



# CeeDee NEWS



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CASIDRA is an implementing Agency for the Western Cape Department of Agriculture

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Towards the end of 2017 the harsh reality of the current and intense drought experienced by the Western Cape, continued to play out. **Casidra** supported the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) in the procurement and provision of drought relief feed to farmers to support their livestock through this difficult period. The conditions also required farmers to reduce their herds, some of whom at times had a few more animals than they should have. To this effect, the drought had an equalizing effect.

At the start of the year very sketchy predictions could be made of the weather patterns expected and more importantly, rainfall patterns for the year. This situation has caused a bleak expectation for the oncoming 2018-year for agriculture.

The most profound impact the drought had on **Casidra's** work, was the delay in completion of Food security and household garden projects. These projects, similar to livestock projects, need the supply of a consistent supply of water as a prerequisite and this posed a major challenge. While many projects had boreholes approved, the demand for this service far outweighed the supply and became one of the single-most sought after services from farmers and later residential dwellers alike. Basically, all borehole contractors were inundated with requests for their services.

In early Autumn though, a few drizzles were experienced in and around the Cape but in the first week in May some decent rain started falling. The monthly average rainfall for May was even exceeded by 30% and this led to renewed optimism alongside the excitement of long-awaited showers. With it however the unfortunate natural occurrence of erosion washed away large volumes of topsoil, as the parched landscapes devoid of vegetation, were swept by the torrents of water. Fortunately, riverbeds soon became saturated and water started flowing in many streams that were dry for long periods.



The Board and Management team during the strategic planning session

At Anhalt farm, the excitement is increasing in the build-up to the imminent transfer of the farm which is scheduled sometime in the middle of the year. **Casidra** concluded a training/development programme which was aimed at skilling some of the CPA and Anhalt Boerdery Pty Ltd. Members, assigned for managing the business. The new leadership took the reins firmly after stalwart an ex-Chairman, Abe October, passed away in late 2017. The enthusiasm and energy with which they dealt with tasks at hand were clearly evident. Though the spirits and attitudes were approaching a ready state for the transfer, the administration portion was found not to be keeping up with the pace.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), who is the legal owner of the land and which should effect the transfer, underwent a change in the Ministerial offices because of a cabinet reshuffle – this process happened at the exact time a submission for signature was presented to this office. The process has since been inching forward at slow pace.

The Langkloof-area has nonetheless experienced a good seasonal distribution of rain and resulted in the farms' dam being filled to near capacity. This brought about enough irrigation for the season. The subsequent 2018 harvest has unfolded and resulted into an exceptionally positive yield.

The pears, which is the first crop to be harvested recorded the highest yield since **Casidra** started managing the farm in 1993. Together with the excitement of the pending transfer of the farm, this season at Anhalt is likely to go down in the record-books as one of the most gratifying.

**Casidra** continues to implement projects for the WCDoA CASP programme within the commodity structures. A follow-up assessment has been commissioned to determine the success of the CASP programme in the province and the report is expected to be released towards the end of 2018.

**Casidra** embarked on its annual audit conducted by its external audit firms, but this year the office of the Auditor-General also employed its right to execute an audit alongside. This caused for some logistical planning to ensure all audit team members were provided a decent space to conduct their work.

2018 continues to be a challenging year in agriculture even though some decent rain resulted in the average dam levels to rise above 50% in July. This year **Casidra** keenly explores partnerships and attempt to find collaborators to expand its impact on development agriculture in the region.

## CORPORATE NEWS

### 2018 PRESTIGE AWARDS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Minister of Economic Opportunities, Alan Winde, has officially opened the 2018 Prestige Agri Awards. This year marks the seventh year that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture has partnered with supermarket giant Shoprite to sponsor the awards.

The competition aims to celebrate excellence among those working in the Province's agricultural industry, across 11 categories and in 16 districts. The awards were originally started in 2002 by the Hex River Valley Association. Since then, over 10 000 people have participated.

Speaking at the launch of the awards, Minister Winde paid tribute to those who worked hard to ensure that the agricultural industry continued to be one of the biggest economic and job creation sectors in the Province. "The awards are recognition for people who put so much of their energy into ensuring that there is food security, that there is foreign exchange coming into the country from exports, and that they can provide for their families," he said.

Dr Johan van Deventer, General Manager at Freshmark, Shoprite's fruit and vegetable procurement and distribution arm, said that they have been a proud sponsor of the competition for the past seven years. "Agri-workers are the reason we are able to sell fresh, quality produce in our supermarkets on a daily basis and the Agri-Worker of the Year Awards are a great way to acknowledge and reward their hard work," he said.

An independent study into the impact of the awards conducted in 2015 found that the awards inspired pride in agricultural workers, encouraged them to learn new skills and created positive perceptions around agricultural work.

Last year's winner - Hermanus Bienas from Vredendal - said he had been learning since being awarded the top prize last year. He travelled to Germany as part of his prize where he was exposed to agricultural and supermarket fresh produce practices in that country.

Winners of the regional awards will receive a cash prize, certificate and trophy, as well as Shoprite vouchers. They will also go on to compete at the provincial awards to be held in November, where the overall Agri-worker of the Year will be selected. The overall winner walks away with a R25 000 cash prize, an overseas trip valued at R60 000, an iPad, Shoprite vouchers, data and a place on the prestige Agri-worker Board, which meets with Minister Winde each quarter to discuss issues in the sector. **Casidra** wishes all nominees everything of the best!



Photograph: Gizelle van Wyk.

Minister of Economic Opportunities, Alan Winde with Freshmark's national buyer Chris Schutte

### CASIDRA RECEIVES LANDCARE'S WATER CARE CAMPAIGN AWARD



Our Project Manager, Bridgette Bartes receiving an award on behalf of Casidra from Francis Steyn of the WCDoA

**C**asidra was privileged to form part of the adjudication panel at the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's (WCDoA) Junior LandCare's Water Care Campaign held at Elsenburg on 20 June 2018. The adjudication panel was tasked with scoring grade 6 and 7 learners on speech, poster, drama and debate relating to Conservation of Natural Resources, Water, Environment and Energy.

Ten schools participated in the speech category, five in the poster category, four in the debate category and six in the drama category. Overall, all school learners performed well and it was great to see how amazingly talented they are. The event was well organised and the desired outcome was reached, which was to award a winner in each of the categories.

The WCDoA acknowledged **Casidra's** commitment to the LandCare Programme and their participation in the day's event with an award. Our Project Manager, Bridgette Bartes, received an award on behalf of **Casidra**. The CEO, Michael Brinkhuis says, "Well done to all, but mostly our champions who drive the programme so passionately. Kobus, Bridgette, Elize and Andrea in her admin support role as well as all the other personnel in whichever way they are involved".

## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

### KAUTHARS CHICKEN BROILERS

**Casidra** has successfully completed the implementation of two chicken sheds for Kauthars Chicken Broilers in Hopefield.

This is a Chicken broiler project that was started in 2016 and belongs to three female previously disadvantaged individuals. These beneficiaries applied for funding for the construction of broiler houses and production inputs and their request was approved by the Commodity Project Allocation Committee of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. Approximately R700 000 of Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme funds was allocated to the project.

**Casidra** procured all the services and handed over the assets to the happy beneficiaries who are eagerly continuing full steam ahead.

"The sheds are well looked after and in a clean condition. The beneficiaries have taken ownership of the project and I am sure that this will just be a stepping stone for them given their passion for the project", said **Casidra's** Project Manager, Jacques Swanepoel.



### AFRICAN OLIVE TRADING

**A**frican Olive Trading is an Aquaculture project that farms with mussels in Saldanha Bay. The project belongs to members of the Saldanha community as beneficiaries.

The project's objective was to build seven mussel rafts (each 48 meters long x 5,1 meters wide) to produce at least 1000 tons of mussels per year and to fill the 30 hectare farm's capacity over the next three years.

As this was a challenge due to a lack of funds, the beneficiaries approached the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for assistance. The Aquaculture Commodity Project Allocation Committee approved R3,2 million to empower the project.

**Casidra**, as the implementing agency for the WCDoA, used the funds to procure the service of building seven mussel rafts and the installation of mussel ropes. The project was successfully implemented as per the beneficiaries' needs and requests.

The beneficiaries are excited and looking forward for their forthcoming harvest of approximately 200 tons of mussels.



### MEULENHOF BOERDERY (PTY) LTD



**M**eulenhof Boerdery (Pty) Ltd is a grain and livestock farm for a black commercial farmer in Ceres. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture and **Casidra** supported the farm with the establishment of 380 hectares of grain through the procurement of production inputs. The Grain CPAC approved approximately R1,2 million, which was used towards the procurement of production inputs that includes 20 tons of oats seed, 108 x 50 kg bags of wheat seed, fertilizers, 483 kg of black oats, a 20 row demo planter and diesel. "All these made a huge impact towards the farm, as the grain is growing at a good rate due to sufficient rainfall, and a good harvest is expected later in the year. The planter that was purchased worked extremely well to plant all seeds with fertilizer in time. The farmer received and signed off all assets with a smile", says **Casidra's** project Manager, Gerrit van Schalkwyk.

## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

### VISION OF HOPE FOOD GARDEN

Our Project Manager, Yandisa Ndongeni, visited the Vision of Hope gardening project in Athlone to hand over garden tools. This food garden belongs to the project's three beneficiaries. It supplies the local market and supports the Belthorn Primary School's soup kitchen with vegetables. The project received CASP funding from the WCDoA.



### CASIDRA ENHANCES BUSINESS SKILLS OF EBENHAESER'S YOUTH



The youth of Ebenhaeser (in the West Coast district) were extremely fortunate when Casidra conducted a two-day business skills training session for them on 13 and 14 March 2018. The training primarily focussed on Corporate Governance and Business Plans. During day one, the attendees were trained on what a co-operative is as well as its principles, membership, management and registration. On day two, our Business Advisor, Simozana Mdala, unpacked the elements of a Business Plan, which includes the business description, marketing plan, operational plan, financial plan and executive summary. Congratulations to the eager youth of Ebenhaeser for showing their interest and passion during the training session.

### CASIDRA DEVELOPS COUNCIL OF STAKEHOLDERS



Our Project Administrator, Johanna Klassen, has been on the road visiting the Council of Stakeholders across the Province to deliver different office usage material as per their specific needs. This material includes office equipment, communication tools (such as Smart phones, laptops, cameras) and branded promotional material (gazebos, banners, etc.). The purpose of the material is to empower communities and enable them to deliver excellent services and achieve their goals.

## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

### LANGA MOUNTAIN TOMATOES



Yandisa Langa, the sole owner/beneficiary of Langa Mountain Tomatoes

Yandisa Langa is the founder and sole owner/beneficiary of Langa Mountain Tomatoes in Tokai. This project produces and supplies tomatoes to local vegetable stalls, supermarkets and restaurants, and has created jobs for three employees in the area.

Langa is a born entrepreneur and worked as a security guard at one of the local malls when he spotted a niche in the supply and delivery market. What inspired his idea was enquiries about the delays in food deliveries and the shortage of vegetables, etc. He decided to resign from his position and started a project way back in 2016.

Langa approached several companies and pitched his business idea, as he needed financial assistance to start up his business.

Langa knocked on every door until his dream became a reality. He never stopped exploring avenues, which enabled him to reach greater heights in his business to produce tomatoes. Over the years, Langa has faced many challenges such as the lack of marketing strategy, competing with big farms and pricing strategy.

In mid-2017, Langa Mountain Tomatoes was funded by the Comprehensive Agricultural Support (CASP) /Ilima grant funding through the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

Approximately R120 000 was approved by the Food Security Commodity Project Allocation Committee to assist the project to procure material for a complete tunnel infrastructure, garden tools and production inputs.

Langa entered into a memorandum of agreement with Casidra as the implementing agency. Cynthia Lebenya was appointed as Casidra's Project Manager and together with Karel Abels, Extension Officer from the WCDoA, ensured the successful implementation of the project. We thank Cynthia and Karel for meeting the beneficiary's expectations by delivering everything on time.

Langa's project has had exponential growth and currently grows spinach, peppers and cucumbers. His orders increased from weekly to bi-weekly and he began supplying other supermarkets. His future plan is to acquire a bigger piece of land.

We wish Langa Mountain Tomatoes everything of the best with the business's growth and success in the future!

## FARMING PROJECTS' ACTIVITIES

### MINISTER VISITS AMALIENSTEIN FARM

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, paid a courtesy visit to Amalienstein on the 29th of May 2018. Our Project Manager, Jannie Lotter and Farm Manager, Edmund Schroder welcomed the Minister and discussed the farming activities. We thank Minister Grant for making the time to visit the farm.

The Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, with Amalienstein and Casidra Staff during the visit



## FARMING PROJECTS' ACTIVITIES

### AMALIENSTEIN EMPLOYEES TRAINED IN EMERGENCY FIRST AID



The training facilitators with the attendees at Amalienstein

The Base Manager of Ladismith: EMS, Janine Ruiters, and her team, dedicated their time by offering a free two-day Emergency First Aid Responder (EFAR) training course to some of Amalienstein's employees.

The aim of the training is to have an Emergency First Aid Responder on the farm who can assist their colleagues and neighbours in the event of an emergency.

The training covered four lessons as follows:

Lesson 1: Being an EFAR - First steps to treat a patient on the scene, etc.

Lesson 2: Unconscious patients - Patients in shock, choking etc.

Lesson 3: Violent injuries - Spinal management, bleeding control, bandaging, etc.

Lesson 4: Medical illnesses - Fits, Drug and alcohol overdose and psychosis, diabetes, dehydration, strokes, etc.

All attendees will be officially registered and issued with a membership card for identification as a qualified EFAR.

We thank the EMS team for sponsoring this much needed training.



### NEW BEGINNINGS FOR ANHALT BOERDERY



The Anhalt (Pty) Ltd farmworkers dressed in their new uniform

Casidra has been working tirelessly on the process of transfer of the Anhalt farm to the receiving entity. Enormous work has been done since last year to train the Haarlem's Community Property Association to be ready to manage the farm going forward.

Thus far, great progress has been made and the long outstanding transfer is on the verge of taking place by the end of September 2018. Amongst other things, the farm has been successfully registered as Anhalt Boerdery (Pty) Ltd with the following newly appointed Directors: Ricardo du Preez as the Chairperson; Bridgette Davids; Nico du Preez and Ivan Thyssen.

Furthermore, Gerda Conradie from Human Energy Management (HEM), has been appointed as the labour consultant for Anhalt Boerdery (Pty) Ltd. The first fruitful meetings were convened between Directors and the labour consultant on the farm to discuss the way forward.



# LREAD

## Land Reform Advisory Desk

### LREAD Perspective: Expropriation without compensation

Land expropriation without compensation is on everyone's lips, since some political parties proposed a Parliamentary motion that could see the Constitution modified to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation. What does this mean for those affected?

One would be naïve not to see the political machinations behind the motion: A partnership between the ANC and EFF could benefit the ANC, especially in the Metro areas governed by DA led coalitions in partnership with the EFF. The EFF has warned that its support for the DA would be re-evaluated based on the party's approach to the expropriation debate, while the DA has made it clear that it does not support expropriation without compensation.

Of importance is also the fact that the ANC and EFF are not in agreement on the desired outcome of the motion: The EFF seeks a sweeping type of historic justice. It is argued that it is not necessary to now pay for something which was stolen in the first place. In an EFF utopia, the state owns all the land in the country, which includes the land on which your farm, house, shop and factory are built.

If one listens carefully to President Ramaphosa, the ruling party's support for the motion is focussed on agricultural land with crucial conditions attached. Expropriation without compensation is applicable only if:

- It does not harm the agricultural sector;
- It does not harm the economy;
- It does not threaten agricultural production.

The motion must now be discussed by Parliament's Constitutional Review Committee to report back on the 30th of August 2018. So how have role-players reacted to this motion?

- The main political opposition to the Bill, led by the DA, stated that expropriation without compensation does not provide black South Africans with title deeds to land, thus failing to unlock the wealth generating possibilities of land ownership. The Freedom Front warned against the unintended consequences this process might unleash.
- AgriSA warned about the consequences of the policy uncertainty this motion will bring. The association argues that private ownership is a basic human right protected and recognised internationally. In most modern jurisdictions, land owners have a constitutional right to compensation.
- Banks have been very cautious in their response to date. The Banking Association stated that it will continue to work with Government to find solutions to land transformation.
- Ben Cousins, well-known academic and land reform researcher, said the most important question facing land reform is how it can contribute to increasing employment, incomes and livelihoods among the 55% of the population who live beneath the poverty line. According to him, it is also clear that land symbolises the wide discontent over the slow rate of change in post-apartheid South Africa.
- Agricultural Business Chamber CEO Dr John Purchase said "The open and competitive South African agro-food system, and by implication the excellent national food security we as a country experience, is fundamentally based on secure property rights to leverage financing for investment and production".
- According to Dr Anthea Jeffery, head of Policy Research at the Institute for Race Relations, opinion polls from 2015 to 2017 have shown that the great majority of black South Africans have little interest in land reform. "In the IRR's 2016 field survey, for instance, only 1% of black respondents (down from 2% the previous year) said that 'more land reform' was the 'best way to improve lives'. By contrast, 73% of black people saw 'more jobs and better education' as the 'best way' for them to get ahead".

Without any doubt, there will be many more opinions and arguments for and against expropriation with or without compensation as we head towards our next national elections in 2019. May our leaders have the required wisdom and maturity to guide this debate with the long-term wellbeing of our beloved country always at the front of mind.

THE VIEWS (POLITICAL OPINIONS/STATEMENTS) EXPRESSED ABOVE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF CASIDRA AND ARE NOT MEANT TO CAUSE HARM TO OR OFFEND ANYONE IN ANY WAY.

## STAFF NEWS, CELEBRATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### NEW APPOINTMENTS



**Shanon Geel: Junior HR Co-ordinator**

Shanon was born and bred in Paarl, is passionate about Human Resources and Law, received her National Senior Certificate in 2008 and started studying towards a BCom Industrial Psychology degree in 2009. Shanon is currently studying part-time towards a LLB degree. She loves the outdoors and her hobbies include running and going to the gym. In her free time, she also enjoys watching a good TV series or relaxing with a good book. Over weekends, she dedicates her time to family and friends.



**Carlo Frans: Project Manager: Mechanisation**

Carlo has a higher certificate in Agriculture from Elsenburg College, an N3 qualification in Water Purification, five years' experience in agriculture and seven years' experience in water purification. Carlo says, "I enjoy spending my free time with my lovely wife and 10-month old son. Together we love spending time in nature or watching movies. I also enjoy jogging and watching sport. Becoming part of **Casidra** is a great achievement and I am determined to make the best of the opportunity".



**Toni van Niekerk: Bookkeeper**

Toni van Niekerk, our newly appointed Bookkeeper at our Regional Office in George as from the 1st of February 2018, loves painting, working with clay, swimming, reading and walking long distances on the beach. We wish her a fruitful stay at **Casidra**!



**David Nefdt - Chief Officer Projects**

A warm welcome to David Nefdt, our newly appointed Chief Officer: Projects.

David grew up in Idas Valley, a residential area in Stellenbosch, where he completed his schooling.

After matriculating, he studied at the University of the Western Cape and completed a Commerce degree, majoring in Economics and Industrial Psychology followed by a Higher Diploma in Education. Further to that he attained a postgraduate degree, a B.Ed degree, at the University of Stellenbosch. In 2006, he completed a Masters degree in Maritime Studies at the University of Stellenbosch focusing on the role of transport logistics and sports in economic growth and development.

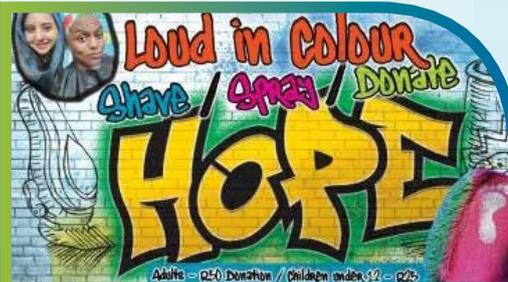
He pursued a teaching career at a local high school for 13 years whereafter he joined UCSA in 2001. UCSA is a NGO working in youth development and spiritual formation nationally and has a rich history spanning over 120 years. At UCSA, he started out as Head: Administration in 2001, followed by Vice-Executive Head in 2006. In 2010, he was appointed Executive Head, a position he held until his resignation and before joining our team in May 2018.

David is married and has one son. He is very passionate about development in general, especially amongst our youth and has been involved in youth empowerment, skills development, character building and values based programmes, spiritual formation and Nation building activities. He is also very involved in the running of youth groups and various youth outreach programmes.

He enjoys all outdoor activities, including camping, hiking and cycling.

Welcome to our team David! We trust that you will have a fruitful stay with **Casidra**!

A big up to Team **Casidra** for voluntarily raising funds to support Cancer Survivors. The funds raised were deposited in the Shavathon Bank Account. The team will continue to show its support towards similar campaigns for a good cause. The Head of Sustainability at CANSA, Maria Scholtz, thanked Team **Casidra**. "Thank you for your amazing contribution in the fight against cancer!".



**CASIDRA PLEDGES SUPPORT TO CANSA SHAVATHON**



Team **Casidra** had their teambuilding event on Friday, 6 April 2018.

Our team came together to create a cross functional and unique landmark – creating a piece of art we are proud of. The artwork depicts our current realities, clients, people, values, mission and aspirations and will be displayed in our training venue.

A big up to our team for showing positive spirit, unity and excellent team work in making the day a success. Big things can happen when people work successfully together and our team proved that.