



PETERSFIELD YOUTH ORGANIC VEGETABLES Citrusdal

Project objectives:

- Certify land for organic production.
- Purchase tractor and implements.
- Purchase and install the irrigation system.
- Prepare land for sowing, cultivation and harvesting.

Project Timeframe:

12 months

Long term goals:

- Develop a sustainable agriculture model based on organic crop production.
- Build capacity of members.
- Create permanent employment.

Contact:

Petersfield Youth Organic Farm

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Citrusdal lies in a fertile valley along the middle reaches of the Olifants River. Renowned for fine wines and citrus, fruit Citrusdal faces the usual challenges of most small rural towns,

grants” says Christopher April, the group’s vice-chairman. “A few lucky ones have work in the factories.”

The project enjoys the support



specifically unemployment, poverty, malnutrition and crime.

It is out of these circumstances that the Petersfield Youth Emerging Farmers grew. “Many of the group’s members are unemployed, unschooled or dependant on state social security

of the Cederberg Municipality, which bought the farm Petersfield a few years ago with the intention of facilitating land reform. In total, four emerging farming groups share the land and the 10 hectares of water allocated to the farm. Each person in the group qualifies for 2.5 hectare of





Water for Resource Limited Farmers and Reform



arable land. However, water is the limiting factor and each group has only sufficient water to irrigate 1.75 hectares.

Recently all four projects applied for organic certification. April explains: “We are focused on the quality of the product. Although it is true that organic crops take longer to grow, resulting in a slower rate of production, we realise that the organic food market returns a better prices, which makes organic farming more attractive. We also want to do our part in protecting the environment. There is more than enough pollution and contamination in our region.”

This year the youth plan to produce potatoes, tomatoes, onions and beetroot. “Our project aims to first and foremost create sustainable employment for the nine members, and secondly to supply fresh vegetables to the sick and frail members of our community. The surplus will be sold into the local market.”

“We have a vision to farm commercially,” says April. “Our aim is to become a new breed of farmers. We want to revolutionise small farming and prove it can be done without political interferences. We want to create a safety net to eradicate poverty in our community.”

