

OABS Newsletter 2015

The Namibian Agro Processing Strategy running parallel with another huge project for National Treasury (especially 5 of our key members' involvement with the evaluation of National Treasury Jobs fund applications) has tapped our energy and resources during the past 10 months. This resulted in serious challenges to keep all clients happy (accept for these 2 major projects, also several other smaller ones).



Swakara Weavers...Workshop in Dordabis



Swakara Producers, Woolbrokers at Keetmanshoop

Hamman and Jannie (apart from the JF involvement) also ran around with several smaller projects including a PIC due diligence and projects for Potatoes SA. **Hamman** is wrapping up a Climate Change project and Drainage project for the Water Research commission.

Fanie and Ariel are amongst others also busy with a Wool Scouring and Carding project for Lesotho in association with Agri Africa. **Ariel** were also extremely busy as "sweeper" to cover OABS on a variety of smaller projects (Southern Farms, Potatoes SA and several others). Well done **Ariel**, much appreciated.

Pine and Rihan were apart from the Market Access Program busy with several valuations. This has kept **Pine** on the road for most of the year. OABS managed to get re-appointed on the MAP. **Diteboho** will become very much more involved during the MAP 2015/2016 year. We know you will make a great success from your contribution on this project.

Diteboho is currently also assisting with surveys to conduct a study on "Quantify the cost and benefits from a of a comprehensive fruit fly suppression program".



Rihan were also very much involved in the Namibia study and the Jobs Fund evaluations.

Cliffy has been an iron fist for OABS during the past 10 months with his involvement in many of the projects as project coordinator / leader / member of the team.

Cliffy it is always good to know we can count on you to take the hammering.

Worship has been actively involved in assisting OABS with a number of VC studies and other smaller request. Worship we know we can always count on you to assist us on very short notice and delivering high quality outputs.

Ryan is busy with his MBA and has done very well to date.

He has also been on a number of needed capacity



involved as a sweeper on short notice. He is

currently responsible for the Charcoal Agro processing value chain in the Namibian study. **Ryan** we are confident that we are soon going to catch the big fish in your specialist field.

Marsha, amongst others, has made a huge contribution as sweeper in the Namibian and Western Cape VC studies on a number of VC's (and in the process hitting a Gemsbok and nearly killed yourself).

We also appreciate your efforts on the design and maintenance of our new website.



Suzelna are probably the greatest sweeper of all. Apart from all her duties as financial officer of the company (book keeping, communication with auditors, associate claims, invoicing of clients etc.) She is / was also actively involved in a number of studies (Namibia, Western Cape Agri processing, technical and language editing and many more).

We really appreciate this. **She also needs to keep the boss happy at home. This is a huge challenge!!!!**



Helen has been appointed as chief coordinator on our OABS contract (6 months and probably extending) with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for implementation of "Project Khulisa". This is a very high profile appointment which will determine the success for the growth of Agri processing in the Western Cape. Congratulations **Helen**. We know you have been waiting

for an opportunity like this for a long time. **Helen** also assisted during the year with the language editing of many reports, tenders, letters etc.

Mariaan is our new company "secretary" since August 2015. However, we threw her in on the deep side of the ocean and she has already participated in a study to "Quantify the cost and benefits from a of a comprehensive fruit fly suppression program" for Fruitfly Africa. **Mariaan** we know for sure you can swim by now. She will also help Daan to improve the communication between head office in Paarl with all of you. This has been a serious challenge for him because of his hectic work schedule.

Daan has also been personally involved in a number of projects since the last communication – Namibia Agro processing, Jobs Fund, WC value chains, Business plan for chemical residue facility, Quantification of Legal claims, Cost benefits analysis, Southern Farms contract – New business development, Southern Farms contract – Avo business plan, a number of tenders and many others.



To all the others not mentioned above and which were not so actively involved to date this year. Just knowing you are there if we need your input is good enough for me. This really put us in a position to react fast if we come across opportunities to explore where your field of expertise and experience are required. Hopefully we will also catch these fishes soon.

Forthcoming events and other news:

We have submitted a tender today for the "Development of a growth strategy for the Namibian Dairy and Poultry industries" If successful, this will also be quite a big project.

During October 2015 we will review our OABS Associates policy document and OABS "formula". Daan will communicate to all of you at some later stage about this. As part of the process we will also review the "bottom line" hourly rate of each associate to enable us to calculate the tender rate for each individual for the next 12 months. Please find attached the existing one and please read it so that you can provide meaningful input when we request it.

Daan will give a key address at the “Canned Fruit Producers Association” information day on the 29th of October on “Economic forecasts for the RSA and specific implications for canned fruit producers”

The OABS members involved in the Namibia Agro processing strategy will travel to Windhoek on the 19th and 20th for work sessions with the stakeholders. We wish you good luck (**Cliffy, Ryan, Marsha**). Unfortunately Daan cannot make it.

Suzelna and Daan will be traveling to Keetmanshoop on the 26th and 27th of October for a session with the SWAKARA wool industry.

On the personal side:

Prof Andre Louw had a serious back operation 2 weeks ago. Andre we hope everything went well and we wish you a speedy recovery.



Pine will be visiting his daughter in Australia in November / December. Also a well-deserved break.



December closing dates:

The **Paarl office** will be closed from 16 December 2015 and will open again on Monday 4 January 2016.



DAAN LOUW

Rihan is currently in London visiting his brother on a well-deserved break. He will be back on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

