

Press release
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HORTGRO CALLS FOR MEANINGFUL AND ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE LAND REFORM

The deciduous fruit industry organisation, Hortgro, said in a statement today that it recognises and supports meaningful, sustainable and economically viable land reform in the agricultural sector as a means to include previously disadvantaged agriculturists.

“It is vital that previously disadvantaged individuals get the opportunity to fully participate in the economic growth of our sector in order to stabilize our country for many generations to come,” said Hortgro Chairperson, Nicholas Dicey.

‘Land’ is a highly emotive issue for many South Africans and the productive use of it needs to be recognised. “All custodians of agricultural land should strive to increase the value it offers to themselves, the *agri* workforce and the country as a whole. We need to get the right people on the land through the right processes and provide them with the right support services. Land reform should therefore be implemented in such a way that it leads to viable and sustainable businesses.”

Dicey further called for constructive engagement on all levels between the state and the private agricultural sector, in order to find meaningful and lasting solutions for land reform in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan.

“The current irrational public debate via the media is not helpful. There are opportunists on both sides of the spectrum that are playing with the future of our country. This blatant populism should be countered by a meaningful process with sustainable solutions. Hortgro supports a legal process worthy of our Constitution and all stakeholders should show ethical and fearless leadership in this regard.”

Dicey further said that constructive and honest dialogue between the Government and commercial agriculture could enhance the current land reform and transformation activities that are happening within the deciduous fruit industry. “There is not a magic formula for land reform, but there are numerous examples of successful projects both on an individual and collective basis. We should focus on these successes, internalise it and replicate it elsewhere. We have so much potential. Success will breed success.”

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HORTGRO DOEN 'N BEROEP OP BETEKENISVOLLE EN EKONOMIES VOLHOUBARE GRONDHERVORMING

Die sagtevrugtebedryfsorganisasie, Hortgro, het vandag in 'n verklaring gesê dat dit betekenisvolle, volhoubare en ekonomies lewensvatbare grondhervorming in die landbousektor erken en ondersteun as 'n manier om voorheen benadeelde landbouers in te sluit.

"Dit is noodsaaklik dat voorheen benadeelde individue die geleentheid kry om aan ons bedryf deel te neem, om sodoende ekonomiese groei en stabiliteit vir toekomstige generasies te bewerkstellig," het Hortgro se voorsitter, Nicholas Dicey, gesê.

'Grond' is 'n uiters emosionele kwessie vir baie Suid-Afrikaners maar die produktiewe gebruik daarvan moet ook erken word, meen hy. "Alle landbougrond-gebruikers moet poog om die waarde wat grond aan hulle, die agri-arbeidsmag en die land as geheel bied, te verhoog. Ons moet die regte mense deur die regte prosesse op landbougrond kry en aan hulle die regte ondersteuningsdienste voorsien. Grondhervorming moet dus só geïmplementeer word dat dit tot lewensvatbare en volhoubare besighede lei."

Dicey het verder vir opbouende gesprekke op alle vlakke tussen die staat en die private landbousektor gevra, ten einde betekenisvolle en blywende oplossings vir grondhervorming te vind wat in lyn is met die doelwitte van die Nasionale Ontwikkelingsplan.

"Die irrasionele publieke debat wat tans in die media afspeel, help nie. Daar is opportuniste aan beide kante van die spektrum wat met die toekoms van ons land speel. Hierdie blatante populisme moet met 'n sinvolle proses en volhoubare oplossings vervang word. Hortgro ondersteun 'n regsproses wat ons Grondwet waardig is en alle belanghebbendes moet vreesloos etiese leierskap in hierdie verband toon."

Dicey het verder gesê dat 'n konstruktiewe en eerlike dialoog tussen die regering en kommersiële landbou die huidige grondhervormings- en transformasie-aktiwiteite wat binne die sagtevrugtebedryf plaasvind, kan verbeter. "Daar is nie 'n towerformule vir grondhervorming nie, maar daar is talle voorbeelde van suksesvolle projekte, beide op individuele en kollektiewe basis. Ons moet op hierdie suksesse fokus, dit internaliseer en elders herhaal. Ons het baie potensiaal. Sukses sal tot verdere sukses voer. "

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