OVERSIGHT VISIT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
29 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2019

Cape Town
Joyene S Isaacs
Day 1 – 29 January 2019
PC engaging with Elsenburg technology
PC visit to the Agri Hub – Elsenburg
PC visit Elsenburg Cellar
Location of visited projects

WCDoA
Portfolio Committee
Project Visits
29 Jan to 1 Feb 2019

Legend

Projects
- Amaqhawe
- Chamomile
- DESH Farming
- Iqhude
- Kaapschon
- Lakeview
- Overberg Boerdery Trust
- Paardenkloof
- Umhlaba Wobizo

Highway

District Municipalities
Local Municipalities

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Lakeview project

- LRAD farm situated in Villiersdorp, within the Theewaterskloof Municipality, 103 beneficiaries

- Farm is 63.49 ha in extent – 31 ha planted, produces apple and pears.

- The project is part of the Jobs fund programme, Commodity Approach

- The Board of Directors appointed a farm manager to assist with day to day operations.

- Marketing is conducted through Two a Day, predominantly for export market.

- PC raised a concern on the lack of involvement of the owners and directed that the Department should assist to build the capacity.

- The PC further advised that the Department should assist in the training and development of owners children for the long term sustainability of the business.

- The Department to facilitate to unlock water availability to enable expansion in terms of the orchards.
Department’s response

**Short term**
- We will provide training to empower the owners in business and financial management
- Engage with the farm manager to identify someone to be mentored for skills transfer

**Medium term**
- Fund the EIA study to enable the expansion of the orchards.
- Facilitate the identification of youth that are interested in Agriculture for further development.

**Long term**
- Access to land for expansion
Overberg Boerdery Trust

- Entity farms on a **commonage land** in the Caledon, land leased from Theewaterskloof municipality.
- Established in 2007, with 12 owners.
- Mainly producer winter grain
- The group has a challenge with regard to the land owned by the Department of Transport and Public Works since the lease lapsed in 2018.
- The business is also supported by Grain SA as part of the **Department's commodity approach**

- PC raised a concern with regard to the profile submitted and directed that this should be resubmitted (actioned).
- The PC further advised that the Department facilitate the land question with both the Municipality and DTPW towards securing a sound, affordable security of tenure.
Department’s response

**Short term**

- Facilitate further engagement with Department of Transport and Public Works for the finalisation of a lease agreement *(meeting set for the 19 Feb 2019).*

- We will provide training to empower the owners in business and financial management.

**Medium term**

- None

**Long term**

- Facilitate access to land with Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, through land delivery programmes.
Day 2 – 30 January 2019
Amaqhawe project

- Business was started in 2014, with three owners, situated in Napier within the Cape Agulhas municipality.
- They group farm on leased land from the Municipality, 345 ha.
- Main commodities: **Livestock and winter grain**.
- The group also receives support from Grain SA as part of the **Department’s commodity approach**.

- The PC was concerned about the **exorbitant lease** paid to Municipality and DM undertook to follow up.
- The PC also raised a concern with the Department on why heifers were provided without a bull and directed that this must be attended to.
- The relationship between Amaqhawe and Agri Dwala needed to be followed to ensure that it is beneficial to the farmers.
Department’s response

Short term

- Engage with the Municipality to respond to issues around rental cost *(meeting is scheduled for 19 Feb 2019)*
- We will provide training to empower owners in business and financial management
- Facilitate an engagement with Agri Dwala to ensure that the farmer is benefiting from the mentorship arrangement.
- Stud will be delivered as scheduled – end Feb 2019

Medium term

- None

Long term

- Facilitate access to land with Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, through land delivery programmes.
DESH Farming

- Smile Boerdery is owned by the Smiles family, started in 2010 (3 owners)
- Situated in Spanjaarskloof in the Cape Agulhas municipality
- Land is owned by the family – 104 ha
- Main commodities: Cattle, sheep and piggery
- The farmer raised a allegation about the treatment they received from the previous regional manager of the Department (who has since left the employ of the Dept, in 2014)
- The PC was concerned regarding the quality of the infrastructure and directed the Department should look into the matter.
- On the allegation of ill treatment and lack of extension services the PC directed that this matter be followed urgently.

- The Department was advised to fast track the EIA process to enable expansion.
- The PC commended the Department for investing in young farmer, Samantha through the Elsenburg college.
DESH Farming Visits - Last 6 Months
Department’s response

**Short term**

- We have cleared the allegation of ill treatment by the previous District Manager.
- We will provide training to empower owners in business and financial management.
- Visibility of extension services – slide below details visits in the last 6 months.

**Medium term**

- Monitor the EIA process for completion.

**Long term**

- Samantha Smiles is supported to complete her studies.
Iqhude supply farming

- PLAS farm – leased to the Mxokozeli family with a 30 year lease from the DRDLR.
- The size of the farm is 1 237 ha
- They are engaged in mixed farming: livestock (cattle and sheep), fynbos, grain and rooibos tea
- One of the challenge facing the business in the lack of housing on the farm.

The PC was commended the Department for the development of the young farmer, Mr. Justice Mxokozeli and the fact that his siblings are funded to further studies at the Elsenburg college.

Furthermore, the PC directed that the Department to facilitate an engagement with Human Settlements and the municipality to assist with the housing issue.
Department’s response

**Short term**

- We will provide training to empower owners in business and financial management
- Implement the 5 ha, fynbos as planned, fourth quarter of this financial year.

**Medium term**

- Facilitate engagement with the Department of Human settlements

**Long term**

- Support Justice’s siblings to complete their studies at the Elsenburg college.
Umhlaba Wobizo

- The group farm on commonage land leased from the municipality, since 2010 – 146 ha
- Group comprise of 9 owners
- Main commodities: grain and cattle

- The PC raised a concern on the land issue and directed that the Department and Municipality must engage with a view to assist.
- The PC advised that the Department should consider provision of book keeping support to the farmers.
- The matter re: Agri Mega’s involvement in Umhlaba is now before the courts, raised by both the Department and the Municipality.
Department’s response

**Short term**

– Facilitate an engagement with the municipality regarding access to land *(meeting is scheduled for the 19 February 2019)*.

– Re–enlist the owners to the Financial Record Keeping Programme, which helps with book keeping.

**Medium term**

– Access to land.

– Follow up on the matters before the courts with the assistance of legal services.

**Long term**

– None
Day 3 – 31 January 2019
Paardenkloof

- The farm is owned by the Moosa family.
- The farm was acquired through a Land bank loan, now paid up.
- Mixed farming: livestock, wine production and fynbos.
- Their main challenge is shortage of wine tanks and desire for having their own cellar.

- The PC commended the work of the Department advised that the issue of tanks be considered.
Department’s response

- **Short term**
  - None.

- **Medium term**
  - Provide assistance in the form of few wine tanks.

- **Long term**
  - Assist with establishment of Cellar
Kaapschon Boerdery

- The farm belongs to the Joseph Hendricks family Trust
- Was acquired in 2004
- Mainly produces **apples and pears**
- The business is part of the **Jobs Fund**, supported via the Department’s commodity approach

- The PC was not impressed with Mr. Hendricks’ attitude and arrogance towards the support received to date
Department’s response

- Short term
  - None

- Medium term
  - None

- Long term
  - None
Chamomile farming

- Chamomile farming is a family business that was started in 2001 on 1.6 ha in Philippi.
- They started with only 100 layers and currently run an operation of over 10,000 layers.

- They market the eggs through Nulaid in the formal market, supported by South African Poultry Association as part of the Commodity Approach.

- One of the major challenges is the security and high cost of energy.
Department’s response

**Short term**
- Assist with a generator to mitigate the existing power challenges.

**Medium term**
- Provide advise on green solutions. Use of solar energy etc.

**Long term**
- None
Conclusion
Conclusion and Key Points

In conclusion,

- The Department appreciate the oversight visit, and hope for more of such visits.
- The issues raised are been attended to and reports will be provided to the committee.
- The Kaapschon experience, doesn’t reflect the majority of our farmers who are very grateful for the support received from the state.
- We will continue with the capacity building of young farmers through the Elsenburg college.
- There will be a concerted effort going forward on the capacity building of farmers in financial management.
Thank you