

Leona Archary is an experienced leader, strategist and manager with a record of achievement in the public sector spanning more than 27 years. She holds a Masters Degree in Management as well as various certificates in project management, human resource management and financial management. Her experience encompasses delivery of various land reform and rural development programmes having served as Deputy Director General for Rural Infrastructure Development and acting Director General for almost two years in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. She has demonstrated capability in designing, establishing, managing and leading complex programmes and departments as well as significant experience in mobilisation, networking and coordination across government, private sector and communities with specific focus on land, agriculture and the agricultural value chain and socio economic development. Ms Archary is now heading the Agricultural Business Unit at Bigen Group where she is driving a strategy of value chain integration with a focus on building partnerships for improved sustainability in agriculture. Over the past year she has also been part of a team working on the establishment of the South African Agricultural Development Agency which is a private sector led initiative that aims to mobilise funding and support to the smallholder and black commercial farming sector through improved partnership models. Her passion is to improve the livelihoods of people especially rural communities and ensure that we bring sustainable transformation to our country.