

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ZIMBABWE FARMERS DAY ONCE AGAIN REVEALS GROWING INTEREST IN VEGETABLE FARMING

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A very successful farmer's day was hosted by Alliance Seeds (Pty) Ltd – South Africa, in conjunction with Seed & Water Allianz of Zimbabwe, at the Agricultural Research Trust farm just outside Harare, Zimbabwe.

The event took place over a two day period on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2013. Farmers from many regions of Zimbabwe were invited to attend, and close on 150 farmers attended the event over the two day period.

Various “Clause Vegetable Seeds” products were planted in order to show farmers what products could be grown successfully during the winter period.

Alliance Seeds (Pty) Ltd has a strong working relationship with Seed & Water Allianz (distributing agent in Zimbabwe) and will continue to provide support and quality products to vegetable farmers in Zimbabwe. Audrey Du Toit of Seed and Water Allianz Zimbabwe did a superb job of planting. Tending the products and organising the field day. It is heartening to see that there is an ever increasing interest in agriculture in Zimbabwe and a growing interest in vegetable production. Recent sales trends show that vegetable production, and the need for quality hybrid products in Zimbabwe is on the increase.

Some products grown for and seen at the Zimbabwe Farmer's Day that really stood out include:

SAMUDRA\* F1 – a Black Rot and fusarium resistant cabbage for late summer to winter production, that clearly demonstrated its resistance to Black Rot (*Xanthomonas campestris*), tolerance to leaf diseases, and cool weather adaptability.

Brassica varieties such as Broccoli RUMBA\*F1 and Cauliflower TWINGO\*F1 are still strong competitors in the market. Carrot varieties SATURNO\*F1, FIGO\*F1 and SENATOR F1 are showing promising results, these varieties are proving to meet the needs of Zimbabwean growers and markets alike



\* EXPERIMENTAL VARIETY/CULTIVAR – UNAUTHORISED PROPAGATION/SALES/DISSEMINATION OF THE SEED IS PROHIBITED