



**Newsletter AgriAids nr.6  
November 2007**

**“Aids is not only a disease, it is a human rights issue as well”.**  
This is the message from Nelson Mandela ahead of World Aids Day 1  
December 2007.

***What is happening with HIV/Aids worldwide and in SA?***

The latest report of UNAIDS (November 2007) shows that the figures of HIV/Aids prevalence are lower than expected, mainly due to lower figures in India. That is good news. The bad news however is that from the 33.2 million people living with Aids worldwide, more than 2/3 of them (22.5 million) live in Sub Sahara Africa. South Africa still has the highest prevalence of HIV/Aids in the world.

The fight against HIV/Aids in the agricultural sector is seriously hampered by the vulnerability of the farm workers, and this an important part of the job to be done to turn this bleak picture around.

***AgriAids' activities.***

This newsletter is to inform you on our latest activities.

***Situational Analysis/Feasibility study:***

In the Newsletter from March 2007 we announced the need for a study on HIV/Aids and the impact on the agricultural sector.

On our requests for Expressions of Interest for this study, we got quite a good response. We finally selected a relatively small consultant agency, but with a lot of experience in this field.

Briefly, the study will be focussed on the costs of HIV/Aids for the agricultural sector and secondly will give us recommendations for "the best possible implementation" of HIV/Aids programmes on farms.

The do's and the don'ts so to say.

The study will be finalised mid March 2008.

The funding for this study was finally secured by ComMark ([www.commark.org](http://www.commark.org)) and Resource Africa ([www.resourceafrica.org](http://www.resourceafrica.org)) and

also thanks to the contribution of Deciduous Fruits Producers Trust, the Citrus Growers Association and Green's Greens.

### *Other activities*

AgriAids was represented at the International Aids Conference in June this year in Durban. Gretha Kostwinder did a poster presentation together with Lindie Botha from the Farm Project, Ndlovu Medical Centre.

At the AllFresh Fresh Produce Conference in September 2007, AgriAids delivered a presentation on HIV/Aids in agriculture and the role of AgriAids.

The organizers of the annual ALLFresh golf day, taking place alongside the AllFresh conference, made a very nice gesture by donating ZAR 9000 to AgriAids.

Woolworth recently developed their so-called "Good Business Journey" including Corporate Social Responsibility.

Last September Woolworth organised a special event for their main suppliers at Spier, where different aspects of this good business journey were discussed. In this context Woolworth is interested in policies for implementing HIV strategies on farms of her suppliers and requested AgriAids to give a presentation, which we did.

### *More farms involved in the near future!*

Whereas AgriAids is not an implementing organisation, we are primarily facilitating and organising the implementation. Therefore we need the assistance of others. Recently we started cooperating with the Foundation for Professional Development ([www.foundation.co.za](http://www.foundation.co.za)) This organisation is the "training-arm" of the South African Medical Association, SAMA, and trains e.g. staff from public hospitals on HIV/Aids. One of the hospitals trained by the Foundation is the Brits Public Hospital.

We therefore decided to start implementing HIV/Aids programmes on at least 10 new farms in the surroundings of the Brits area.

In January 2008 we will start this exciting programme on interested and committed farms in Brits. At the moment we are in the process of selecting the farms and organising the activities with different stakeholders involved. We plan to host a workshop at the end of January/early February to communicate details of the programme with farm owners in the Brits area.

We believe that the fight against Aids can only be sustainable, if fought in close cooperation with the public health care sector. We have made this decision with the cooperation of the Foundation for Professional Development. We keep you informed on the developments in Brits.

### ***New organisational structure AgriAids***

During the last two years the trustees of AgriAids have mainly been involved with management tasks. Looking at the recent developments we came to the conclusion that we have to change the structure of AgriAids.

New trustees should replace the present trustees and the undersigned should be appointed as the management team of AgriAids, their respective tasks to be discussed.

The third trustee Hugo Tempelman, has agreed to participate in the new set up of AgriAids, depending on the outcome e.g. in an advisory role.

We are looking for trustees who are committed to AgriAid's mission and would like to contribute to the fulfilment of it.

Please feel free to contact us, if you are interested or aware of any potential candidate.

### ***World Aids Day 1 December***

Our fight against HIV/Aids in agriculture is primarily concentrated on the farm workers. How to keep them alive? That is where it is all about and that should finally be the mission of the farm owner as well.

1 December is World Aids day. Let us try to make farm workers part of it and make them aware, as a human right, of the possibilities there are nowadays to live with HIV/Aids by giving them access to care and treatment.

Finally, we wish you a very happy festive season, and all the best for 2008.

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