

**LANBOUBESIGHEIDSKAMER / AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CHAMBER**

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20 May 2008

**PRESS RELEASE**

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CHAMBER (ABC) CONGRESS COMING UP**

“Critical challenges currently confront not only the South African agricultural sector, but also global agriculture and food security. Within this complex environment of drastically increasing energy and input costs, high food prices, distorted international agricultural trade, fast-changing consumer patterns and resource degradation, amongst others, agribusinesses must develop a sustainable growth strategy”, says Dr John Purchase, CEO of the Agricultural Business Chamber (ABC).

For this reason the biennial ABC Congress, to be held on 28 and 29 May 2008 at the Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre in Fourways, Johannesburg, will focus on addressing these and other major challenges confronting the sector. The recent review of the South African Strategic Plan for Agriculture indicated that South Africa, for decades a nett exporter of agricultural products, has now become a nett importer of agricultural produce. This raises a serious question as to the food security and agricultural policies that our country pursues. It is clear that a far more aggressive growth policy should be developed for agriculture in order to stimulate production and develop value-adding opportunities. Therefore the theme of the congress: “Mobilising agribusiness for growth”.

Various speakers, considered as top experts in their respective fields, will introduce and address major issues impacting on agriculture now and in the future. Aspects such as political developments, high impact global structural changes, Black Economic Empowerment, service delivery by government, the issue of land reform, interaction between agribusiness and government, competitive behaviour in the sector and agricultural growth prospects, will top the agenda.

“The congress promises to be of significant value to each and every agribusiness, as well as to the broader agricultural sector. It will certainly contribute to improved strategic positioning and decision-making”, says Dr Purchase.

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