Agri SA

E-nuusbrief / E-newsletter

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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

16 Julie 2009

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Ondersteun ons vennote

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

Oor die Kole Agri Securitas gholfreeks in samwerking met Cipla Agrimed, Santam Landbou, Absa		
Limpopo	15 Oktober	Euphoria Gholfklub – Bela-Bela
KwaZulu-Natal	3 November	Pietermaritzburg Gholfklub
Wes-Kaap	13 Augustus	Paarl Gholfklub
Mpumalanga	10 September	Witrivier Gholfklub
Noordwes	17 September	Potchefstoom
Vrystaat	20 Oktober	Bloemfontein Gholfklub
Oos-Kaap	10 November	Port Elizabeth Gholfklub
Navrae kan aan Kobus Visser gerig word by 012 300 9500 **of e-pos kobusv@agrisa.co.za**		

Kabinetslede – administrasie, magte, funksies en spesifieke wetgewing

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Uitvoerende Direkteur

President Zuma het verskeie veranderings in die samestelling van die Kabinet en staatsdepartements aangebring. Klaarblyklik word daar nog op regeringsvlak heelwat werk gedoen om ‘n duideliker afbakening van funksies en verantwoordelikhede te doen. Die aangehegte PDF dokumente gee toeligting oor die toewysing van wetlike verantwoordelikhede aan ministeries en staatsdepartemente.

Parlementêre verslag: 15 Junie – 3 Julie 2009

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parlementêre verteenwoordiger, Adviseur: Regs- & Grondsake

Begrotingsrede: Minister van Waterwese en die Omgewing

Op 24 Junie 2009 het die Minister van Waterwese en die Omgewing haar begrotingsrede gelewer. Sy het verwys na die ANC se Polokwane kongres se besluite om water-toekenning te hervorm en die waterhulpbron op verantwoordelike wyse te bestuur. Sy het die feit beklemtoon dat Suid-Afrika ‘n water-arm land is. Sy het ‘n zero-verdraagsaamheidsbeleid ten opsigte van water- en omgewingsmisdade aangekondig. Die blou- en groen skerpioene sal voortaan as ‘n enkele afdwingingsliggaam funksioneer en omgewingshowe sal heringestel word. Die beginsel van “besoedelaar betaal” sal toegepas word. Die water hervormings-toekenningsprogram sal versnel word. Agri SA en ander relevante rolspelers sal hieroor gekonsulteer word. Sy het ook verwys na sekere infrastruktuur-programme wat die regering onderneem het en van plan is om te onderneem, met betrekking tot wateropberging en voorsiening.

Begrotingsrede: Minister van Handel en Nywerheid

Die Minister van Handel en Nywerheid het sy begrotingstoespraak op 30 Junie 2009 gelewer. Hy het gesê die mandaat wat die regering by die kiesers gekry het is om die ekonomie te groei op ‘n wyse wat werk skep en volhoubare bestaansgeleenthede skep. Daar is nie in die laaste paar jaar genoeg gedoen om armoede te verlig en werk te skep nie. Die mark alleen kan dit nie doen nie, ingryping deur die staat is nodig om die ongelykhede en beperkings in die ekonomie aan te spreek. Hy het gesê dat die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie reeds heelwat ingekrimp het as gevolg van die internasionale ekonomiese krisis. Die regering, vakbonde, besigheid en sosiale vennote het in Februarie vanjaar ‘n Raamwerk vir SA se reaksie op die globale ekonomiese krisis aanvaar. Suid-Afrika neem steeds deel aan die Doha-rondte van handelsonderhandelinge. Die regering wil sy handelsbeleid en tariefbeleid meer in lyn bring met sy nywerheids-beleidsdoelwitte. Die Minister het te kenne gegee dat hy nie tevrede is met die vordering wat gemaak is met die bevordering en ontwikkeling van koöperasies nie. Die regering glo dat koöperasies groot sosio-ekonomiese potensiaal het en as sulks sal dit ‘n fokusarea vir die Departement in die komende termyn wees.

Begrotingsrede: Minister van Polisie

Die Minister van Polisie het op 1 Julie 2009 sy begrotingsrede in die Parlement gelewer. Hy het gesê dat misdaad die regering se pogings om armoede aan te spreek ondermyn. Hy het verwys na President Zuma se staatsrede waarin die President onder andere gesê het dat die regering ten doel het om 'n behoorlik befondste en goed-bestuurde kriminele strafregstelsel daar te stel. Dit beteken onder andere dat die howe meer effektief moet funksioneer en dat spesialis speurders, forensiese kundiges en intelligensie-personeel opgelei en aangestel sal moet word. Die SAPD se personeel sal oor die volgende drie jaar toeneem van 183 180 tot 204 860. Hy het gesê die regering is veral bekommerd oor die voorkoms van ernstige en gewelddadige misdaad. Sekere wysigings aan die Strafproseswet word onder andere beoog om te probeer om gewelddadige misdaad te bekamp. Die regering is ook besig om 'n vorige besluit om die weermag aan die grense te onttrek, te hersien. Hy het gesê die kwessie van landelike veiligheid sal ook spesiale aandag geniet.

Portefeuljekomitee op Landelike Ontwikkeling en Grondhervorming

Tydens 'n vergadering van die Portefeuljekomitee op Landelike Ontwikkeling en Grondhervorming op 1 Julie 2009, het die parlementêre navorsers 'n voorlegging gedoen oor hul siening oor die vordering met grondhervorming tot op hede en struikelblokke wat bestaan in die verband.

Die voorsitter, Mnr Sizane het gesê dat die Komitee onafhanklike inligting wil bekom en nie slegs van die departement afhanklik wil wees vir inligting nie. In hul voorlegging het die navorsers 'n gebrekkige begroting, kapasiteits-probleme binne die departement, swak na-vestigingsorg, hoë grondpryse, burokratiese prosesse, konflik tussen eisers en korrupsie uitgewys as struikelblokke. Hulle het verder die mening uitgespreek dat markgedrewe grondhervorming nie daarin geslaag het om grond in genoegsame hoeveelhede beskikbaar te stel nie en dat daar gekyk moet word na alternatiewe soos onteiening. Tot dusver het die staat baie min van onteiening gebruik gemaak. Hulle is ten gunste van klein familieplasies, hoewel hulle dit duidelik gestel het dat dit nie die enigste model kan wees nie.

Hulle het gesê dat toegang tot grond opsigself nie voldoende is nie, maar dat daar ook toegang tot insette, gereedskap, toerusting, bemarkingsgeleenthede en opleiding moet wees. Hulle het gesê dat entiteite waarin grond gehou word, soos kommunale eiendomsverenigings skynbaar grootliks dis-funksioneel is. Hulle het aanbeveel dat daar 'n debat behoort te wees oor wat moontlik is met betrekking tot grondhervorming en landelike ontwikkeling in die huidige ekonomiese klimaat. Hulle het ook aanbeveel dat die Verblyfregwet en Huurarbeiderwet hersien moet word en dat daar voorsiening gemaak moet word vir toegang tot produktiewe grond vir plaassbewoners.

Tydens die bespreking het lede die punt gemaak dat die Komitee bestaande wetgewing en die implementering daarvan behoort te evalueer. Daar moet onder andere gekyk word na die onbedoelde gevolge wat voortgespruit het uit die Verblyfregwet se toepassing. Die vraag is gevra waarom die staat grondeienaars toelaat om meer as markwaarde vir hul grond te eis? Meer inligting word verlang oor gevalle waar korrupte amptenare met grondeienaars saamgespan het om belaglike hoë pryse vir grond te kry. Die vraag is ook gevra of daar al 'n ontleding gedoen is van waarom die "gewillige koper – verkoper" beginsel skynbaar nie werk nie? Daar is ook vrae gevra oor plase wat verkeerdelik onder die restitusie-proses in die Staatskoerant gepubliseer is.

PARLEMENTÊRE VERSLAG: 6 JULIE – 10 JULIE 2009

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parlementêre verteenwoordiger, Adviseur: Regs- & Grondsake

Die Landbou Navorsingsraad (LNR) het op 7 Julie 2009 'n voorlegging gemaak aan die Portefeuljekomitee op Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye oor hul jaarverslag en begroting. Die LNR se Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte het die Portefeuljekomitee meegedeel dat die LNR ernstige finansiële probleme ondervind, wat nie te wyte is aan wanbestuur nie, maar aan 'n gebrekkige begroting. Die LNR het in die laaste twee jaar ongekwalifiseerde ouditverslae gekry. Die LNR se

toekenning vanaf die Parlement het die afgelope 5 jaar slegs met 10% toegeneem. Die diereverbeteringskema, wat ‘n verantwoordelikheid is wat deur die Departement Landbou aan die LNR opgedra is, is baie duur. Die LNR het nie die fondse om die nodige kundige personeel aan te stel om meer buite-werk te werf en so hul eie inkomste te vergroot nie. Die lede van die Komitee is uitgenooi om die LNR se fasiliteite te kom besoek. Die Komiteelede het onderneem om in te gaan op die kwessie van befondsing en sal moontlik sekere aanbevelings aan die Tesourie in die verband doen met die oog op die volgende begroting.

Die Nasionale Landbou Bemarkingsraad en die Mededingskommissie het op 8 Julie 2009 voorleggings gedoen aan die Portefeuljekomitee op Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye oor voedselpryse en onmededingende optrede in die mark. Die Landboubemarkingsraad het die belangrike rol van die landbousektor as verdiener van buitelandse valuta, verskaffer van voedsel en werksgeleenthede en die voorwaartse en terugwaartse skakeling in die ekonomie beklemtoon. Die Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte van die Bemarkingsraad het gesê dat voedselpryse deur sekere internasionale, sowel as plaaslike tendense beinvloed word. Die prys van voedsel het in Augustus 2008 ‘n hoogtepunt bereik en het sedertdien afgeneem. Die krisis is egter, volgens hom nog nie verby nie. Een van die probleme is dat die investering in landbou wêreldwyd steeds te laag is. Die Bemarkingsraad het ‘n oorsig oor hul rol en aktiwiteite gegee en onder andere gewys op die positiewe impak wat ‘n grootskaalse bemarkingsaksie van pruime in Europa op verkope gehad het.

Die Adjunk-Kommissaris van die Mededingingskommissie het ook ‘n voorlegging aan die Portefeuljekomitee gemaak. Hy het begin deur te sê dat daar ‘n krisis in ons landboumark is. Hy het gesê dat daar baie prysvasstelling plaasvind. Voedselpryse was baie hoog in 2007 en 2008, dit wil voorkom asof dit nou effens afkom. Die uitdaging is om die koste van produksie te koppel aan die prys van voedsel. Die Mededingingskommissie het gevind dat die broodprys byvoorbeeld nooit afgekom het nie, ten spyte van die feit dat koring en meelpryse op ‘n stadium geval het. Nie-mededingende optrede is volgens die Kommissie ‘n groot bydaende faktor tot hoë voedselpryse. Die Kommissie ondersoek op die oomblik onder andere ‘n klagte van die Melkprodusente- organisasie teen supermarkte.

Die Kommissie op die Herstel van Grondregte het op 8 Julie 2009 ‘n voorlegging gedoen aan die Portefeuljekomitee op Landelike Ontwikkeling en Grondhervorming oor vordering met restitusie. Die Minister, Mnr Nkwinti en die Adjunk-Minister, Mnr Phaala was ook by die vergadering teenwoordig. Die Hoofgrondeisekommissaris, Andrew Mphela het die voorlegging gedoen. Hy het die Komitee onder andere ingelig dat die Kommissie reeds hul totale begroting vir die jaar gespandeer het en derhalwe geen fondse oor het vir die res van die finansiële jaar nie. Dit beinvloed onder andere die oordrag van grond waar skikkings met grondeienaars bereik is.

Mnr Mphela het gesê dat daar nog 4296 uitstaande eise is en dat die Kommissie beoog om die uitstaande eise teen 2011 te finaliseer. Die Komiteelede het egter hierdie teiken bevraagteken in die lig van die Kommissie se stadige vordering met die afhandeling van eise tot dusver. Mnr Mphela het gesê dat van die probleme wat die Kommissie ondervind is eisers wat nie opgespoor kan word nie, gebrekkige begrotings, kapasiteitsprobleme, konflik tussen eisers n eiser-groepe, dooiepunte in onderhandelings met grondeienaars, hoë grondpryse en probleme in die Grondeisehof. Skynbaar het van die Grondeisehof se regters bedank en is daar ‘n dispuut oor die vergoeding van die regters. Daar is tans 174 eise voor die Grondeisehof. Volgens Mnr Mphela ondervind die Kommissie veral probleme met buitensporige grondpryse in Kwa_Zulu Natal en Mpumalanga.

Die Portefeuljekomitee het heelwat gedebatteer oor die kwessie van grondpryse en die vraag oor of die staat meer betaal vir grond as wat privaat-kopers doen. Van die komiteelede het vrae gehad oor beweerde samespanning tussen amptenare van die Kommissie en grondeienaars ontwikkelaars en eiendomsagente. Die kwessie van die hersiening van die beginsel van “gewillige koper en – verkoper” het ook weer ter sprake gekom. Die Adjunk-Minister het dit duidelik gestel dat die Grondwet eiendomsreg beskerm en billike vergoeding vereis, maar het gesê dat daar skynbaar binne die beperkinge wat die Grondwet stel probleme bestaan en dat daar persepsies is dat ‘n kunsmatige mark vir grond geskep is. Die voorsitter, Mnr Sizane het die punt gemaak dat die staat ‘n grootskaalse koper in die mark is en as sulks goeie pryse vir die staat behoort te kan beding.

AGRI SA EN STATISTIEK SA VERGADER

Dawie Maree, Agri SA Ekonoom

Die besture van onderskeidelik Agri SA en Statistiek SA het verlede week vergader om die goeie samewerkingsverhouding wat reeds hulle bestaan uit te brei en toekomstige samewerking te bespreek.

Statistiek SA is tans besig met hulle strategiese beplanning vir die volgende tien jaar asook die opstel van ‘n “Agricultural Statistics Strategy”. In die proses sal daar weer na dienslewering gekyk word en sleutel-rolspelers sal genader word om te bepaal wat hulle onderskeie behoeftes vir statistiek is, sodat Statistiek SA die behoeftes is ag kan neem wanneer opnames gedoen word. Statistiek SA sal ook nouer met die onderskeie landboubedrywe, banke, ens wil saam werk om hulle databasis aan te vul met relevante inligting, sodat die gebruikers van die inligting toegang het tot meer volledige en betroubare inligting.

Agri SA verwelkom hierdie benadering van Statistiek SA en sal sover moontlik die inisiatief ondersteun. Mnr Johannes Möller, president van Agri SA, het mnr Moses Mnyaka bedank vir die wyse waarop die 2007 Landbou-sensus gedoen is, en die goeie werksverhouding wat tussen die twee organisasies bestaan. Statistiek SA het ook hulle verbintenis tot die landbou en Agri SA herbevestig.

HERWAARDERING VAN BORGTOG-VERGUNNING

Kobus Visser, Agri SA, Direkteur: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Agri SA verwelkom die President se pleidooi vir ‘n herwaardering van die proses ingevolge waarvan vermeende misdadigers borgtog in Suid-Afrika toegestaan word. Hierdie beroep is deur die President gemaak tydens die tweede regterlike konferensie vir regters. Agri SA handhaaf reeds lank die standpunt dat die samelewing nie ‘n persepsie kan bekostig dat die regte van misdadigers meer belangrik is as dié van hulle slagoffers nie.

Daar is ‘n persepsie in die land dat misdadigers beter behandeling ontvang en meer regte het as hul slagoffers. In baie gevalle word misdadigers aangekeer en dan binne ‘n kort tydperk weer vrygelaat om weereens misdaad te pleeg of getuies te intimideer. Die regte van misdadigers mag nooit hoër prioriteit geniet as dié van hul slagoffers nie.

HAWKS IN DIE STRYD TEEN MISDAAD

Kobus Visser, Agri SA, Direkteur: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Die Direktoraat vir Prioriteitsmisdaadondersoeke (DPCI), wat nou as die Hawks bekend staan, sal fokus op misdaadbestryding en sal sorg dat misdadigers boet vir die misdade wat hulle pleeg. Die bekendstelling van die Hawks kom op ‘n tyd waar die land ‘n gesamentlike poging moet aanwend om ‘n sterk boodskap aan misdadigers te stuur dat misdaad nie betaal nie. Hierdie eenheid vervang die voormalige Skerpioene en sal konsentreer op die bestryding van georganiseerde misdaad waar kriminele min agting toon vir die land se strafregstelsel. Hulle sal misdade wat nasionale prioriteit geniet bestry en ondersoek, soos georganiseerde misdaad, korrupsie, ekonomiese misdade en ander misdaad wat na die eenheid verwys word deur die Nasionale Polisiekommissaris. Ten einde sy misdaadbestrydingsaksies te versterk het die Hawks ‘n hegte werksverhouding met ander departemente soos Justisie en Konstitusionele Ontwikkeling, die Nasionale Tesourie en die Suid-Afrikaanse Inkomstediens gevestig. Hierdie multi-dissiplinêre benadering tot misdaadbestryding word deur Agri SA gesteun aangesien dit een van die organisasie se besluite was tydens ‘n vorige kongres dat misdaad oor ‘n wyer front bestry behoort te word.

Bystand aan die landbou

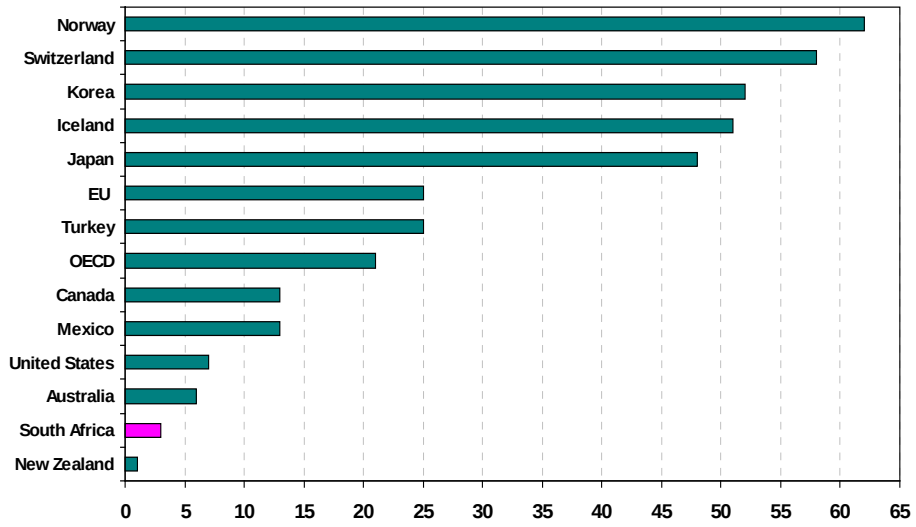
Martina Benadé (Ekonomie en Handel)

"Producer Support Estimate (PSE) measures the money value of transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers arising from government policies"

'n PSE is 'n aanwyser van die geld wat ingevolge landboubeleid in 'n bepaalde land na produsente van landbouprodukte oorgedra word as persentasie van die produksiewaarde. Dit bepaal dus betalings wat aan boere gedoen sou moes word om hul huidige inkomste te verseker as alle maatreëls vir binnelandse landbou-ondersteuning verwyder sou word.

Resultate van 'n onlangse verslag deur die Organisasie vir Ekonomiese Samewerking en Ontwikkeling (OESO) in hierdie verband het nou beskikbaar geraak. Hiervolgens is dit duidelik dat bystand aan die landbou in 2008 op internasionale vlak oorwegend hoër as in Suid-Afrika is. PSE's wissel tussen 62% in die geval van Noorweë, 58% Switserland, 52% Korea tot 13%, 7% en ±3% in die geval van Kanada, VSA en Suid-Afrika onderskeidelik. Hiervolgens kan duidelik gesien word hoe ongelyk die speelveld is waarin Suid-Afrikaanse boere moet beweeg. Die omvang van regeringsteun wat deur boere in verskeie ander lande ontvang word, is astronomies. Suid-Afrikaanse boere is geregverdig in hulle aandrang dat onder andere 'n tariefbeleid vir landbou hierdie ongelyke speelveld moet aanspreek. Hierdie verslag is beskikbaar op die webtuiste van die OESO www.oecd.org.

Estimates of support to agriculture in selected non-OECD and OECD countries (2008)



Source: OECD

TRANSFORMASIEKOMITEE

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Uitvoerende Direkteur

Agri SA se Transformasiekomitee wat handel met grondhervorming, boerontwikkeling en swart ekonomiese bemagtiging hou op 21 en 22 Julie 2009 'n vergadering in Pretoria. Items wat op die sakelys verskyn sluit in: Begrotingsbeperkings vir grond aankope; die debat rondom "gewillige koper en gewillige verkoper" asook onteiening; gesprekke tussen Agri SA en die Hoofgrondeisekommissaris; vordering om 'n databasis van grondbesit saam te stel; 'n moontlike konferensie oor boerontwikkeling; asook die aktivering van die AgriSEB Handvesraad. Alle affiliasies, naamlik provinsiale unies, bedryfsorganisasies en die Landboubesigheidskamer is na hierdie belangwekkende vergadering uitgenooi.

ALGEMENE RAAD

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Uitvoerende Direkteur

Agri SA se Algemene Raad volg direk na die Transformasiekomitee se vergadering op 22 Julie 2009 en duur tot 23 Julie 2009 om 15:00. In aanloop tot Agri SA se Kongres gaan die vergadering spesifiek aandag gee aan die Strategiese Plan vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou as raamwerk vir beleidvoering en konsep-beleidsdokumente oor die volgende onderwerpe: 'n geïntegreerde benadering tot omgewingsaangeleenthede tot volhoubare landbouproduksie; beskerming van eiendomsreg; landbou se rol in die bevordering van nasionale voedselsekerheid; landboubemarkingsbeleid met spesifieke verwysing na die rol en bydrae van die georganiseerde landbou met betrekking tot dienslewering en ontwikkelingsfunksies; en Agri SA se belang en betrokkenheid by kommersiële landbou-ontwikkeling in Afrika. Ander belangwekkende items op die sakelys sluit in implikasies van die Grondwethof-uitspraak oor die toepassingsbestek van die Wet op Sekerheidsdienste op plaasarbeid; Onteieningswet en die "gewillige koper en gewillige verkoper" benadering vir grondverkryging deur die staat; reëlings met die Hoofgrondeisekommissaris oor kompensasie vir restitusiegrond en die ontlysting van ongeldige eise; en Agri SA se regsgeding met die Minister van Minerale en Energie oor onteiening van regte sonder vergoeding. Al Agri SA se affiliasies is welkom om verteenwoordigers na hierdie vergadering te stuur. Affiliasies kan Anneke Roux kontak by telefoon nommer (012) 300 9505 oor bywoningreëlings.

IS YOUR PCO A REGISTERED PCO?

Media statement by AVCASA on 7 July 2009

South Africa is plagued by unregistered pest control operators (PCOs) that defraud the public and farmers with unprofessional services that often lead to human health impacts, environmental impacts and potential crop damage. Pest control operators are controlled by Registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Crop Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). Any individual offering pest control services to domestic, industrial and agricultural clients for financial reward must therefore be registered as a Pest Control Operator by the Registrar to ensure compliance with Act No. 36 of 1947 and general pesticide safety principles.

AVCASA is aware that some operators offering pest control services to farmers in the Western Cape fruit farming areas to control fruit fly, are not registered and therefore not qualified to offer these services. Application equipment used by these individuals is totally inadequate to deliver the pesticides safely and effectively. In other parts of the country similar illegal pest control services are offered by individuals who are not registered with the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947.

Pest control in urban areas for domestic purposes is also often offered by dubious operators who are not in possession of a valid pest control operator’s license. Such operators have been implicated in flushing left-over pesticide spray mixture in gardens thereby contaminating soil with pesticide residues. It is also common practice for such operators to use pesticides that are not legally registered for household applications – this poses a serious health risk to members of the public who live in homes or occupy commercial offices.

AVCASA is also aware of unlicensed aerial applicators that apply pesticides by aerial application. This is highly controversial and has brought aerial application of pesticides into disrepute. Aerial applicators must first of all have a valid pilot’s license from the Civil Aviation Authority and then obtain the special Aerial Applicators Pest Control Operator’s license from the Registrar.

It is important to take note of the fact that pesticides may only be applied for purposes and in manners as indicated on their labels. PCOs that are not registered often apply pesticides contrary to the label instructions and therefore contravene Act No. 36 of 1947. The Registrar has the power designated in the Act to prosecute operators that make themselves guilty of these contraventions. Further powers of the Registrar include the banning and probable attachment of application devices used by PCOs that are not suitable for the safe and effective dispensing of pesticides.

ACDASA (the Agricultural Chemical Distribution Association of South Africa operating as a business unit of AVCASA) will not supply pesticides to pest control operators that are not fully registered as legal PCOs with the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947. ACDASA and its respective members will not be held responsible for crop damage or losses incurred by farmers when unregistered PCOs are contracted to apply pesticides for agricultural purposes.

AVCASA advises the public, the business sector and the agricultural sector to refrain from contracting individuals or companies that are not registered by the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 to perform pest control services. Any suspicious activities or individuals should be reported to AVCASA without delay. AVCASA undertakes to report all such complaints to the Inspectorate of Act No. 36 of 1947 and assist the inspectorate to bring illegal operators and illegal activities to task.

AVCASA supports the principle that pest control operators should be members of an association that can implement self-administration and self-regulation of the pest control industry. The South African Pest Control Association SAPCA is a professional association that offers members a platform to represent themselves and to introduce much needed national standards and controls over this industry. The Aerial Applicators Association of South Africa offers the same services for aerial applicators. Government needs to take cognizance of the need for self-regulation and both these institutions should be given the mandate to do so in the near future.

BANKS SET ON REVIVING AGRICULTURE IN SA

Banking Association South Africa

Our local banks have embarked on a drive to revive the agricultural sector in South Africa and want to boost our food economy and national ‘bread basket’ while also protecting and expanding agricultural employment to combat the global economic slowdown.

There is of course a huge opportunity for the local banking community to add value to this valuable and often neglected sector of the economy by providing credit and product loans to farmers. An estimated 30 billion rand in agricultural debt is serviced by local commercial banks.
Our local banks are committed to growing this sizeable and often neglected part of our economy and are currently working on lowering transaction costs in this regard as well as keeping interest rates as competitive as possible. Our food security is vital.

These investments and loans are in turn used to expand farming production, purchase implements and spur agricultural employment. SA banks are supporting the agricultural sector by extending capital loans and farming credit to all farmers. This includes both large commercial farms and smaller scale black farmers.

Of course no one doubts that agriculture is a vital part of our economy and food security for the nation is very important, both for providing reasonably priced foodstuffs to SA citizens for consumption but also for decreasing the need to import expensive globally grown food into our local market.

This is especially vital now in recessionary times when import cost control is key for SA’s national economic prosperity and local consumers need food prices to remain as affordable as possible. This is even more relevant when coupled with recent speculations of major job losses, amounting to 300 000 in this financial year, creating more hardships for ordinary families who are already finding it difficult to make ends meet.

It is estimated that our local farming sector provides employment to over 800 000 people across the country and is currently our largest national employer of people, employing entire families, stimulating the economy and anchoring our rural communities.

This figure is even larger when considering all the casual workers also employed in the agricultural sector across the nation including the Western Cape, Mphumulanga, Limpopo and the Free State.

Our agricultural sector provides gainful employment for thousands of people across our country and needs to be boosted, revived and supported to meet the challenges of the future.

I must say and emphasise that in times of recession the farming sector and community provides us with three vital benefits as a nation. Firstly, as a national employer it provides much needed employment for hundreds of thousands our people.

Secondly, when managed efficiently and supported by the rest of the nation it also provides affordable food to the people of our nation. This is especially vital in times of the credit crunch when poor families are struggling to make ends meet and put bread on the table.

Thirdly, a healthy agricultural sector stimulates the economy and reduces our imports making for a healthier balance of payments and a more robust and lending worthy GDP profile.

The Banking Association of South Africa invites and calls on all other sectors of our economy to help support and revive our invaluable agricultural sector, especially in these times of economic slowdown and the credit crunch.

CABINET MEMBERS - ADMINISTRATION AND POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ENTRUSTED BY THE SPECIFIED LEGISLATION

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Executive Director

President Zuma announced various changes in the composition of Cabinet and functions of government departments. Work is still being done to finalise and clarify the relevant functions and responsibilities. The enclosed PDF file elucidates the allocation of responsibilities to ministries and government departments with regards to the administration of various laws.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT: 15 JUNE – 3 JULY 2009

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parliamentary representative, Advisor: Legal & Land Affairs

Budget speech: Minister of Water Affairs and the Environment

On 24 June 2009, the Minister of Water Affairs and the Environment delivered her budget speech. She referred to the resolutions adopted at the ANC's Polokwane congress, namely to reform water allocation and to manage the resource in a responsible manner. She emphasised the fact that South Africa was a water-deficient country and announced a zero-tolerance policy in terms of water and environmental offences. The blue and green scorpions would continue to function as a single enforcement body and environmental courts would be reinstated. The principle of "polluter pays" will be implemented and the water reform/allocation programme will be expedited. Agri SA and other relevant role players will be consulted in this regard. She also referred to certain infrastructure programmes undertaken and to be undertaken by government with regard to water storage and provision.

Budget speech: Minister of Trade and Industry

The Minister of Trade and Industry delivered his budget speech on 30 June 2009. He said the mandate which government had secured from the electorate was to grow the economy in a manner that would create jobs and sustainable subsistence opportunities. During the past few years not enough had been done to alleviate poverty and to create jobs. The market alone cannot do this and state intervention is needed to address inequalities and limitations within the economy. He said the South African economy had already shrunk considerably as a result of the international economic crisis. In February this year the government, trade unions, business and social partners accepted a Framework for South Africa's response to the global economic crisis. South Africa remains involved in the Doha Round of trade negotiations and the government wants to further align its trade and tariff policy with its industrial policy objectives. The Minister said he was not satisfied with progress made with the promotion and development of co-operatives. The government believes that co-ops have tremendous socio-economic potential and, as such, will serve as a focus area of the department for the coming term.

Budget speech: Minister of Police

The Minister of Police delivered his budget speech in Parliament on 1 July 2009. He said crime was undermining the government's efforts to address poverty. He referred to President Zuma's state-of-the-nation address in which he said, among others things that the government aimed to create a properly funded and well-managed criminal justice system. This means that courts must function more effectively and that specialist detectives, forensic experts and intelligence staff must be trained and appointed. Over the next three years the SAPS staff establishment will increase from 183 180 to 204 860 members. Certain amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act are being considered in an attempt to combat violent crime. The government is also in the process of reviewing a previous decision to withdraw the defence force from border control duties. He said the question of rural safety was also receiving special attention.

Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform

At a meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform on 1 July 2009, parliamentary researchers made a submission regarding their views on progress made with land reform to date and obstacles that exist in this regard.

The chairman, Mr Sizane, said the Committee wished to obtain independent information and did not want to rely solely on the information received from the department. In their presentation the researchers identified a lack of budget, capacity problems within the department, inadequate post-settlement support, high land prices, bureaucratic processes, conflict between claimants and corruption as obstacles in this regard.

They were also of the opinion that market-driven land reform had not succeeded in making sufficient land available and that alternatives such as expropriation should be considered. To date, the state has made very limited use of expropriation. They are in favour of small family farms while making it clear that this cannot be the only model.

They said access to land alone was not sufficient. Beneficiaries also require access to inputs, equipment, implements, marketing opportunities and training. Entities in which land is held, such as communal property associations, were apparently largely dysfunctional. They recommended that a debate be held as to what was possible in terms of land reform and rural development within the present economic climate. The researchers recommended that the Extension of Security of Tenure Act and Labour Tenants' Act be reviewed and that provision be made for access to productive land for farm dwellers.

During the discussion, members made the point that the Committee should evaluate existing legislation and the implementation thereof. They should look at, among others, the unintentional consequences of the implementation of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act. The question was posed as to why the state allows land owners to claim more than market value for their land. More information is needed regarding cases where corrupt officials colluded with land owners to obtain ridiculously high prices for land. The question was also whether an analysis had been done to ascertain why the "willing buyer, willing seller" approach apparently does not work. There were also questions relating to farms that were erroneously listed as being subject to land claims and published as such in the *Government Gazette.*

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT: 6 JULY – 10 JULY 2009

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parliamentary representative, Advisor: Legal & Land Affairs

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) on 7 July 2009 made a submission to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on their annual report and budget. The ARC's Chief Executive Officer informed the Portfolio Committee that the ARC was experiencing serious financial problems, which cannot be ascribed to mismanagement but rather a lack of budget. During the past two years, the ARC had received unqualified audit reports. The allocation that the ARC receives from Parliament had increased by only 10% over the past five years. The animal improvement scheme, which is a responsibility that the Department of Agriculture had assigned to the ARC, is very expensive. The ARC does not have the funds to appoint the

necessary experts to source more outside work in order to supplement their own income. The members of the Committee were invited to visit the ARC's facilities. The Committee members undertook to look into the matter of funding and would make recommendations to the Treasury in this regard as soon as possible with a view to the next budget.

On 8 July 2009, the National Agricultural Marketing Council and the Competition Commission made submissions to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regarding food prices and non-competitive market practices. The Agricultural Marketing Council emphasised the important role of the agricultural sector as earner of foreign exchange and provider of food and job opportunities, also in terms of forward and backward linkages within the economy. The CEO of the Marketing Council said that food prices were influenced by certain international as well as local trends. Food prices peaked in August 2008 and have since declined. However, according to him, the crisis is not yet over. One of the problems is that investment in agriculture worldwide remains too low. The Marketing Council provided an overview of their role and activities, referring, among others, to the positive impact that a large-scale marketing action had on plum sales in Europe.

The Deputy Commissioner of the Competition Commission also made a submission to the Portfolio Committee. He started by stating that there was a crisis within the agricultural market. A lot of price fixing was taking place. Food prices were very high in 2007 and 2008, but prices seem to be dropping slightly. The challenge is to link the cost of production to the price of food. The Competition Commission had found, for example, that the bread price never dropped despite the fact that wheat and flour prices had declined at one point. According to the Commission, non-competitive practice was a major contributing factor to high food prices. The Commission was in the process of investigating, among other things, a complaint instituted by the Milk Producers' Organisation against supermarkets.

The Commission for the Restitution of Land Rights on 8 July 2009 made a submission to the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform regarding progress made with restitution. The Minister, Mr Nkwinti, and the Deputy Minister, Mr Phaala, also attended the meeting. The Chief Land Claims Commissioner, Andrew Mphela, conducted the presentation. He informed the Committee that the Commission had already spent their entire budget for the year and therefore had no funds left for the rest of the financial year. This will have an influence on, among others, the transfer of land where settlements had been reached with the land owners.

Mr Mphela said there were still 4 296 outstanding claims and that the Commission intended to finalise these claims by 2011. The Committee members questioned this target given the slow progress that the Commission had made to date in finalising claims. Mr Mphela said issues faced by the Commission included the fact that claimants could not be traced, insufficient budgets, conflict between claimants and claimant groups, high land prices and problems within the Land Claims Court. Some Land Claims Court judges had apparently resigned and there was a dispute underway regarding remuneration. There are at present 174 claims before the Land Claims Court. According to Mr Mphela, the Commission was experiencing problems, particularly with astronomical land prices in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

The Portfolio Committee debated at length the matter of land prices and whether the state should pay more for land than private buyers do. Some of the Committee members had questions regarding alleged collusion between officials of the Commission and land owners, and developers and property agents. The question of reviewing the principle of "willing buyer, willing seller" was again raised. The Deputy Minister made it clear that the Constitution protects property rights and requires fair compensation to be paid. According to him, however, there seemed to be problems regarding the limits set by the Constitution, with perceptions that an artificial market had been created for land. The chairman, Mr Sizane, made the point that the state was a large-scale buyer in the market and as such should be able to negotiate favourable prices.

AGRI SA AND STATISTICS SA MEET

Dawie Maree, Agri SA Economist

The management of Agri SA and Statistics SA met last week to discuss and strengthen the existing good working relationship between the two organisations and to build on future cooperation.

Statistics SA is currently busy to review their strategic planning for the next ten years. They are also busy compiling an Agricultural Statistics Survey. In the process Statistics SA will look at service delivery and key role-players will be involved to do a needs analysis, in order for Statistics SA to delivery according to the needs of the users. Statistics SA will also work closer with agricultural industry organisations and commercial banks to strengthen their database with more relevant information, in order to supply complete and reliable statistics to users of such information.

Agri SA welcome this approach of Statistics SA and will support the initiative as far as possible. Mr Johannes Möller, president of Agri SA, thanked Mr Moses Mnyaka for the way in which Statistics SA conduct the 2007 Agricultural Census, and for the good working relationship that exists between the two organisations. Statistics SA also confirmed their commitment to agriculture and Agri SA.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF GRANTING OF BAIL

Kobus Visser, Agri SA, Director: Corporate Liaison

Agri SA welcomed the call by the country's President for the reassessment of the process through which perpetrators of crime are granted bail in South Africa. This call was made by the President during the second judicial conference for judges. For a long time, it has been Agri SA's view that society can not afford a perception that the rights of criminals are more important over those of victims.

A perception exist in the country that criminals receive better treatment and that they have more rights than victims. In many cases society see alledged perpertrators arrested and then released in a short time just to commit further crime or intimidate witnesses. The rights of criminals may never be prioritized over those of victims.

HAWKS IN CRIME-FIGHTING

Kobus Visser, Agri SA, Director: Corporate Liaison

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) and now known as the Hawks, will concentrate to combat crime and to bring perpetrators to book for the crimes they committed. The launch of the Hawks comes at a time that the country needs a collective effort to send a strong message to criminals that crime does not pay. This unit replaces the former Scorpions and will concentrate on fighting organised crimes that show little regard for the country's criminal justice system. They will combat and investigate national priority of crimes such as organised crime, corruption, economic crimes and other crimes referred to the unit by the National Policie Commissioner. To strenghten its operations in solving crime, the Hawks has formed a close working relationship with other departments such as Justice and Constitutional Development, the National Treasury and the South African Revenue Services. The multi-disciplinary approach to combat crime is supported by Agri SA as it is one of the resolutions of the organisation taken at a previous congress.

SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE

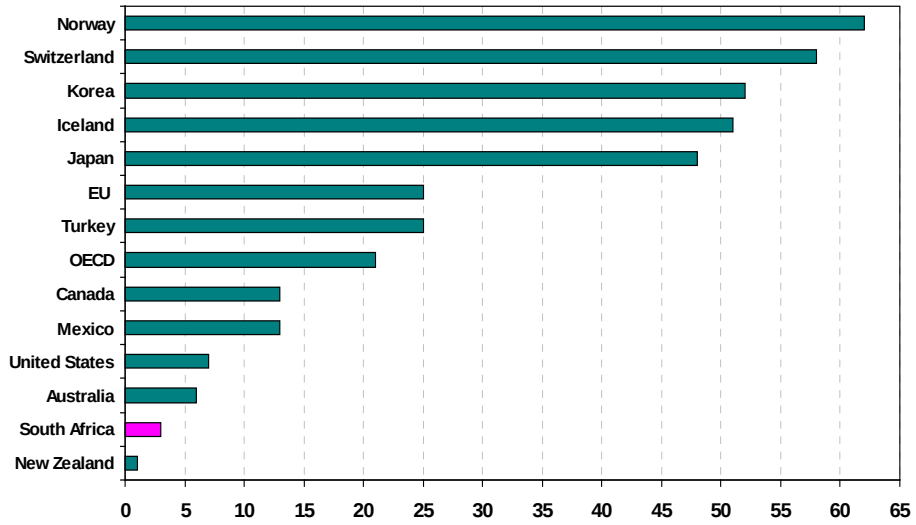
Martina Benadé (Economics and Trade)

"Producer Support Estimate (PSE) measures the money value of transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers arising from government policies"

A PSE is an indicator of the money that is transferred in terms of the agricultural policy to producers of agricultural products in a specific country as a percentage of the production value. Therefore it determines the payments that would have had to be made to farmers to ensure their current income should all aid measures for local agriculture be removed.

A recent report compiled by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in this regard has now been made available. According to the report, it is clear that in 2008 subsidies paid to agriculture at international level had in most instances been much higher than in South Africa. PSEs vary from 62% in the case of Norway, 58% in Switzerland and 52% in Korea, to 13%, 7% and ±3% in the case of Canada, the USA and South Africa respectively. It clearly illustrates how uneven the playing field is in which South African farmers must operate. The extent of government support received by farmers in various other countries is astronomical. South African farmers are justified in insisting that, among other things, an agricultural tariff policy should be used to address this uneven playing field. The report is available on the OECD website at www.oecd.org.

Estimates of support to agriculture in selected non-OECD and OECD countries (2008)



Source: OECD

TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Executive Director

Agri SA's Transformation Committee that deals with land reform, farmer development and black economic empowerment will meet on 21 and 22 July 2009 in Pretoria. Items on the agenda include: Budget limitations for land reform, the debate regarding "the willing buyer and willing seller" principle as well as expropriation; discussions between Agri SA and the Chief Landclaims Commissioner; progress on the compilation of a database for land ownership; a possible conference on farmer development; as well as the activation of the AgriBEE Charter Council. All affiliations, namely provincial unions, commodity organisations and the Agricultural Business Chamber are invited to this important meeting.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Hans van der Merwe, Agri SA, Executive Director

Agri SA's General Council follows directly after the meeting of the Transformation Committe on 22 July 2009 and continues until 15:00 on 23 July 2009. In the run-up to Agri SA's Congress the meeting will specifically pay attention to the Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture as framework for policy making and draft policy documents regarding the following subjects will be considered: an integrated approach to environmental issues for sustainable agricultural production; protection of property rights; agriculture's role in promoting national food security; agricultural marketing policy, with specific reference to the role and contribution of organised agriculture in relation to service delivery and development functions; and Agri SA's interest and involvement in the development of commercial agriculture in Africa. Other important items on the agenda include implications of the Constitutional Court ruling on the application of the Security Services legislation to farm labour; Expropriation Act and the "willing buyer and willing seller" approach to land acquisition by the state; arrangements with the Land Claims Commissioner regarding compensation for restitution land and the delisting of invalid claims; and Agri SA's court action vs. the Minister of Minerals and Energy regarding expropriation of rights without compensation. All Agri SA's affiliations are welcome to send representatives to this meeting. Affiliations can contact Anneke Roux at telephone number (012) 300 9505 regarding attendance arrangements.

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 progamme 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 oudergewoonte landboukwessies aan, kyk na die jongste markpryse.
We have a look at what the weather holds.
Lekker boer! / Enjoy your farming!

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