

**News Release  
Stellar Winery  
April 2010**

### **Maria Petronella Malan**

It is with deep sorrow that Stellar Farming and Stellar Winery announce the untimely death of Maria Petronella Malan on Friday 9 April 2010.

Maria held the post of farm manager at Stellar Farming, a position she had occupied for the last ten years. She was in charge of table and wine grape production for the Stellar group of companies.

Her accomplishments were many. Despite her formal education being cut short due to economic pressures at home, she made the best of her circumstances and, when the opportunity for further study presented itself, she excelled, becoming the first black woman to graduate from Elsenburg Agricultural College.

She was one of the main drivers of her community's efforts to improve working and living conditions for farm workers, serving on numerous local and regional committees in pursuit of this aim. Her enthusiastic promotion of and participation in the Fairtrade programme at Stellar was a key factor in ensuring the success of the initiative.

She learned to drive late in life, traveled overseas on Fairtrade business, became proficient in dealing with the press, learned another language and did it all with considerable grace under pressure.

More than all these things, Maria was a woman of substance, an inspiration to her community, colleagues and all who were fortunate enough to have dealings with her. She listened, advised, comforted, learned from and loved the people around her. She will be sorely missed by her colleagues at Stellar and the Trawal community.

Maria is survived by her husband, Ruitter Malan.

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