



the way to pro  
agricultural business chamber

2016 Agbiz Congress

1-2 JUNE  
2016

The Lord Charles Hotel  
Somerset West, Cape Town

Congress Tour  
3 June 2016

## Newsletter

22 October 2015

### Agribusiness Centenary Bursary applications now open

Agbiz is making an annual bursary available to a South African student registered for a Masters or PhD degree in either agricultural economics or agribusiness management related fields, at any recognised South African university. [More information»](#)

### Policy and Legislation

#### Agbiz comments on Finance Minister's mid-term budget policy statement



Given the parlous state of the global economy, and especially South Africa's sluggish economy, the generally austere approach by Finance Minister Nene in his Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) is welcomed by Agbiz. Of critical importance is the intent to stabilise debt levels around 47% of gross domestic product (GDP), and to reduce the budget deficit to 3% over the medium term. The high public-sector wage bill

however remains a concern and in retrospect government should not have allowed the relatively high increases in the 2015 public-sector wage settlement. Of some concern, especially from an agro-food perspective, are possible changes mooted by the Davis Tax Committee to the VAT dispensation to increase revenue, together with initiatives to investigate the broadening of the so-called wealth tax regime around especially estate duty and capital gains tax. Further tax initiatives being investigated include measures to combat base erosion, profit shifting and the misuse of transfer pricing. The private sector and the consumer are, however, already under significant pressure, and raising taxes that are already deemed high by international standards may very well be counter-productive. In fairness, the Minister did indicate that, given the weak economic outlook, proposals for additional taxes will be approached with caution within the medium term. Agbiz welcomes the stated intent by government to work more closely with private sector and labour to achieve more stable industrial relations, improve confidence, and speed up growth and job creation

- Dr John Purchase, Agbiz CEO.

[Full medium term budget policy statement»](#)

#### In this issue

[Agribusiness Centenary Bursary applications now open](#)

[Agbiz comments on Finance Minister's mid-term budget policy statement](#)

[Agbiz to participate in Inaugural Small Towns Conference](#)

[GFIA Africa Conference - Driving innovation for an agricultural revolution](#)

[NAMC submits 2015 Annual Report to Parliament](#)

[Land Restitution Commission submits 2015 Annual Report to Parliament](#)

[DRDLR submits 2015 Annual Report and Financials to Parliament](#)

[Agribusinesses in South Africa appear to be doing well](#)

## Agbiz to participate in Inaugural Small Towns Conference



Agbiz CEO, Dr John Purchase, has been invited to participate in the panel discussion session of the Inaugural Small Towns Conference in Bloemfontein on 22 October 2015. The Conference has been called as a result of the deteriorating situation in especially the smaller rural towns of South Africa, many of which are wholly dependant on the agricultural and agribusiness sectors for their economic lifeblood. As service delivery has deteriorated significantly in many of these municipalities and general degeneration is now forcing agribusinesses to close or move their operations to the larger towns and metros, Agbiz conducted a survey amongst its members on the challenges they face at municipal level in the rural areas where they operate. This survey was conducted at the request of Minister Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), and handed to him for his attention. Government realizes that it increasingly has a problem with dysfunctional small town municipalities and thus the hosting of the Conference to look into regeneration and other solutions. Both Ministers Pravin Gordhan and Gugile Nkwinti will also participate in the programme, as will the Premier of the Free State, Premier Ace Magashule. Please click on [Programme](#) to peruse content and speakers.

## Agbiz to participate in GFIA Africa Conference, themed 'Driving innovation for an agricultural revolution'



Dr John Purchase has been invited to participate as chair of the *"Rethinking agricultural investment and finance"* panel discussion at the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) Africa Conference, on 1 December at the Durban Exhibition Centre. The panelists in Dr

Purchase's session are:

- Rich Kottmeyer, SVP Corporate Development, Cheetah Development
- Mark Adams, Microfinance Partnerships Team, One Acre Fund
- Keith Palmer, Chairman, AgDevCo and Chair of Trustees, Enterprise for Development (EfD)
- Tshokolo Nchocho, CEO, Land Bank

Agbiz members receive a special discount of 20% when they register for the conference, which is taking place on 1-2 December 2015. The discount code is 'GFIA20'. To register online, go to [www.gfiaafrica.com](http://www.gfiaafrica.com).

## NAMC submits 2015 Annual Report to Parliament

[regardless of the current tough conditions](#)

[Review of South African agricultural exports](#)

[The future of the World Trade Organisation \(WTO\): Implications for South Africa's agribusiness sector](#)

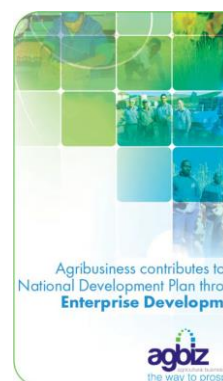
[Members' News](#)

[Industry News](#)

[News around the web](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Follow Agbiz on Social Media](#)





The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) submitted its 2015 Annual Report to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Portfolio Committee in Parliament this past week. The CEO of Agbiz, Dr John Purchase, serves on the Council of the NAMC. Please click on [NAMC Annual Report](#) and [NAMC on Food Prices](#) to peruse presentations made to the

Portfolio Committee.

## Land Restitution Commission submits 2015 Annual Report to Parliament



The Land Restitution Commission (LRC) submitted its 2015 Annual Report to the Rural Development and Land Reform Portfolio Committee in Parliament this past week. Please click on [LRC Annual Report](#) to peruse presentation to Portfolio Committee.

## DRDLR submits 2015 Annual Report and Financial statements to Parliament



The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) submitted its 2015 Annual Report and Financial Statements to the Development and Land Reform Portfolio Committee in Parliament this past week. Please click on [2015 Annual Report](#) and [Financial Statements](#) to peruse presentations made to the Portfolio Committee.

## Agribusiness Intelligence

### Agribusinesses in South Africa appear to be doing well regardless of the current tough conditions



Lindie Stroebel, Manager of Agribusiness Intelligence at Agbiz, was interviewed this week on Groot Ontbyt (Kyknet) on the growth and outlook for local agricultural businesses. [Listen to interview»](#)

## Trade and Investment Intelligence

### Review of South African agricultural exports



The [linked article](#), by Tinashe Kapuya: Head International Trade and Investment Intelligence of Agbiz, reviews South Africa's agricultural exports by reflecting on the top 20 commodities, ranked according to (i) value, (ii) growth in volume, (iii) growth

The world's most influential event for sustainable agriculture is coming to Africa



1-2 December 2015  
Durban Exhibition Centre, South Africa

Discover more at  
[www.gfiaafrica.com](http://www.gfiaafrica.com)



**AGRO PROCESSING AFRICA SUMMIT**

26-27 November 2015  
Johannesburg

CONTACT:  
MICHAEL  
[michael@amabhubs.co.za](mailto:michael@amabhubs.co.za)  
+27 11 326 0353

in trade revenue, (iv) by share of South Africa's exports in the world, and (v) by South Africa's ranking in world exports.

## The future of the World Trade Organisation (WTO): Implications for South Africa's agribusiness sector



The elevated risk of being marginalised within the global trade space is not only worrisome for South Africa, but for the rest of the developing world, particularly in Africa. Mega-regionals are likely to sideline Africa's agenda under the Doha Development Round, while at the same time creating a new-found sense of urgency on how to re-establish Africa's agenda within a new reconfigured global trade landscape. Much talk has been around how Africa now needs to plug its agro-industries into global value chains, but how can Africa position its agricultural sector to reap the benefits of global value chains? In this article, Tinashe Kapuya briefly reviews the WTO and the Ministerial Conferences - and provides insights on the future of global trade. [Read more»](#)

### Members' News

#### Monsanto invests R11m to meet growing demand for its maize seed

Agriculture company Monsanto has shelled out R11-million to acquire two of the "most technologically advanced" precision maize seed planters - unique to South Africa - to facilitate more effective, accurate and cost-effective planting. [Read more»](#)

#### Land Bank's Market Insights

Find linked the Land Bank's market insights:

[Agribusiness insight \(Week 1 - 2 October\)](#)

[Macro-economic insight \(Week 3 - 4 September\)](#)

#### Telkom, Old Mutual partner to offer added value to customers

Telkom and Old Mutual today announced a co-operation agreement to offer innovative new solutions to their customers. [Read more»](#)

#### Agriculture must grow to feed SA

Senwes executive director, Joe Maswanganyi, this week participated in a panel discussion in the television series, Nation in Conversation. Nation in Conversation topics focuses on the development of new farmers and mentorship programmes. [Read more»](#)

### Industry News

[A thriving future: exciting opportunities for SA's sub-tropical fruit and nut producers](#)

- [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

[Laborie Group Embraces Social Dialogue, Condemns Violence](#)

- Hortgro media release

## News around the web

### Highways to success or byways to waste - Africa Development Forum report

- Estimating the economic benefits of roads in Africa



Roads are a vital driver of economic development. Unfortunately, Africa remains the least connected region in the world. This study develops and tests new approaches to the planning of infrastructure to maximize benefits and minimize negative externalities, particularly in rural areas. It explores several questions related to the impacts of infrastructure on welfare and poverty that are especially relevant for Sub-Saharan Africa. [Click to open report»](#)

[Bayer: Africa must become a farming state to feed a growing population](#)

- [www.bizcommunity.com](http://www.bizcommunity.com)

[Africa slowdown should not stop infrastructure plans, says World Bank](#)

- [www.bdlive.co.za](http://www.bdlive.co.za)

[South African region faces rising food insecurity concerns, millions at risk](#)

- [www.engineeringnews.co.za](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za)

[BMW deal could make the company as well-known for its "cow power" as for its cars' horsepower](#)

- [www.bdlive.co.za](http://www.bdlive.co.za)

## Newsletter worth reading

[Werksmans e-Bulletin»](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Agri Cape Week

28 - 31 October 2015 | Worcester

[Enquiries](#)

### SITEVI Show and Tour to Montpellier

23-27 November 2015 | Montpellier | South of France

Focus on Wine, fruit, vegetables, and visits to wine farms

Enquiries: Marianna du Plessis at e-mail: [africa@farmlinkafrica.co.za](mailto:africa@farmlinkafrica.co.za)

### Agro Processing Africa Summit 2015

26 - 27 November 2015 | Johannesburg

[More information](#)

### **EMRC Africa Finance & Investment Forum - AFIF2015**

24 - 26 November 2015 | Cape Town

[More information](#)

### **Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture**

1 - 2 December 2015 | Durban

Enabling Africa to feed Africa

[More information](#)

### **Agbiz Congress 2016**

1 - 2 June 2016 | Somerset West, Cape Town

### **IFAMA 26th Annual World Conference**

19 - 23 June 2016 | Denmark

[More information](#)



### **Follow Agbiz on Facebook and Twitter**

Be sure to follow Agbiz on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest industry news and events.