Dear readers, at the end of a hectic year, it’s time to reflect and reconfigure those matters we placed on our agenda in January. Some of these received intense attention whilst others were relegated to the backburner.

For the Department, land reform was and will remain a key focus as this is seen as a major risk for the country. We must find innovative ways to tackle this challenge and create opportunities for all in the agricultural sector to work together to make the changes and still gain economic returns. So for the next decade land reform will continue to be a focus.

You will agree with me that the focus on land reform presupposes all else are in place, and yet, services and training form critical elements of the integrated and ‘together’ delivery mechanism required to make it successful. So land reform can only be successful if ALL of us take hands and contribute towards a common vision – agriculture is successful.

As mentioned, reflection is important after a year of doing, and therefore the Department has embarked on an evaluation process to examine the outputs and outcomes for the last five to 10 years. This will assist us in improving those activities that are required but need more attention, and continue those that we are doing well.

For the last 10 years AgriProbe has provided the Department an opportunity to communicate with our clients to share and inform. We need to communicate and AgriProbe is one such channel. Let’s continue to communicate and take time out to read and reflect.

Wishing you a great festive season.

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Setting the Scene

AgriProbe is 10 years old and we are proud to celebrate this milestone. Through this magazine, the Department communicates and shares knowledge to keep stakeholders informed. Read the article on page 20.