



# NAMC

Promoting market access for South African agriculture



# Agri-Trust digest

Issue No. 14

*In this issue we cover the following topics:*

1. Highlights of the annual trusts workshop held on 11 March 2021
2. NAMC courtesy visit to ministerial trustees in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces
3. Announcements

Visit the NAMC Agri- Trusts Portal at: <http://www.namc.co.za/services/agricultural-trusts/>



## AGRI-TRUST DIGEST

*Agri-Trust Digest* is a bimonthly report produced by the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) through the Agricultural Industry Trusts Division. The publication aims to communicate developments as they happen around the different agricultural trusts. The focus of this issue is on three topics: (i) Highlights of the annual trusts workshop held on 11 March 2021; (ii) NAMC courtesy visit to ministerial trustees in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces; and (iii) Announcements. The division has three digests covering the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), agricultural transformation, and agricultural industry trusts. *Agri-Trust Digest* reports on key developments coming from the operation of the different industry trusts.

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## 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL TRUSTS WORKSHOP HELD ON 11 MARCH 2021

By

The NAMC's Agricultural Industry Trusts<sup>1</sup>

One of the responsibilities of the Agricultural Industry Trusts Division of the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) is to co-ordinate engagement between the industry trusts, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the NAMC. The purpose of the engagement of 11 March 2021 was to reflect on the successes and challenges encountered during the year.

On 11 March 2021, the NAMC, through its Industry Trusts Division, hosted its annual workshop with the industry trusts and various key departments such as the Department of Justice and DALRRD to share the milestones and challenges faced in implementing the work of the industry trusts. Furthermore, over 35 delegates attended the 2021 workshop, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was hosted virtually through MS Teams.

The majority of the trusts reported a decline in their asset base due to COVID-19; however, there are still positive forecasts that the markets may rebound and things will go back to normal soon. The industry trusts highlighted challenges regarding the lengthy period of approval for the appointment of trustees, which involves registering the trustees with the Master of the High Court. The challenges of delays with the Master of the High Court were discussed, and the Deputy Master committed to assisting the trusts in fast-tracking the process. The NAMC will work together with the Minister's office to ensure that the delays in the approval of ministerial submissions are addressed.

The comprehensive report regarding the engagement is available at [www.namc.co.za](http://www.namc.co.za).

## 2. NAMC's COURTESY VISIT TO MINISTERIAL TRUSTEES IN THE LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

By

Matsobane (BM) Mpyana, Ndumiso Mazibuko and Nomantande Yeki

Between 13 and 15 April 2021, the NAMC visited the ministerial trustees in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The trustees represent the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the board of the South African Cultivar and Technology Agency (SACTA), Citrus Industry Trust, Winter Cereals Trust and Potato Industry Development Trust. The purpose of the visit was to engage with the ministerial trustees and hear their views on how the NAMC can support them and areas where they feel the NAMC could improve.

The following came out very strongly in the engagements:

- **Winter Cereals Trust:** Currently, the trust is facing challenges relating to financing the industry functions such as research and transformation, since the trust is no longer administering statutory levies;
- The trust is also facing challenges relating to governance, and the industry has opted for the administration of levies through a new entity on a voluntary basis;
- The trustees appreciate the involvement of the NAMC and the acting Director-General for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.
- **SACTA:** There is consensus that the transformation work is progressing very well.
- **Citrus Industry Trust:** The assets of the trust are declining; however, the trust continues to perform well on the funding of transformation interventions implemented through the Citrus Grower Development Company.

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<sup>1</sup> The Agricultural Industry Trusts team is comprised of Mr Bonani Nyhodo, Mr Matsobane (BM) Mpyana, Miss Nomantande Yeki and Mr Brian Makhele.



- **Potato Industry Development Trust:** Currently, the trust is performing well on transformation, which is one of its core businesses. However, there is concern about the introduction of the Potato Transformation Advisory Committee (PTAC) in that its establishment may disempower the Potato Transformation Committee.

The ministerial trustees highlighted the following areas of support and improvement:

- Training on corporate governance and investment/financial analysis;
- Appreciation for the induction of the new ministerial trustees; and

- The NAMC should assist in the registration of the trustees with the Master of the High Court.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Honourable Thoko Didiza, appointed the following ministerial trustees:

- o **Meat Industry Trust and Red Meat Research Development Trust:** Ms Unati Speirs; Dr Ziyanda Majokweni Qwalela and Ms Dimakatso Sarah Sekhoto; and
- o **Sorghum Trust:** Ms Thato Moagi.

The NAMC would like to welcome and congratulate the new ministerial trustees on their appointment and wishes them well in their new roles.

For more information, visit [www.namc.co.za](http://www.namc.co.za) or contact Mr B. Nyhodo – Senior Manager: Agricultural Industry Trusts Division, email: [bonani@namc.co.za](mailto:bonani@namc.co.za)  
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