Farmer Development Programme

To develop capacitated black commercial grain farmers
Why is anyone trying to develop black grain farmers?

• Need one common and united voice
• Household and national food security
• Agriculture remains the cornerstone of many economies, particularly the developing economies.
• Agriculture is an important employer
• Rural prosperity reduces the pressure on urban resources
• If 30% of the land is to be in the hands of black farmers, they must produce 30% of the agricultural produce
Who is involved in Farmer Development?

- Grain Trusts (Maize, OPOT, Sorghum, WCT)
- Commodity organizations like Grain SA
- Agribusiness – NWK, VKB, OVK, MGK, Senwes, Suidwes, Afgri, NTK, GWK,
- Banks – ABSA, Standard, Landbank
- Input suppliers – Monsanto, Pannar, Syngenta, Omnia, Sasol Nitro, many many more
- Government Departments
  - Together we do more
What is GSA doing to develop farmers?

Programme is funded by

• Maize Trust  R 13.7 million
• Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust R 1 million
• Sorghum Trust R 300 000
• Winter Cereals Trust Wheat R 400 000
• Winter Cereals Trust Barley R 200 000
• SAB Maltings (Taung)  R 600 000

• The budget has grown from R 2 million to R 16 million per year over the past 5 years
• Personnel grown from 5 to 32 in the same period
• Total of R 66 million spent in that time
Development is about people

• The focus is on empowering the individual to become an independent farmer
• Start by finding people where they are and build on the foundations that exist
• Send the same message in different ways and at many different levels
Planting in the Eastern Cape – remember with development, find the farmer where he is and take him forward
Chemical weed and pest control – there is equipment for all sizes and needs
Partnerships with Government

• Department of Agriculture Free State
  – Grants for Summer crop production
  – Grants for Winter crop production
  – Revitalization of mechanization (expected)
  – Training of extension officer

• Department of Agriculture – Eastern Cape
  – Training of extension officers
What problems are these farmers facing?

• Low profitability of grain production
  • Lack of knowledge, skills and experience
    • Lack of production finance
  • Poor condition of tractors and implements
    • Infrastructure
What is preventing us from moving forward?

• We have 156 farmers who are capable of planting 23 575 ha of Summer Crops now

• Production budget is in the region of R 105 863 850

• Production at current prices is not profitable – farmers cannot plant at all
The current price crisis in the grain and oil seeds industries is making the transformation process impossible.

We appeal for Government intervention at the Highest Levels.

Thank you