



**AgriAids Newsletter no 8
December 2008**

AgriAids wishes you all a merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2009.

We are really pleased to inform you that we were awarded USAID /PEPFAR funding in August this year.

Last week we signed the contract with Right to Care, a South African NGO. This organization is appointed by USAID as our grant manager.

This means that we can start scaling up our activities and will be able to organize and facilitate HIV/Aids programs on selected farms for the benefit of many more farm workers.

Last year we implemented HIV/Aids programs on a few more farms with our implementing partner the Foundation for Professional Development, FPD.

It is heart warming to see the commitment and the support of the respective farm owners in getting a program in place. We also noticed a remarkable change in the willingness of farm workers to get themselves tested.

What a difference in comparison with a few years ago!

These signals are hopeful for the future. Our attention for the coming year will be focused on bridging the gap between the testing and the follow up treatment if farm workers are tested positive. We are very much aware of the fact that it is not easy for a farm worker to get access to the public health care systems. This is mainly due to long distances and lack of money and time.

For the coming months we will be busy setting up an office, selecting staff and putting the office policies, as required by our funder, in place. The main focus of our activities will of course be the selecting of new farms and the meeting of our targets as stipulated in the contract.

We will keep you posted, also check regularly our soon to be revamped website www.agriids.org.za

Enjoy the festive season, keep the spirits up and the prevalence rate down.

Kind regards,

Gretha Kostwinder and Marianne van der Laarse

Pretoria, 20 December 2008