

TRAINING

A computer campaign of farming skills

THE AGRIBUSINESS SYNGENTA HAS partnered with the Department of Science and Technology and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to help the farming community bridge the digital technology gap in areas of training and support.

The agricultural leg of the general Digital Doorway initiative was launched in June in the Alrapark community in Nigel, Gauteng. It will provide access to computer facilities and encourage self-learning, computer literacy and information navigation in children and adults.

As part of the initiative, farmers will host the Digital Doorway facilities on their farms in buildings of at least 9m². "It's best situated close to community dwellings or farm schools where children and adults can access relevant

information as determined by the CSIR on agriculture or for school projects," said Syngenta human resources manager Kate Tucker. "It will train local communities in best agriculture practice, and develop relationships between subsistence or small, disadvantaged farmers and larger commercial producers."

Antonie Delpont, managing director of Syngenta SA, said, "With this partnership we strive to open the digital doorway and make everybody a part of the exciting journey of making SA, and especially the agriculture sector, a leader in knowledge technology and sustainable food production in Africa. – David Steynberg

• Farmers or companies interested in getting involved or sponsoring a facility should contact Kate Tucker on (011) 541 4060.