



# **GRAIN SA**

## **‘FARMER DEVELOPMENT’ CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE**

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE MAIZE TRUST**

**1 OCTOBER 2014 TO 31 JANUARY 2015**

**PRESENTED ON 17 MARCH 2015**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Introduction**

The development of an appropriate manual for use by the developing farmers (particularly on the smaller scales) is very necessary and valuable lessons have been learned so far from the project that Grain SA has done this year in collaboration with the ARC, Monsanto and Omnia. 855 subsistence farmers have been shown the benefits of conservation agriculture. To date, a lot of material has been gathered which will be used later in the year for the preparation of the material.

### **Financial implication**

R 60 000 for the process of inclusive consultation with role players as well as the development of the material.

### **Used to date: R 0.00**

### **Conclusion**

We are looking forward to completing the manual by the end of this financial year so that it can be put to good use in the coming production season.

**TRAINING****PROJECT NUMBER**

Training material development for Conservation agriculture.

**PROJECT TITLE**

Training material development,

**TRUST DEED OBJECTIVES**

Market access in respect of the South African Maize industry (inter alia by providing marketing infrastructure, training and assistance in rural areas where the need thereto exists).

**CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE**

Production

**REASONS WHY IT IS DEEMED THAT THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE.**

Although there is a lot of material available on the internet, as well as many books and articles, we have not been able to find a complete manual on the subject of conservation agriculture which is relevant to the levels of the developing farmers (particularly the smaller farmers on communal land). There are a number of challenges peculiar to these farmers which we would like to address in the proposed manual.

**MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT.**

To develop a training manual and a series of PowerPoint presentations on conservation agriculture.

**PROJECT DURATION**

1 October 14 to 30 September 15

**SECTORS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY THAT COULD OR SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT**

All developing maize producers, millers, all related industries and ultimately the whole maize industry.

**NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Maize trust – total budget.

**SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT.**

R 60 000

**DETAIL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION.**

None

**DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION**

None

**DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS.**

None

**DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS THAT WERE FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE.**

New project

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Develop a training manual
- Develop a series of PowerPoint presentations which address the concepts of conservation agriculture as well as possible solutions to the peculiar challenges faced by developing farmers.

**ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT**

During this reporting period, we development coordinators have been very active in the fields with all levels of farmers (from subsistence through to the New Era Commercial Farmers). Grain SA has been involved in a Conservation Agriculture project with the ARC, Monsanto and Omnia where 855 subsistence farmers have been supported to plant their maize using the principles of CA. Through this initiative, material has been gathered which will be put to good use during the development of the manual which will happen over the coming months.

**THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED**

Information has been gathered and training slides expanded.

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT**

None

**MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT.**

None

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT**

The funding is deemed to be adequate.

**THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION**

The manual will be completed by the end of September 2015.