



*Be Organic Ltd*

### **Development of Steenbok farm March 2016**

This is a major project and investment in the future of organic farming in Eastern Cape South Africa.

Steenbok is 1400 hectares of prime but arid bushveld terrain. It has taken over 6 years to get the water rights and gain the permission to develop 450 hectares of the farm for planting.

First thing is to build the reservoirs, one of which will be built next to a fresh water canal. This picture is of the 16,000 cubic litre bottom reservoir just awaiting completion with a clay lining.

From this bottom reservoir the water will be pumped up 65 metres above along 2.4 kilometres of in 350 cm pipe system by means of 2 pumping stations. Reaching to summit of the hill is the start of Steenbok. West/ North facing it will have maximum sunlight and a less windy location than back inside the Sundays River Valley itself. There on the top ridge of Steenbok: 2 x 45,000 cubic litre reservoirs will be dug.



The initial planting will be 60 hectares. Work is due to start on planting September 2016.

- 1> 20 hectares Butternut Squash, Gem Squash, Crown Prince and a local green/pale blue squash. 20 hectares of squashes will yield 40,000 x 10 kilo of export grade produce.
- 2> 40 hectares with lemons. 40 hectares of lemon trees will be expected to yield 120,000 x 15 kilo export grade in year 4. First year of commercial harvest will produce primarily large fruit and subsequent year's volume will increase by at least 15% per annum and fruit size will reduce to the standard sizing – depending upon climatic conditions of each season.
- 3> In amongst the commercial plantings there will be “set aside “areas. This will be either left or planted with indigenous valley bushveld plants and trees to provide a habitat for orchard friendly insects and creatures. On Steenbok they have a shrub which is estimated to be 300



***Be Organic Ltd***

years old. A Spekboom – this stores carbon in the ground through its roots and releases oxygen through transpiration. More of these will be planted. See <http://www.capechameleon.co.za/> ref. Spekboom

Short term there are plenty of opportunities (land) to grow cash crops such as the squashes. We are looking for any suggestions of other suitable Southern hemisphere spring or summer harvesting organic crops. Anything which is autumn or winter maturing would clash with our citrus business so less attractive at present.

Obviously this is a major project for the newly named family trust of Blue Crane Exports cc and we look to enlist every customer's support in getting behind the team on this.

*Andrew Poulton*  
*Managing Director*