



DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

THE BASIS FOR THE AGRIBEE FRAMEWORK



Director General:
Department of Agriculture
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Purpose of this presentation

- To recap the background to the development of the draft AGRIBEE Framework;
- To inform participants of the direct and indirect processes thus far that have resulted in this framework;
- To capture in brief linked ongoing work;





South Africa's Agricultural Sector

Vision

A United and Prosperous Agricultural Sector

Implies sustained profitable participation in the agricultural sector by all stakeholders.

Strategic objectives

- Enhance equitable access and participation in the sector;
- Improving global competitiveness and enterprise profitability;
- Ensure sustainable resources use and management





Enhancing access and participation

Previous initiatives

- Reconstruction and Development Programme; - 1994
- White Paper on Agriculture – 1995
- Broadening Access to Agriculture Thrust [BATAT]– 1995;
- The Agricultural Sector Plan - 2001

Within the Sector Plan

- Working on a common vision and definition for equity, access and participation;
- Identifying constraints and possible responses- ownership, finance, skills and mentorship's;
- Adopting a commodity intervention approach along the total value chain of Agriculture;



Lessons learnt over the years

From the RDP

- Agrarian Reform was inclusive of Land Reform, Rural Development and also specific focus on Agricultural Reform;
- ## From the White Paper on Agriculture
- If the target of the policy intervention was unclear measurement of success would be near impossible;





Lessons learnt over the years

From the BATAT Process

- A mindset shift was needed that first and foremost accepted that black people could become successful commercial farmers;
- Over and above access to good quality agricultural land – black entrants needed access to markets; finance; training, research and technology and quality advisory services;

From the Sector Plan Implementation

- In the absence of clear BEE guidelines the commodity strategies would be uneven and not achieve the desired equity outcomes;





Towards Broad Based BEE

- General public discourse on Affirmative Action; Two Nations debate and Empowerment in general – ongoing [openly] since 1994.
- Broad-Based Socio-Economic Empowerment Charter for the South African Mining Industry - adopted end 2002.
- At the NEDLAC Financial Sector Summit the Financial Sector committed itself to the development of a Black Economic Empowerment [BEE] Charter in August 2002;
- Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, (Act No. 53 of 2003) passed by Parliament and Assented to on 7 January 2004.





Towards Broad Based AGRIBEE

August 2002

Brainstorming workshop by the Programme TBD with a reference group representative of groups in the sector – selected in their own merit;

October 2002

1st discussion paper;

October 2002 – September 2003

Various rounds of consultations with the reference group and Departmental Management including on definition of AGRIBEE; and potential scope of application;



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Towards Broad Based AGRIBEE

September 2003

Version x of discussion document – became first draft AGRIBEE discussion document;

October 2003 to February 2004

Targeted consultation with 5 industries and national agricultural related institutions and other national departments. Also involved first attempt at developing a scorecard by the same;

February 2004

Empowerment Study Report submitted to Department of Agriculture

February – May 2004 - Second draft AGRIBEE discussion document produced and submitted to Minister and Deputy Minister for consideration;



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Related Ongoing work

- Continued implementation of the Sector Plan in the following manner –
 - (1) Review of the strategy to ensure alignment with the Manufacturing Strategy and other key Government investment strategies;
 - (2) Continued roll out of the processes to implement commodity strategies that have been agreed to;
 - (3) Finalisation those strategies that are in the final draft stage and
 - (4) Continue to encourage those sectors that have not as yet to start processes to develop long term strategies in an inclusive manner drawing on the AGRIBEE framework.





Related Ongoing work

- Continued engagement on the agreed to “enabler” areas which can facilitate the effective implementation of the Sector Plan [e.g. -Working with Farmer Organisations, Farmer to Farmer Mentorship Programme etc.]
- Finalisation of the follow up work on the intergovernmental fiscal review in order to continue the implementation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme.
- Continued roll out and implementation of the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition and the Human Resources Development Programmes;





Conclusion

- In all of government policies since 1994 the intention to confront the legacy of the past has been consistent; the experience with the development of appropriate policy interventions difficult and the implementation of targeted programmes complex.
- The development of a discussion document and framework for AGRIBEE has drawn directly from the above general observation – let us now work to ensure it's finalisation and ultimate implementation is reflective of the fact that in the past ten years we have indeed undergone the MINDSET shift that we all agreed was critical in 1994.



Thank You for your Attention



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