

AVCRT NEWSLETTER 2 OF 2012

LABOUR ISSUES IN THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR

The findings of the research undertaken by Mr. Christo du Plessis indicate that the issues causing instability within the labour sector are as follows:

- Seasonal labour
- New labour unions
- Foreign workers
- Pending elective conference
- Poverty
- Lack of service delivery &
- Unfair labour practice

It was also found out that most of the commercial farmers within the aquaculture sector comply with all legislation; pays more than minimum statutory wages; provide benefits (loans, provident funds, medical aids, etc) and supply protective clothes to their employees.

Areas of concern within the sector were:

- Expectations of labour
- New unions &
- Mixed messages from government officials.

Members of the AVCRT agreed that there is a need to establish another Working Group (WG) on labour issues. The WG will deal with issues of establishing the Bargaining Councils within the different sub-sectors of Aquaculture as it was suggested during the discussions; to facilitate communication between employers

and employees; issues related to creation of jobs and to develop the standards for labour related matters. The WG will be led by Mr. Christo du Plessis and Mr. Abraham Daniels.

AQUACULTURE SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE

A need to establish a vehicle which will drive the development of the aquaculture sector in the country was identified and was highlighted to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF). She suggested that there should be a development of the business case. The business case is developed and is on the consultative process.

The business case suggests that the vehicle will be the National Aquaculture Development Initiative (NADI) and a good example for a special purpose vehicle will be the Western Cape Aquaculture Development Initiative (WCADI) due to its significant success.

The mission of the NADI will be to address the aquaculture sector development requirements of government and stakeholders by supporting the implementation of National Aquaculture Strategic Framework (NASF) & Aquaculture Value Chain Round Table (AVCRT) and to address the short and medium term aquaculture opportunities and challenges of the sub-sectors within the provinces.

The public sector conference about NADI will be organized and relevant stakeholders will be invited before moving to the next step.

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (ADEP)

The incentive programme is finally approved by the Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti). The objective of ADEP is to stimulate investment in the aquaculture sector with the intention to:

- Increase production
- Sustain and create jobs
- Encourage geographic spread and
- Broaden participation

ADEP guidelines, application forms, schedule of terms and more information can be downloaded from the dti's website (www.thedti.gov.za).

WG FOR AQUACULTURE MARKET ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The WG was successfully established and its two meetings were held in June and September 2012. During these meetings the Action Plan for the WG was developed and currently awaiting for the approval by the members of AVCRT. The Action Plan will be published as soon as it's approved.

RECORDS OF DECISIONS

The following decisions were agreed upon during the meeting of the 04th December 2012:

- The establishment of a Working Group on Labour Issues which will be led by Mr. Christo du Plessis and Mr. Abraham Daniels.
- The distribution of the Action Plan of the Working Group (WG) for aquaculture market analysis and development programme for the members' inputs and approval.
- AVCRT meeting will be reduced from 4 to 3 per annum and will be clustered with other meetings within the sector.
- The third sitting will be in March 2013.

CONTACT US:

Roger Krohn:	Chairperson:	082 569 5985
Motseki Hlatshwayo:	Co-chairperson:	082 291 8173
Phina Baloyi:	Secretariat:	012 319 8066