Agri Securitas
Trust Fonds/Trust Fund
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Landelike veiligheid verg meer beskermingmaatreëls
Rural safety requires more protective measures

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"Die boerderygemeenskap het die afgelope paar maande weer deurgeloop onder gewelddadige plaasaanvalle met gepaardgaande moorde en erge trauma. Dit raak daarom toenemend moeilik om aan diegene wat direk blootgestel is of was aan misdaad te verduidelik dat die Agri Securitas Trustfonds met die finansiële hulpbronne tot sy beskikking alles moontlik in werking stel om 'n verskil te maak aan die veiligheid van boere en plaaswerkers", sê Japie Grobler, voorsitter van die Agri Securitas Trustfonds.

Samehangend hiermee word 'n premie op landbou-ontwikkeling, werkskepping en die verantwoordelikheid om voldoende voedsel vir die land te produseer, op die sektor geplaas te midde van die voortslepende misdaad kultuur. Hierbenewens sorg die boerderygemeenskap dat daar ook stabiliteit in die land is, deur voldoende voedsel aan die groeiende bevolking te voorsien.

In 'n poging om die boerderygemeenskap by te staan in hulle landelike beveiligingpogings het die Agri Securitas Trustfonds pas weer verskeie beveiligingsprojekte finansieel ondersteun. Die projekte behels kamerastelsels vir Hartbeesfontein-, in die Noordwes provinsie en die Buffelshoek Landbouvereniging in die Oos-Kaap. Die stelsels het ten doel om toegang in die gebied te monitor en ook as 'n afskrik middel te dien vir misdadigers. Kameras het ook die vermoë om waardevolle inligting oor verdagte voertuie en persone wat die gebied binne gaan vas te lê vir verdere optrede deur die polisie.

Fondse is ook beskikbaar gemaak vir Frankfort Landbou en die Marquard Distrikslandbou-unie in die Vrystaat vir die aankoop van veiligheidstoerusting en die oprigting van radio-herhalers om kommunikasie te verbeter. Die veiligheidstoerusting sal deur die plaaswag gebruik word in hulle landelike beveiligingsoptredes binne die raamwerk van die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie. Goeie kommunikasie tydens misdaadvoorkomingsoptredes is bepalend vir die sukses daarvan en die radio-herhalers sal 'n bydra hiertoe maak.

Laastens is fondse ook aan Vrystaat Landbou se Veiligheidslessenaar beskikbaar gestel om 'n integriteitskeuringsdatabasis in werking te stel van voornemende werksoekers om te bepaal of hulle 'n misdaad rekord het.

Landelike beveiliging raak 'n groot koste item vir boerderygemeenskappe met verskeie uiteenlopende dimensies wat daaraan gekoppel word. Met die bydraes poog die Trustfonds om 'n bydrae te maak tot die vestiging van 'n veiliger produksie- en woon omgewing vir boere en plaaswerkers. Geen beskermingmaatreëls kan as waarborg dien dat 'n plaasaanval nie sal plaasvind nie, maar die afskrik waarde daarvan moet nie onderskat word nie.
Die Trustfonds kan hierdie taak nie alleen uitvoer nie en daarom word erkenning gegee aan sy strategiese vennote naamlik Nissan SA, Sanlam, CrisisOnCall en Sonfin vir hulle deurlopende finansiële ondersteuning. Die onlangse bydraes deur Santam, Gavilon, OFM, Afgri, NWK en Senwes word ook erken. "Met die ondersteuning van dié landbou vriende, probeer die Trustfonds 'n meer veiliger landelike omgewing te skep", sê Grobler ten slotte.

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Rural safety requires more protective measures

“In recent months, the farming community has been subjected to violent farm attacks, often resulting in murder and serious trauma. For this reason, it is becoming increasingly difficult to explain to those who are or had been directly exposed to crime that the Agri Securitas Trust Fund, with the financial resources at its disposal, was making every effort to make a difference to the safety of farmers and farm workers,” said Japie Grobler, chairman of the Agri Securitas Trust Fund.

To this end, a premium is placed on agricultural development, job creation and the responsibility of the sector to produce food for the country amidst a culture of unabated crime. In addition, the farming community ensures that there is stability in the country by providing adequate food to a growing population.

In an attempt to assist the farming community in their rural safety protection efforts, the Agri Securitas Trust Fund recently again provided financial support for security projects. These projects include the provision of camera systems for the Hartbeesfontein Agricultural Association in the North West province and the Buffelshoek Agricultural Association in the Eastern Cape. These systems are intended to monitor access to the area and also to serve as a deterrent for criminals. Cameras are also able to capture valuable information regarding suspicious-looking vehicles and persons that enter the area, with a view to further police action.

Funds have also been made available to Frankfort Agriculture and the Marquard District Agricultural Union in the Free State for the purchase of security equipment and the installation of radio repeaters to improve communication. The security equipment will be used by the farm watch in their rural safety operations within the framework of the Rural Safety Strategy. Good communication during crime-prevention operations is a determining factor in the success thereof and the radio repeaters can make a contribution in this regard.

Lastly, funds have also been made available to Free State Agriculture’s Security Desk to implement an integrity selection database to scan prospective job seekers to determine if they have a criminal record.

Rural safety has become an enormous cost item for farming communities, with various diverse dimensions. With these contributions, the Trust Fund attempts to assist in creating a safer production and living environment for farmers and farm workers. No protective measures can serve as a guarantee that a farm attack will not take place, but the deterrent value thereof should not be underestimated.

The Trust Fund cannot perform this task alone; therefore, it acknowledges its strategic partners, namely Nissan SA, Sanlam, CrisisOnCall and Sonfin, for their ongoing financial support. The recent contributions made by Santam, Gavilon, OFM, Afgri, NWK and Senwes, are also acknowledged. “With the support of these friends of agriculture, the Trust Fund strives to create a more safer rural environment”, Grobler said in closing.

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