

low and prevent chemical resistance build-up."

As the area is particularly windy, all of the crops on SABF are cut and swathed seven to 10 days before harvesting to prevent losses to wind.

After harvesting, the team leaves stubble on the ground to preserve soil moisture and improve soil structure.

Procurement of land in the area is another challenge. According to Le Roux, Caledon is a privileged area in terms of rainfall, and therefore receives good returns.

"Consequently, land isn't easily acquired in the area." It also comes at a high cost.

THE ROLE OF MENTORSHIP

Le Roux stresses that it is important for emerging farmers to have support and even financial backing, and AB InBev is 100% committed to the trust.

"If emerging farmers don't have a pillar of commercial farmers for support, they will struggle."

Hans concurs. "As emerging farmers, we need the knowledge and assistance of commercial farmers."

Both agree that honest and constructive discussions between mentor and mentee are crucial.

Le Roux says that a mentor should be a counsellor who provides timely advice, but it is up to the mentee to decide whether he or she wants to follow it. It is also important for the mentee to take ownership.

According to Hans, their dream is to obtain more land to increase production.

"Ideally, we'd like to become the best barley producers in the area." This would enable them to create work opportunities for the community.

"We'd like to be involved in the establishment of similar projects. We have knowledge and experience, and would like to share it with others," he says.

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FAST FACTS

- Since its inception in 2006, the Overberg Boerdery Trust has doubled in size and significantly increased its tonnage.
- The trust has steadily increased its dividends to members.
- Mentorship and support play a crucial role in their success.

