



**HARRY GWALA AGRI**  
N P C  
*united in growth*



2021 - 2022

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

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Cover photo: Our district's commercial farmers desire to see productivity, on the land that is available and for the benefit of those farming it. Read about how this is taking place at Brookside Farm on page 30 of this report.



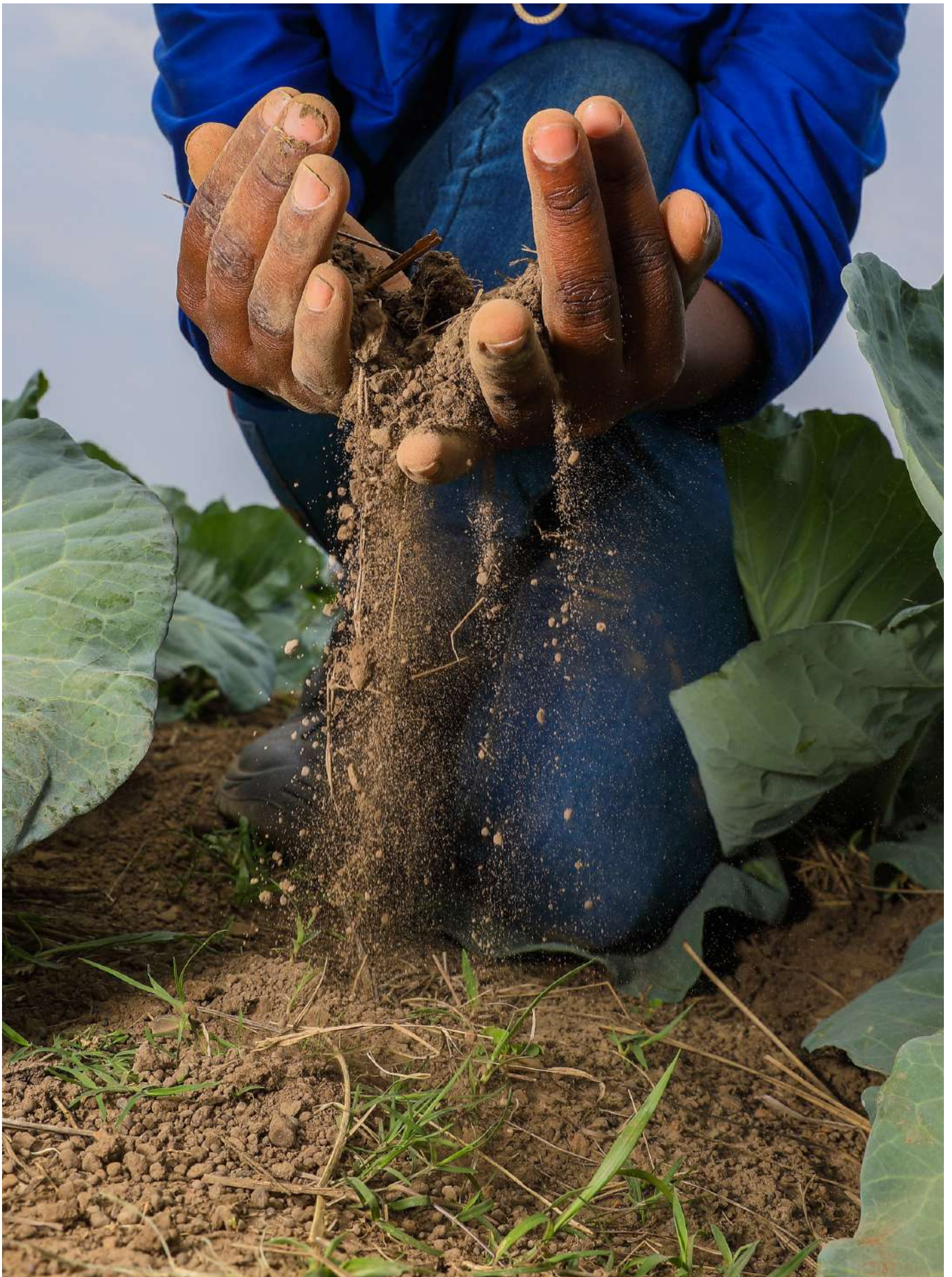
Wherever possible HGA prioritises creating opportunity for the youth within our district. This is Ms Andiswa Madiba from the Donnybrook area obtaining her in-service training on one of her closest neighbouring commercial farms, Twyford Farm.



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Young aspiring commercial farmer and former HGA student, Ms Zikhona Bhanthsi putting what she has learnt into practice in her home community near Bizana.

# MESSAGE

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

### *Dear partners, contributors and stakeholders*

The last few years have been very tough years for everybody in KZN - starting with Covid-19 and then the looting, followed by the flooding. We are all faced with a global economic crisis of increased inflation, interest rates and the elevated cost of living. I believe we are still going to see a lot of pain through this process before things improve. Having said all this, I believe HGA is in a better position than we have been ever before due to the generosity of some new contributors to our organisation. None the less, all charitable organisations struggle for finance and we are no different.

In our Harry Gwala district (as in the rest of South Africa) we are facing a crisis with unemployment and a sharp rise in the cost of living. Our energy problems are contributing hugely to unemployment and disinvestment. Since the inception of HGA there has never been a greater need for what we are trying to achieve than now and this need will get worse in the foreseeable future. In the light of this, household food security is vital. Every day I read something or hear a commentator on radio talking about the need for food security at the rural household level, so it is a really good thing that HGA is in this space and starting to make a difference – but the sky is the limit.

You will see through this report where we are trying to enter and make a difference in this space. In addition, there are some upstream projects that HGA is involved in. It is a known fact that as people's level of education increases from matric to a diploma and a degree, the less the unemployment percentage is as one goes up this scale. Again, HGA is making a valuable contribution in helping students attain their internships on farms and associated agricultural businesses and thus enabling them to attain their diplomas. This in turn will make them more marketable and/or start their own businesses of food production and security in their rural areas.

I'd like to personally thank all our contributors and sponsors to our section 18A non-profit company. Without you, our vision could never be attained. A sincere thank you too must go to all of our directors who contribute to the running of HGA, whom receive no compensation whatsoever for their time or travel or any other expenses.

Lastly, we are extremely grateful and fortunate to have Dylan Weyer as the person on the ground running HGA. He is passionate, committed and altogether the right person to be doing what he does for HGA. I would also like to thank Misty Weyer (Dylan's wife) who has taken over the secretarial treasurer position of HGA and is doing a fantastic job with the utmost efficiency.

At the risk of singling out one director, I would like to thank Peter Christianson who now lives in the UK and attends all our meetings virtually. Peter, being a very wise and experienced accountant, ensures excellent governance, precision accounting and fiscal management with an emphasis on absolute correctness with regard to our status as a non-profit organisation.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.  
Thank you.

Rob Stapylton-Smith





# THE ORGANISATION

## BACKGROUND

Harry Gwala Agri is a non-profit company aimed at the upliftment of aspiring farmers in the Harry Gwala District Municipality of southern Kwa-Zulu Natal through skills development and education. The initiative was established by commercial farmers and founded on the belief that they can no longer farm alongside others who are unable to do so due to past injustices. It was felt that action needs to be taken to extend support to those for whom agriculture is an important or potential livelihood option and who have the motivation and will to improve not only their own circumstances, but who, with the right guidance and skills, can make a meaningful contribution to the local economy.

In addition to this, part of the impetus behind setting up the company was the realisation among the commercial farmers that many had over time, sought to address the districts inequalities by establishing projects with their staff or neighbouring communities and that these projects would benefit from being consolidated under one umbrella in order to strengthen their collective impact and to grow the initiative from the platform they laid. Four farmer's associations presently underpin the initiative: Highflats-Ixopo, Ingwe, Zwartberg and Mount Currie.

## PROJECT FOCUS

The initiative provides education and skills development to passionate upcoming farmers and existing developing farmers through the following two avenues:

1. In-service training programme for agricultural students
2. Agricultural mentorship projects

Engaging with the public, private and non-governmental sectors is also an important focus in order to identify opportunities to work together towards common goals, garner support for the initiative and to publicise the involvement of those who make it possible.

*“As commercial farmers, we realise that we cannot farm alongside others who are unable to do the same due to past injustices. Harry Gwala Agri was formed in response to this. We are a project and relationship-driven non-profit company which aims to advise, facilitate, skill and fund passionate developing farmers, whilst adhering to strict standards of corporate governance and accountability. In the spirit of Ubuntu, we know that we cannot help everybody, but believe that everybody can help somebody. In practical terms, this means that Harry Gwala Agri unlocks the resources (knowledge, networks, skills and funding) held by commercial farmers and other stakeholders and channels these towards selected educational and agricultural projects. By customising our support to the unique demands of each project, we aim to make a difference.”*

## GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

Harry Gwala Agri was launched as a non-profit company in March 2017 and is a registered NPO (2016/140997/08), PBO (930066774) approved by SARS for tax exemption and a BB-BEE level 1 contributor. The company is chaired by Mr Robert Stapylton-Smith, and vice-chaired by Mr Rory Bryden, both successful dairy farmers in the district. The board consists of six other directors, all of whom bring a

unique set of skills and expertise and whose involvement is governed by a shared belief in the organisation's mandate and guiding principles. Together they offer, without remuneration, invaluable direction and support to the company's management comprising project manager, Mr Dylan Weyer and secretary, Mrs Misty Weyer.



**DYLAN WEYER - PROJECT MANAGER**

Mr Dylan Weyer has been working as the only full-time employee at HGA since April 2018. He is responsible for establishing and driving progress in identified projects as well as managing stakeholder relationships. He has a passion for rural communities and their development and this has helped him facilitate key partnerships between commercial farmers, developing farmers, farm management students and the private sector.



**MISTY WEYER - SECRETARY**

Mrs Misty Weyer is married to Mr Dylan Weyer and has a background in Occupational Therapy, social entrepreneurship and small business development. With 15 years' experience in the non-profit sector, she took on the part-time role of secretary at HGA in May 2022 and is responsible for the administrative tasks related to the operations of the organisation.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **Robert Stapylton-Smith - Chairperson**

*B.AgricAdmin.*

Mr Rob Stapylton-Smith is a commercial dairy farmer from Eastwolds, Donnybrook and a director of Stapylton-Smith Farming CC, Baynesfield Estate and the SA Large Herds Conference. He believes that HGA is a vehicle through which to redress the wrongs of the past in our country.



## **Rory Bryden - Vice-Chairperson**

*Dip.Agric.*

Mr Rory Bryden has been a commercial dairy farmer in Kokstad for 20 years, and is the former chairperson of Mount Currie Farmers Association and HGA. He believes Harry Gwala Agri presents the opportunity to help developing farmers and people in our community and in the process, securing the future of farmers and food security on our land.



## **Leigh-Anne Hauff**

*M.Psych.*

Mrs Leigh-Anne Hauff is a registered Counselling Psychologist and married to a commercial dairy farmer in the Donnybrook area. She is excited about the role that agriculture (and commercial farmers in particular) can play in reducing the huge levels of inequality in our country. She believes that no project is too small and that connection and communication is key.



## **Phila Khize**

*MBChB.*

Mr Phila Mkhize is a Clinical Research Associate by profession but also passionate about agriculture and has devoted a significant amount of time to working with developing farmers in the Hlutankungu area near Highflats. He believes that the promotion of agriculture in our rural communities is the backbone of a healthy future in our country.





## Douglas Strachan

*MPhil.Sustainable Development.*

Mr Douglas Strachan has been a commercial dairy farmer in the area between Umzimkhulu and Highflats since 1973, establishing a successful food security project with two communities in the process. He brings a great deal of wisdom on the subject of poverty alleviation through upskilling farmers at the household level. In seeking to make a meaningful contribution to the rural communities of this district, Mr Strachan believes Harry Gwala Agri's mandate is aligned with his own in this regard.



## Peter Christianson

*CA(SA).*

Mr Peter Christianson is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years' experience sitting on the Boards and Audit Committees of several Public Sector organisations. Harry Gwala Agri prioritises adherence to strict standards of corporate governance and accountability and is able to do so with the guidance received from the likes of Mr Christianson.



## Peter Button

*D.Agric.*

Mr Peter Button is a commercial citrus and beef farmer in the Umzimkhulu area. His involvement in the organisation is based on the belief that for farmers to be able to live happily on their farms in the years to come, they need to uplift the communities residing around them by focusing on food security and education. He believes that working towards this as a collective will have greater impact than attempting to do it alone.

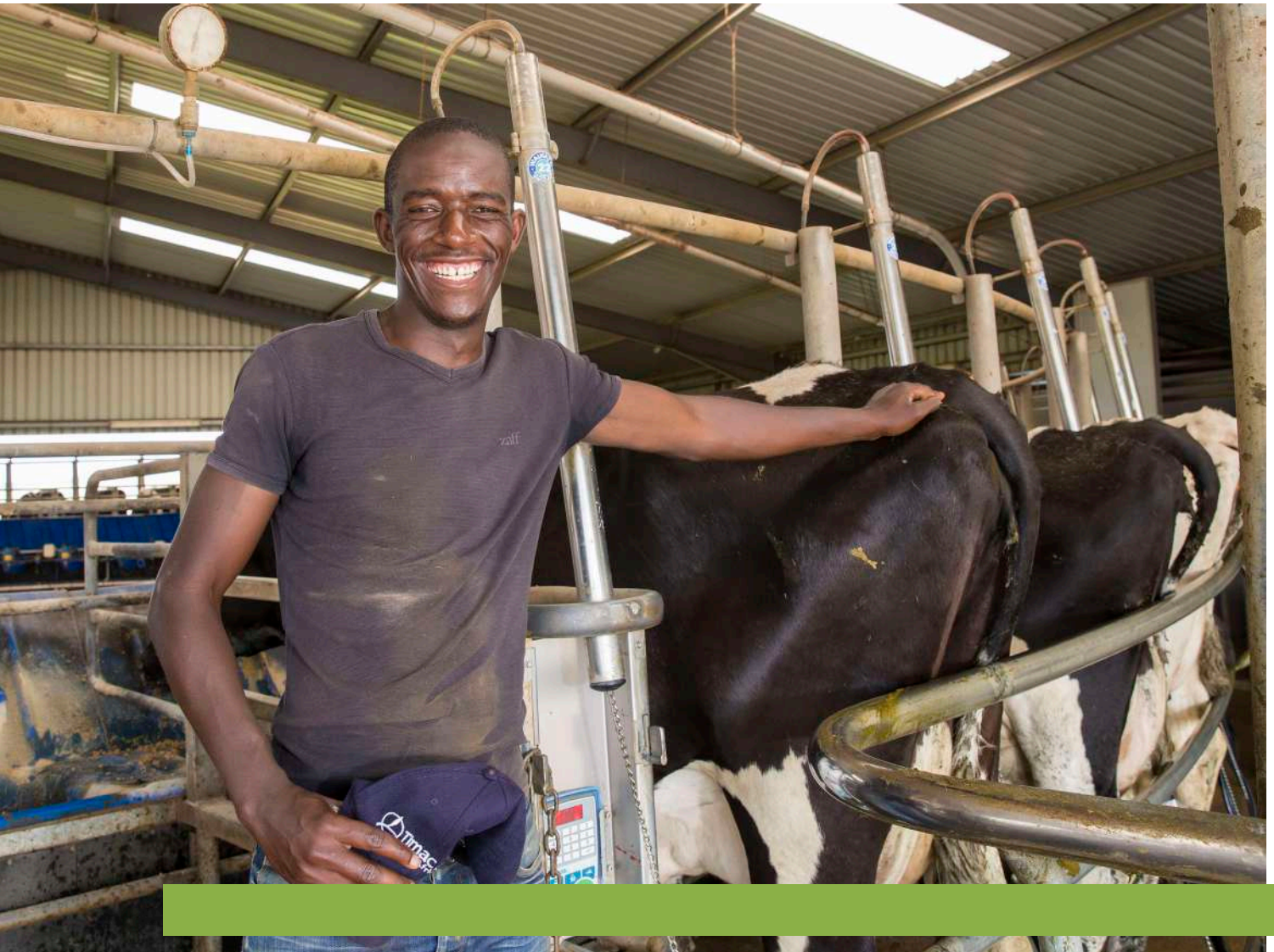


## Dale Hutton

*BScH.*

Mr Dale Hutton spent several years working in environmental science before returning to Creighton to farm dairy. He has worked with people in rural communities across the continent and so he has first-hand knowledge of the challenges that beset them and innovative strategies to address these. He is enthusiastic about seeing local communities realising the full potential of agricultural practices in their areas.

# STUDENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME



## PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

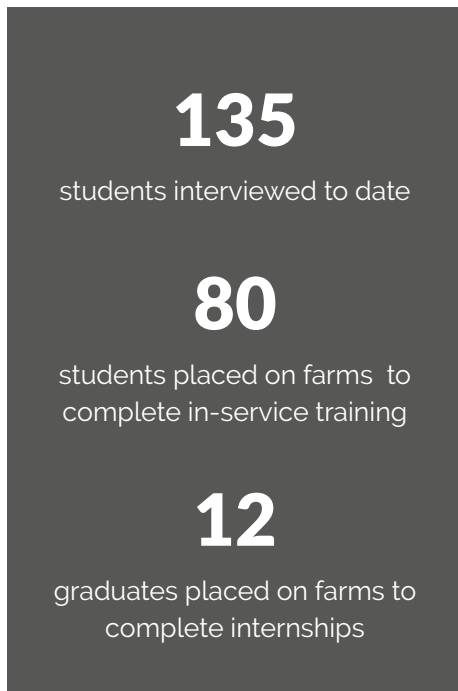
Our programme developed when we first began engaging with the Esayidi TVET College in Umzimkhulu in mid-2017 and found that there was no system in place for their farm management students to obtain the 18 months of experiential learning that they require in order to obtain their national diplomas. At the time, this campus alone enrolled upwards of 200 students for this course every year with the vast majority unable to graduate because they were unable to find an opportunity to undertake their training.

Thanks to the establishment of our partnership with Pannar Seed and several commercial farmers coming on board by agreeing to offer students the opportunity to gain experience on their farms, we were able to intervene.

HGA now also gives opportunity to graduate students to obtain work experience in order to improve their employability in the agri sector. This is Mr Thabani Duma who obtained his National Diploma in Agriculture through UNISA and was given an opportunity to spend a year on the Hauff's dairy farm.



## PROGRAMME IMPACT TO DATE



- 30 students awarded their diplomas
- 20 students currently enrolled
- 11 applications to be submitted
- 7 lost contact / deceased

**91%** of students who have actively been supported by HGA in the application process have successfully obtained their diplomas.

## POST-PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Although the initial purpose of establishing this programme was to offer students with the opportunity to obtain the training needed to fulfil the requirements of their qualifications, we soon realised that almost as much effort was going to be required to ensure the students ultimately graduated. Establishing contact with KZN's HOD of Higher Education in July 2020 made a great difference, in that we were able to ascertain what criteria are assessed when students submit their diploma applications and were put in contact with the relevant person at the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in order to troubleshoot future issues.

Unfortunately we are still encountering issues and recently one of our student's applications was rejected and she was told that she needed to have submitted a college-issued logbook as a supporting document with her application. The logbook is supposed to be used to document the duties performed and lessons learnt while the student is on the farm and although we were aware that it existed, at no point have any of the college staff stated that this was a prerequisite for

assessment of one's application and none of our students who have successfully graduated to date were required to submit this document.

With HGA now enrolling students from multiple academic institutions, our challenge is to determine the requirements each institution has for their students' in-service training as although they may be offering the same course, it would seem there are still inconsistencies in the application procedure as one college is aware of the new logbook requirement while another is not!

In our last report we mentioned that some students, despite having completed all the necessary components of the qualification, had not been able to apply for their diplomas because they had not yet been issued a certificate that is required by the DHET as part of their diploma application. Sadly, there are students who have still not been able to graduate, one of whom is Ms Zandile Nzimande (*read her story on the next page*).

## INSTITUTIONAL INEFFICIENCY HALTS PROGRESS - Zandile Zimande's story



Ms Zandile Nzimande (pictured above) grew up on the Hauff's dairy farm near Donnybrook where her family have lived and worked since the early 70's. After doing a few holiday jobs on the farm, she too was inspired to pursue a career in agriculture and enrolled to do her farm management diploma at a local TVET college. After completing the theoretical component of the course, she applied to complete her in-service training through HGA and undertook this on the Hauff's farm. Zandile excelled on the farm and particularly when involved in the management of the calves. After completing her training, plans were afoot for her to do an internship in Australia or the USA through the Future Farmers Foundation but unfortunately the timing could not have been worse as international travel was banned as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not to be discouraged she obtained further work experience on a neighbouring commercial farm, where she was also involved in calf rearing and then subsequently returned to the Hauff's farm where she is, among other things, working alongside fellow former HGA intern, Mr Walter Khumalo on a beef calf rearing project.

As successful as Zandile has been in her agricultural career thus far, the absurd thing is that she has not yet obtained her qualification despite the incredible work experience under her belt. This is because she has not been issued a certificate she should have received after completing her last theory module in July 2019 and she cannot submit her diploma application without this certificate. We have been in communication with both the college and the DHET and hope to have this situation resolved soon. We wonder though how many other students have been unable to graduate due to an administrative issue beyond their control.

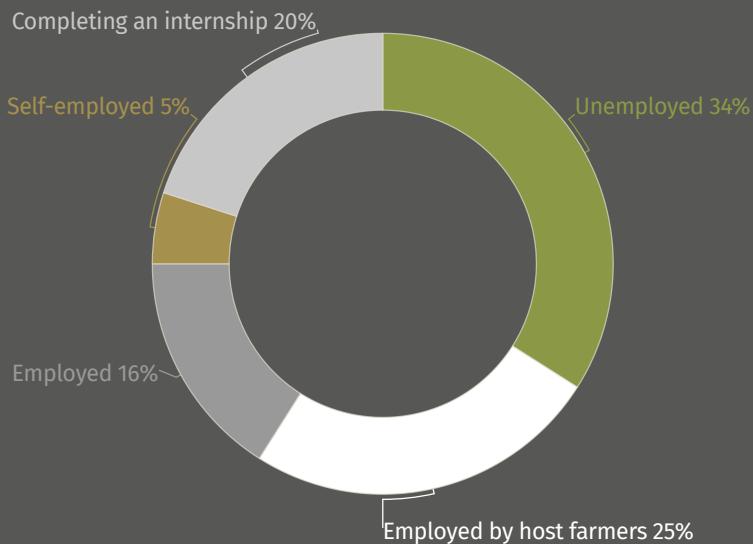


We are always encouraged to hear what motivates the youth to pursue a qualification in agriculture, with many believing that it will provide the opportunity to assist the communities from which they come and open up a route out of poverty. Ms Mbalizami Hadebe (pictured above), a student from Donnybrook said the following: "agriculture can totally eradicate poverty and needs vibrant and passionate youth to be part of the sector." Mbali studied at the Coastal TVET College and began her training in May on the Pitouts farm where she is involved in the calf rearing side of their business.



## STUDENT ALUMNI

Perhaps what has been of greatest encouragement this year has been discovering how many of our students have gone on to find employment or other internships in the agricultural sector. Although HGA does whatever it can to make its students aware of further opportunities, we at this stage, do not have any formal arrangements with businesses or institutions to facilitate this. It is therefore largely the efforts of the students themselves that has been rewarded.



Although a third of our past students are currently unemployed, the important factor to consider is that a number of these individuals have just completed an internship or contract and are waiting for the next door to open. The others are engaged in the process of either applying for job opportunities, to study further or obtaining their driver's license while doing piece jobs as and when they become available.

What is encouraging is the number of students who have been given positions on the farms on which they obtained their training while enrolled in our programme, suggesting that our selection process is succeeding in identifying standout individuals and proving beneficial to the host farmers involved as a means to recruit quality staff.

Several students are enjoying internships across the country, some through the Future Farmers Foundation, while others through different government departments or universities. Ms Thobekile Mhlongo is currently in Iowa, USA completing a 12 month poultry internship through the Grow Abroad Youth Programme.

A number of students have endeavoured to start commercial agricultural enterprises and have been hindered by a lack of access to markets or crop failure, but a couple have however succeeded. Ms Sabile Monakali and Ms Zikhona Bhantshi have both successfully established businesses cultivating vegetables and supplying their local retailers from their respective rural communities in the Eastern Cape.

## PLANS GOING FORWARD

Since our first group of students completed their 18 month internships in late 2019, we have looked to provide an opportunity to new students irrespective of the number of months' training they have already completed when applying for a position in our programme. However, this has presented quite a logistical challenge as one has students starting and finishing the programme at different times throughout the year, which means student selection and placement has to take place on a continual basis. It also means planning orientation events and extra training courses for the students is harder to do.

For this reason we are currently moving towards having two application and placement windows per year; one in June/July and one in December/January. We have engaged with the coordinators of the successful Just Milk student programme that operates out of the Eastern Cape and have used this approach to good effect there. Our contract will still offer the student 6 months of training and be renewable until such time as they have completed their training.



## TWO YOUNG ASPIRING COMMERCIAL FARMERS DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

Ms Zikhona Bhantshi is 24 years old and grew up in a rural community in the Eastern Cape between Harding and Bizana. We met her when she was selected to be interviewed for a position in our programme in September 2019 and discovered that she had already completed nine of the 18 months of work-integrated learning required to complete her national diploma in farm management. This she had done at the Department of Agriculture office in Mount Ayliff, but felt that she was not getting an opportunity to gain on-farm experience and decided to apply for a position in our programme. Her interview was successful and she was placed on Mr Rob Stapylton-Smith's dairy farm, Eastwolds near Donnybrook.

What stood out about Zikhona from the onset was that this was a young lady who was focussed and determined to pursue a career in agriculture. She successfully completed her nine months of hard earned dairy experience and graduated with a National Diploma in October 2021. We discovered soon after, that Zikhona had decided to start a vegetable production business with a friend she had made whilst in residence at the Esayidi College. Ms Athayanda Mdanyana had also studied farm management and they had both successfully obtained internships with the Department of Agriculture and this is where Athayanda had chosen to complete her 18 months of training.

Whilst they were completing their internships there, they made note of the fact that most of the staff seemed to be of the older generation and they felt their chances were slim of finding a permanent job opportunity after graduating. They thus began to brainstorm ideas for starting for their own business and with Zikhona's family having access to some land in the Bizana area, they decided to work towards establishing the vegetable production business there. They quickly got in to a habit of putting some money aside each month from the stipends they were earning, so that they had a bit of capital to work with and this they used to purchase fencing material in order to fence an initial 1.2 Ha. Prior to this however, they followed all the required protocol when starting a business, registering their business name, ANZ Greenfields and registering with SARS.

Their first obstacle was that they would need to make a plan to be able to irrigate their crops and as they did not have the funding to put in a scheme at that stage, they decided to start cultivation at Zikhona's home, so that they could use household water to irrigate. They began by planting spinach and selling this in and around the local community and then took a leap of faith by taking a sample to the Boxer in Bizana, to see if they could establish a market through them. Boxer liked what they saw and so ANZ received their first order of 70 bunches of spinach!



The duo submitted an application for funding to the National Youth Development Agency and this was successful and they were supplied with an irrigation system, chemicals, fertilizer, seedlings and signage for their project. With this assistance the business is now well under way on their fenced plot, not far from Zikhona's home and where they have access to a further four hectares to expand on to when they are able to source more fencing.

After doing a fair amount of market research they are aware of who else is producing vegetables on a commercial scale in the area and who their market is and have identified untapped markets such as the local schools and bed and breakfasts. The crops they have chosen to focus on, on account of this research are cabbage, spinach, potato, butternut and sugar beans and they have already produced successful crops of each of these.

ANZ Greenfields does not have its own mechanisation and has to join the queue to wait for access to local contractors or the assistance of DARD for their land preparation and planting. They also have to cart their pump in a wheelbarrow from a nearby home to the river each day in order to irrigate. Despite this, the pair are quietly confident that small beginnings are not to be despised and that their goal of becoming the biggest supplier of vegetables within their district municipality can be realised.



# AGRICULTURAL MENTORSHIP PROJECTS

**42** projects have been engaged with to date

**29** projects have received assistance/donations from commercial farmers

**14** projects have received mentorship

**21** projects have benefitted from private sector partnerships

## BACKGROUND

With the original purpose of HGA having been to consolidate the individual efforts of commercial farmers around the district who were assisting or mentoring their staff or neighbours with agricultural projects, HGA's first step was to review the projects in existence so as to ascertain where support could be offered. The projects occurred across a broad spectrum in terms of scale from commercial to subsistence. From the onset we knew that one of our primary roles would be to act as a facilitator or middle man in linking the participants of these projects with the agricultural expertise and assistance that they required, which dovetailed well with our concurrent drive to establish partners with agricultural companies in the private sector.

The original projects around which the organisation was established still exist, while the commercial farming community continues to extend assistance to those within their sphere of influence and so the number of projects continues to grow. The figures quoted above provide a snapshot of the impact HGA and its supporting farmers have had in this focus area. Still being an organisation in its infancy, a measured approach has however been required to decide where our biggest impact could be felt in the district and matched to our capacity. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the looting, the flooding and the skyrocketing prices linked to the instability in Eastern Europe, it has not been hard to recognise that an emphasis on bolstering food security at the household level has been necessary.

## HGA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to make an informed decision about which projects to consider supporting, the following project principles guide our decision-making:

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The initiative must come from the farmer or the community themselves, indicative of the level of drive and passion required to be successful in agriculture.

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Financial investment in a project is designed to offer a 'leg up' but should not raise expectations of on-going support of this nature.

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The objective is skills development through mentorship partnerships with the ultimate goal being the self-sufficiency of the aspiring farmer or community involved.

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Project progress is monitored and evaluated through structured report writing and feedback meetings between the facilitator (HGA), the mentor and the aspiring farmer.

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The mentee is required to display a measure of accountability and transparency with regards to the financial management of their enterprise and must, for example, be prepared to register their business with SARS if they have not done so already.









# FARMING FOR FOOD SECURITY

*The Harry Gwala District Municipality which is our organisation's geographic area of focus, is home to numerous rural communities with only about a fifth of the population of around half a million living in the small towns dotted around the district. For this reason, we feel HGA can have a noteworthy impact on improving food security by extending support to members of those communities who would like to be producing their own food but either for the lack of skill or access to resources, are unable to do so.*

## BACKGROUND

With the success of HGA Director, Mr Dougie Strachan's food security project model, the last two years have been a process of upscaling and rolling this project out in other parts of the district. The organisation of farmer's days whereby commercial farmers invite representatives from their neighbouring communities to attend, observe a planting demonstration and then receive a starter pack to get them going with their home garden cultivation, has proven effective.

Joining hands with CHEP to improve the food security of their staff and families has presented a great avenue for this focus area to be upscaled and receiving 200 Reel Gardening seed packages through our contacts at the Environmental Sustainability Agency, also allowed us to spread the net wider in terms of the number of households we were able to reach this year and empower to be able to begin growing their own food.

## FOOD SECURITY SURVEY

In an effort to try and gain a better handle on the status of home gardening in our rural communities, HGA conducted the first of what we anticipate will be several food security surveys. This took place in the Madakeni Community near Umzimkhulu and involved 30 households. Thanks go to Mr Aphelele Dlamini, one of the youth from the community, who assisted with the survey.







## The following emerged as key findings from the study:

- Two-thirds of respondents were female and an average age of 42 years old (range: 17 – 77yrs).
- What was both surprising and encouraging was that 86% of households were cultivating at the time, with 67% having cultivated their gardens every year for the last five years. Despite this, the majority (42%) believed that the number of people cultivating their gardens had actually decreased over the last five years. This was attributed largely to the lack of access to labour, with respondents stating that those that normally cultivate had become old and weak and that the youth were not interested in getting involved. The lack of fencing was also cited as a common barrier to entry and those that attempt to cultivate their gardens without or with inadequate fencing become discouraged because they lose their crop to raiding livestock.
- A good variety of different crops were being cultivated by households with six being the average, but one household cultivating up to 13 different crops over the course of a normal year. The most popular crops being grown were maize (48% of households), potato (33%), spinach (29%), squash (28%), cabbage (22%) and madumbi (20%).
- Access to inputs is of course a critical factor determining one's involvement in cultivation and Mr Dougie Strachan's repackaging of seed and fertilizer into affordable and appropriate quantities and then distributing these to nodes within the community from where they can be sold, has been instrumental in getting more households involved. When asked where respondents obtained their seed from, half described this as the source with others saying that they obtain their seed from retailers in town and/or harvest seed from their previous crop. The majority (46%) were obtaining their fertilizer through Mr Strachan's system while a third (33%) made use of locally sourced manure.
- Multiple reasons were cited for one's motivation for being involved in home garden cultivation including the cost-saving advantage, the need for food, or because it is part of one's culture or that they are interested in it.
- What was also encouraging to note was that the majority (57%) stated that they are able to sell surplus produce at times and this income generating opportunity was another aspect prompting one to get involved.
- A rather concerning finding was that despite the average household size being five permanent residents, almost half of respondents (46%) stated that no-one was receiving an earned income at the time. There is a tremendous reliance on social grants with 77% of households receiving either the old-age or child support grant and some households receiving up to five grants per month.
- The cultivation of a home garden offers an invaluable safety net for rural households and for some, the opportunity to derive an income. Despite the obstacles to involvement in this activity, the vast majority (81%) said that they were planning on cultivating in the next season.
- Although this is really only a snapshot of cultivation activity and only from one of our rural communities, it affirms the need to upskill and support those with even an inkling of interest in getting involved in this livelihood activity.





## THE STRACHAN'S FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

Mr Dougie Strachan has worked with his neighbouring community, Mazabakweni for the last thirteen years after a staff member approached him for assistance with her home garden plot. Mr Strachan agreed and began with a demonstration to the community of a simple yet effective planting technique suitable for home gardens and this developed from a pilot project into a two year Masters research project exploring how household nutritional intake could be improved. The skills imparted have been passed on by farmer-to-farmer extension to other households across Mazabekweni and has reached neighbouring villages as news of their success has spread. The original project participants formed a stokvel and share the benefits of a hammermill which locals can use at a fee and the income derived from this has been used to allow them to diversify their farming to now include poultry. Sometime after the launch of the project in Mazabakweni, Mr Strachan used the same approach to help communities residing on the farm he grew up on in the Umzimkulu area, which was incorporated into the Tranksei in the 1960s. Seed and fertilizer are bought in bulk and repackaged to sizes suitable for garden cultivation and then sold from a central point in the community by a project member.

Over the course of the last two years, HGA has been rolling this model out elsewhere in the district making use of established relationships between commercial farmers and their neighbouring communities through which to work. A series of farmer's days were held in 2021 whereby community representatives were taught the cultivation techniques and their neighbouring commercial farmers covered the cost of basic starter packs (inputs and tools) to get them started with the cultivation of their home gardens. This year another farmer's day was held in the Ofafa community near Ixopo where 26 participants attended, invited by neighbouring commercial farmer and former HGA director, Mr John Bredin. Beyond the contributions from the commercial farmers in putting together the starter packs, we would like to acknowledge GWK who contributed 200kg of 4:3:4 (40) Zn and Lim-agrain a bag of SC506 maize seed for starter packs issued at the end of 2021.

Since obtaining his Masters degree and observing the lasting success of the model on which it was based, Mr Strachan has over the years considered its scalability and whether it could move from being something implemented for subsistence purposes to being a commercial venture that could generate wealth for those involved. These ideas had been put on the back burner until he was recently approached for assistance by the community residing on his family's former farm near Umzimkhulu. There is a long history of failed projects and double-crossed community members on the farm that was bought by government in 1968, but the Strachans, in consultation with the community are adopting an innovative approach to see if they can make the land productive once more.



*Elsewhere in the district and on the back of the farmer's days held to date, a new project has emerged out of the Lilydale community in the Donnybrook area.*

## LILYDALE PROJECT

After the farmer's day held at Lilydale last year, a follow-up visit was done to see how the participants had done with the establishment of their home gardens. We found that although the success rate was fairly low there was a standout individual with a thriving garden and healthy crops of maize, beans and butternut. According to Mr Dougie Strachan, it normally only requires a single person within a community to be successful in order for other members to be inspired to continue in spite of any shortcomings experienced in their first attempt.

Whilst at Lilydale, a group of unemployed youth requested assistance from HGA for the establishment of a project on a piece of land they have available on the farm. As a first step towards ascertaining the feasibility of this, soil samples were taken which were kindly an-

alysed by Mr Graeme Horne from Omnia. Thereafter, Mr Rob Stapylton-Smith, who neighbours Lilydale, agreed to excavate a furrow in the field to assist with drainage and then helped with the land preparation, discing the field twice, providing two tonnes of 4:3:4 fertilizer which the project participants spread by hand and then running the disc through a third time.

The participants of the project, who are mostly unemployed young adults, formed a team of six and quickly got stuck into planting, putting in potatoes in September and cabbage (1600 seedlings) in October. HGA had recommended that rather than forming a co-operative involving a big group of people, to instead form small teams and cultivate portions of the available land and this is what is proving to be successful.

Left: Member of the One Home One Garden project in Hlutankungu, Mrs Noxolo Mkhize, displays the vegetable seedlings she had on sale at their local farmers market.

Below: Distribution of starter packs to rural households at the Lilydale Farmer's Day.







## REEL GARDENING SEED BOX DISTRIBUTION

*This year HGA established a link with the Environmental Sustainability Agency who work with people on communal land to develop agri-wildlife economies, so that people and nature can flourish together. They do this by increasing the value of the community's asset base through job creation and growing SMME's.*

In support of the work we are doing to bolster food security within the rural communities of our district, they were able to arrange the sponsorship of 200 vegetable seed boxes to HGA. The innovative product is produced by the company, Reel Gardening, and designed to both simplify the process of people getting started with growing their own vegetables as well as minimising wastage in terms of the amount of inputs and water required. The individual seed and fertilizer comes encased in a biodegradable envelope which has the planting instructions for that particular crop (i.e. planting spacing and depth), marked on the envelope and the seed for different crops is packaged according to the month suggested for it to be planted. The seed packages are purported to be able to feed a family of four for 12 months.

In late April, the first 100 seed packages were sponsored by Shoprite and were distributed to households in the Madakeni community on the outskirts of Umzimkhulu under the guidance of Mr Dougie Strachan. The next 100 packages were sponsored by Rhodes Quality and distributed to our communities in the Franklin, Donnybrook and Highflats areas in May and June. At each handover a planting demonstration was given and it was exciting to see how quickly the participants grasped the process and then proceeded to offer the demonstration to beneficiaries who arrived later. Although early winter was a tough time to begin cultivating a home garden, on follow up visits to the communities it was encouraging to see how many households had had success, with their gardens emerging with pea, spinach, beetroot and radish seedlings. We are grateful to be able to provide more households in our region with the opportunity to grow their own food and would like to thank the Environmental Sustainability Agency for arranging the sponsorship of this product.







Clockwise from top left: Handover of the Reel Gardening seed boxes in the Madakeni community near Umzimkhulu (1) after a planting demonstration was performed for about 100 participants (2).

A flourishing vegetable garden in the Vogelvllei Community near Franklin (3) whom were also beneficiaries of the seed boxes. Mrs Caroline Long (4) continues to work alongside the residents there to support their agricultural endeavours and broaden their livelihood streams. Photographs taken by Dylan Weyer.



## CHEP FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

*CHEP South Africa's forestry and milling division owns 18 pine timber farms in the Harry Gwala District Municipality. Brambles, of which CHEP is a subsidiary, has a number of sustainability goals, one of which is to better the communities within which they work through improved food security. With this in mind, the company approached HGA in early 2021 wanting to achieve this for their staff residing on their timber farms, some of which are located in remote parts of the district a long way from retailers.*



The project was launched in August 2021 on Runnymede Farm located in the Swartberg area. After fencing of the plot was completed, preparation of the 8x2m beds began and we are grateful to Columbia Forestry for the provision of timber offcuts, which we used as edging around the beds and to Weatherboard Sawmill for the woodchips, which were used on the walkways between the beds. The first seedlings were planted in September and the staff have enjoyed access to a range of vegetables including cabbage, beetroot, spinach, baby marrow, lettuce, brinjal, cauliflower, carrot, onion, garlic, shallots and kale. A number of these vegetables were foreign to the staff and you could sense a bit of scepticism when they were planted, but some such as brinjal and kale have become firm favourites.

A further six beds were prepared in autumn and going into winter, a cover crop of stouling rye grass was planted to increase the soil fertility for the next planting season. More recently, El Mondo seed potatoes donated by Zylem have been planted and the staff eagerly anticipate digging up the produce early in the new year.

Above: The early stages of the Runnymede vegetable garden with CHEP employees Mr Vuyani Tomas (left) and Lucky Mabunwini (right) who have shown great enthusiasm for the developments on the farm. Top right: The Runnymede vegetable garden in March this year. Photographs taken by Dylan Weyer.

In February this year we moved to the next of CHEP's properties, Draaikloof Farm near Kokstad, to start garden preparation there. With the assistance of the staff, the fencing of the plot was quickly completed and twelve 8x2m beds prepared following the same design as that which was used at Runnymede. Going into autumn we decided to limit planting to spinach and kohlrabi and then planted six of the beds with stouling rye grass until planting could properly commence in spring.

The hope is that these vegetable gardens will be productive enough for the staff to be able to take surplus home to their families. In the case of Draaikloof, there are 42 permanent staff and 10 seasonal. Of the permanent staff, their average household size is seven people, so the project has the potential to enrich many through the supply of fresh produce.

The next location our project will move to is the Mqondekweni community located adjacent to another of CHEP's timber farms near Bulwer. We will be looking to establish a vegetable garden at the local primary school and will look to involve one of our students in the management thereof.





## ONE HOME ONE GARDEN PROJECT IN HLUTANKUNGU

This year, HGA put the One Home One Garden members in touch with Hello Choice, which is a fresh produce market platform. Although up until this point the members have been farming independently of one another, they are now looking to coordinate their efforts in order to capitalise on available markets, one of which would be Hello Choice.

Their focus is to produce enough cabbage, spinach and peppers to be able to supply Hello Choice, the Triangle Store and Spar in High-flats, as well as their local customers. Besides these crops, members will still continue to grow other crops and HGA was able to provide 50kg of the EL Mondo seed potatoes sponsored by Zylem to them.



(Left) Mr Cyril Hlengwa with the re-bottled chemicals suitable for the scale of agriculture most households are involved with in the Hlutankungu community.  
(Right) Mr Nigel Dennis, a stalwart figure in the One Home One Garden project.



# UPDATE ON OTHER PROJECTS



HGA project manager, Mr Dylan Weyer (right) standing alongside the Mphithini Co-op's manager, Mr Absalom Mazibuko (left) during their maize harvest. The harvesting, shelling and packaging of maize all takes place by hand.



## MPHITHINI CO-OP

In order to avoid encouraging the existing culture of handouts, HGA looks to provide what is needed to get a project started through a system whereby the cost is paid back by the project participants over time. In our first year working with the Mphithini Co-op, they were required to cover 25% of the overall cost of the project and in the second year 40%. Last season, the co-op covered the entirety of the cost, although were able to obtain the sponsorship of some inputs from the Department of Agriculture.

The co-op perform most farming activities by hand including weeding, spraying, fertilizer application and then the harvesting, shelling and milling of the maize and the harvesting and packaging of the dry beans. Access to reliable mechanisation is one of their greatest challenges, as the land preparation and planting is done each year by local contractors with decrepit implements and usually a related series of setbacks that occur during the job, which means the crop is seldom in the ground at the optimal time.

### THE 2021/2022 SEASON

Last year, the co-op made a decision to sell their produce locally and did so at a fortuitous time as it coincided with the spate of unrest that swept across Kwa-Zulu Natal. The nearest towns to Mphithini are Bulwer and Donnybrook and they were all but 'razed to the ground' during the unrest, leaving the vast population of rural communities normally reliant on these towns for their groceries, without many options.

Although last year the co-op managed to sell their white and yellow maize and dry bean crop quite swiftly, they took the risk of allowing community members to buy food on credit and unfortunately their record keeping was inadequate and in the end were left short-changed. This was a frustrating outcome from HGA's perspective, because in the second year of their project, and having produced a relatively good crop, the co-op were in line to be in a good financial position going in to their third year. However, the other side of the story is that people who were likely in a precarious position in terms of access to food, were provided for and we probably do not appreciate the social cohesion and unity wrought through this kind of reciprocity.

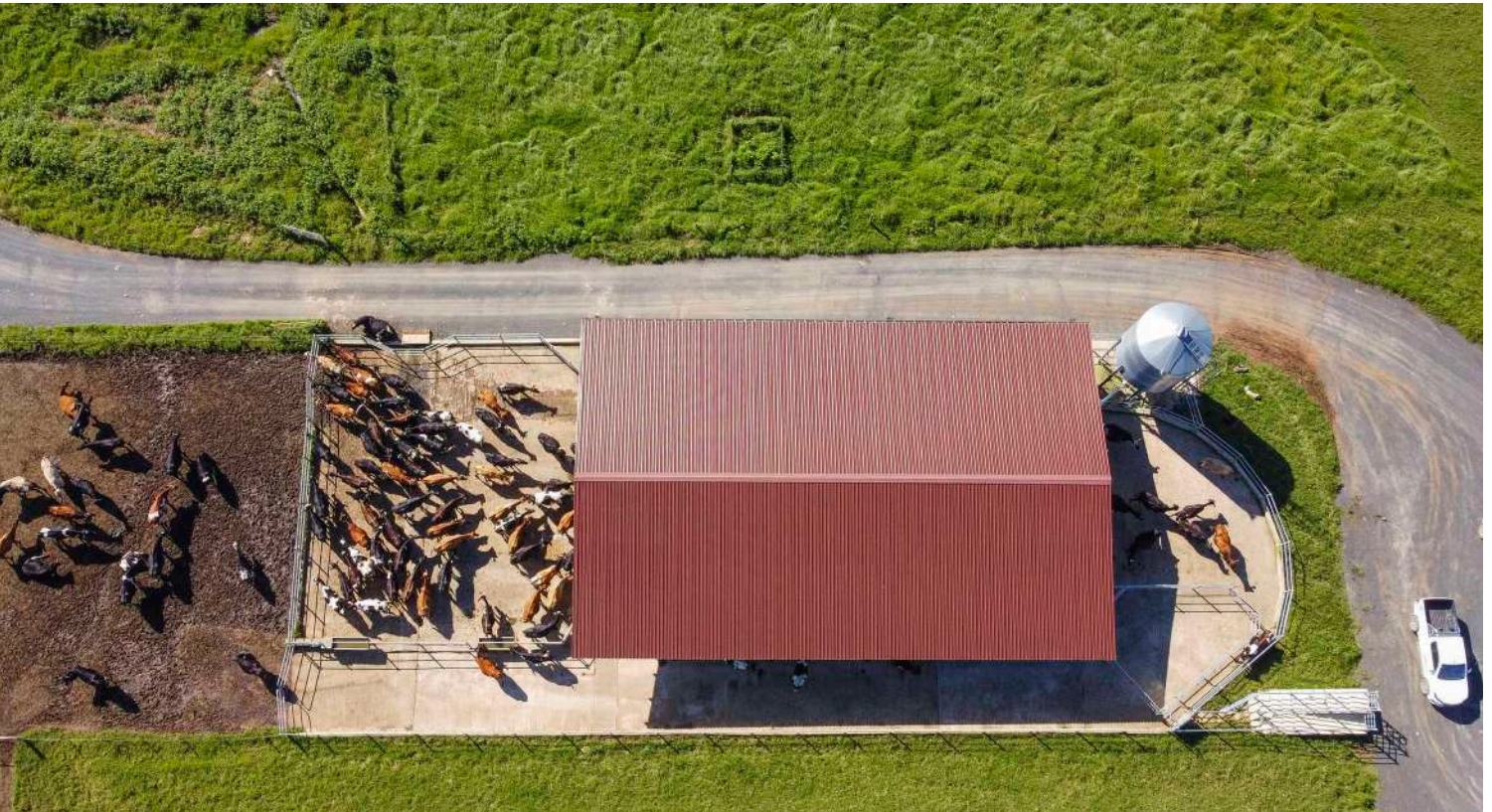
Although we are grateful that the co-op were able to obtain some assistance from the Department of Agriculture (DARD), we felt that because their financial position was not entirely secure going into the season, that it would be unwise to look at expanding their area under cultivation. The timing of the donation of fencing material, seed and fertilizer did not allow for proper planning to take place for the upscaling of the project such as getting soil analysis done to establish what needed to

be done in the way of soil preparation. Despite this, the co-op decided to forge ahead by fencing an additional 4.5 Ha, and doubling their cultivated area to 4 Ha. Their mechanisation woes however continued with a fair amount of trial and error before they found someone with a planter that was functional. Their combination of white and yellow maize was however in the ground by the 13th of December. Although they were offered dry bean seed by DARD, this only arrived in mid-February and so was planted a month later than it should have been and as a result had not dried off by the time the first frost arrived in June/July. A similar issue occurred with a donation of urea that arrived long after the prescribed application period in the maize and beans.

Meanwhile, there have been some developments in the Mphithini team with Mr Mazibuko being elected the manager of the project by his peers. In the process of HGA gradually devolving responsibility to the co-op, it is good to have an individual at the helm who has been the driving force behind the project since its onset. Then, as a means to introduce some youthful energy into the project we assigned two agricultural students to the project. Wherever possible HGA looks to identify students from within our district to provide opportunity to and in this case both students reside in fairly close proximity to Mphithini. Ms Nompumelelo Dzanibe is a farming management undergraduate from Coastal TVET College and Ms Akhona Sosibo is a graduate with a diploma in community extension from Mangosutho University of Technology. In the short time they were involved in the project they proved very helpful and a great support.

## SUMMERHILL DAIRY FARM - DUCKY NGCOBO

Mr Ducky Ngcobo was born in 1954 on a beef and dairy farm next door to Mr Robert Stapylton-Smith's farm Eastwolds, near Donnybrook. After working as a truck driver for some time Mr Ngcobo was then able to invest in a taxi business. His experience growing up on a commercial farm obviously left an indelible mark though, as when the opportunity arose in 2002 to purchase the 120Ha, Summerhill Farm, Mr Ngcobo seized this, buying the farm for cash. Fortuitously for Mr Ngcobo, Summerhill shares a boundary with Eastwolds and so in the same year, Mr Stapylton-Smith took up the role as mentor to the upcoming commercial dairy farmer. Mr Ngcobo has accomplished much despite having only completed grade six at school. What he lacks in formal education he makes up for in his positive, entrepreneurial approach to his business.



Summerhill Dairy Farm continues to tick along smoothly and according to the accountants is making a decent turnover each year. The substantial infrastructural upgrades that have taken place on the farm over the last few years, funded by the Agribusiness Development Agency and guided by the mentorship of Mr Stapylton-Smith, have had a very positive impact. Mr Stapylton-Smith believes the next significant upgrade that could be made would be to raise the dam wall and double the irrigation on the farm.

Mr Ngcobo continues to diligently follow all recommendations with regards to his soil preparation and chemical spray programme and carries out all the operations on the farm himself, besides the harvesting of his maize and the spreading of lime which is outsourced to

Jedidiah Farming. In the last quarter, he hired another employee that is very experienced with artificial insemination and this is contributing significantly to improving the progeny on the farm.

Mr Stapylton-Smith's mentorship support these days has far less to do with the production side of the farm, but his office is still very much involved in assisting with Summerhill's administration and the role of Mrs Zelda Venter who handles this, continues to be invaluable.

Above: An aerial view of the dairy at Summerhill Farm which was opened in March 2020 and has greatly increased the farm's productivity. Top right: Mr Ducky Ngcobo in his maize crop at Summerhill Farm last season.





## ASSISTANCE FOR A COMMUNITY WITHOUT RELIABLE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

The Masameni Community is located in the Sandenezwe-Donnybrook area of our district and home to 128 families who have struggled with access to potable water for some time. The community is divided in two by a valley and the existing water reticulation system has to alternate the supply of water to each side such that only one half of the community has access at any one time and this is only when the scheme is without fault.

Wanting to be proactive, the community formed a Water Committee and rallied together available finances in order to upgrade their system. They pooled together R45 000 and then looked to their neighbours to request further assistance. The Hauffs are commercial dairy farmers in their vicinity and agreed to assist. They employ 12 people from the community and have in the past assisted with the provision of drinking water when approached. In March a budget and proposal was put together and submitted to other landowners neighbouring the community for the prospecting and drilling of another borehole and the installation of a solar pump and pipes so that each half of the community could have access to a constant supply of clean water. The ± 5000 Ha timber plantation Glenbain, borders the community

on all but one side and many of their staff come from the community. When approached for assistance in March they expressed willingness to partner in the project but as yet no contribution has been made.

In lieu of additional support the community's finance was used to prospect for the best supply of water and a pump test was carried out to establish exactly how much water could be harvested. Fortunately the best supply was located adjacent to the main existing waterline and the Hauffs agreed to cover the cost required to drill the borehole. The local municipality was initially approached to assist with this but no support was granted and yet a while later, without consulting anyone or prospecting for the best supply of water the municipality drilled a borehole next to the existing reservoir. Had there been willingness to collaborate on the project, the monies spent on drilling in the inopportune location could have been used to drill in the opportune location preventing unnecessary expenditure.

A further R140 000 is required to install the solar pump and pipes in order to complete the project and so it is hoped that support will be forthcoming.





Above: Mr Mzayfani Nonjingo (left) and Mr Zuko Qokela (centre) of Brookside Farming, alongside Mr Reggie Mchunu from Pannar Seed. Right: Mr Jed Van Niekerk discussing the quality of the maize crop with Mrs Cecilia Qokela who is responsible for the day to day planning on the farm.

## JOINING HANDS TO ENSURE THE LAND REMAINS PRODUCTIVE - The story of Brookside Farm

Brookside Farm was bought by government from the Van Niekerk family in Kokstad some 14 years ago and entrusted to the care of the previous employees on the farm. They had a tough time maintaining productivity on the farm, as they lacked the capital to purchase the inputs needed to grow a crop and being tenants and not owners, were not able to apply for a loan. Although having spent many years on the farm employed in various capacities, they lacked the expertise to manage the farm successfully on their own.

In 2019, they were informed by government that they needed to increase the productivity of the farm or risk losing it. At this point they approached the son of the former owner and local businessman, Mr Jed Van Niekerk, for assistance. Understanding the challenge they were faced with and wanting to help, Mr Van Niekerk in turn approached HGA Vice-Chairperson, Mr Rory Bryden to discuss the feasibility of a tripartite agreement between the two of them and Brookside Farming CC to ensure progress on the farm was achieved.

In 2020 Mr Van Niekerk, who is an agricultural contractor by trade, agreed to do the land preparation, planting and harvesting of 56 Ha of maize and Mr Bryden agreed to cover the cost of the inputs. Mr Bryden would then buy the maize back from them, which he believed would be a win-win arrangement, assisting Brookside Farming with a market and getting around the obstacle of them not having a storage facility for the maize once harvested.

A good yield was obtained in the first year such that last year Brookside Farming were able to cover a fair portion of the input costs with the profits earned. Mr Bryden covered the balance of the input costs

and Mr Van Niekerk assisted once more with the mechanisation and mentorship. Brookside Farm have developed a good team with Mrs Cecelia Qokela and Mrs Elizabeth Nonjingo taking responsibility for the planning and day-to-day management and liaising with Mr Van Niekerk and Mr Bryden. Mr Zuko Qokela manages the crop and has performed the tasks of implementing the spray programme and fertilizer application. He believes he has benefited a lot from the mentorship received saying: "I've learnt a lot about the application of chemicals and fertilizer rates and appreciate the knowledge the farmers are sharing with me and the training I have received."

Mrs Nonjingo has also gained much from being involved in the administration of the farm and offered the following advice to other upcoming commercial farmers: "You've got to be committed. You've got to pay attention to all the detail. You've got to have good record keeping, so that there are no issues with mismanagement of funds and everything is clear and transparent."

Mr Reggie Mchunu of Pannar Seed, visited earlier this year and was very impressed with the quality of the maize crop and the success achieved by this alliance between the established and upcoming commercial farmers. Subsequently Pannar Seed have agreed to supply the farm with maize seed sufficient enough to plant 50 Ha this season. An incredibly generous donation and enormous cost saver for the business.

As Mr Van Niekerk said: "It's about partnerships, about family and about supporting one another and making sure it works. We all stand to benefit."



“

*It's about partnerships, about family and about supporting one another and making sure it works. We all stand to benefit.*



## OTHER FARMER SUPPORT

Beyond our current programmes, we look to support our upcoming farming community in simple yet constructive ways. With fertilizer prices having skyrocketed in the last while, the process of soil sampling and analysis is now of even greater importance to farmers and particularly for those on tighter budgets. HGA approached Johnson Soil Augers to source a Beater Rapid Sampler soil auger and were glad to hear that they were willing to sponsor our initiative with one. We are now taking soil samples for the farmers with whom we engage and then getting these to Cedara for analysis and ensuring farmers are able to implement accurate soil corrections before planting and use their resources as best as possible.



Soil sampling at Lilydale Farm to inform planning around the establishment of the project there.

# OUR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

*The work we do would not be possible without the support of our partners in the private sector and the committed involvement of the commercial farming community within our district. The companies below have all contributed towards HGA over the course of the last year with Mascor, Pannar Seed, De Heus, Meadow Feeds, Dairy Farmers of South Africa, The Co-op Community Trust and the P. Trimborn Agency remaining our stalwart support for four years or more now.*








*HGA has also received very generous additional contributions from companies we hope to build stronger relationships with going forward.*



The next generation of farmers learning the ropes at Brookside Farm.



## OUR ONGOING PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO HGA THIS YEAR

Partner	Investment	Allocation
 Mascor (Partner since October 2017)	Loan of a Toyota Hilux 4x4 Extended Cab	HGA
 Pannar Seed (Partner since February 2018)	R576 000	Student stipends and running costs of in-service training programme
	Maize seed	88 bags to agricultural mentorship projects
 De Heus (Partner since March 2018)	R3/tonne/month of feed sold in the Harry Gwala District	HGA running costs
 Dairy Farmers of South Africa (Partner since July 2018)	R15 000/month	HGA running costs
 Meadow Feeds (Partner since August 2018)	R5/tonne/month of feed sold in our district	HGA running costs
 P. Trimborn Agency (Partner since January 2019)	R100 000	In-service training programme
 The Co-op Community Trust (Partner since October 2019)	R5 000/month	HGA running costs

## ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO HGA THIS YEAR

Partner	Investment	Allocation
 Express Petroleum	R10 000	HGA running costs
 Limagrain Zaad South Africa	R15 000	HGA running costs
 Mount Fifty	R30 000	HGA running costs
 Environmental Sustainability Agency (in association with Reel Gardening, Shoprite & Rhodes Quality)	196 Reel Gardening seed boxes valued at R88 200	Food security project
 Zylem	R1 000 & 75kg of El Mundo seed potatoes	Food security project
 Johnson Soil Augers	Beater Rapid Sampler soil auger valued at R1248	Agricultural mentorship project

*Loyal support continues to come from our four partnering farmers associations: Highflats-Ixopo, Ingwe, Swartberg and Mount Currie without which HGA would cease to exist. In 2022, our student programme has grown on account of an increasing number of commercial farmers being willing to host and mentor our students and the financial backing from the farming community has increased as well.*



## SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM OUR COMMERCIAL FARMING COMMUNITY

- **20%** of the total financial contribution received this year, has come from donations made by individual members of the four farmers associations. These commercial farmers have been the backbone of the organisation since its inception in March 2017.
- Numerous in-kind donations have been made by the commercial farming community. A culture of assisting one's neighbour exists in our district and this report provides only a snapshot of some of the projects that the commercial farming community have supported.
- **29** agricultural projects (that we are aware of) have benefitted from the assistance and support of the commercial farming community.
- The Highflats-Ixopo Farmer's Association contributed an additional **R20 000** towards HGA's running costs this year.

# HGA IN THE PUBLIC EYE

We continue to place a lot of emphasis on trying to get the word out about the work we are doing, because we believe it is a positive message that South Africa needs to hear! That aside, it is an opportunity for us to acknowledge our partners and the people who make our work possible. This year we have been afforded a few impactful opportunities for this.

After coming across a couple of articles that Daily Maverick Editor, Mr Mark Heywood had recently written about our corner of southern KZN, HGA decided to approach him to ask if he would be interested

to write an article on our initiative. This he agreed to do and the article was published in mid-July and quickly became one of the most read at the time with 16 000 reads on the day it was posted. The response since then has been incredible and we have already begun engaging with potential partners who made contact with us since reading the article.

The article also sparked further media attention and resulted in an interview on East Coast Radio's Drive Time Show with Ms Tsakane Ndubane and a film crew from Kyknet visiting a few of our projects and including an insert on HGA on their show, 'In Gesprek'.

Earlier in the year Food for Mzansi also featured an article on us. Food for Mzansi is a media-driven initiative to introduce South Africans to the "unsung heroes of the agricultural industry," and the stories told thereof they believe has the power to promote nation building and social cohesion.



# FINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Despite the last three turbulent years and the way in which this has affected everyone in one way or another, HGA has managed to keep broadening its impact in our region and this is thanks to the incredible support we have received from our partners in the private sector, the dedication of the commercial farmers to this cause and the outstanding individuals that make up HGA's board of directors.*



This year HGA's team has seen some changes with Mr John Bredin retiring from his position as a director. HGA is a culmination of long and hard negotiations initiated by him to flesh out the mission statement you would have read earlier. This was driven by his conviction that it is not only the responsibility of government to ensure a sound economy but that every citizen should play whatever role they can to do so and in that way improve the current situation of poverty through meaningful and sustainable job creation. He remains convinced that agriculture can contribute very significantly in this regard, and particularly in the rural areas. We would like to thank Mr Bredin for ensuring that HGA came into being when many others would have lost the resolve to do so and we can only hope that the initiative will grow to a point beyond what he would have imagined and impact many more lives in the process.



Mrs Sarah Firth who served the organisation as secretary for its first four years has also stepped down from her position. Mrs Firth, despite juggling roles as a mother of three, being the secretary of the Swartberg Farmers Association and being involved in the family's commercial farm, still poured a lot of energy into this organisation and was instrumental in the early stages of its foundation. We thank her for her service and wish her and her family every success going forward.



For the past three years Mrs Lianne Ashton has generously given of her time to photograph our people and projects. Without her exceptional talent, we would not be able to showcase our impact so effectively as well as grow in popularity on our social media platforms. We can't thank Mrs Ashton enough for her support of our initiative. Unless otherwise stated, all photographs taken in this report were taken by her.





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**Non-Profit Organisation No:**

218-645 NPO

**Public Benefit Organisation No:**

930066774

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