



AgriSETA breaks new ground with strategic public private partnerships to empower black small holders and land reform beneficiaries

AgriSETA signed partnership agreements with Citrus Growers Association (CGA) and RCL Foods on Thursday, 03rd October, following AgriSETA's AGM. These partnerships serve to develop mutual co-operation in the process of moving forward matters of land reform, rural development and economic transformation in the agricultural economy through skills development.

“The signing of the agreement marks the beginning of meaningful partnerships in transforming the agricultural sector in developing high-level skills that offer great opportunities for our youth and the country as a whole”, said AgriSETA CEO, Zenzele Myeza. Agriculture forms part of National Treasury's proposed economic recovery plan, part of which focusses on reversing our current economic trajectory which is characterised by stagnant growth, rising unemployment and high levels of inequality.

RCL Foods Limited, is a consumer goods and milling company which employ over 20,000 people. The agreement with RCL Foods serves to boost the sugar industry initiatives in establishing sustainable cane growers and supporting independent commercial black small holder and land reform beneficiaries in the sugar cane sector. RCL Foods have committed R5 million to the program.

The partnership with Citrus Growers Association (CGA) is valued at R307 million for training, skills development and capacity building support for establishing sustainable black export citrus growers into independent commercial black citrus growers.

Strategic partnership agreements provide parties to pool resources to have a bigger impact, and in this regard, the agriculture sector. AgriSETA contributed R13 million for established exporters and R7 million for those who still need to be developed to be at exporter level.

Earlier this year AgriSETA also signed a partnership agreement with UIF whereby they will be contributing R21 million for skills development for those who are unemployed and to allow them to enter the job market.

Public Works will be contributing R66 million which will be used to develop at least 400 artisans.

The partnership agreements serve to direct our strategic approach in leveraging funds to have a greater impact on society and the country as a whole, said “Christo van der Rheede, Chairman of the AgriSETA Board. “Private companies such as RCL and CGA are forward thinking entities who have taken the lead in partnering with public entities such as AgriSETA, the combined efforts of which will not only benefit a community, but an entire future populace of the country”, he concluded.

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