



## Gerrit van der Merwe (Junior)

Regional Director on the Board

After serving on the CGA Board since March 2010, Piet Smit from Citrusdal, W Cape, resigned in March 2017. Piet gave up a lot of his time to assisting in CGA matters

and shared his wise counsel and knowledge for which he will be missed. He was also vice Chairman for the past few years.

In March 2017, following the normal election procedures for Regional Directors on the Board, nomination forms were sent to all citrus growers in the W Cape. The decision seemed to be unanimous – only one candidate was chosen - Gerrit van der Merwe (Jnr).

Gerrit remembers, "Being born on my parents farm, I grew up working with the labourers and I got my first pay packet when

I was 6 years old - it was R14.68! I had to stand in line for it on a Friday afternoon and sign for like anybody else!"

He matriculated from Rondebosch Boys High School in 2002, going on to Stellenbosch University to gain a B Comm degree in 2006 with Honours in Management Accounting.

During 2007 and 2008 Gerrit worked for Capespan NA in the USA, starting in Quality Control and ending up in the Logistical office. He then moved back to South Africa and started working for ALG Estates. He began as the local packhouse manager and went up various positions until I was the Marketing Manager for ALG Marketing.

In 2016 Gerrit moved back to the family farm to take over the operation from his father.



## Rob Elfick

CEO joins the RBX Team

River Bioscience and its wholly owned subsidiary X Sterile Insect Techniques have in recent times been working more closely together in order to make better use of the synergies that exist in their respective businesses models. As part of this process the group recently welcomed Rob Elfick to the management team as the CEO for the group.

Rob grew up in Port Elizabeth and Matriculated at Grey High School. He completed his Bcom and Bcom Honours at UPE (now Nelson Mandela University). He completed his Articles with Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers) and during this time completed his exams to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. He later studied through UNISA to complete his Masters in Business Leadership (MBL) in 2001.

Over the years Rob has worked in many different market sectors in South Africa as well as 5 years overseas that saw him live and work in Russia, Germany, Canada and Serbia. On returning to South Africa Rob once again made his home in Port Elizabeth along with his wife Michelle, daughter Hannah (13yo) and son Daniel (10yo).

Now that X-SIT is 100% within the CGA group Rob and his team see the opportunity to further the vision of supplying a basket of biological type products that offer eco-friendly crop protection solutions and thereby enabling competitiveness in and access to international markets.

Other members of the RBX executive include Keith Danckwerts as the Group Business Development Manager, Andre Moolman as the CFO, Sampie Groenewald as the COO and Dr Craig Chambers as the Group Production Manager.



## Bennet Malungane

New CGA director for north PDI's

Samson Qomondi resigned from the CGA Board earlier this year for personal reasons. We were sorry to see him go and thank him for his participation in the Board Meetings.

The nomination process followed to find a replacement on the Board to represent PDI (Previous disadvantaged Individuals) in the North of the country.

The successful nominee was Bennet Sdumo Malungane, who studied and graduated with University of Stellenbosch Business School in Leadership Management.

Bennet is no stranger to attending meetings and being involved in the citrus industry as he started working at Mabunda Citrus Farm in 1998. He has been awarded several certificates during his years in various positions, working his way up with his experience and knowledge resulting in his representing South Africa farm workers in several scenarios.

Bennet is now involved in the Marketing at Mabunda Citrus (Pty) Ltd as well as being their Co-ordinator. He is also Chairperson of the Mopani Citrus Study Group so is well know the emerging farmers in the north.



## NEW APPOINTMENTS



## Mathapelo Mello

CGA Grower Development Company - Financial Manager

The CGA Grower Development Company has now appointed Mathapelo Portia Mello as a their Financial Manager. Mathapelo is an experienced finance manager with over ten years experience working in the financial services industry. She worked for the Office of the Auditor General in external auditing for seven years, with exposure, amongst others, to the audit of compliance, risk, as well as entities performance measurements against its strategic objectives. Thereafter she spent three years working for the Standard Bank of South Africa.

Mathapelo is skilled in financial accounting, financial management, external auditing, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and is a strong accounting professional with a B Comm Financial Accounting degree from University of Pretoria together with a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Science from the University of South Africa.

Mathapelo can be reached at [mathapelo@cga-gdc.org.za](mailto:mathapelo@cga-gdc.org.za)

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