



# GRAIN SA

## FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

### FINAL REPORT TO THE SORGHUM TRUST

1 OCTOBER 2005 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

30 SEPTEMBER 06.

## INTRODUCTION.

### OVERALL OBJECTIVE.

The main-streaming and commercialization of Sorghum production amongst small scale and emergent farmers.

### PROJECT PURPOSE.

Training, transfer of industry information and best practice methodology with regard to the sorghum to small scale and emergent farmers in four Provinces of South Africa ( Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Free State and North West Provinces).

#### 1. DEMONSTRATION TRIALS.

The purpose of the demonstration trials is to expose the farmers to best agricultural practice. In many of **the areas where sorghum is grown the farmers are still planting OPV's and broadcasting the seed on to a ploughed land where after they plough the land again so as to cover the seed.** The farmers do not use fertilizer, or herbicides, or any insecticides, and due to the fact that they broadcast the seed, they cannot mechanically cultivate for weeds between the rows. (For more details, see the progress report on each project)



A farmer in his land of sorghum (OPV) near Witkleigat.



A woman harvesting sorghum – using a pen knife.



After harvesting, the sorghum is stacked in a pile before the threshing machine arrives.



The watchman for the harvest at his temporary home.

It was amazing to realize that apart from the regular production aspects – seeding rate, cultivar choice (as well as the choice between the bitter and the sweet varieties), fertilization, weed control etc that these farmers still need to be told of the value of planting in rows.



During on of the farmers days at Rietpan (near Witkleigat), one of the old farmers (LEFT) explained how he has grown the bitter sorghum. He said that it does taste bitter, but not as bitter as hunger!

## 2. TRAINING MATERIAL.

We have developed the production manual for sorghum. We had the manual evaluated by an external evaluator so as to ensure that the level and contents of the course is appropriate – the evaluation report is attached to this report.

### 3. TRAINING COURSE.

We managed to hold two training courses this year – one at Bothaville (attended by 17) and one at the Tompi Seleka College (attended by 24) near Marble Hall in Limpopo. The feed back from the courses was very positive and we have had requests for more courses for the next year ( more detail in the progress report on each project).

### THANKS.

Our sincere thanks to the Sorghum Trust for their funding of this project. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the trust on behalf of the farmers too who do not have an opportunity to do so themselves – the farmers express their thanks at every opportunity and it is correct for the thanks to go to the Trust as without that support there would be project. We look forward to continued cooperation in the interests of the developing Sorghum Farmers.

### SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET

<u>Programme / Result Area</u>	<u>Projects / Activities</u>	<u>Activity sheet</u>	<u>Budget Application</u>	<u>Budget used</u>	<u>Budget remaining</u>
1. Demonstration trial plots	1.1 Establish trial plots	1/05	R 20 000	R 18 829	R 1 171
	1.2 Manage the trials	2/05			
	1.3 Hold farmers days to evaluate the plots	3/05	R 21 000	R 9 385	R 11615
2. Training material	2.1 Develop the training manuals	4/05	R55 000	R 52 691	R 2 309
	2.2 Duplicate the training manuals	6/05			
3. Training courses	3.1 Offer one training courses at Bothaville	7/05			
4. Personnel costs	Personnel to manage the programme		R 100 000	R 88 162	R 11 838
Total			R196 000	R 169 067	R 26 933

Total budget approved	R 196 000
Budget used	R 169 067
Amount paid to GSA by Sorghum Trust	R 98 000
Amount outstanding (invoice attached)	R 71 067

Activity Sheet number: 1/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 1 Demonstration plots.
Sub-programme 1.1 Establish trial plots
Project Activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable sites for trial plots (7 in total)</li> <li>Measure the appropriate size of the plot – 1 ha per crop per trial</li> <li>Take soil samples to ensure the appropriate application of fertilizer and lime (if required).</li> <li>Procure the appropriate inputs – these should come from donations from the input supplier companies (they get credit for involvement with BEE and more exposure for their products)</li> <li>Arrange with local contractors or farmers for the use of equipment for soil preparation, planting, cultivation and harvesting.</li> <li>Plant the trials – using the appropriate seed at the correct seeding rate, and the appropriate fertilizer at the recommended rate of application.</li> <li>Apply the appropriate herbicides and pesticides.</li> </ul>
Project motivation Demonstration plots will be established in Free State, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.(7 trials in total). The trials will demonstrate best practice with regard to the production of sorghum. The trials will demonstrate the effects of correct fertilization, <b>weed control, pest and disease control. These plots will be managed carefully and each plot will host at least three Farmer's Days</b> over the growing period of the crop (one at planting time, one at the vegetative stage and one near harvest time). The trials are not intended to be cultivar trials and the selection of the cultivars to be used for the trials will be objective (perhaps one shorter and one longer growing cultivar) of each crop.
Project Budget Budget approved: R 20 000 Budget spent: R 18 829 Budget remaining: R 1 171
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. Trial 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>This trial was planted on Mr Chris Mhlangu's farm at Kwamhlanga.</b></li> <li>The inputs were supplied by Mr Mhlangu, Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.</li> <li>The soil was ploughed on 27 December 05, seedbed preparation done on 02 January</li> <li>The sorghum was planted on 04 January 06 on an area of 2 ha.</li> <li>Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha</li> <li>Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection</li> <li>2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.</li> <li>Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.</li> <li>Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 3.2 t/ha) / PAN 8816 (harvested 3.6 t/ha) / PAN 8625(harvested 3.3 t/ha)</li> <li>Plant population: 25 plants per meter.</li> <li>Row width: 90cm.</li> </ul> Cultivation for weeds was done on 10 February 06.
Trial 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>This trial was planted on Mr Basie Khumalo's farm at Vredefort.</b></li> <li>The inputs were supplied by Mr Khumalo, Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.</li> <li>The soil was ploughed on 18 January 06, seedbed preparation done on 20 January 06</li> <li>The sorghum was planted on 21 January 06 on an area of 1 ha.</li> <li>Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha</li> <li>Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection</li> <li>2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.</li> <li>Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.</li> <li>Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 2.7 t/ha) / PAN 8816 (harvested 3.2 t/ha) / PAN 8625 (harvested 2.6 t/ha)</li> <li>Plant population: 25 plants per meter.</li> <li>Row width: 90cm.</li> <li>Cultivation for weeds was done on 07 March 06.</li> </ul>

Trial 3.

- This trial was planted at Sekhukhune under headman: Magashoa
- The inputs were supplied by Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.
- The soil was ploughed on 28 January 06, seedbed preparation done on 05 February 06
- The sorghum was planted on 12 February 06 on an area of 1 ha.
- Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha
- Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection
- 2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.
- Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.
- Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 3.5t/ha) / M 105 (harvested 200 kg per ha) / PAN 8625 (harvested 3.8 t/ha)
- Plant population: 25 plants per meter.
- Row width: 90cm.
- Cultivation for weeds was done on 02 March 06.

Trial 4.

- This trial was planted at Nebo under headman: Makgoale
- The inputs were supplied by Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.
- The soil was ploughed on 03 February 06, seedbed preparation done on 07 February 06
- The sorghum was planted on 12 February 06 on an area of 1 ha.
- Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha
- Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection
- 2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.
- Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.
- Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 1.9 t/ha) / M 57 (harvested 130 kg/ha) / PAN 8625 (harvested 2.0 t/ha)
- Plant population: 25 plants per meter.
- Row width: 90cm.
- Cultivation for weeds was done on 02 March 06.

Trial 5.

- This trial was planted at Sekhukhune (Phateng)
- The inputs were supplied by Ben Magelane, Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.
- The soil was ploughed on 03 February 06, seedbed preparation done on 06 February 06
- The sorghum was planted on 12 February 06 on an area of 1 ha.
- Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha
- Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection
- 2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.
- Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.
- Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 2.2t/ha) / M 105 (harvested 200kg / ha) / PAN 8625 (harvested 3.8 t/ha)
- Plant population: 25 plants per meter.
- Row width: 90cm.
- Cultivation for weeds was done on 02 March 06.

Trial 6.

- **This trial was planted at Delmas on Dr Hewu's farm.**
- The inputs were supplied by Ben Magelane, Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.
- The soil was ploughed on 03 February 06, seedbed preparation done on 06 February 06
- The sorghum was planted on 12 February 06 on an area of 1 ha.
- Fertilization:3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha
- Weed control:Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection
- 2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.

This trial drowned out and no further work was done here

Trial 7.

- This trial was planted at Rietpan (near Witkleigat)
- The inputs were supplied by Omnia, Pannar, ARC, and Technichem.
- The soil was ploughed on 03 February 06, seedbed preparation done on 06 February 06
- The sorghum was planted on 12 February 06 on an area of 1 ha.
- Fertilization: 3.2.1.(25) 200kg/ha. / 70kg KAN p/ha
- Weed control: Tuff-E-Nuff / 1lt / ha met Concep for protection
- 2.4.D amine for control of the broad leaves.
- Insect control : Karate 75 ml/ha for cutworm and later for the stalk borer.
- Seed variety: PAN 8446 (harvested 50 kg / ha due to frost) / PAN 8625 (harvested 50 kg / ha due to frost)
- Plant population: 25 plants per meter.
- Row width: 90cm.
- Cultivation for weeds was done on 02 March 06.

Project contributors:

Sorghum Trust

Results that have been achieved.

The trials were successful except for the trial at Delmas where rain drowned to crop.

Any problems that have been encountered with the project.

Apart from the drowning out at Delmas, due to the late rains of the past season, the trial at Rietpan was planted very late and the early frost took the crop and there was no yield to measure. However, in terms of best agricultural practice, successful farmers days were held there and the local farmers were able to see the benefits of modern farming practices.

Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that.

None.

Estimated duration of the project until completion.

The planting of trials should continue although the aspect of training and training courses should get greater priority than the planting of trials. Some of the farmers, particularly in Sekhukhune are resistant to planting the hybrids because they say they cannot eat all that they produce from the hybrids and there is no ready market for the grain. The value of demonstration trials should not be underestimated and this project should continue.



One of the trials at Sekhukhune – showing the hybrid (front right and back left) as well as the OPV which germinated very badly.



Another trial at Sekhukhune showing the very poor germination of the OPV (this was the case in all the trials and the farmers could see this quite clearly).

Activity Sheet number : 2/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 1 1. Demonstration plots.
Sub-programme 1.2 Manage the trials
Project Activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the plots are kept free of weeds.</li> <li>• Apply the top dressing of fertilizer as planned.</li> <li>• Ensure that pests and diseases are properly managed.</li> <li>• Keep an accurate rainfall record.</li> <li>• Ensure that the plots are harvested timeously.</li> <li>• Ensure that appropriate records are kept of all the activities and that the farmers are introduced to the concept of accurate record keeping.</li> </ul>
Project motivation Demonstration plots will be established in four provinces (7 trials in total). The trials will demonstrate best practice with regard to the production of sorghum. The trials will demonstrate the effects of correct fertilization, weed control, pest and disease control. <b>These plots will be managed carefully and each plot will host at least three Farmer's Days over the growing period of the crop</b> (one at planting time, one at the vegetative stage and one near harvest time). The trials are not intended to be cultivar trials and the selection of the cultivars to be used for the trials will be objective (perhaps one shorter and one longer growing cultivar) of each crop
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. The trial plots were managed as well as possible – the season was not easy with the late rains followed by early frost.
Project contributors: Sorghum Trust
Results that have been achieved. Due to the fact that the trials are planted in areas where sorghum has been produced for years and is the staple food of the local population, the trials serve as a constant point of interest to the farmers who can watch the development of the sorghum <b>throughout the year. These trials are also used formally as the focus point for the Farmer's days that are held during the season (more detail on the days in the project on Farmer's days).</b>
Any problems that have been encountered with the project. There is a problem with Rooibloom weed in Sekhukhune – the best method for control is crop rotation but the farmers are not really interested in planting sunflowers as they say there is no market for it. This requires attention in the next season.
Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that. None
Estimated duration of the project until completion. The trials should continue to be planted on an annual basis.



The dry trial at Rietpan (it was frosted).



The trial at Rietpan while it was still green.

Activity Sheet number: 3/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 1 Demonstration plots.
Sub-programme 1.3 Hold farmers days to evaluate the plots
Project Activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify the Developing Farmers of the trails through the weekly radio broadcasts and monthly newsletters (Pula / Imvula)</li> <li>Arrange for developing farmers from the local area to visit the trials three times during the season.</li> <li><b>Draw up a programme for each farmers' day that includes the following aspects: soil cultivation, soil sampling coupled to appropriate fertilization, variety and cultivar selection, plant population, pest and weed control, harvesting and marketing.</b></li> </ul>
Project motivation The trials will demonstrate best practice with regard to the production of sorghum. The trials will demonstrate the effects of correct fertilization, weed control, pest and disease control. These plots will be managed carefully and each plot will host at least three <b>Farmer's Days over the growing period of the crop (one at planting time, one at the vegetative stage and one near harvest time)</b> . The trials are not intended to be cultivar trials and the selection of the cultivars to be used for the trials will be objective (perhaps one shorter and one longer growing cultivar) of each crop
Project Budget Budget approved: R 21 000 Budget spent: R 9 385 Budget remaining: R 11 615
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. Farmers days were held at all the trail plots during the season and again at harvesting time – one big day at each trials and then at least two smaller days for the local farmers. The farmers days were held at the trial in Rietpan (March and May), Sekhukhune (3 trials where a day was held in March and another day in June at each site), and at Vredefort during May.
Project contributors: Sorghum Trust
Results that have been achieved. <b>The local farmers and extension officers are very interested in attending the farmer's days. Speakers were invited from Omnia, Pannar and the Departments of Agriculture.</b> The days were well attended and the questions asked demonstrated the interest of the farmers in the days. Farmers days were held during March, May and June at all the trial sites. During the farmers days, presentations were made by Omnia, Pannar, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Affairs, ARC as well as the Provincial manager of Grain SA. The days were extremely well attended and the participation of the farmers was good.
Any problems that have been encountered with the project. <b>It is not possible to have a farmer's day at planting time as the date cannot be established long before the time – there is no time to give notice of the day. It is therefore not practical to hold three formal days at each trial – one day during the growing season is adequate (a 'green day') followed by another day when the crop is ripening is deemed to be adequate.</b>
Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that. Two and not three days were held at the sites of the trials. We are not permitted to include information on Sorghum in the monthly newsletter (Pula Imvula) as it is totally funded by the Maize trust and all information has to be in the interests of the maize industry.
Estimated duration of the project until completion. The farmers days are important occasions for information transfer and should be continued.



A Farmer's day at Rietpan.



A Farmer's day at Sekhukhune – farmers in the land being lectured by the various role players.



At a farmer's day in Sekhukhune – the tent had partially collapsed as a result of the wind and the group had to sit outside in the wind!



Farmers being shown the bitter sorghum – and later eating it!



Activity Sheet number: 4/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 2 2. Training material.
Sub-programme 2.1 Develop the training manuals
Project Activity. Develop the course material for the introductory courses for sorghum production.
Project motivation Although there is a significant amount of literature available from various sources, the level of this information is not always appropriate for the developing farmers. There is an identified need to develop a course for the production of sorghum.
Project Budget for all aspects of training: Budget approved: R 55 000 Budget spent: R 52 691 Budget remaining: R 2 309
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. The Production Manual for Sorghum was developed.
Project contributors: Sorghum Trust
Results that have been achieved. A copy of the manual is attached to this report. We considered it necessary to have the manual evaluated by an outside evaluator. Mr Herman Loubser from the ARC GCI was responsible for the evaluation – this report is also attached.
Any problems that have been encountered with the project. None.
Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that. All the milestones were achieved.
Estimated duration of the project until completion. This project is completed, however, the translation of this manual into Tswana and Sepedi would be of great value to farmers who attend the courses.

Activity Sheet number: 5/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 2 2. Training material.
Sub-programme 2.2 Duplicate the training manuals
Project title / Activity. Make copies of the sorghum manual for those who attend the training courses.
Project motivation Although there is a significant amount of literature available from various sources, the level of this information is not always appropriate for the developing farmers. There is an identified need to develop a course for the production of sorghum.
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. After completion of the manual, copies were made for those who attended the two courses (17 + 24 = 41) as well as for the Provincial managers of the Grain SA Farmer Development Programme. We also gave a draft copy to each member of the Sorghum Working group of Grain SA requesting their comments and suggestions – they are the people who really know about growing sorghum commercially and we value their input on the contents of the manual.
Project contributors: Sorghum Trust
Results that have been achieved. The manual has been well received.
Any problems that have been encountered with the project. There are no problems.
Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that. No milestones were not achieved.
Estimated duration of the project until completion. In future, manuals will have to be printed for all those who attend the courses – it is essential to have a manual to take home after a course to serve as a reference book.

Activity Sheet number: 6/05 01 October 05 to 30 September 06
Programme / Result Targeted: 3 3. Training courses.
Sub-programme 3.1 Offer one training courses at Bothaville
Project title / Activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer one course to the provincial managers and involved departmental extension staff</li> </ul>
Project motivation <p>It is essential to take the developing farmers through a basic production course that covers all the aspects of production. The whole process from soil preparation, through cultivar selection, fertilisation, planting, weed and pest control, harvesting and marketing has to be covered at the basic level so as to equip farmers to produce a crop after attending the course (they will take the production manual home with them after the course). The task of taking the developing farmers through this scientific and complex process should not be under-estimated.</p> <p>The provincial departments of agriculture have extension officers who are appointed to support the developing farmers. It is indeed regrettable that in many cases these extension officers lack the necessary knowledge. Our intention is to offer courses to the extension officers alone so that they do not feel that they will lose face by acknowledging that they do not have the knowledge. After attending the course they too will have a copy of the manual that they can use to assist other farmers.</p>
The actions that have been taken, and progress made with regard to this project. Two courses were held during this year.
Project contributors: Sorghum Trust
Results that have been achieved. The two courses were presented this year – the first one at Nampo Park near Bothaville and the second one at Tompi Seleka college in Limpopo (near Marble Hall). The courses were very well received by both farmers as well as extension officers.
Any problems that have been encountered with the project. No problems were experienced with regard to this project.
Milestones that have not been achieved and the reason for that. Milestones were achieved as planned.
Estimated duration of the project until completion. There is a great need for training courses and these should be increased in each year.

Report on the Sorghum Production course held at NAMPO Park near Bothaville.  
31 January to 3 February 2006.

The first Sorghum Production course presented by Grain South Africa was held from 31 January 2006 to 3 February 2006 at NAMPO Park outside Bothaville



LEFT: Learners in the hall at NAMPO Park

The course, attended by 17 learners from various provinces (even as far as Mpumalanga) was a great success in many aspects. It was the first opportunity to use the newly developed manual on Sorghum Production. The contents of the course included a general introduction to the Sorghum industry in South Africa, soil and climate, the

morphology of the sorghum plant, plant nutrient requirements (with particular attention to the deficiency symptoms in Sorghum), the planting of sorghum (production practices), weeds and weed control, pests and diseases and the control thereof, and lastly a very basic chapter on recordkeeping and bookkeeping.

Each of the learners was given a manual to take home for further reference (the manual is printed only on one side of the page which allows the learners the opportunity to write own notes on the reverse page for later personal reference). The format of the course was a PowerPoint presentation followed by discussions.



LEFT: Mr. Gideon Morule receiving a copy of the Sorghum Production Manual from Mrs. Jane McPherson, Coordinator of the Developing Producer Programme of Grain SA.

One of the highlights of the course was the **Thursday's visit to Mr. Kobus Dannhauser** at his farm in Parys. He is a very successful commercial sorghum producer. The learners had the opportunity to spend time in a land of sorghum and actually see in practice what they

had been learning about in the classroom – the correct plant population, the weed control, the results of optimal fertilization, the control of insect pests, as well as the machinery that Mr. Dannhauser uses in the fields. The learners were able to speak to the foreman on the farm who told them all the things that they had been told about good production practices – later they were also able to speak openly to Mr. Dannhauser himself who concentrated on the crisis in the pricing of grains in South Africa.



LEFT: Learners in the sorghum land with the trainer, Mr. Danie van den Berg (front left)



LEFT: Learning about taking soil samples.



Mr. Kobus Dannhauser addressing the learners on Sorghum production and the profitability of grain production.

On the final day of the course, Friday 3 February, a little ceremony was held for the handing out of the certificates for those who had attended the course. We had some invited guests for the occasion – Messrs Dolf Botha and Eckhard Scholtz from Suidwes Landbou, and Mr. Gideon Morule who is the chairman of NAFU NorthWest and a trustee of the Sorghum Trust. Mrs

Jane McPherson expressed her thanks to the Sorghum trust for their support of the programme without whose support the development of the material and the presentation of the course would not have been possible.

## *SORGHUM PRODUCTION COURSE*

### PROGRAM

#### TUESDAY :

08H00 – 10H00 : Climate and soil ( Module 1)

10h15 - 11h30 : Climate and soil ( Module 1)

11h30 - 13h00 : Morphology, Growth and development of Sorghum ( Module 2)

14h00 - 15h30 : Morphology, Growth and development of Sorghum ( Module 2)

15h30 - 16h45 : Nutritional requirements ( Module 3)

#### WEDNESDAY :

08H00 – 09H00 : Nutritional requirements ( Module 3)

09h00 – 10h00 : Planting sorghum ( Module 4)

10h15 - 11h30 : Planting sorghum ( Module 4):

11h30 - 13h00 : Weeds and weed control ( Module 5)

14h00 - 15h30 : Diseases and pest control ( Module 6)

15h30 - 16h45 : Diseases and pest control ( Module 6)

#### THURSDAY:

08H00 – 17h00 : PRACTICAL

#### FRIDAY : 3 February 06

08H00 – 09H30 : Costing and bookkeeping ( Module 7)

09h45 - 11h30 : Costing and bookkeeping ( Module 7)

12h00 - 13h00 : Certification ceremony

Introduction to Sorghum Production.  
Bothaville 30 January 3 February 2006

	Name	ID Number	Telephone	Postal Address
1	S T Siluma	7910280306 088	072 401 1169	Plot 38, Roodepoort, 1345
2	M J Bashi	740614 5691 087	073 208 3807	Leeudoringstad
3	N C Mahlangu	690831 5516 086	072 668 9804	Farm 141 Taaifontein, Mpumalanga
4	P P Msiza	680403 6031 085	082 425 6671	330 Roodepoort, Mpumalanga
5	E Z Mbonane	690403 0697 087	083 879 6792	217 Riefontein, Mpumalanga
6	K E Dumako	470909 5551 083	076 464 3884	10114 Sir E.O.Park, Welkom
7	R T Dumako	751018 5604 080	056 214 2576	1068 Seeisoville, Kroonstad
8	S J Makgathe	580708 5882 085	082 816 4187	10163 Oppark Welkom
9	M N Masimula	660121 0336 086	076 116 6977	344 Hartebeesspruit, Mpumalanga
10	Z A Nyamane	551031 5674 088	073 828 9047	10144 O P Park, Welkom
11	OJ Dumako	410518 5192 088	072 367 0915	3470 C Park, Kroonstad
12	L A Theletsane	600707 5790 088	073 446 4171	17332 Marabastad
13	B I Khumalo	671025 5350 082	084 855 3420	Gelukplaas, Vredefort
14	Z L Mazwi	830518 5895 088		1805 Phahameng, Vredefort
15	M A Lamberts	771007 6056 081	072 214 1738	Gelukplaas, Vredefort
16	Z M Dhlomo	470816 5557 087	082 689 8870	Smits Rust, Parys
17	N I Morule	511015 5638 085	082 951 8815	1005 Zamdela, Sasolburg

COURSE FOR EXTENSION OFFICERS IN LIMPOPO.

The department of Agriculture in Limpopo approached Grain SA and requested training for their extension officers. They expressed a need for training in the production of Sorghum and Maize. We were able to present a course to extension officers at Tompi Seleka training college from 29 May to 2 June 06. The course was attended by 24 extension officers and their feedback after the course was very positive indeed.

MAIZE AND SORGHUM PRODUCTION COURSE FOR EXTENSION OFFICERS: 29 MAY – 2 JUNE 2006

	NAME	ID NUMBER	TELEPHONE	POSTAL ADDRESS	BASED AT
1	MA Montjane	600202 6295 084	(013) 268 9300	P/Bag X9619 Marble Hall	Tompi Seleka
2	MN Ntini-Nkuna	580403 0223 085	(015) 812 3210	P/Bag X577, Giyani	Mopani
3	HT Sithole	550404 5929 086	(014) 771 559	PO Box 377 Thabazimbi	Waterberg
4	MC Malomane	791221 5313 080	(013) 798 3104	PO Box 730 Hazyview	Thulamahashe
5	MA Mangena	790520 0253 089	(013) 773 0333	P/Bag 1321 Thulamahashe	Thulamahashe
6	TP Mamphiri	820510 5958 083	(013) 268 9300	P/Bag X9619 Marble Hall	Tompi Seleka
7	NW Sebola	491024 5420 084	(013) 774 0102	P/Bag X9359 Bushbuckridge	Dingleydale
8	SB Maloba	600728 5530084	(015) 491 4973	P/Bag 2455 Mokolane	Mookgophong
9	KL Moloto	610122 5371 087	072 558 6272	PO Box 179 Modimolle, 0510	Waterberg
10	WS Manzini	630306 5814 081	(015) 345 1842	PO Box 634 Letsitele	Tzaneen
11	ME Dikgale	660212 5557 089	073 218 4983	PO Box 137 Ladanna	Capricorn District
12	MA Molema	671021 5305 085	086 496 4477	1153 Zone 3 Seshego	Capricorn
13	BS Riba	490930 5688 085	083 944 2309	PO Box 336 Burgersfort	Sekhukhune
14	MF Ramashu	780724 0481 086	078 203 7765	PO Box 403 Masemola	Tompi Seleka
15	MP Mafokwane	550924 5347 088	(013) 268 9355	PO Box 917 Marble Hall	Marble Hall
16	KJ Manganeng	800923 0775 085	073 483 4176	PO Box 215 Gamampane	Marble Hall
17	MN Mochitele	781002 0335 084	076 101 8520	PO Box 231 Tholongwe	Marble Hall
18	TP Nyanande	670726 5624 084	(015) 963 2008	P/Bag X2247 Sibasa	Vhembe District
19	KR Chavalala	600930 5706 082	(015) 962 7200	P/Bag X5024 Thoyas, 0950	Vhembe District
20	MD Masha	750625 0983 086	073 542 5953	P/Bag X9619 Marble Hall	Tompi Seleka
21	RP Mashaba	600605 0721 084	(013) 735 5229	P/Bag X1321	Bohlabela
22	MK Mkuna	601021 5549 083	083 581 2110	PO Box 1029 Giyani, 0826	Mopani
23	MC Monakedi	750702 5413 086	073 662 9481	PO Box 1404 Marble Hall	Marble Hall
24	MP Tshwana	560404 6236 083	082 803 8043	PO Box 1271 Grobblersdal	Head Office

The farmer development programme of Grain SA is paying particular attention to the training of the extension officers of the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture. Each province has in the region of 80 extension officers. These officers have good academic qualifications but lack any practical farming experience. Currently the extension officers are experiencing considerable pressure from their superiors as well as from the developing farmers as they are deemed not to be supporting farmers adequately. In our experience, the extension officers would like to support farmers but they do not have sufficient experience to have the confidence to go to farmers and be able to assist them. The training courses that we offer have a large component of practical –soil and effective depth, tillage, calibration of the planters and sprayers, identification of plant nutrient deficiencies etc. The extension officers are very interested in the practical sessions and at the end of the course they thank the programme very much and indicate that they will be able to support the farmers better as a result of having attended the course.

The Department of agriculture in Limpopo has indicated that they would like us to offer more courses in their region, and they are most supportive and appreciative of the work being done. The need for courses unfortunately far exceeds the available funding and one has to look at doing a certain number of courses each year - as many as can be afforded.

Another important aspect of training required that has come from the two courses is that of Tractor and Farm Implement maintenance. Many of the farmers, more so in Sekhukhune than near Rietpan have tractors and machinery which is in a very poor state of repair. If these farmers are to progress towards commercialization then they need to be assisted with the necessary skills and training to be able to do the maintenance as required. This again is an aspect which requires attention in terms of the extension officers of each region – they are often requested to assist farmers with mechanical issues without having had any training.

The whole aspect of training needs to be expanded within this programme and we hope to increase the number of courses to be offered in the next application to the Sorghum Trust.