

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) dealing with Agricultural Industry Trusts has a mandate to facilitate the communication process between the Agricultural Trusts and the Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). Among other things, Agricultural Industry Trusts division is expected to facilitate the process of the appointment of Ministerial Trustees.

n 21 June 2022 the NAMC hosted the induction for the newly appointed ministerial trustees. During the induction there were other stakeholders, Ms Bezuidenhout from Decidous Fruit Industry Trust and Mr Keun from Oilseed and Protein Development Trust. The purpose of the induction was to welcome the trustees and introduce them to the NAMC and the work done by the Agricultural Trust.

The induction covered the Background of NAMC, background and operation of the Trusts and presentations on NAMC's core divisions namely Agricultural Trust which was presented by Mr Brian Makhele, Statutory Measures presented by Mr Schalk Burger, Markets and Economic Research Centre presented by Mr Lucius Phaleng and Agribusiness by Ms Nonhlanhla Gwamanda.

The Objectives of the Oilseed and Protein of Development Trust as mentioned by Mr Keun is the promotion and development of oil seed industry in South Africa by financing of research projects with regards to the improvement, production, storing and marketing of oilseeds. Currently, they are supporting and developing oil seed small holder farmers by financing of market access.

The Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust on the other hand has a bursary programme which has funded students to complete their qualifications. The Trust has diversified spending to also include economic development, not just training. Therefore the Trust made an investment in the Free State feasibility study in various areas to establish new farms and revitalize old ones.

The NAMC has a good track record of assisting agricultural industries in a number of ways and is proud of a number of clean audits received the past decade.

"This was a very good information session, I'm looking forward to my reign and to be part of the input and hopefully for agribusiness to be successful and sustainable" said Natasha Williams, one of the appointed trustees.

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