



The new farming project offers a multitude of training opportunities in the agricultural sector.

## New farming academy offers full bursaries

A newly launched Agro-ecology Academy based in Stellenbosch seeks to increase the sustainability of local food systems while addressing the youth unemployment crisis. On offer is a rare opportunity for school-leavers without matric, to gain a nationally-recognised qualification leading to a life-long career with opportunities for growth.

Organic farming is a growing field in South Africa, with recent research showing that demand far outstrips supply in South Africa. Eric Swarts, a local organic farmer and land reform beneficiary, who has been farming on the Annandale Road near Stellenbosch for the past 12 years, confirms this: “At the moment I have more people wanting my produce than I can possibly supply.”

At the same time, the Winelands region is battling with high levels of youth unemployment, which in turn leads to many other social problems. Luke Metelerskamp, a researcher at the Sustainability Institute says: “Nationally, youth unemployment is at around 60%. But, statistically, a young adult with some form of tertiary qualification is six times less likely to be unemployed than one without matric. This highlights the need to train young people in areas where there is a skills shortage.

“Our vision for this programme is to create a supportive environment in which the youth, who would otherwise battle to find any form of meaningful employment, can embark on a skills development journey. This not only sets them on a meaningful career path, but also helps to make agriculture and the wider food system more sustainable in the long run. It’s about creating livelihoods with real purpose – qualifying people to help solve the problem of providing safe, nutritious food to all South Africans.”

This fully-funded, nationally-recognised course will help graduates find a job in farming or start their own business.

Courses on offer include mixed-farming systems and a farming management qualification.

Over the three-year course, students will learn advanced farming skills and are taught how to combine these with basic business management skills to farm more autonomously.

On successful completion, the course can lead to employment with course partners in organic farming, animal breeding, viticulture, dairy or chicken farming.

Applications close on 8 April and spaces are very limited. For applications, visit Terrence Ward in person at the Youth Office, the Sustainability Institute, Lynedoch, email [terrence@sustainabilityinstitute.net](mailto:terrence@sustainabilityinstitute.net) or call 021 881 3196 ext 208, 079 137 6963.

# Safe drinking water their big concern

A Techno Park-based company supports local authorities to manage water usage, writes **JOHAN DU PREEZ** about Emanti.

“South Africans have a national right to accessible, safe and affordable drinking water,” says Shawn Moorgas, director at Emanti, a water and environmental engineering consultancy in Stellenbosch’s Techno Park.

According to Moorgas the quality of South Africa’s drinking-water is regulated by, amongst others, the Water Services Act and SANS 241 which set the standards for drinking-water that water services institutions such as municipalities must comply with.

The mandatory Blue Drop Certification Programme, introduced by the department of water and sanitation, is furthermore used to evaluate and report on the quality of a municipality’s drinking water, to rank a municipality and to communicate the results to the public.

Emanti assists both the public and private sectors to proactively manage environmental, health and safety risks in the drinking-water and wastewater arenas. They support municipalities in the management of water service delivery and work closely with them to design appropriate water monitoring programmes, collect water quality samples, interpret data, carry out risk profiles and assist in risk management.

Their ultimate aim is to ensure effective environmental management in a financially sound manner.

The business also supports other water services institutions – including the department of water and sanitation – with other significant water-related programmes.

These include research, municipal benchmarking initiatives and programmes aimed at the strategic improvement of water.

Emanti’s employees are qualified in water, chemical, civil and environmental engineering disciplines. The company also offers internships to previously disadvantaged graduates.



Sisanda Booï, Mzi Ramba (chairman), Thabisa Manxodidi, Unathi Jack and Shawn Moorgas (director) of Emanti at their Techno Park office. PHOTO: JOHAN DU PREEZ

Emanti has received national and international recognition on a number of occasions.

In 2008, for example, they were the winners of the Project Innovation Awards, presented by the International Water Association, in the European and Global categories respectively for work that they’ve done towards efficient municipal water quality management in South Africa. In 2010 their Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment Programme was recognised as International Best Practice in municipal business health

assessment and management at the Stockholm World Water Week.

“We’ve built up a sound reputation from our base here in the Techno Park,” says Moorgas. “We increasingly find that international role players and water service providers countrywide look at us for guidance.”

Emanti certainly succeeds in rendering guidance and support at ground level where it matters most. But, I wonder, is the time not ripe for a national campaign to highlight what’s being done to ensure quality drinking-water and to raise our awareness of its value, instead of taking drinking-water for granted, as we so often do?

### STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY

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## NEMA BASIC ASSESSMENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS – AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

### PROPOSED INTEGRATED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON FARM 1653, FARM 1339 AND PORTION 1 OF FARM 1158, LA MOTTE, FRANSCHHOEK, WESTERN CAPE **D:EA&DP REF NO: 16/3/1/1/B4/12/1028/14**

Notice is hereby given of the application for Environmental Authorisation and public participation process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (“NEMA”), Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2010.

**The proposed integrated housing development and associated infrastructure includes the below activities listed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010.** EnviroAfrica cc has been appointed by Stellenbosch Municipality, to undertake the **Basic Assessment** for the proposed project.

#### **Application for environmental authorisation to undertake the following activities:**

Government Notice **R544 (Listing Notice 1):** Activity No. **9, 11, 18 and 23**

Government Notice **R546 (Listing Notice 3):** **2, 4, 12, 13 and 14**

**Project Description & Location:** The sites are located off Robertsvlei Road (off the R45) in La Motte. The project entails the provision of a range of housing (GAP and subsidised) with accompanied land uses such as a school, crèche, commercial and community services.

- Farm 1339 – 322 subsidised housing units as well as a school site, open space, crèche sites, church sites, business sites and roads are proposed.
- Farm 1158/1 – 106 GAP housing units as well as open space and roads are proposed.
- Farm 1653 - The development proposal for this area entails the formalisation of the existing node only. The existing fire department, municipal offices and stores will also be accommodated on individual erven. Provision is made for 3 business erven adjacent the Robertsvlei access road.

**Application for exemption:** The applicant has applied for exemption (D:EA&DP REF NO: 16/3/1/4/B4/12/1007/14) from Regulation 10(2)(d) of Government Notice No. R543, which states that the applicant must within 12 days of the date of the decision, place a notice in the same newspaper(s) used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process, informing Interested and Affected Parties of the decision, where the decision can be accessed and the right to appeal. Registered I&AP’s will be notified of the decision by post and/or preferred method of communication.

**Public Participation:** Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby notified of the application and invited to register (in writing) and/or provide initial comments and **identify any issues, concerns or opportunities relating to this project** to the contact details provided below, on or before **20 May 2015**. In order to register or submit comment, I&APs should refer to the project name and D:EA&DP reference number above, and provide their name, address & contact details (*indicating your preferred method of notification*) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which they have in the application. Please note that future correspondence will only be sent to registered Interested and Affected Parties. **You are also requested to pass this information to any person you feel should be notified.**

The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available for public comment from **07 April to 20 May 2015** at the following venue: **Franschhoek Public Library**, 7 Reservoir Street West, Franschhoek. (Tel: 021 808 8406). Please contact the consultant below to arrange other means of viewing the report, if required.

**Consultant:** EnviroAfrica (P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135, Fax: 086 512 0154 / Tel: 021 8511616 / E-mail: [admin@enviroafrica.co.za](mailto:admin@enviroafrica.co.za))