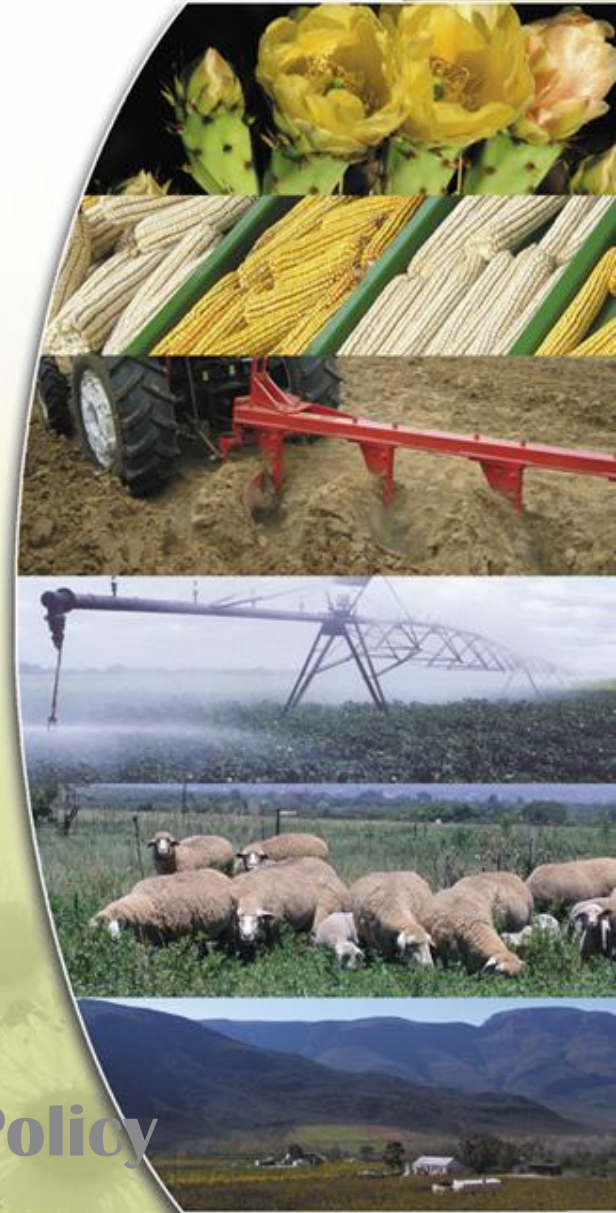


# Overview of Agri SA's commodity survey on farmer development

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# Background

The Strategic Plan for the South African Agriculture requires a clear and distinctive contribution from the private sector and specifically also from organised agriculture to promote participation by previously disadvantaged communities in agriculture

First survey in 2008

Second survey in 2009

Repeat in 2010



# QUESTIONNAIRE: FARMER DEVELOPMENT

## *AIM:*

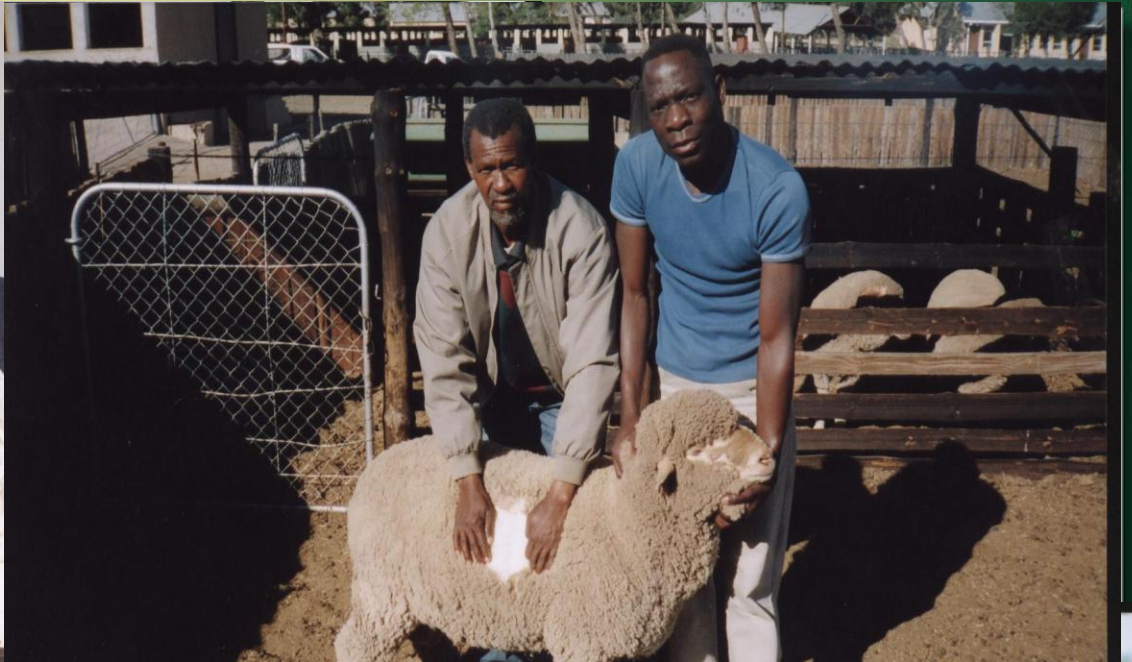
- The aim of the questionnaire is to obtain an indication from Agri SA's affiliates of the farmer development actions undertaken in commodity context.

## *TARGET:*

- The focus is specifically on new entrants from the black, coloured and Indian communities who are supported by members of organised agriculture at various levels.

## *IMPORTANCE:*

- Given political allegations and accompanied pressure, it is essential that a full and accurate database be maintained in order to prevent, among others, political opportunism.



# **Aim of the projects as per 2009 survey**

- Sustainable, profitable farming in communal areas and former homelands
- Assist communities to improve production and assist with the integration of emerging farmers into mainstream activities
- Transfer knowledge and technical skills to emerging and communal farmers through training and mentorships
- Training of extension officers

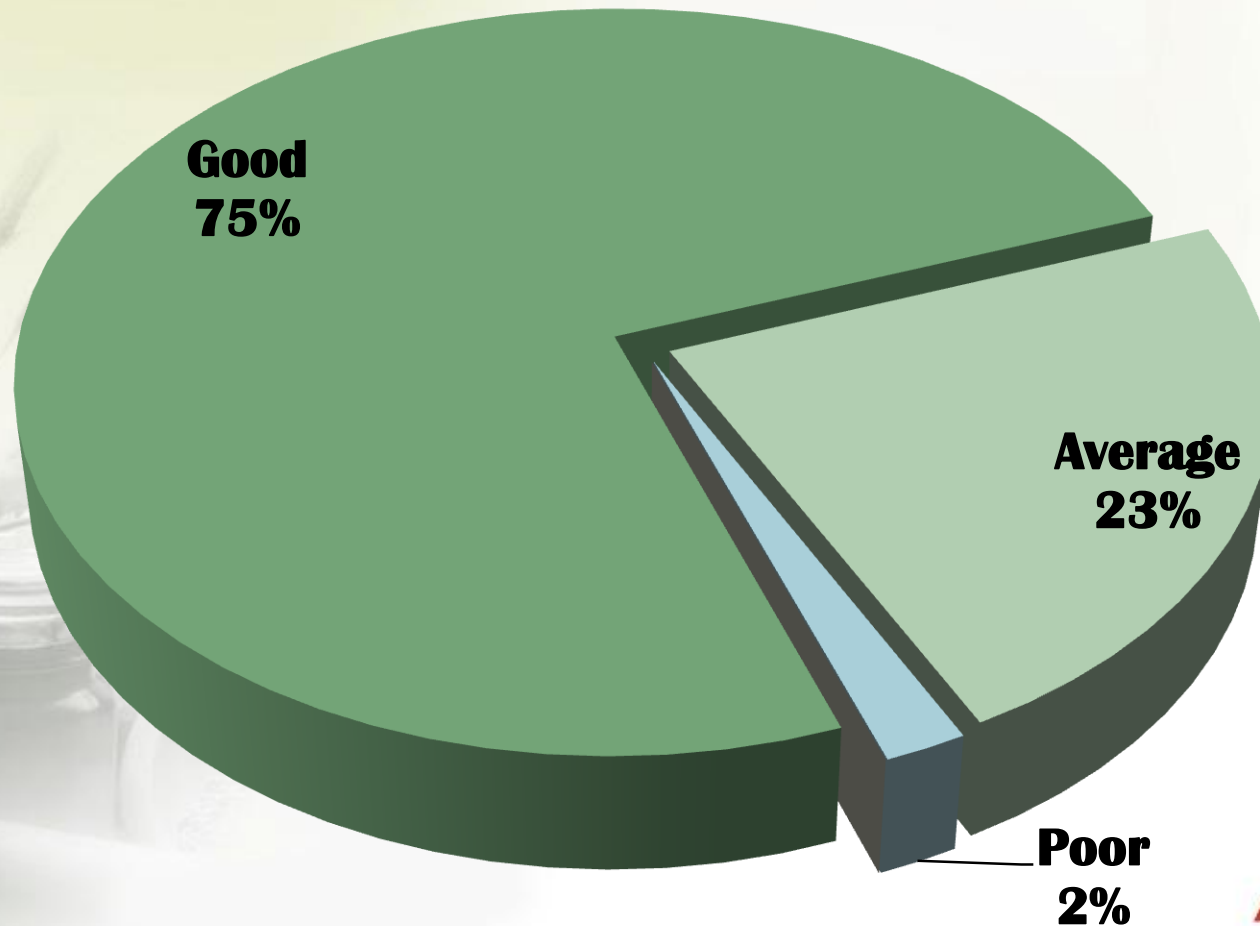


# Results of questionnaire

- 27 questionnaires were distributed in 2008 and 2009 respectively
- In 2009, 22 (82%) responses were received from commodity organisations
- The organisations involved in farmer development identified 87 different projects

# Progress with projects

The success record reported by the respondents:



# Funding of projects: 2009 survey

Year	Total spend	Average per industry
	Rand	
2003/04	16 570 102	2 071 263
2004/05	37 245 475	2 865 037
2005/06	30 363 488	2 024 233
2006/07	48 057 320	3 003 583
2007/08	57 228 685	4 087 763

# Good performance: Reasons

- Partnerships with a common objective;
- The knowledge of commodity organisations together with the state's resources can produce successful projects;
- The involvement of commodity-specific organisations;
- Commodity organisations' dedicated and competent staff;
- One-to-one mentorship relationships;
- The variety of courses offered;
- Projects where emerging farmers determine their own needs and priorities are more successful;
- Projects with market-driven strategies and a good business plan are more successful;
- Study groups contribute to the success of farmer development.



# Poor performance: Reasons

- A singular approach;
- Limited infrastructure and resources available for training;
- Emerging farmers lack capital and have only limited access to credit;
- Acquisition of land for beneficiaries;
- Lack of state funding for training;
- Lack of expertise and low level of training;
- Relevant training material for each industry;
- Consultants are involved in projects solely for their own financial gain;
- The inability of extension officers to transfer knowledge.



# Impact of programmes

- Creation of new commodity branches and regional functional structures (e.g. shearing shed committees);
- Establishment and maintenance of study groups;
- Hosting of mini congresses, farmer days, extension sessions, demonstrations, school projects, etc.;
- More effective communication;
- Training has improved;
- Overall planning (co-ordination) has improved;
- Better production, production methods and productivity;
- Auctions in developing areas as well as access to markets;
- Creation and retention of job opportunities.



# Socio-economic impact

- Poverty alleviation;
- Generating indirect benefits for the community (e.g. better schools, feeding schemes);
- Sustainable jobs and creation of new job opportunities;
- Increase in income;
- Stimulation of personal development;
- Improved effectiveness and career development;
- Establishment of a business culture among emerging farmers.



# Obstacles

- Lack of support
- Lack of the necessary equipment
- No one accepts responsibility for maintaining the equipment
- Small margins in agriculture
- Exploitation of emerging farmers
- Deficient co-ordination of programmes/projects
- Agriculture is dependent on favourable climatic conditions

# Conclusion

- It is clear that organised agriculture, via various commodity organisations, makes a significant contribution to the development of emerging farmers in South Africa as a whole.
- Large amounts of money and manpower are spent to develop emerging farmers successfully with a view to their integration into the commercial agricultural economy.
- Various positive and negative factors, however, have an influence on the success of farmer development projects.
- It is clear that farmer development cannot be implemented by the state or by commodity organisations in isolation.



# Thank you

