

**FRUIT INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE (FIVCRT)
RECORDS OF DECISIONS (8th SESSION)
Bulletin No. 4 of 2015**

The FIVCRT closes off 2015

The FIVCRT met on the 30th of October 2015 at the Hortgro offices in Paarl. This marked the eighth sitting of the VCRT since the inception in February 2014. This bulletin issue features plans of the Extension Recovery Plan, progress report on the Workplace Mediation service, and the progress reports of the Working Groups.

Extension Recovery Plan

During the seventh sitting of the FIVCRT, the secretariat was requested to invite the National Extension Reform directorate of the DAFF to come and share the long term plans for the Extension Recovery Plan (ERP) in efforts to determine the human capital constraints relating to extension and explore opportunities for collaboration. The ERP falls under the Pillar 1 of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). It is a programme monitored and coordinated by DAFF and implemented through the provinces. The meeting welcomed the presentation and the vision of the ERP. In terms of the ERP, there are future plans to deploy State Extension Practitioners to commodity associations to share knowledge and enhance capacity in specialised fields in partnership with the various commodity associations. The National Extension Reform directorate will during the next sitting of the FIVCRT present a detailed proposal on the commodity-based extension support collaboration model.

Workplace Mediation services project moves ahead

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), the implementer of the Workplace Mediation services pilot project has conducted stakeholder engagement meetings with various stakeholders in the Western Cape. The purpose of the stakeholder meetings was to appraise stakeholders on the process and to obtain buy-in for successful implementation. Due to low trade union density in the sector, community structures were included in the stakeholders invited for the consultative meetings. Stakeholders expressed support for the service, which will be launched in January 2016. The revised project plan was supported by the FIVCRT to provide sufficient time for pre-launch communication.

FIVCRT Working Groups are geared for implementation of programmes

The Research and Development Working Group has developed a proposal for a pilot study for the management of the False Codling Moth (FCM) and Fruit Flies in the Northern Cape. The scope and cost estimates by FruitFly Africa were presented and welcomed by the FIVCRT. The Resources Working Group has compiled a project proposal to provide quantified fruit industry information on energy sources and needs. The Trade Working Group will continue engagements with stakeholders to ensure alignment on trade negotiations with targeted countries and market access related matters. The Employment and Worker Welfare Working Group will during the next meeting present a business case for the Farm Worker Awareness programme. The Transformation Working Group will collate transformation plans/initiatives from the industry associations to get the full picture of the intended projects in the fruit industry in the medium term. The FIVCRT will explore funding models and sources for all the programmes presented by the Working Groups during the next sitting.

Date of the next meeting

The next FIVCRT Meeting will be held on the 12th of February 2016 in Pretoria.

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