italy, participated in the IFAP meeting. He told delegates that G-8 ministers would produce "more than fine words". He wanted to develop a new philosophy that placed food security first, above mercantile interests. It is intolerable that 3 million children die from hunger every year, while traders get rich speculating on food crops, he stressed. Agricultural production must be increased and this means supporting farmers, he continued. Speculation on wheat and other food crops should be banned. Food waste should be reduced. In answer to questions, Minister Zaia agreed that there should be a system for consultation of farmers' organisations; this was not a problem in Italy, he said, but he would raise it with the other countries.

Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, Antonio Buonfiglio, addressed the conference before the minister arrived. He said that the 'global food crisis' was a destructive force, but it could also be a force for regeneration of agriculture and for bringing greater democracy to global decision-making. Changes to the international legal and management frameworks concerning agriculture were needed, including support for the 'right to food', support for local agricultural production tied to local territories, and a food stocking policy.

### **Open letter given to Minister Zaia**

The G-14 farmers' conference adopted an 'Open Letter' that was given to Minister Zaia at a press conference for him to convey to the G-8 Agricultural Ministers meeting. The Open Letter stresses that farmers, men and women, are at the heart of the solution to the world food security problem. It calls for a radical shift in thinking that places the farmer at the centre of sound and sustainable agricultural systems. Policies are needed that create employment, protect eco-systems and deliver fair prices for consumers and producers.

The issues facing the G-8 are not new; the solutions are known. The key is now to translate good intentions to real impacts to farmers on the ground, working with farmers' organisations to meet time-bound objectives.

The Open Letter also called for more resources to build the capacity of farmers to be better organised. It drew attention to the farmer-to-farmer cooperation under AgriCord's 'Farmers Fighting Poverty Program' and called for more resources to be targeted to such initiatives.

### **Abruzzo earthquake**

The conference also issued a communiqué expressing solidarity and support for the people of the region of Abruzzo in Italy who were severely hit by the recent earthquake, losing their loved ones, their farms and their houses.

### **Rendez-vous in Canada in 2010**

A strong Canadian farmer delegation took part in the conference. CFA President Laurent Pellerin said that this conference had launched a process that farmers would continue in Canada in 2010 at the next meeting of the G-8. Over the year ahead we must work to keep agriculture on the global agenda, press world leaders to implement agreed commitments, and continue to play our part as farmers in the sustainable development of agriculture.

Some 40 delegates from IFAP member organisations participated in the meeting from Canada, France, Italy, India, Germany, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, and Sweden (IFAP Vice-President) along with observers from CEJA, COPA-COGECA, FAO, and the Canadian Embassy.

## **ATTENDANCE OF IFAP WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

*Koos van Zyl*

Koos van Zyl attended the IFAP working group meetings in Paris, France on behalf of Agri SA. The following is a brief description of these events. Full reports will be completed as soon as the final documents have been received from the IFAP.

### **Working group on risk management in agriculture**

This meeting, which was held on 6 April 2009, was attended by Albania, Brazil, Finland, India, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain and Sweden. The first presentation dealt with the updating of existing risk management systems in the respective countries. Agri SA's presentation focused on disaster risk management legislation and the overarching disaster and risk management plan for the agricultural sector, which attracted much attention, while other countries' submissions dealt with stand alone risk programmes such as the handling of specific disasters, for example the elections in Kenya, risks experienced with the control of various animal diseases and the feeding of farm animals, price structures for farm products and the risk of price fluctuations, with the focus on the quality of farm land and agricultural insurance.

After a discussion on the latest developments in disaster management in the respective countries, Agri SA could refer to its recent initiative to launch an inquiry into agricultural insurance and its involvement in finalisation of the Department of Agriculture's disaster management plans. Thereafter the meeting discussed a draft disaster management plan for agriculture where various recommendations were made as to how the existing risk plans could be improved in terms of education, research and development. Various proposals were made regarding risk management regarding climate change, plant and animal diseases, food safety, price and markets, credit provision and farmers' individual risks, which will in due course be submitted to member states' agricultural organisations for further discussion.

### **Working group on rural employment**

This meeting, which was held on 7 April 2009, was attended by Albania, Brazil, Austria, Ghana, India, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Various countries made presentations to illustrate labour conditions and practices in their respective countries. Agri SA was requested to make a submission on the social dialogue between organised agriculture and other role players such as trade unions, agribusinesses, retailers and the government, and to make a recommendation on how to improve such dialogue. Firstly, reference was made to South Africa's comprehensive labour legislation and the large number of national structures, such as Nedlac and BUSA, and the various local government structures in which Agri SA and its members enjoy strong representation, as well as the ongoing liaison between Agri SA and its affiliates on a variety of labour issues. The recommendations focused mainly on organised agriculture's ongoing representation in official structures and the fact that senior and expert representatives should be involved. It is vital that dialogue takes place at all levels of organised

agriculture to keep members informed of labour issues. Lastly, it was recommended that experts in the field of labour law should be available to assist farmers with labour matters.

### **Working group on climate change and bio-energy**

The meeting took place on 8 April 2009 and was attended by Brazil, Uganda, India, the Philippines, Jordan, South Africa, Costa Rica, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. The meeting was provided with an update on the activities of the IFAP and its status within the UNFCCC process, as well as preparations for the forthcoming climate meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. Much attention was given to the 'Bali Road Map' where the agricultural sector on a global basis presents its views on climate change, the importance of agriculture for food security and agriculture's contribution to the emission of greenhouse gases. This is an important document for the agricultural sector and the recommendations of the working group will in due course be forwarded to all member states' agricultural organisations for further discussion.

### **In closing**

It was good to hear and understand other farmer's organisations, views and policies and to compare them with those of Agri SA. It came as no surprise that Agri SA is not lagging behind – in fact, in many respects Agri SA is ahead of other farmer's organisations. Our only problem remains the implementation of plans and strategy.

## **DAM WATER LEVELS**

*Martina Benadé, Economics and Trade*

According to the dam report of the Department of Water Affairs, the average level of dams this week (27 April 2009) increased by 1,2 percentage points to 87,8%. For the corresponding period last year the level was 86,6%. Dams in the Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape are more than 90% full, while dams in KwaZulu-Natal (87%) and North West (81,5%) are more than 80% full. Dam levels in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Western Cape are 64%, 79% and 56% respectively. Of the country's largest dams, the Vaal dam stands at 101%, the Sterkfontein dam at 99,6%, the Bloemhof dam at 98%, the Gariiep dam at 95% and the Vanderkloof dam at 96,4%. It was clear according to this statistics that a greater part of the country was wetter in the beginning of the winter than the same period last year.

## **PUBLICITY FOR 2009 SURVEYS ON INTEREST TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

Appendix A (at the end of this newsletter) is a schedule of surveys by Statistics SA that will take place in your region during 2009.

### **RSG Landbou-program**

RSG Landbou bestaan uit aktualiteitsonderhoude en landbounuus wat van Maandae tot Donderdae van 12:30-12:44 uitgesaai word op RSG. Die aanbieder is Hennie Maas. Die hoofborge Agri SA, MPO, AgriBonus en Graan SA is verantwoordelik vir die verskaffing van die programme se redaksionele inhoud. Die programinhoud en nuus word gekoördineer en saamgestel deur Agri Connect.

#### **Landboufokus**

Landboufokus word van Maandae-Vrydae van 4:45-4:55 op RSG uitgesaai. Die program bestaan uit interessante onderhoude oor verskillende landboubedrywe. Die program word aangebied deur Hennie Maas en word saamgestel deur Agri Connect.

### **Agriculture Today**

**SABC 2** Maandae – Vrydae 05:45

**SABC Africa (kanaal 53)** Sondae 12:30

Ons spreek ouergewoonte landboukwessies aan, kyk na die jongste markpryse.

We have a look at what the weather holds.

**Lekker boer! / Enjoy your farming!**

*Hierdie nuusbrieff word saamgestel en uitgereik deur Agri SA Korporatiewe Skakeling  
This newsletter is compiled and issued by Agri SA Corporate Liaison*

**PUBLIKASIE VAN 2009 OPNAMES VAN BELANG VIR DIE LANDBOUSEKTOR**  
**PUBLICITY FOR 2009 SURVEYS ON INTEREST TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

Die volgende opnames deur Statistieke SA gaan gedurende 2009 in u omgewing plaasvind.  
*The following surveys by Statistics SA will take place in your region during 2009.*

Agricultural Sample Survey 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised agriculture (OA)</li> <li>Media</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postal</li> <li>Visits where requested</li> </ul>	September 08 to July 09	Fanie Roos 012 310 2168 082 804 2135
Agricultural Sample Survey 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised agriculture (OA)</li> <li>Media</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postal</li> <li>Visits where requested</li> </ul>	September 09 to July 10	Fanie Roos 012 310 2168 082 804 2135
General Household Survey (GHS) July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	06 to 10 July 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Interviews</li> </ul>	Fieldwork: 13 to 24 July 09	Mokgadi Ntsoane 012 310 8425 082 906 2780
General Household Survey (GHS) September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	31 August 09 to 04 September 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Interviews</li> </ul>	Fieldwork: 07 to 18 September 09	Mokgadi Ntsoane 012 310 8425 082 906 2780
Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	First week of every month, exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February – last week of January</li> <li>December – last week of November</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listing</li> <li>Personal Interviews</li> </ul>	Fieldwork : middle two weeks of the month, exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January – last 2 weeks</li> <li>December - first 2 weeks</li> </ul>	Pietersen Dion 012 310 8327 082 888 2135
Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	17 to 23 March 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Interviews</li> </ul>	Fieldwork: 14 to 24 April 09	Victor Matlala 082 888 2280
Domestic Tourism Survey (DTS) June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	25 May 09 to 05 June 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Interviews</li> </ul>	Fieldwork: 08 to 19 June 09	Victor Matlala 082 888 2280
Geo-reference Dwelling Frame Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	July 08 to November 09	Short personal interview with handled GPRS device (max 20 min)	Fieldwork: September 08 to December 09	Andre Brand 012 310 8694
Living Conditions Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OA</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Press associates</li> </ul>	07 July to 31 August 09	Personal Interviews (Diary and a questionnaire)	Fieldwork: August 08 to August 09	Belinda Curry 073 234 3363