



Newsletter agriSAids Number 1 December 2004

Dear all,

Just to keep you informed on our HIV/AIDS project in the farming sector AgriSAids we decided to send you a newsletter on our activities approximately every 2 months.

Before 'South Africa' is going to enjoy the festive season we would like to inform you very briefly on World Aids Day, on the present state of affairs.

We have contacted a consultant from the Boston University, Patrick Connelly who is currently busy writing a business plan for our project.

He is very knowledgeable on the subject and we expect him to 'deliver' a first draft in January 2005.

Dr Tempelman has started with his mobile clinic in November.

Two farms are 'under treatment' and until now the project is tremendously successful. We are still looking for a black owned farm in the neighborhood of Groblersdal.

Two visits have taken place at the first farm, with over 30 patients being tested. Eight are currently under treatment. On this farm much awareness has already been created by the owner and her staff. It was surprising to see how open people were about their status and how they were comparing each others CD4-counts.

The second farm, also in the Groblersdal area, was an unexplored area. We first sent in our Aids Awareness Program. They had different workshops at various levels.

The first clinic was surprising. 23 employees were counselled and tested, of them 7 tested positive for the HIV virus. Further blood was taken in order to establish their CD4's and Viral Load. For the time being both farms are visited weekly and we are looking forward to further expanding our services to these farms and to the three we still have to select.

In between we are giving presentations to different agricultural organisations and have meetings with organisations and people of interest for our project.

In January we will start procedures for the formal set up of the NGO.

Once the consultant has finalised his business plan, we will organise a meeting with all of you as members of the National Platform.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Gretha Kostwinder
Marianne van der Laarsse
Hugo Tempelman

Contact details:

g.a.kostwinder@minInv.nl

Cell phone: 083-447 9547

Marianne@qcfresh.com

Cell phone: 082-388 1000

Tempelman@ndlovumc.org

Cell phone: 082-652 2265