

# REPORT ON STUDENT INTERNSHIP 2011

## Goal

The short term objective of the internship program is to give a student from a previously disadvantaged background, whom has recently finished his higher certificate or comparable qualification in agricultural studies at an Agricultural college, the opportunity to gain practical experience of small grains on a commercial farm and in a research facility environment. The long term goal is to provide critical skills for a sustainable small grain/barley industry.

## Introduction

The program kicked off in 2009 with the development of the curriculum based on learning opportunities identified in conjunction with the first student intern and Institute of Agricultural Training at Elsenburg. The curriculum is only a rough guide and is flexible depending on the student intern's interest and development plan. To identify and appoint a student intern for the program we work in close relationship with the Institute of Agricultural Training at Elsenburg. They identify a shortlist of candidates which meets the requirements. And after interviewing the candidates we appointed Miss Jessica-Ann van Rooi and Mr. Siphon Mbalane, at the beginning of February 2011.

## The student interns

### Siphon Mbalane



Siphon matriculated in 2006 at Rhodes High School in Mowbray after which he completed his Higher Certificate in Agriculture in 2008, followed by his Diploma in Agricultural Extension which he completed in 2009. Currently he is busy with his B. Tech: Agriculture (Agricultural Extension IV) and plans to graduate at the end of this year. Siphon would like to work for the Department of Agriculture as an extension officer in 2012 and further his studies while in their employment.

### Jessica-Ann van Rooi



Jessica-Ann matriculated in 1997 at Steynville Sekondêre Skool in Piketberg after which she worked in the area including seasonal work on farms. In 2007 she completed a Certificate in Vegetable production, followed by her Higher Certificate in Agriculture which she completed in 2010. Currently she is busy with her Diploma in Agriculture (Agronomy) which has been extended to a 2 year course, which she will complete in 2012. Jessica-Ann would like to continue her internship if possible in 2012.

## Learning areas

The curriculum includes but is not limited to the following learning areas:

### Small grain production (*D Groenewald - seasonal*)

- Production practices (no till vs. conventional)
- Rotation systems
- Soil preparation
- Soil samples and interpretation of analysis (*B Erasmus*)
- Fertilizers/organic fertilizers (*B Erasmus*)
- Seed (*N de Lange*)
- Planting process
- Planting methods
- Harvesting procedures
- Grading of grain (*SABBI; Overberg Agri*)

### Grain maintenance (*D Groenewald; F Smit - seasonal*)

- Weed control
- Insect control
- Fungi control
- Top dressing
- Inspections

### Plant diseases (*F Smit - seasonal*)

- Foliar diseases
- Root diseases
- Viruses

### Financial planning (*T van Rensburg - June, July, Augustus*)

- Budget (November)
- Rotation systems
- Long term planning
- Input costs

### Marketing (*T van Rensburg - June, July, Augustus*)

- Market instruments
- Role players

### Personnel management (*F Potgieter - continuous*)

- Performance evaluation
- Safety

### Technical (*GSA, D Groenewald, N de Lange - continuous*)

- Mechanical needs analyses
- Mechanical management
- Driver training
- Mechanical maintenance training
- Implement training

Breeding program and Research (*F Potgieter, F Smit - continuous*)

Extension work (*J Kokome - September*)

Irrigation scheduling (*B Erasmus - September*)

## **Progress**

### **SABBI**

The students have been involved in various activities at the research facility of SABBI. They helped with the threshing of material, seed preparation for planting of the trials, cleaning of the seed, randomization and packing of seed, planting of trials and filial generations, planting in the greenhouse, binding of plants in the greenhouse and introduced to doubled haploid production in the laboratory.

They attended all the staff meetings, were given an induction into all the safety procedures on the farm, especially when chemicals are involved. Mr. Mabalane has obtained his code 10 driving license during the year, and Miss. Van Rooi obtained her learners permit during the year and is scheduled for her driving test in September.

The following discussions have been held with the student:

- Background on the grain production in the Southern Cape;
- Information on the breeding program and the different activities;
- Budget and long term planning in a small grain environment;
- Rotation systems in small grain production;
- Marketing of small grains

### **SAB Barley Farm**

The students also worked during certain critical phases on the farm of SABBF. Here they were involved in activities of soil preparation, planting, spraying of crops, pre-emergence chemical control of weed and the application of top dressing.