



## Introduction

A large percentage of farmworkers' livelihood is threatened as a result of changes in employment patterns and the slow pace of social transformation in rural farming areas.

Farmworkers live isolated lives and often do not enjoy the basic living standard for all citizens as promised by the South African constitution



# Farm Committee Concept

The farm committees have been in existence for more than 8 years, with the support of the Centre for Rural Legal Studies and the Southern Cape Land Committee, organizations concerned with land and labor issues.

Area Farm Committees represented by the Association are:

- Murraysburg
- Nelspoort
- Beaufort West (Wittehart/Grootvlei)
- Klaarstroom
- Prince Albert (Frisgewaagd)
- Leo Gamka
- Laingsburg (Moordenaars Karoo and Meiland/Swartberge)





## What is a Farm Committee?

- It is not a union
- It is a body elected by workers and residents on a specific farm or in a specific area to offer each other support.

## Why are Farm important?

- Experience of farm workers and occupiers across South Africa has shown that without unity and cooperation, they can easily be exploited, dismissed or evicted
- Farm workers' power lies in unity

## Who will recognize the Farm Committees?

- After the farm committee has been set up, it is sure to get the support of the farmworkers and local residents.
- Then the committee must introduce itself to the employers on the farm or farms in the area where the members work and live. This will help to form a healthy relationship between the committee and the employer(s) . .
- Nearest municipality, Department of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, NGOs, etc ..

# The Central Karoo Farming Community Association (CKFCA)

Between 2011 and 2013, the Association was led by an interim management committee, elected from the various committees

The Management Committee drafted an interim constitution, which was presented to the various committees for discussion.

The Association was officially launched in Beaufort West on June 17, 2013 where the constitution was adopted and a new management committee was elected.

The Association is also in the process of registering as an NPO (non-profit organization).

## Campaign for better working conditions



«Farmer are just bad»



«My skin is poisoned - no masks»



«We work in unsafe conditions on the farm»

## The Association's objectives (CKFCA)

To create a platform for farm worker communities in the Central Karoo district to gather together and collaborate on key priority issues that have a negative impact on their livelihoods.

To build up the capacity of the farm committees in the Central Karoo District in order to achieve labour- and socio-economic justice.

To create a forum to learn from the different community links, with key stakeholders, to work together on all common issues, whether they be community organizations, trade unions, government departments and / or farm owners.



# Future campaigns

## Access to Land



## Water and sanitation for a healthy farming community





# Training in the areas of...

participating action research, advocacy campaigns, workers' rights, strategic planning, basic computer skills, basic financial management, the Esta act (Extension of Tenure of Security act), social media, shop steward, conflict resolution.



**Farm committees which are involved in various training sessions with...**

CRLS, Workers World Media Production, Karoo Centre for Human Rights, Jonas Barnes Training and Development Agency and the Department of Labour.



# Key areas for the development of the Association

- Improved cooperation between various committee members and areas
- Information gathering around the activities of support organizations
- Effective relationships with other organizations through MOU's .
- The improvement of the scale and quality of feedback to farming communities.
- Financial management and control.
- Coordinated communication with farm committees by the Association (Mother body).
- Access to resources (transport and finance)
- Recognition by farm owners and government institutions
- Acquisition of office space and furniture
- Youth development
- Leadership capacity building
- A campaign to open bank accounts for all members of the farming community, especially for unemployment insurance funds and other purposes.
- to develop and launch campaigns on issues that affect our communities.
- Gender and socio-economic rights education
- Campaign for farm inspections across the county – concerning health, sanitation, housing standards and labor issues.
- Environment, eg. hydraulic fracturing (fracking) etc., where it negatively affects our community.
- Representation in local and district government structures eg. neighbourhood committees, GOP forums and the Council of Stakeholders.



# Challenges

- Gates of farms are closed and committee members from other farms are denied access to hold meetings or workshops.
- Farm workers being assaulted by farm owners.
- Workers who have to work when meetings or workshops are held.
- Disciplinary hearings - just to scare the farm worker with their (farm owners) type of "power".
- Workers who will not talk about issues or problems on farms. They simply stay away from meetings because farm owners threaten them with dismissal (which still takes place).



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- Department of Labour
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**BAIE DANKIE!**

(Besten Dank)