Agri SA Centres of Excellence (COE's)

Policy Work | Q1 2019

Agri SA Sentrums van Uitnemendheid (SvU's)

Beleidswerk | Q1 2019

We develop the South African Agricultural Industry.
Ons ontwikkel die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou Industrie.

Foreword

Agri SA is primarily focused on policy work which is spread across five Centres of Excellence (COE's) being Natural Resources, Economics and Trade, Land, Rural Safety and Labour and Development. The aim of these COE's/centres is to provide the Agri-value chain with bespoke solutions and insights on policy matters and industry developments.

A Policy Work Document will be released every quarter to keep our stakeholders informed about every centres' activities and/or their policy focus areas. This document is a non-exhaustive summary of the work that each COE is currently doing. The quality of the work is largely dependent on the insights and inputs from the Agri SA membership base.

Agri SA would like to thank its membership for their contributions in this regard.

Voorwoord

Agri SA fokus hoofsaaklik op beleidswerk wat versprei is oor vyf Sentrums van Uitnemendheid (SvU's), naamlik Natuurlike Hulpbronne; Ekonomie en Handel; Grond; Landelike Veiligheid; en Arbeid en Ontwikkeling. Die doel van hierdie SvU's is om die Agri-waardeketting te voorsien van toepaslike oplossings en insigte oor beleidsake en industrie verwikkelinge.

'n Beleid-werksdokument sal elke kwartaal versprei word om ons belanghebbendes in te lig oor elke sentrum se aktiwiteite en/of beleidsfokusareas. Hierdie dokument is nie 'n volledige opsomming van die werk waarmee elke SvU tans besig is nie. Die gehalte van die werk hang grootliks af van insigte en insette vanaf Agri SA se ledebasis.

Agri SA wil graag sy lede bedank vir hul bydrae in hierdie verband.

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Rural Safety

The serious security threat, including farm attacks and murders, as well as general criminality experienced by the farming community, makes it imperative for Agri SA and its provincial organisations to focus continuously on this matter. It remains the government's responsibility to safeguard all its citizens, but given the current threat, the farming community must continue to play a major role in ensuring their own safety as well as that of their communities.

Agri SA will continue to demand that the government honour its obligations in this regard and will ensure that policies and strategies are developed in a way that promotes the safety of the farming community. The following aspects received special attention during the recent meeting of Agri SA's Centre of Excellence- Rural Safety:

- **Implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy** – Agri SA and its provincial organisations played a major role in finalising the strategy which focuses on rural safety, including the management of farm attacks, stock theft and destruction of farm infrastructure, with a view to making rural areas safer. This will ultimately promote food production and ensure rural stability. It also includes the establishment of a reservist policy that is accessible for participation by members of the farming community. Organised agriculture is one of the most important role players in the strategy and will have to ensure that it is effectively implemented.

- **Threats of farm invasions remain a source of concern for the farming community.** Agri SA, together with its provincial organisations, must ensure that the police implement the instructions relating to the handling of land invasions strictly according to the policy. To assist its members in interpreting the policy and instructions, the Centre approved an information document for distribution. The document also contains guidelines for members on how to deal with unlawful occupation of farms.

- **Strict application of the protocol for farm access**, especially during the election year, will pose challenges to members; however, it serves as an instrument that can be used to ensure that land owners are constantly aware of who accesses their property and under which circumstances. To this end, Agri SA secured a mandate to negotiate with the Independent Electoral Commission for a protocol similar to the one that applied during the 2014 election.

- **Empowerment of grassroots structures** in a proactive and integrated manner to promote and support rural safety by insisting on more effective crime intelligence capacity for the police.

- **Amendments to legislation are being investigated** to combat the negative impact of the escalation in farm infrastructure destruction. To this end, Agri SA is in discussion with the police and the Department of Justice with regard to broadening the application of the Second-hand Goods Act and Criminal Justice Amendment Act.

Continuation of the important role that the Agri Securitas Trust Fund plays in assisting farmer associations with additional financial contributions to employ technology remains a practical way of improving the safety of farming communities. Since 2017, the trust fund has provided financial assistance to more than 4 230 farmers and 51 600 farm workers for 43 rural protection projects.

The important role played by the farming community as food producers in promoting national stability was also acknowledged. For this reason, their safety should be ensured.

Landelike Veiligheid

Die ernstige veiligheidsbedreiging wat insluit plaasaanvalle en -moorde, asook algemene misdadigheid wat die landbougemeenskap beleef, maak dit belangrik dat Agri SA en sy provinsiale-organisasies deurlopend toegewyde aandag daaraan gee. Dit bly die regering se verantwoordelikheid om alle landsburgers veilig te hou, maar weens die huidige veiligheidsbedreiging moet die boerderygemeenskap steeds 'n groot rol speel in hulle eie, asook die gemeenskap se huis en haard beskerming. Agri SA sal voortgaan om daarop aan te dring dat die staat sy verpligting in die verband nakom en toesien dat beleid en strategieë so ontwikkel word dat dit die boerderygemeenskap se veiligheid bevorder. Die volgende aspekte het besondere aandag geniet tydens Agri SA se onlangse vergadering van sy Sentrum van Uitnemendheid- Landelike Veiligheid:

- **Die implementering van die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie,** waarin Agri SA en sy provinsiale- organisasies 'n groot rol gespeel het om te finaliseer, sal fokus om landelike veiligheid, insluitende plaasaanvalle, veediefstal en die vernietiging van die plaasinfrastrukuur as fokus areas te bestuur met die doel om landelike gebiede meer veilig te maak wat bevorderlik sal wees vir voedselproduksie en om landelike stabiliteit te verseker. Dit sluit ook in die daarstel van 'n reservistebeleid wat toeganklik is vir deelname deur lede van die boerderygemeenskap. Die georganiseerde landbou is een van die belangrikste rolspelers in die strategie en sal moet toesien dat dit effektief geïmplementeer word.

- **Die dreigemente oor plaasbesettings bly vir die boerderygemeenskap 'n bron van kommer** en Agri SA saam met sy provinsiale– organisasies moet toesien dat die polisie instruksies oor die hantering van grondbesettings streng volgens beleid toe pas. Om sy lede by te staan in die vertolking van beleid en instruksies het die Sentrum 'n inligtingsdokument goedgekeur vir verspreiding. Die dokument bevat ook rigyne vir lede oor hoe om met plaasbesettings te handel.

- **Die streng toepassing van die plaastoegangprotokol,** veral in die verkiesingsjaar, sal uitdagings aan lede bied, maar is 'n instrument wat aangewend moet word om te verseker dat grondeienaars voortdurend bewus is van wie hulle eiendom betree en onder watter omstandighede. In dié verband is 'n mandaat aan Agri SA gegee om te beding vir 'n soortgelyke verkiesingsprotokol met die Onafhanklike Verkiesingskommissie soos gegeld het in die 2014 verkiessing.

- **Bevorder die bemagtiging van grondvlakstrukture** om op 'n pro-aktiewe en 'n geïntegreerde wyse op te tree om landelike veiligheid te bevorder en te ondersteun deur aan te dring dat die polisie 'n meer effektiewe misdaadintelligensie kapasiteit daar te stel.

- **Wysigings aan wetgewing word ondersoek** om die nadelige effek van die toename in plaasinfrastruktuurvernietiging te bekamp. In die verband is Agri SA in gesprek met die polisie en die Department van Justisie oor die verbreding van die toepassing van die Tweedehandse Goederewet en die Strafregwysigingswet.

Die voortsetting van die belangrike rol wat die Agri Securitas Trustfonds speel om boereverenigings by te staan met aanvullende finansiële bydraes om tegnologie aan te wend om hulle te beskerm bly 'n praktiese manier waardeur boeregemeenskappe veiliger gehou kan word. Sedert 2017 het die trustfonds meer as 4230 boere en 51 600 plaaswerkers in 43 landelike beveiligingprojekte met sy finansiële bydraes help beveilig.

Erkenning is ook gegee aan die belangrike rol wat die boerderygemeenskap as voedselproduseerders speel en daardeur die bevordering van nasionale stabiliteit. Daarom moet hulle veiligheid verseker word.

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