

GroCapital News and Noteworthy

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Only 13% of SA's land surface is suitable for agriculture, so use it wisely

On February 6, Business Day published a piece by Wandile Sihlobo in which he detailed the growing trend in the communal areas of the Eastern Cape where agricultural land is increasingly being used for settlement purposes.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2019-02-13-only-13-of-sas-land-surface-is-suitable-for-agriculture-so-use-it-wisely/>

Limpopo to get Marula industrial hub

The Limpopo Provincial Government plans to build a multimillion-rand Marula hub in Lephalale, scheduled for completion in February 2020. According to the provincial government, the new Marula industrial hub will boast processing facilities, a research centre and agri-business support services for rural farmers and small businesses who want access to the Marula value chain.

<https://www.agriorbit.com/limpopo-to-get-marula-industrial-hub/>

SA farmers need SAA-sized bailout

When agriculture sneezes, the whole economy catches a cold, the saying goes. We saw clear proof of this in 2018, when South Africa experienced a technical recession after the country's GDP declined during each of the first two quarters of the year due to a massive drop in agricultural output.

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/opinion/by-invitation/sa-farmers-need-saa-sized-bailout/>

How to fight climate change in agriculture while protecting jobs

Agriculture has become a carbon-intensive endeavour. Crop, livestock and fossil fuel use in agriculture account for about 25% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the same time, more than 800 million people around the world are hungry and two billion are overweight or obese. About 30% of food is lost or wasted, and yet we need 70% more food to feed 10 billion people by 2050.

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/643/187465.html>

International push to improve food safety

Greater international cooperation is needed to prevent unsafe food from causing ill health and hampering progress towards sustainable development, world leaders said at the opening session of the First International Food Safety Conference, in Addis Ababa, organised by the African Union (AU), the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/306/187484.html>

South Africa's peanut plantings at the lowest level in 83 years

South African farmers planted 19 200 hectares in the 2018/19 production season (corresponds with 2019/20 marketing year), which is the lowest area on record in a dataset covering the past 83 seasons. The reduction in plantings is mainly underpinned by drier weather conditions experienced at the start of planting season, a period between October to December 2018.

<https://wandilesihlobo.com/2019/02/18/south-african-peanut-plantings-at-a-lowest-level-in-83-years/>