



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



abi

IMPROVE LANDSCAPES
CONNECT COMMUNITIES

CORNIE SWART
10 NOVEMBER 2020

Overview

1. Welcome to everyone - new and old
2. Last met – AGM September 2019
3. A year of highs and lows
 - Value of way of life, family, health
 - Pressures, sadness
 - Resilience, innovation
4. What does the future hold?
 1. For agriculture
 2. For ABI

2020: How has agriculture fared?

1. Currently in harvest season
 - Farmers expecting a good harvest (despite wind and rain)
2. Good pastures following the rain
 - Benefits livestock farmers
3. Dairy farming also benefiting from the rain
4. Livestock auctions are now underway

COVID-19 & Agriculture:

THE IMPACT:

1. A difficult time since March 2020 (uncertain future)
 - Believe positive cases on farms are under control
 - Management of cases essential (especially over festive season)
2. Major impact on agricultural tourism:
 - Tourists not able to visit SA yet
 - But SA tourists are booking!

Water and climate change

1. The Overberg water supply looks positive
2. BUT: Following the drought, we've become more aware of **climate change**
3. The drought has impacted on vegetation
 - Vegetation needs more than a year to recover
4. Hundreds of fires in the Overberg last year
5. Prepared for another concerning fire season
6. Fire concerns:
 - Invasive alien plants
 - Drying pastures
 - Grain harvest

ABI Revisioning

1. How do we respond as the ABI collective?
2. Opportunity to do things differently
3. Resilience, innovation
4. Re-visioning opportunity
 - WWF Nedbank Green Trust partnership
 - Call to everyone to participate
 - New partners
 - New directions
 - New vision for the Overberg

Thank you!