



# NATIONAL LUCERNE TRUST

PRESENTATION

08 MARCH 2012

DERICK ENGELBRECHT



# STRUCTURE OF INDUDTRY

- **New Structure was develop in 2001**  
Lucerne seed and Lucerne Hay
- **Statutory measures**  
Registration, records and returns
- **Statutory Levies**  
Approved and implemented September last year
- **Membership**  
Consist of:-

Lucerne seed	246
Lucerne hay	485
Total	731
- **Mission**  
To stabilize and grow the Lucerne industry by providing sound marketing principles, practical services and meaningful information for producers, traders en end-users



**HAY**

**SEED**

**1. Producers  
(Pieter v Niekerk)**

**1. Ministerial  
Representative  
Me Mina Gill**

**2. Small Scale Farmers  
Vacant**

**1. Producers  
(Joey Potgieter)**

**2. Dealer /  
Trader  
Albrecht Swiegers**

**2. Lucerne Seed  
Cleaners  
(HWF Potgieter)**

**3. Dealer/Trader  
(David Malan)**

# **LUCERNE MARKET**

## **➤ Cultivation**

**Approximately 300 000 ha of irrigated and dry land under cultivation**

**Highest concentration Western Cape, Free State and Northern Cape**

## **➤ Lucerne Seed**

**Production between 300 – 500 metric tons – value R20 – R30 Million per year**

**90% of all Lucerne seed is produced in the Klein Karoo**

## **➤ Lucerne Varieties**

**SA Variety List September 2011 – 44**

# LUCERNE MARKET

## ➤ Lucerne Hay

Value – estimated at R375 million per annum

Under irrigation – 208 000 – 240 000 ha

Eastern and Western Cape – Lucerne is part of farming activities for livestock

## ➤ Demand

No existing reliable information

Sell direct from farm – 25% used for own purpose

Strategic importance for livestock and dairy industries



# QUALITY AND GRADING

## ➤ Lucerne Seed

NLT Registered Seed testing Laboratory

In dependent and trusted by the industry

Fees for testing of Lucerne seed samples is free and from part of statutory levy

## ➤ Lucerne Hay

New quality and grading system by NIR instrument

NLT Calibration – 20 instruments accredited

Analysis certificate issue

Important for milk farmers

Further research and upgrading needed



# RESEARCH

- New Lucerne cultivar  
SA Select
- National Lucerne Evaluation Trails  
Currently 5 Irrigation trails  
1 Grazing trail
- Lucerne Hay research

# ROLE IN TRANSFORMATION

- The needs and requirements of small scale farmers are the same as those of commercial farmers
- Projects
  - Dysselsdorp – donate Lucerne seed
  - Swartberg High School – donate seed
- Extension services on a regular basis



# PROJECTS

- New Projects

- Beekeeping

  - Opportunity for small scale farmers

- Funding of projects

  - Small Scale Farmers

- Projects – Provincial Governments

# PROJECTS IN KLEIN KAROO

- NLT are involved in the following projects with commodities like Lucerne seed and hay, Tobacco, Vegetables, Fruit and Angora goats:-
- Towerkop, Voorburg, Haarlem, Volmoed, Towersig Transformation Projects Co, Olienhouts Kloof, Matjiesriver, Waaikraal, Amalienstein and Appelkloof Boerdery.
- CPAC - Commodity Project Assessment Committee



# PROJECTS

- On these farms there is already 11ha planted under vegetables seed and it will be expand to 25ha. All vegetables produced will go to the feeding scheme in Dysseisdorp to ensure that 56 000 school children received a balanced meal per day. This is part of the Zero Hunger Program recognized by National Government. With the development of the New Farmers Program, we plan to plant 1ha of lucerne for every 50 goats on the farm – long term planning is to establish 100 000 goats in 7 year time frame.

# RESOURCES

- Cultivation and Utilization of Lucerne in South Africa - CD
- Web-site: [www.lusern.org](http://www.lusern.org)
- OUR VISION
- To create opportunities and prosperity for everyone in the Lucerne Industry