



THE SRCC TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING KEY COMPONENTS:

- *Ownership*
- *Participation*
- *Education*
- *Community Upliftment*

#### Inside this issue:

Ikamva Lethu Empowerment Project	1
Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Farm Activities	2
Mbuyiselo Plase Activities	4
Luthando Farm Activities	4
Accreditation & Training	4
Clinics & Wellness Program	4
Season Overview	5

# SRCC's Transformation Times

Volume 11

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## IKAMVA LETHU EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

After 32 months the end is finally in sight as the lengthy EIA process is expected to be finalized by March 2019. We are planning to commence groundwork shortly thereafter.

The pipes for the main 7km waterline are being delivered as you read this. This is no ordinary water pipeline, as it has to provide the water supply to the farm all the way from the main canal on the northern side of the valley. To put this into perspective, it will take 16 separate loads to have all the piping delivered to the farm. This is a vital part of the development and much attention will be allocated to the careful installation of the pipeline to ensure safe and reliable water supply to this large farming enterprise.

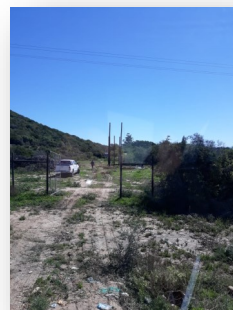
Each phase of orchard development will entail the preparation of orchards for the planting of approximately 75,000 citrus trees which will result in the planting of around 350,000 trees in total. The decision has been made to plant lemons for Phase 1, and the plantings are planned for the end of 2019 and early 2020.

The passionate group of 19 farmer investors are in the process of forming the various Trusts for their farm workers, which make up our shareholding structure, which also includes the SRCC permanent workers as well as the workers who will one day be permanently employed on the Ikamva Lethu farm. The empowerment shareholding in this venture will be 59% and the farm management, training and development of the farm workers as the project unfolds will be undertaken by SRCC.

Information sessions about the project have been held with all beneficiaries, and beneficiaries from SRCC and the farm workers have been appointed to the Steering Committee to represent their respective groups in the management of the project.

This unique project is a leading example of inclusive growth, empowerment and transformation and it, together with the spin-offs therefrom, will provide employment and benefits to thousands of previously disadvantaged people in our community.

A 500 KWA electricity point was established after deforestation was done by Eskom to erect their equipment, as seen here.



**Leadership is not about titles, positions or flow charts. It is about one life influencing another.**  
~ John C. Maxwell ~

**Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) /  
Sikhula Sonke Enterprises: Siyathemba**

A new suction pipe was installed at the dam for irrigation at Siyathemba.

The security at the hostel was upgraded as seen on the right, as crime is increasing. This newly renovated hostel can accommodate 18 people.



**Sundays River Farming Trust  
(SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises: Willowtree**

A new security gate was erected at Willowtree as well as a fence around the new shed (as seen below left) in an effort to combat fruit theft and control access to the premises.



The trees at Willowtree are showing good root development (as seen above right) after two (2) years due to windbreaker chips being put around the trees.

Top-works, a method used to add a new cultivar to an established tree trunk, were done at Willowtree. Previously the cultivar was Morris but using this method, it was changed to Nadorcotts. This method was also used to change the Early Navel tree trunks to Roselina, a Red Navel similar to the Cara Cara (Red Star) variety. Replanting was also done at Willowtree, as seen below on the left.



A new Ford double cab bakkie was bought by Sikhula Sonke Enterprises for the use of Mrs. Buyiswa Ndyenga, the General Manager of SSE. The replacement was necessary due to her previous vehicle's age.

Mrs. Ndyenga must frequently show visitors and Government officials around on the SSE farms and a double cab makes this easier and more comfortable to



### ***Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises : Sophumelela***

New plantings of Valencia Midnights and Deltas took place in November 2018 and preparations for the new season has already started.

A new single cab bakkie was bought for Sophumelela and handed over to the Farm Manager, Mr. Edward Noketshe, by the General Manager, Mrs. Buyiswa Ndyenga, as seen on the right.



### ***Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises: Siyaphambile***

At Siyaphambile farm, the fruit volumes are increasing as the young trees come into production. The security on Siyaphambile will always be a challenge due to theft of lemon trees and fruit. A new spray machine and tractor were bought by the farm (as below) and will come in very handy in the new spraying season.



### ***Sundays River Farming Trust (SRFT) / Sikhula Sonke Enterprises: Glengrove***



New plantings of Valencia Midnights took place at Glengrove farm in November 2018. Orchards 15 and 16 were replanted.

All Morris trees were re-worked to Nadorcotts.

Orchards were removed, as seen on the left, to be replanted.



### **Mbuyiselo Plase (Pty) Ltd**



Mbuyiselo Plase had a better season compared to last season, with regards to fruit volume. The farm's volumes will continue to increase yearly as new plantings come into production. Replantings is expected to start again in 2019 and 2020, as planning is done in accordance to the age of an orchard which is then compared to the norm (tons per hectare). The comparison is done on an annual basis.

A new purification system was installed at the farmhouses at Mbuyiselo Plase, ensuring clean water for household use.

Mbuyiselo Plase also received an irrigation subsidy from the Department Water and Sanitation. Mbuyiselo Plase is grateful for the Departments' continued support and assistance as it continues to grow.

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### **Luthando Farms (Pty) Ltd**

Although it was a tough season on Luthando Farm, as with other citrus farms in the Sundays River Valley due to strikes and labour issues, overall so far it was a much better season to date compared to last season with regards to fruit volumes. A contributing factor is pruning that was done and correct spray procedures. The volumes on the farm will increase yearly as the new plantings come into production. One orchard will also be replanted with Midnights between November 2018 and February 2019.

After the picking season a lot of time is spent on pruning practices to manage the trees for optimal returns.

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### **Accreditation & Training**

The audits of the Department of Labour Health & Safety were done on all the Sikhula Sonke Enterprise farms during June 2018. The Global Gap audits began during September and continued into October this year, while Ethical audits will take place during May 2019. The Workers Committee and Health & Safety meetings, as well as Housing Committee meetings are continuing to take place on each farm every quarter.

A grant was received from Agriseta for 17 learners to continue with ABET and these 17 learners are doing well on the program so far. The Agriseta window to apply for a grant for learnerships opened in September and a new application was submitted for a new group to do Plant Production NQF 1 and 2 in order to continue the succession plans on the farms.

With much gratitude, funding was received from the Albert Heijn Foundation in The Netherlands, assisting with the continued growth and development of BEE projects. This funding makes it possible to present a Farm Management Program, enabling 7 learners to complete their level 4 Management Level and achieve a National Certificate, as well as presenting a Mentorship program to develop 30 farm workers to middle management level.

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### **Clinics & Wellness Program**



Sister Rolisiso resigned and a replacement was appointed. Sister Faku joined the clinics and Hermitage packhouse and is fitting in well.

The Peer Educators have been doing workshops on Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence and STI/HIV awareness, which was positively received.

A new social worker has joined the current social worker and they are making a huge impact on the farms as well as in the communities.

## Overview of the 2018 Citrus Season

Once again it has been proven that each harvest year in the citrus industry is different!

The 2018 harvest brought with it a range of new challenges, including strikes. The season was much better than the previous one with regards to volumes. The continuing replant program for old and under producing orchards will lead to an increase in volumes going forward as the new plantings come into production.

The farms of Luthando Farm, Mbuyiselo Plase and Sikhula Sonke Enterprises are all currently considered to be in good condition and functioning optimally.

The preparation and planning on all aspects of farming operations, which includes audits, fertiliser-, spray- and irrigation programs are ongoing.

A new fruit mulcher, as seen on the right, was tried and tested to stay up to date with new technology.



We end 2018 on a HIGH note and look forward to the challenges of 2019... ..bring it on!



Remember that a smile is contagious and unconditional love for your fellow human or animal is a gift from God so spread this gift this Christmas to your family, friends and those you come across on your holiday.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS  
&  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Page 5



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