

The Effects of GlobalGAP certification on Citrusdal farmers' practices and efficiency

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Traceability of produce and farmer certification are important factors in the realm of agriculture. Not only in recent times is traceability vital when the use of hormones, harsh pesticides and other potential safety risks regarding produce are proving more concerning to consumers, but in previous decades too when contaminated produce enforced negative externalities on a population (Caswell & Monteiro, 2009:95). Purely for information and data reasons is traceability also vital (Dabbene, Gay & Tortia 2013:1). This, like the mad cow disease pandemic in Belgium, placed focus on the need for a separate body to regulate and certify producers (Bienkowska, Golasa & Wysokinski 2012:625). Organisations such as GlobalGap are such bodies (Fuchs, Havinga & Kalfagianni 2011:356). Farming practices, productivity, profits, costs, record keeping, technology, access to markets, environmental and animal welfare, health and safety of employees as well as traceability of the final product are likely to have been affected by the implementation of GlobalGap (Subervie & Vagneron, 2013:57). This paper aims to investigate these changes focusing on the citrus farmers of Citrusdal, South Africa.

The capturing of data and research methodology of this paper will be more qualitative than quantitative with interviews of Citrusdal farmers and surveys of how they have potentially changed farming practices being certified (Conradie, Conradie & Nattrass 2015:131). Statistics such as quantity of pesticides per amount of produce used on crops, type of soil, irrigation, yield and statistics of recalled produce from before and after farms joined GlobalGap will be used to accurately depict any noteworthy change that may have occurred in farming practices in Citrusdal.

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