



HARRY GWALA AGRI NPC **ANNUAL REPORT**

2018 - 2019





HARRY GWALA AGRI
NPC
united in growth

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Photo left

Mr Njabulo Makhathini obtaining his in-service training on Eastwolds Farm, owned by Mr Rob Stapylton-Smith. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

Photo front cover

Harvest day at Ponderosa with Mr Gehla Mngoma. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Mr Rory Bryden



Greetings ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Harry Gwala Agri chairman's report.

The first thing I must say is that we would not be here – in point of time and in the path of the organisation, if it were not for the generosity of our partners. We, as an organisation, are truly grateful for your contributions thus far and hope that you too have benefited from your involvement with us and that our partnership will continue for many years to come.

I'm not going to bore you with the now cliché comments about the tough economic climate and the challenges of an organisation in its infancy, but rather focus on the positives.

Harry Gwala Agri has now been in operation for two and a half years and as much as our partners are important to us, we are blessed to be surrounded by people who are committed to making a difference in other people's lives through education.

We are very grateful to the host farmers for accommodating and educating students, as well as the time and energy the selfless mentors put into the various projects, educating prospective farmers and teaching them to be sustainable in their various ventures. Without the host farmers and the mentors, this organisation would cease to exist.

Thank you very much to the committee, for giving of their time this past year. There are three people who we at HGA are indebted to. Sarah Firth, our secretary, Dylan Weyer, our man on the ground and Peter Christianson our "go to" man.

What is presented in this annual report by Dylan Weyer shall make you realise why we are indebted to this noble, inspired and highly competent man. Peter Christianson, a Chartered Accountant, who has sat on the audit committees of many large public sector organisations, and understands the workings of non-profit organisations, has been pivotal in directing and helping Harry Gwala Agri in many facets.

A very big thank you to the three of you – we truly appreciate your input. I wish that I had the luxury of this wonderful team involved in my business.

Harry Gwala Agri, in its short existence has already positively impacted many people's lives. The challenging season of establishing the organisation is largely behind us and I believe that with the formidable team we have, we are going to grow this initiative to be able to touch and impact many more lives in the near future.

Thank you very much!

MR RORY BRYDEN

Chairman of the Board



Amidst ever-increasing uncertainty in South Africa, identifying the potential for growth is an imperative and seeking out innovative strategies to harness that growth, crucial. Agricultural land reform in South Africa presents such an avenue, with vast tracts of unproductive land and both established and aspiring farmers with willing talent and an equivalent amount of goodwill, which if combined, can tackle the growing food security dilemma and enlarging gulf between the rich and the poor in our country.

The common thread between Harry Gwala Agri's projects is that the impetus to be involved in agriculture, be it on a subsistence or commercial scale, has come from the aspiring farmer themselves and the involvement of the established partnering farmers has been a process of channelling this enthusiasm and energy and providing the skills, guidance and financial support where necessary and where possible to bring about success.

ORGANISATION BACKGROUND AND MISSION

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 company was established by commercial farmers and is made possible through their involvement in projects and monthly financial contributions. The four farmer's associations involved are Highflats-Ixopo, Ingwe, Zwartberg and Mount Currie.

The initiative was founded on the belief that commercial farmers 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 that many commercial farmers 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 already laid.

MISSION STATEMENT

"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 can't help everybody, but believe that everybody can help somebody. In practical terms, this means that Harry Gwala Agri unlocks the resources held by commercial farmers and other stakeholders (knowledge, networks, skills and funding) and channels these towards selected educational and agricultural projects. By customizing our support to the unique demands of each project, we aim to make a difference."



GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Harry Gwala Agri was launched as a non-profit company on the 8th of March 2017 and is registered as a non-profit organisation with the Department of Social Development. It is in the process of applying for Public-Benefit Organisation and 18A status with SARS. We wish to thank Colinbrander Inc for leading this process for HGA.

The board of directors is made up of ten members, all of whom share a belief in the organisation's mandate and guiding principles and offer their skills and expertise without remuneration. The management includes a full-time project manager and part-time secretary.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIRPERSON

MR RORY BRYDEN

Dip.Agric.

Mr Rory Bryden has been a commercial dairy farmer in Kokstad for 20 years, is the current chairperson of Harry Gwala Agri and the former chairperson of Mount Currie Farmers Association. 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 in our land.

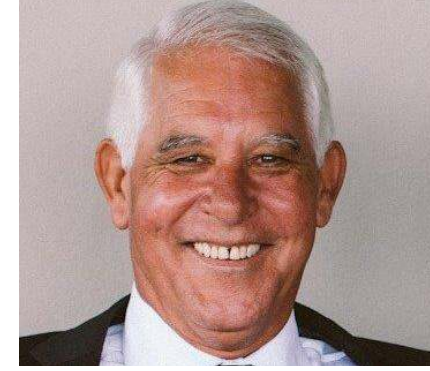


VICE-CHAIRPERSON

MR ROBERT STAPYLTON-SMITH

B.AgricAdmin.

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



MR 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. He is the Chairman of the Social Cluster Audit and Risk Committee – KZN Provincial Government and a Member of the Economic Cluster Audit and Risk Committee – KZN Provincial Government. 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.



MR JOHN BREDIN

Dip.Agric.

Mr John Bredin is a commercial dairy farmer from Ixopo, the chairman of the Clover Producer Trust and the former chairman of Clover Industries Ltd. HGA is a culmination of long and hard negotiations initiated by him to flesh out the organisation's mission statement. 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 is convinced that agriculture can contribute very significantly in this regard, and particularly in the rural areas.



MR ROY DANDALA

Dip.Agric.

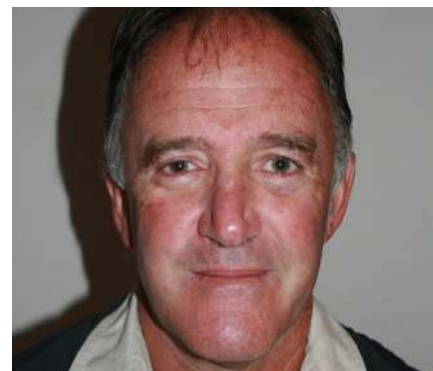
Mr Roy Dandala brings with him a wealth of experience in the sphere of agricultural development having worked for many years for both the Institute of Natural Resources and LIMA Rural Development Foundation by whom he is now seconded to Kwanalu as manager of their development programme. We recognised the need to have a representative on the board with a comprehensive knowledge of the needs and challenges that beset aspiring farmers in the district and are grateful that Mr Dandala agreed to join our team to offer his guidance and experience in this respect.



MR 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.



MR PETER BUTTON

Dip.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.



MRS LEIGH-ANNE HAUFF

M.Psych.

Mrs Leigh-Anne Hauff is a registered Counselling Psychologist with the Health Professions Council (PR NO 8639825) 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.



MR PHILA MKHIZE

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.



MR MANIE ROODE

LLB

An Admitted Attorney to the High Court and former Secretary of the Clover Group, Mr Manie Roode shares the belief in the organisations mandate. He offers invaluable guidance with regards to our organisations sound governance.

MANAGEMENT TEAM



PROJECT MANAGER

MR DYLAN WEYER

MSc.EnvSci.

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 deep passion for rural communities which has helped him to facilitate key partnerships between commercial and developing farmers.



SECRETARY

MRS SARAH FIRTH

LLB

Mrs Sarah Firth has worked in the farming community both privately and for the Zwartberg Farmer's Association for a number of years, and is married to a commercial farmer. Mrs Firth works for HGA for five days per month where she manages administrative tasks related to the operations of the organisation.



Photo above

Ms Lindelwa Mafu, acquiring tractor maintenance skills on the Reynolds' farm near Ixopo. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

OUR 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 farm management students**
2. **Agricultural mentorship projects**

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

STUDENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Harry Gwala Agri recognises that through offering support to agricultural-related education programmes and institutions, agricultural development in the district can in turn be strengthened. The Esayidi TVET College in Umzimkhulu offers, among other courses, a National Diploma in Farm Management which involves 18 months of theory after which candidates who successfully pass their examinations obtain an N6 qualification and are then required to complete 18 months of in-service training in order to obtain their diplomas. When HGA began engaging with the college in mid-2017, there was no system in place for the provision of in-service training to students, nor any funding available to support them whilst undergoing their training. This campus alone enrolls upwards of 100 students for this course every semester and so there is a desperate need for assistance.

After exploring several avenues for funding, a significant milestone was reached when Pannar Seed came on board, agreeing to fund the monthly stipend for 20 students for the duration of their 18 months of training. Following this, in February 2018, prospective students were interviewed and selected for in-service training opportunities. Although these were the students with the best academic results, of greater importance for us was to identify those with a passion and desire for a career in agriculture. With the successful candidates chosen, commercial farmers willing to accommodate and mentor students for a minimum period of six months were then identified. Because the Harry Gwala District is quite diverse in terms of the range of farming operations that exist, our intention to place students on farms in line with their area of interest has been successful with students obtaining experience on dairy, citrus, vegetable and poultry farming operations.



Photo left

Ms Sizeni Mandebese working with the calves during her in-service training at Mr Bruce Allwood's farm near Ixopo. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

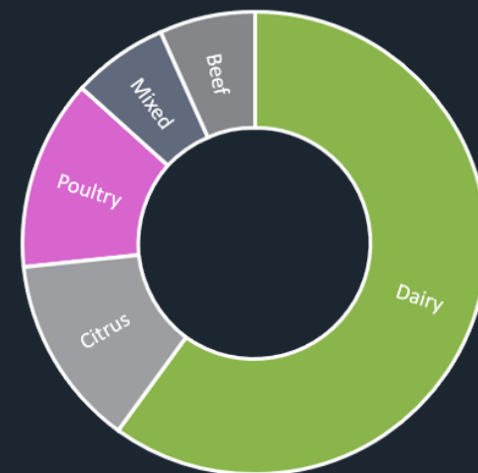
THE STUDENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

20 students placed on farms



65% female

15 commercial farmers involved



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation involves a meeting on the commercial farm between HGA, the host farmer and the student every three months. It is beneficial for a number of reasons. Firstly, it improves the likelihood that the student will get the most out of the experience they are gaining. Secondly, it is of tremendous assistance to the Esayidi College in terms of assisting with their ultimate evaluation of the student. Thirdly, it provides both the funders and the host farmers with a paper trail of their investment in the student/s. The design and implementation of this system was guided by Mr Hank Pike who volunteered his services and his wealth of experience.

EXTRA LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

To enrich the experience of students in the programme, HGA seeks to provide space for extra learning opportunities. The first intake of students enjoyed getting involved at a livestock auction where they were given an explanation on cattle judging prior to the start of the sale, after which they observed the auction in progress. At the same event they were given talks by CEO and founder of the Future Farmers Foundation, Mrs Judy Stuart and her colleague Mr Mzwandile Duma.

On another occasion, students visited Scientific Roets near Kokstad which is, among other things, a business incubator for young entrepreneurs in the agri-business sector. The aim of these field trips is to inspire and make students aware of the opportunities that exist for careers in the agricultural sector.

POST-PROGRAMME SUPPORT

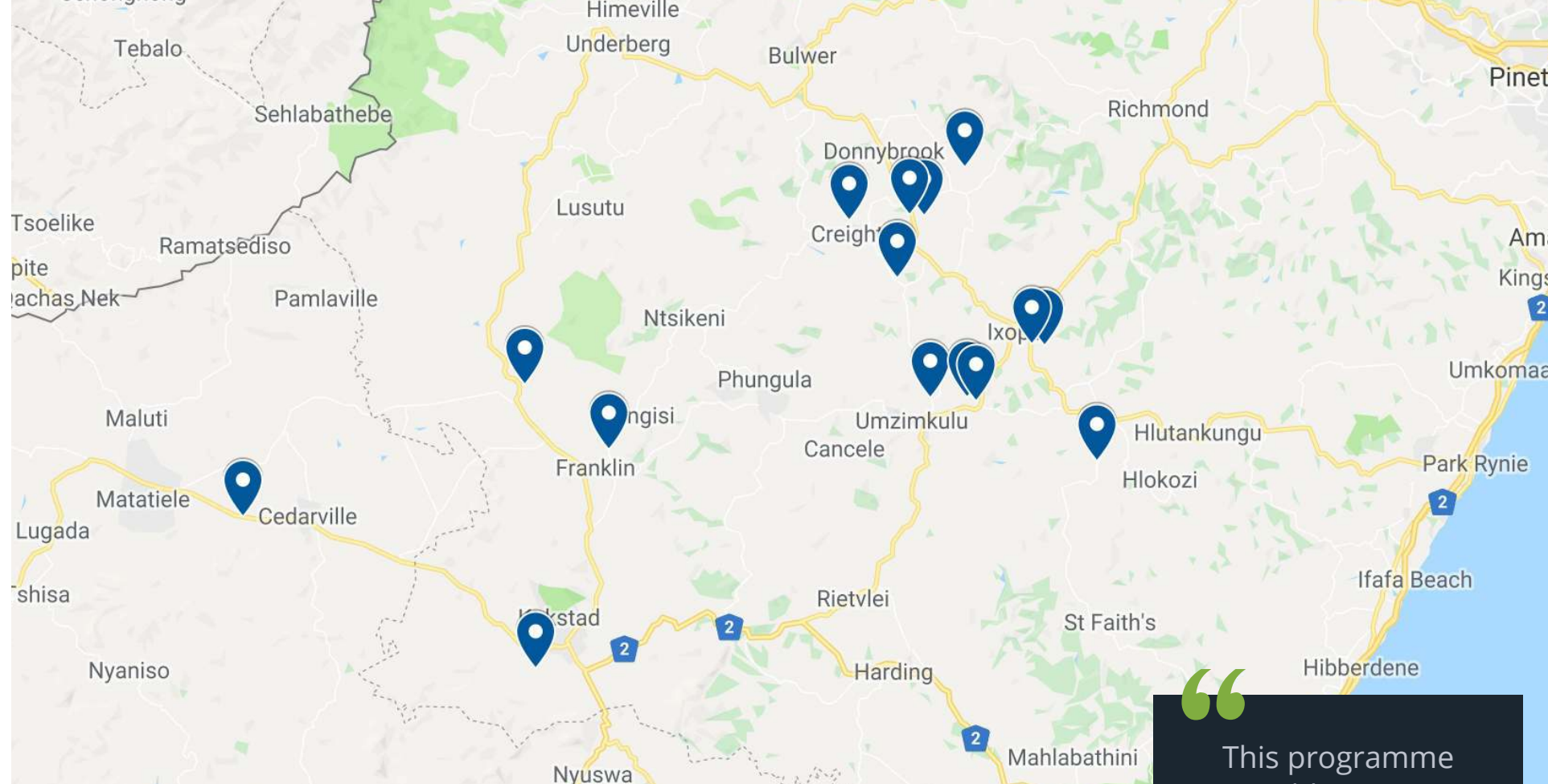
With most of the current students having almost completed our programme, we are assisting wherever possible with the process of submitting their diploma applications. Furthermore, we have explored multiple avenues for potential work or further internship opportunities and grateful for the support we have had from the Future Farmers Foundation and Sutherland Seedlings to date. Some students have been offered the opportunity to stay on the farms on which they have been training while others are determined to take their acquired skills and knowledge back to their respective communities to start agricultural projects there.



>100 students enrol every 6 months for this course at this campus alone

2018/2019 STUDENT PLACEMENTS

The table below provides the details of the students who have participated in the in-service training programme during the first round of placements. The majority of students were female and from Kwa-Zulu Natal (65 % and 60 % respectively). The average age of the students was 27 years.



STUDENT DETAILS

STUDENT NAME	GENDER	AGE	HOME TOWN	PROVINCE
Anelisa Notshwili	F	27	Holy Cross	EC
Asanda Jele	M	26	Flagstaff	EC
Dazana Banele	F	23	Matatiele	EC
Khutala Makhubalo	F	30	Lusikisiki	EC
Lindelwa Mafu	F	30	Port Shepstone	KZN
Walter Khumalo	M	26	Port Shepstone	KZN
Njabulo Makhatini	M	27	Richmond	KZN
Sabile Monakali	F	27	Mount Frere	EC
Sihle Zungu	M	30	Harding	KZN
Siphelele Shusha	M	25	Margate	KZN
Sizeni Mandebese	F	25	Harding	KZN
Sonwabile Mpandle	M	26	Bizana	EC
Thayi Thabisile	F	27	Harding	KZN
Thobekile Mhlongo	F	27	KwaMashu	KZN
Tumeka Sapo	F	27	Lusikisiki	EC
Tunkie Nobuntu	F	25	Qumbu	EC
Wendy Ngungama	F	31	Port Shepstone	KZN
Xolani Nyawose	M	24	Port Shepstone	KZN
Xolisile Mayela	F	25	Harding	KZN
Yandisa Khenya	F	27	Kokstad	KZN

HOST FARMERS INVOLVED

HOST FARMER	FARM OPERATION	FARM LOCATION (NEAREST TOWN)
Leith Turner	Dairy	Franklin
Rob Stapylton-Smith	Dairy	Donnybrook
Rory Bryden	Dairy	Kokstad
Paul Reynolds	Dairy	Umzimkhulu
Buzz Hauff	Dairy	Donnybrook
Ian Allwood	Vegetables/Beef/Citrus	Ixopo
Guy Williamson	Dairy	Swartberg
Rikus Botha	Dairy	Cederville
Bruce Allwood	Dairy	Ixopo
Peter Button	Citrus/Beef	Umzimkhulu
Cathy Greer	Poultry	Creighton
Craig Archibald	Citrus	Umzimkhulu
Neil Cole	Poultry	Highflats
Hayden Stokes	Dairy	Creighton
Nue Pitout	Beef	Donnybrook

“This programme would not exist without the support of the commercial farmers in our district and we wish to acknowledge the farmers listed in this table for the time and effort they, their families and staff have put into our students.”

THE STORY OF WALTER KHUMALO



At the time of being interviewed for our in-service training programme, most students had already struggled for a year or two, going from farm to farm, to try and find an opportunity to obtain the training they required. In lieu of this opportunity, some took the initiative to volunteer or attend courses to further themselves.

These are the students who have stood out in our programme and Walter Khumalo is a fine example. Walter is from a rural community near Port Shepstone and developed a passion for agriculture from a young age when he would tend to his family's cattle under the guidance and instruction of his grandfather. After completing school he obtained a National Certificate in Primary Agriculture but then

unfortunately missed an opportunity to continue with his National Diploma in Farm Management as the course was fully subscribed. This however did not deter him as he quickly identified an opportunity to obtain work experience on a dairy farm in the Paddock area whilst simultaneously completing a course in advanced computer literacy.

A year later he enrolled to begin his diploma and after completing his N6 theory qualification, began his in-service training on a banana and macadamia nut farm near Ramsgate. Although this was good

experience and ultimately contributing towards his diploma, he yearned for exposure on a dairy operation. The HGA in-service training programme ended up providing this opportunity for him and he was placed on one of the largest dairy operations in the district, owned by the Hauff family near Donnybrook. Walter quickly slotted into a respected role here and within six months was being given opportunity to manage a dairy on his own. He has now obtained his diploma and is currently working on a dairy farm in California, USA, an opportunity afforded to him through the Future Farmers Foundation.

WAY FORWARD FOR THE STUDENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The selection process for the next group of students has begun and involves the screening of 100 CVs from which 50 students will be interviewed and will be required to complete a maths literacy test. Thereafter 20 students will be placed on commercial farms before the end of the year.

We are adopting a few changes for the next round of placements, one of which involves a six month rotation of students between farms as opposed to them being on one farm for 18 months. We tested this during the first round of placements and found that it offers many benefits.

- 1** It exposes students to different farming operations which allows for greater skills transfer and helps the student to have a better idea of what they enjoy and where their strengths lie. Even if a student moves between three different dairy operations, each farm functions differently in its methods and management style.
- 2** If for whatever reason a student is required to leave the programme it makes substitutions easier.
- 3** It allows commercial farmers who are only able to host a student for 6 months the opportunity to be involved.

We are also re-working our monitoring and evaluation system towards a more skills-based evaluation which will ensure that students are exposed to or acquire the skills relevant to each different farming operation and in line with what would be expected of a prospective manager seeking employment there.

THE IMINATHI TRAINING CENTRE

The Reynolds family from Olivar Farm between Ixopo and Umzimkhulu are on a mission to improve the lives of those around them through education and skills transfer. In June 2016, after undertaking the required training, Sarah Reynolds began teaching English to their staff and their families through the Gateway into Reading programme. Sixteen adults have taken part in the training to date with some having already completed the course and now enjoying a library of donated books on the farm. Last year the Reynolds began the process of converting their old dairy buildings into a training facility and in December ran their first training course through Singakwenza. This drew in 22 teachers and parents from the surrounding areas to learn how to convert unwanted waste into educational toys to improve pre-school children's motor skill development.



The centre also provides a base from which to offer adult skills development with emphasis on agricultural-related training which is outsourced to various reputable service providers. Local students are benefitting too and recently 20 primary agriculture students from the Esayidi TVET College gained some on-farm experience as part of their curriculum. HGA is going to be working alongside the Reynolds to formalise a system whereby this opportunity can be extended to other agricultural-related educational institutions around southern Kwa-Zulu Natal. As the National Certificate in Primary Agriculture is a prerequisite for enrolment in the National Diploma of Farm Management qualification, this will be of great benefit to our in-service training programme as it will allow us to identify those with a real enthusiasm for agriculture and earmark them for future involvement in our programme.



**Standard
Bank**



In April this year, the Reynolds went on to construct a pre-school for local children. With the help of our partner Standard Bank, HGA was able to support this project through a financial contribution of R9200.



AGRICULTURAL MENTORSHIP PROJECTS

A broad spectrum of projects exists under the HGA umbrella from subsistence to commercial in scale. HGA acknowledges that there are needs to be met across disparate scales but that where success is achieved through supporting projects, however small, that this will promote further success. In all cases, mentorship relationships are an important conduit for the transfer of skills between established and aspiring farmers and are crucial for ensuring that the purpose of any investment in a project, be it time or financial, is fully realised. This is encapsulated in the project principles which HGA endeavours to employ.

HARRY GWALA AGRI'S PROJECT PRINCIPLES

- 1 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.
- 2 Financial investment in a project is designed to offer a 'leg up' but should not raise expectations of on-going support of this nature in order to avoid engendering a 'handout' mentality.
- 3 The objective is skills development through mentorship partnerships with the ultimate goal being the self-sufficiency of the aspiring farmer or community involved.
- 4 Project progress is monitored and evaluated through structured report writing and feedback meetings between the facilitator (HGA), the mentor and the aspiring farmer.
- 5 The mentee is required to display a measure of accountability and transparency with regards to the financial management of their enterprise and must be prepared to register their business with SARS if they have not done so already.

Photo previous spread

Ms Tumeka Sapo at the Carisbrooke Citrus Packhouse, where she was mentored by Mr Craig Archibald. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

Photo left

Mr Ducky Ngcobo on Summerhill Farm, near Donnybrook. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.



AGRICULTURAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS



25 projects engaged with



16 mentorship relationships formed



13 projects that benefitted from our private partnerships/collaboration

Photo left

Mr Douglas Strachan chatting to participants in his household food security project in Umzimkhulu. Photo taken by Mrs Sarah Firth.

HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

Highflats

Mr Strachan was approached by a staff member in September 2009, requesting assistance with her home garden plot in the Mazabakweni community near the Strachan's farm in Highflats. Mr Strachan agreed to this request provided agro-ecological cultivation methods were used as opposed to tillage with a tractor which is typically the approach adopted by those in rural communities who can afford to hire a tractor. Mr Strachan provided goat-proof fencing, manure, tools and seed to the household and a demonstration was performed for all interested community members. Mr Strachan was interested to see if the adoption of this approach could boost the household's food security in terms of access to a secure, adequate and more diverse diet. This developed into a pilot project which ultimately formed the basis from which to expand the study to one adequate for a Masters thesis, involving eight, mainly female-headed households.

The cultivation practices taught are appropriate for those with small gardens (± 0.25 Ha in size) as the labour demands can typically be met by the household members themselves. A process of farmer-to-farmer extension has developed over time involving labour assistance, shared decision-making and knowledge sharing and support. This project and its principles have been rolled out to roughly 50 households in Mazabekweni alone and has begun to spread to neighbouring villages as news of their success has disseminated. The community share the benefits of the hammermill which locals can use at a fee to convert their home-grown maize to mealie meal. The funds generated from this go into a stokvel and are then used to subsidise inputs required by the local farmers. The sound governance of profits yielded has resulted in the institutions autonomy and the ability to deal promptly with setbacks.

Mr Strachan is now using the same approach to help the Madakeni community residing on the farm he grew up on in the Umzimkhulu area, which was incorporated into the Transkei in the 1980s. There are now 80 households involved in the project there. Mr Strachan continues to offer support to both communities through the bulk purchase and distribution of seed and fertilizer. These inputs are re-packaged into quantities suitable for households tending home gardens and at a cost that is affordable for them.

As the success of this model is to some extent, hinged on the availability of labour in each household, it comes as a concern that the level of interest the youth are showing in agriculture is waning. This introduces a major challenge for the elderly involved in the project as they are not adequately able to deal with basic maintenance of their gardens such as weed control. Mr Strachan believes one way of tackling this issue is to train the project participants in the application of herbicide, something he is soon going to incorporate.



CATTLE HANDLING FACILITY

Franklin

Some time ago Mr Richard Mingay, a dairy farmer from Franklin, suggested that their community would benefit greatly from a cattle race so that the livestock owned by residents in Franklin village could be inoculated to prevent the spread of disease. This, he said was particularly important as there have been threats of Bovine brucellosis (contagious abortion) outbreaks in this area in the recent past. This devastating and highly contagious bacterial disease is primarily present in animals but can also be transmitted to humans.

HGA has, through the Standard Bank grant funding, supplied a neck-clamp for the crush (to the value of R11252) and Mr Mingay has begun purchasing the materials required for construction. As the area for the crush is located on municipal land, we have engaged the Greater Kokstad Municipality to identify the most suitable site.

Introducing this model elsewhere in the district: the Vogelvlei Community, Franklin

Mrs Caroline Long has been assisting the members of the community residing on her family farm Vogelvlei near Franklin for some time and primarily through helping with the cultivation of their home gardens. There are 30 households in this community, all of whom are very eager to cultivate home gardens and be able to provide food for their families. Many have already achieved some degree of success with the support of Long and the resources she has had at her disposal. She and three representatives from the Vogelvlei community accompanied HGA on a field trip to Mr Strachan's project in Umzimkhulu and were introduced to the cultivation techniques being employed there. These techniques have since been put to effect at Vogelvlei and the rewards are being reaped.

Through the grant funding obtained from Standard Bank, we have been able to contribute towards the provision of fencing material (to the value of R6212) so that Vogelvlei residents can overcome the challenge of keeping livestock out of their gardens.



MR DUCKY NGCOBO AND MR ROB STAPYLTON-SMITH

Eastwolds



Mr Ducky Ngcobo alongside neighbour and mentor, Mr Rob Stapylton-Smith. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

Mr Ngcobo was born in 1954 on a beef and dairy farm next door to Mr 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. Whilst Mr Bredin and Mr Stapylton-Smith were moving forward with plans to initiate Harry Gwala Agri, Mr Bredin succeeded in inviting the then MEC for Agriculture in KZN, Mr Cyril Xaba, to visit Mr Ngcobo's farm.

Mr Xaba was impressed by what he saw and it was suggested that a business plan be put together for infrastructural upgrades to the farm, which Mr Stapylton-Smith did in consultation with Mr Ngcobo. The plans were approved and financed by the Agribusiness Development Agency and in 2018 upgrades to the farm took place and included water reticulation, the fencing of camps for rotational grazing and the building of roads. These changes, along with continual improvement in the management of the farm, have resulted in Mr Ngcobo doubling the milk production he obtains from his herd 150 of cows.

Mr Ngcobo has accomplished much despite having only completing grade six at school. What he lacks in formal education he makes up for in his positive, entrepreneurial approach to his business. Further expansion is now taking place with the ADA financing the building of a new dairy and Mr Ngcobo has employed a full-time manager who supervises nine other staff members. Mr Stapylton-Smith's secretary, Mrs Venter, has been working tirelessly to assist Mr Ngcobo with the governance side of his business by registering his staff with UIF, Workman's Compensation and PAYE. In a move to promote accountability and transparency Mr Ngcobo has also authorised Mrs Venter to transact on his banking account allowing her to administer comprehensive book-keeping and compliance with SARS.



Pannar contributed 30 bags of white maize seed to this project.





Photos

Mr Gehla Mngoma working alongside his family at Ponderosa near Ixopo. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

MR GEHLA MNGOMA, MR BEESIE STONE AND MR CRAIG MACFARLANE

IXOPO

Mr Beesie Stone's farm, Ponderosa, was bought by government in 2008 in the land reform process. A community consisting of 18 families now resides on the land and it is governed by a trust comprising seven members including a ward councillor. The Stone family previously ran a dairy, grew cash crops and produced in the order of 120 tonnes of maize per year on the 600 Ha property. Mr Beesie Stone, along with his former business partner and neighbour, Mr Craig MacFarlane, have mentored one of the occupants of the land, Mr Gehla Mngoma, since leaving the farm.

Mr Mngoma is an enthusiastic farmer who desires to make use of the land on which he is living and is currently cultivating 3 Ha of tomatoes, cabbages, beans and potatoes on a rotational basis and under irrigation. Mr Mngoma receives assistance from his wife and three children when they are not attending school and then hires 15 people per day from the local community between the months of February and June.

Besides the ongoing support received from his mentors Mr Beesie Stone and Mr Craig Macfarlane and neighbour, Mr Bruce Mitchell, Mr Mngoma has received the following assistance arranged through HGA:

- In February 2018, 500kg of gypsum were donated by Geysers Fertilizer and Lime
- In July 2018, Mascor provided a John Deere demo tractor on loan for 6 months
- In January 2019, Mascor loaned another John Deere demo tractor for a further 6 months/250 hours.

Mr Mngoma is also benefitting from the assistance of Mrs Avril Shewan who has offered her personal time to assist upcoming

farmers with book-keeping for their businesses. As mentioned previously, HGA is on a drive to promote and ensure transparency and accountability among its project participants and having the assistance of skilled individuals such as Mrs Shewan, makes this achievable. Mrs Shewan has begun putting together a set of financials for Mr Mngoma as the first step towards getting his business registered with SARS.





Photo top left

Mr Mazibuko Mdeleli (Mphithini Co-op) and Graeme Horne (Omnia) with soil collected for analysis. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

Photos right

HGA project manager, Mr Dylan Weyer engaged in discussion with the Mphithini Co-op. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

MPHITHINI CO-OPERATIVE

DONNYBROOK

The co-operative consisting of 18 members is officially registered with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (as of March 2018) and has been given 'Permission to Occupy' 20 Ha from the local tribal authority (Ngonyama Trust) on which they are wanting to cultivate maize, dry beans and cabbages. The co-operatives' three biggest resources are: (1) access to land; (2) access to man power; and (3) access to a market in the expanse of rural communities within which the project is located and the towns of Bulwer (26km away) and Donnybrook (12km away).



As there are often political and social complexities that come with establishing projects on tribal land, HGA has sought to mitigate this risk by involving other potential stakeholders in the project. GrainSA have been approached and are open to partner us in this project and HGA will facilitate this by covering 60 % of the co-operatives membership fee into their small-grower maize development programme. The fee is R3500/Ha and we, in consultation with the co-operative, have agreed to start with 10 Ha. HGA will supply the fencing required for this and have approached GWK to insure the maize crop and the Department of Agriculture for assistance with the mechanisation for land preparation and planting. Omnia have kindly already carried out the soil sampling and analysis for us.

Involvement in the GrainSA development programme includes a mentor, subsidized inputs and a market for the maize crop. Should a partnership with GrainSA not materialise, HGA will still offer support to the co-operative but on a reduced scale.

MR CYRIL HLENGWA AND MR ANDREW POOLER

HLUTANKUNGU

In June 2017, HGA were approached by Mr Hlengwa whilst attending the Ward 8 Business Forum function in Hlutankungu near Highflats. Mr Hlengwa was looking for assistance with an irrigation scheme to boost his cash crop production. He already had an electric pump and access to perennial water supply but needed an assessment done to see what would be the best option for an irrigation system.

HGA approached Irrigation and Drainage Services in Pietermaritzburg who did an assessment and designed a simple but effective sprinkler scheme for 1.6Ha. HGA then approached Farmers Agri-Care and Sutherland Seedlings to request a contribution towards the irrigation scheme, all of whom responded positively and made a financial contribution towards the scheme with Mr Hlengwa covering the balance of the cost.

After exploring various avenues for financial support without success, Mr Hlengwa submitted a business proposal to Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality requesting assistance in the form of fencing material and drag lines for the irrigation scheme, to the value of R20 000. In the meantime, a number of HGA directors made a contribution towards the irrigation scheme in order to prevent the project from stalling. The project now required a mentor and so HGA then approached Mr Pooler of the Highflats-Ixopo Farmers Association who agreed to fulfil this role and has been doing so since October 2017.

Mr Hlengwa is cultivating about one hectare and has over the course of the last 18 months tried his hand at cabbages, beans, potatoes and green mielies. He has however encountered his share of challenges, losing 60 % of his maize crop to monkeys and constantly battling invasion by bushpig. The smaller, more sinister pests such as Diamond-backed Moths and Armyworms have also meant significant lessons have been learnt in effective pesticide application.

Besides the on-going support and mentorship of Mr Pooler, Mr Hlengwa has received the following assistance arranged through HGA:

1. In October 2017, an irrigation scheme valued at R17 629 and funded by Farmers Agri-Care, Sutherland Seedlings and several HGA directors.
2. In March 2018, Omnia supplied 1,35 tonnes of lime and 350kg of fertilizer.



LINKING IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

As the Hlutankungu area is home to many aspiring commercial farmers, our plan going forward is to identify young agricultural graduates (prioritising those who have come through our in-service training programme) with an appetite for massive learning opportunities, to be placed on these farms to further their experience and allow them opportunity to grow. This will be of great benefit to the employer too as one of the challenges developing farmers face is a shortage of skilled labour and, for example, being unable to leave to attend to off-farm matters as they do not have anyone they can entrust the management of the farm too. This will also free up the aspiring farmers for attendance at agricultural courses which HGA is wanting to facilitate.



ONE HOME ONE GARDEN PROJECT

We were first introduced to the members of the One Home One Garden Project in Hlutankungu in 2017 and were immediately impressed by the level of cohesion in their community and particularly their drive and passion for agriculture. The project involves 17 households who have come together and registered themselves as a co-operative. Each household however cultivates independently but benefits from the knowledge sharing and support that comes from their collaboration. Their biggest limitation is the need for adequate fencing for their garden plots and so HGA has conducted an assessment to establish what is required.

Vegetable production is not this group of farmers only pursuit and a number are involved in poultry production. On account thereof, HGA organised for Mr Lindani Nkwanyana, the Meadow Feeds poultry technical advisor, to give a presentation to the group on this topic, which they found very useful. More recently, Sutherland Seedlings kindly made a donation of 10 000 cabbage seedlings to this project.

FARMER SUPPORT

Besides the assistance being given to students and aspiring farmers in the way of skills development and mentorship, HGA offers a support service to aspiring farmers by responding to their queries, such as wanting to know who to speak to for various agricultural services.

HGA also worked alongside LIMA and the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality to organise a farmers day in April in Ixopo for aspiring farmers from the local municipality. We are grateful to our sponsors, Meadow and P.Trimborn Agency for taking the time to engage with the farmers and the presentations you made on the day, and to Sutherland Seedlings, Farmers Agri-care, SAPPI, Afgri and Omnia for your involvement. Also in attendance were various government department representatives and the Mayor of Greater Kokstad Municipality, Mr Bheki Mtolo and the Mayor of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, Mr Zamo Nxumalo.

BETHEL FARM AND MR BRUCE HUMPHRIES

Mrs Gugu Dlamini and her family have purchased a farm in the Inhlamvini area between Highflats and Richmond. They have planted 5 Ha of vegetables and would like to increase this to 30 Ha over the course of the next year and a half. They are also in the process of researching the feasibility of high-value crops such as macadamia nuts. We approached Mr Bruce Humphries, a commercial farmer from the area, to see if he would be willing to mentor this project which he has agreed to. Mr Humphries family are beef and timber farmers but the bulk of his time is occupied serving as a consultant for Farmers Agri-care.



ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTORS

PUBLIC SECTOR

Although HGA's stance is to try and avoid reliance on the public sector to support this initiative, we acknowledge that their backing is crucial in order to streamline efforts to facilitate effective land reform and farmer development in our country. There is significant overlap in terms of the goals we are trying to achieve and so where it is possible and practical we should work together to achieve these.

With this in mind, HGA has sought to take every opportunity that presents itself to inform the public sector about what we are trying to achieve, so as to open the door for the aforementioned to take place. Over the course of the last year the following presentations have been made to various government departments.



HGA project manager, Mr Dylan Weyer addresses the audience during the Ubuhlebezwe Farmer's Day held in Ixopo. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.

1. * Presentation to the Deputy President, Mr David Mabuza at the Union Buildings, Pretoria
2. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma LED Forum
3. Harry Gwala Development Agency RASET Meeting
4. Presentation to the MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and now Premier of KZN, Mr Sihle Zikalala
5. Collaboration Platform for Economic Development in KZN – organised by the Moses Kotane Institute at the ICC, Durban
6. Ubuhlebezwe LED Forum

* The presentation to the Deputy President which took place in January 2019, perhaps deserves special mention. Project manager, Mr Dylan Weyer, accompanied a group of commercial farmers from southern KZN to the Union Buildings and was one of four presenters on the day and had the opportunity to share what commercial farmers in the Harry Gwala District Municipality are doing to uplift aspiring farmers. The visiting group's objective was to be assigned a person in the top tiers of government who can help lower the barriers that commercial farmers encounter when wanting to establish projects with aspiring farmers. We sought also to reinforce the message that Kwanalu and AgriSA have resolutely brought, of a region of commercial farmers who are willing and able to make land reform work in South Africa for the benefit of all. The presentations were very well received and subsequent meetings were called for by the office of the Deputy President and held in the Midlands thereafter. We trust that a meaningful relationship will soon be established with the relevant individuals within government who have the decision-making power to facilitate agricultural transformation in our country.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Critical to this organisations success are the relationships that have been and will be forged between aspiring farmers (both existing and prospective), commercial farmers with the willingness to impart their expertise, and collaborative relationships with the private sector who understand the vital role innovative solutions to agricultural land reform can play in this country. We have had tremendous support from the private sector and wish to acknowledge the following companies (listed in no particular order on the next page) for the various contributions they have made.

COMPANY NAME	CONTRIBUTION TO HARRY GWALA AGRI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan of a Toyota Hilux Double Cab since October 2017 Loan of two John Deere demo tractors to Mr Gehla Mngoma between August 2018 and May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, R467 500 towards student stipends and maize seed to the value of R232 500 In 2019, commitment towards funding the stipends for the next phase of student placements and the provision of seed to projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monthly contribution towards the running cost of our initiative since April 2018 (R3/ton of feed sold in the district)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monthly contribution of R5000 towards the running cost of our initiative since June 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monthly contribution towards the running cost of our initiative since August 2018 (R5/ton of seed sold in part of the district) Poultry specialist, Mr Lindani Nkwanyana gave presentation to Hlutankungu farmers in July 2018 Involvement in the Ubuhlebezwe Farmer's Day in April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2019, R250 000 towards the running cost of the in-service training programme R160 000 grant funding allocated towards agricultural mentorship projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2019, R80 000 donation of undesignated funds Involvement in the Ubuhlebezwe Farmer's Day in April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R4000 contribution towards the cost of Mr Cyril Hlengwa's irrigation scheme in December 2017 Involvement in the Ubuhlebezwe Farmer's Day in April 2019 Donation of 20 000 cabbage seedlings to our projects in August 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R4000 contribution towards the cost of Mr Cyril Hlengwa's irrigation scheme in December 2017 Involvement in the Ubuhlebezwe Farmer's Day in April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation of 1.35 tonnes of lime and 350kg of fertilizer to Mr Cyril Hlengwa in March 2018 Soil sampling and analysis for Mphithini Co-op in June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500kg of gypsum donated to Mr Gehla Mngoma

THANK YOU TO THE FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS

The commercial farmers in this district and the associations they represent are the backbone of this initiative. The organisation was established by the commercial farmers and exists through their involvement in hosting students in the in-service training programme, through their roles as mentors in the agricultural projects and through the monthly contributions that the individual members of the different associations make.

We would like to acknowledge the following associations for their support:

1. * Highflats-Ixopo Farmers Association
2. Ingwe Farmers Association
3. Zwartberg Farmers Association
4. Mount Currie Farmers Association

* Special mention must be made of the Highflats-Ixopo Farmers Association which, besides the above-mentioned involvement, have made additional donations of R10 000 towards the initiative on five separate occasions since our organisation's launch.



HGA has also engaged with a number of non-governmental organisations that share a similar mission. These include: Kwanalu, Future Farmers Foundation, Umati, Umgano, LIMA, Institute for Natural Resources, Woza Moya, and Scientific Roets.





PUBLICISING THE INITIATIVE

The work that HGA is doing provides examples of the sharing of knowledge and experiences across the bounds of colour and creed and is testament to the potential that can be realised through the joining of hands and the turning of soil in the Harry Gwala District. We feel this is a message that needs to be spread particularly given the current uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the land debate in our country and the desperate situation we find our economy in. Our nation needs positive stories and to that end HGA has pursued opportunities to publicise the work it is doing and the people and companies that make it possible.

- Regular presentations are given to both the public and private sectors and to the farmers associations involved.
- We have a website and are active on social media.
- Quarterly newsletters are distributed to the farmers associations involved and to all partners, contributors and other interested parties. Recently Kwanalu have been kind enough to offer to distribute this newsletter via their Whatsapp newsfeed.

After being interviewed by Cindy Kidger from Urban House Media in October 2018, tremendous publicity was generated and included articles in the adjacent newspapers and online news platforms.

1. *Poultry Focus Africa – 1 November 2018 (Lending a helping hand to support fellow farmers)*
2. *Agri Orbit.com – 8 November 2018 (Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
3. *The Witness – 9 November 2018 (Farmers taking action and sharing skills)*
4. *Nix Matters – 9 November 2018 (Harry Gwala Agri: Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
5. *Biznews.com – 14 November 2018 (Forget EWC, here's how land reform in SA can work)*
6. *SA Good News Newsletter – 14 November 2018 (What is Harry Gwala Agri – just another example of 1000's of Land Reform projects that BFLF chooses to vilify?)*
7. *SA Good News.co.za – 14 November 2018 (Harry Gwala Agri: Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
8. *Investing Matters.co.za – 15 November 2018 (Forget EWC, here's how land reform in SA can work)*
9. *Maritzburg Sun – 16 November 2018 (Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
10. *La Gazzetta Del Sud Africa.net – 21 November 2018 (Harry Gwala Agri: Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
11. *Kokstad Advertiser – 22 November 2018 (Harry Gwala Agri: Facilitating transformation in agriculture)*
12. *The Witness – 19 December 2018 (Changes in agriculture)*

HGA was also subsequently interviewed on RSG on the 6th of December 2018 and Mrs Sandy Le Marque of Kwanalu was interviewed by Groot FM in our stead. We are exceptionally grateful to Mrs Cindy Kidger and Mrs Sandy Le Marque for creating the opportunity for us to get our message out.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR VOLUNTEERS

MR HANK PIKE

Mr Hank Pike – Retired as Headmaster of the Durban Preparatory High School at the end of 2016 after forty years' service to education in the province and so brings a wealth of experience. We are exceptionally grateful to Mr Pike for volunteering his assistance and guiding the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system that forms an integral part of our in-service training programme. Over and above his involvement in the monitoring and evaluation process, he regularly attends our board meetings and acts as a sounding board for important decision-making regarding the programme.

MRS BRONWYN ANDERSON

Mrs Bronwyn Anderson - Physiotherapist, mother of two children and wife to a dairy farmer in the Donnybrook area, has volunteered her time to manage our Facebook page and has steadily generated a significant following. Importantly, the page is of particular appeal to the younger generation - our future farmers in South Africa.

MRS LIANNE ASHTON

Mrs Lianne Ashton – A seriously talented photographer from Ixopo who has offered her skills to provide HGA with images of our students and farmers in action. Mrs Ashton's work focuses on agricultural and farm documentaries, the hospitality industry and African social documentary photography. It is a real privilege to have her volunteer her services to assist us. Most of the photographs used in this report are from her HGA portfolio. To see some of her amazing work you can follow these links for her Facebook page "lianneashtonphotography" and website: (lianneashton.com).

MRS AVRIL SHEWAN

Mrs Avril Shewan – is from Ixopo, a mother of two children and book-keeper with over seven years of experience. Mrs Shewan has volunteered to offer her personal time to provide aspiring farmers with book-keeping assistance and is a valuable asset in our organisations endeavour to promote financial accountability and transparency among the participants in the projects we support.

MR SPHELELE DLANGISA

Mr Sphelele Dlangisa – an impressive young man from Ixopo who holds an honours degree in agricultural economics from UKZN. Mr Dlangisa approached HGA towards the end of 2018 in search of employment and when we regrettably informed him that we were not able to employ anyone at the time, he was quick to ask whether he could volunteer instead. Mr Dlangisa engaged with our project participants, attended government meetings and served as a translator in the short space of time he was with us. He subsequently enrolled to do his post-graduate diploma in education. Of his future success we have the utmost certainty.

We are humbled by the kindness and goodwill that various people have shown towards us by volunteering their personal time to serve this cause and we wish to recognise the roles they have played.





“ The opposite of poverty is not wealth. In too many places, the opposite of poverty is justice.

- BRYAN STEVENSON

Photo
Ms Sizeni Mandebese obtaining experience in the dairy on Mr Bruce Allwood's farm near Ixopo. Photo taken by Mrs Lianne Ashton.



HARRY GWALA AGRI
N P C
united in growth

COMPANY **REGISTRATION**

Company Registration No
2016/140997/08
Registered with Social Development
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