



GRAIN SOUTH AFRICA Phahama Grain Phakama

INTERIM REPORT TO THE MAIZE TRUST 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

Regional Farmer Development Activities

Support to Study Groups

Individual Support to Advanced Farmers

Knowledge and Skills Development: Training

Monthly Newsletter: Pula Invula

September 2022



The Grain SA/ABSA/John Deere Financial New Era Commercial Farmer of the Year, 2022 is Mapidianye Phillip Manoto who farmer with crops and livestock near Lichtenburg, NW. Farming is in his blood and as a youth he enjoyed working on the farm, learning from his father Labius Manoto, the 2008 Farmer of the Year. Manoto says he greatly values Grain SA support. His family has been involved with the programme since 2002. Grain SA Regional Manager Mr Du Toit van der Westhuizen is based in Lichtenburg and has a long standing and fruitful relationship with Mapidianye and his family. Labius Manoto is also one of the farmers benefiting from the Maize Trust support.

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Farmer Mgabiseleni Simon Dlamini farms in the AbaQulusi Municipality and has been an active project participant. He has learned much through his association with Grain SA and harvested 4.7t/ha



New farmers who are part of the Emhlatini Study Group eager to learn more about best practises suited to their farming enterprises in the Mpu-malanga area managed by Mr Juri Mentz from the Louwsburg Regional Office.

01. INTRODUCTION

South African agriculture is characterised by a dualistic agricultural sector with the one consisting of highly capitalised, large-scale and mostly white farmers, and the other comprising of developing black farmers. This dualism certainly has a historic origin but still it persists to the present - despite the focus of the government to invest in and support developing farmers. This failure can be attributed to various executional challenges such as weak agricultural extension services and limited support in rural areas, as well as poor project design because of the assumption that developing farmers form one homogeneous group. The reality is that we have a diverse group of farmers who range from a large group of subsistence farmers on one side of the spectrum, to a smaller group of commercially-orientated farmers and a number of growing new era commercial farmers on the other. Grain South Africa aims to make a contribution to grain farmer development in a way that acknowledges the need for successful transformation and sustainability as much as it acknowledges the uniqueness and diversity of the farmers we train and mentor. Consequently the Grain SA Farmer Development team strives to engage with all farmers from subsistence and smallholder farmers to NEW ERA Potential Commercial Farmers and highly intensive NEW ERA Commercial farmers in meaningful ways that enhance their farming enterprises.

We need to support developing farmers in order to grow this sector, make it more inclusive and ensure that we have the capacity to produce and be able to trade. Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, on signing of Agro-processing Master Plan, in May 2022.

Grain SA believes that a multi-pronged approach towards ensuring the commercial viability and sustainability of developing commercial farmers should be a priority for all stakeholders in the agricultural sector. For this reason, we have different strategies in place to help to sustainably grow grain farmers. Study Groups are a good example of such a platform where we provide support to individual farmers, provide training and the help farmers access the Pula Imvula Magazine for advanced information on grain farming. Through these different

platforms we seek to transfer knowledge and teach developing farmers new insights, skills and practices.

“We must ensure tenure security for all, empower citizens to participate in the agricultural economy and ensure integrated rural development... The challenges of poverty, unemployment and under development must challenge us to find solutions that respond to these challenges.” Ms Thoko Didiza, Budget Speech, May 2022

There are significant challenges to this growth path for developing farmers.

At Grain SA we are acutely aware of the impact of:

- Access to land and security of tenure;
- A sophisticated yet volatile and challenging market place;
- Rising input costs;
- Narrowing profit margins;
- An uneven trade environment;
- Poor infrastructure including rail, roads and electricity supply; and
- An erratic and unreliable transformation policy environment.

As a result we believe that critical strategic interventions are necessary if land reform programs are intended to revive rural communities. At Grain SA we recognise we do not have infinite capacity to change policy, but we do have the required expertise and a wealth of experience to contribute. To this end, we are committed to pursuing every opportunity to improve the farming skills of developing farmers through sharing relevant knowledge and mentoring farmers to assist in the transformation process. We are the voice of ALL grain farmers in South Africa and will continue to lobby on their behalf on every platform possible. We are thankful for every opportunity to represent the industry. We aim to be recognised as leaders in the agricultural sector delivering true development and transformation.



2022.08.31. Gondo, Alfred Manqoba busy with soil preparation on his farm Koornfontein near Middelburg Mpumalanga in preparation for the upcoming season 2022/2023.

The Grain SA Farmer Development programme has its **head office in Pretoria which networks with 9 other Regional Development offices** situated in Bloemfontein, Dundee, Kokstad, Lichtenburg, Louwsburg, Maclear, Mthatha, Nelspruit and Paarl. This extensive network of expertise has enabled the roll out of diverse projects in collaboration with other stakeholders in the sector. We have about 20 mentors contributing to the programme roll out and over 10 trainers presenting courses for developing farmers in the key grain growing regions of the country.

02. GRAIN SA AND MAIZE TRUST COLLABORATION

The collaboration between the Maize Trust and the Grain SA Farmer Development Programme since 1999 has contributed to grain farmer development in a meaningful way. It has enabled the building of a network of expertise that is able to fast-track information sharing and offer valuable support services to developing grain farmers. Useful communication platforms have been established which enable connecting agricultural experts, mentors, trainers, funders and input suppliers with developing grain farmers - big and small, experienced and inexperienced, young and old, male and female.

In striving for excellence as a partner to donors, Grain SA is recognised by Agri-Seta as a qualified training service provider but most significantly, Grain SA is proud of its reputation for good governance, the historical database it has compiled and the consistent unqualified audits it has been given.

Grain SA and Phahama Grain Phakama (PGP) *wish to acknowledge the Maize Trust for its continued support of this initiative. We would like to also thank the Board of Trustees for making this work possible. Together we make a difference. We believe our efforts change the prospects for many farming enterprises and contribute towards positive change in our country and that in spite of many challenges we have seen the encouraging development of many competent grain farmers.*



The 2021/2022 season was characterised by lots of rain, wet, inaccessibility, and challenges to getting essential agronomic activities done on the farms. Here a large New Era commercial farmer has resorted to applying weed control by hand since his tractor and spray could not get into the field.



2022.03.02. Grain SA mentor Chris De Jager paid a visit to the Estcourt district in March. He visited the farm of Nhlanhla Sicelo Mngadi and saw some good looking maize crops on his farm Rockmond. This farmer has been doing really well and he is definitely capable of managing more hectares successfully.

03. PROJECT FINANCIALS

The budget below was approved for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. The funds are being disbursed between study groups, support to New Era farmers, training courses and the development of training material as well as the monthly publication of the Pula Imvula newsletter.

Note: The table below reflect the figures as at 31 August 2022. A full and final set of figures will be drawn up after year end at 30 September 2022 and will be the true reflection of budget activities during the term of reporting.

1 October 2021 to 31 August 2022	Annual Budget	YTD Actual 31 AUG 22	Remaining Budget
Creation and servicing of study groups	R3 097 358,36	-R2 767 394,50	R329 963,86
Support to advanced and black commercial farmers	R2 227 939,00	-R1 964 750,05	R263 188,95
Training	R1 347 146,65	-R1 174 832,18	R172 314,47
Pula Imvula (Monthly newsletter)	R2 071 142,00	-R1 791 253,83	R279 888,17
Total Cost:	R8 743 586,01	-R7 698 230,56	R1 045 355,45

04. GRAIN SA FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOOTPRINT

The Grain SA / Phahama Grain Phakama (PGP) Farmer Development **Programme Lead, Sandile Ngcamphalala**, is tasked with the thought leadership and strategic initiatives and all project planning, project monitoring and project reporting processes as well as maintaining the communications between all Regional Farmer Development offices and partners. He is supported by **Liana Stroebel, Development: Training and Operations Manager** and **Jean Adams** who is secretary to the Farmer Development Lead.

The footprint of the Grain SA Farmer Development programme presently **extends to nine Regional Farmer Development Offices** managed by Development Managers and Administrative Assistants based in the regions. The Maize Trust funds contribute a percentage of the

operational costs and project roll out in 8 of the 9 offices. The Paarl Regional Development office is funded by other stakeholders.

1. Bloemfontein, Free State – Johan Kriel
2. Dundee – Graeme Engelbrecht with Nathie Mazibuko
3. Kokstad – Luke Collier with Luthando Diko
4. Lichtenburg – Du Toit van der Westhuizen with Lebo Mogatlanyane
5. Louwsburg – Jurie Mentz with Lanalie Swanepoel
6. Maclear – overseen by Luke Collier with Lindie Pretorius
7. Mthatha – overseen by Luke Collier with Cwayita Mpotyi, and
8. Nelspruit – Jerry Mthombothi with Smangaliso Zimbili

Each Regional office deals with unique circumstances both in terms of the characteristics of the farmers in that region and the natural resources available. This requires regional tailoring of projects and training courses which becomes the responsibility of the Regional Managers. It is our goal to assist all grain farmers and thus we seek to offer them appropriate support towards optimum production on their farming units.

In order to have some point of reference, we have defined the following groups of farmers:

- Subsistence Farmers cultivating less than 10 ha of arable land;
- Small Holder Farmers operating on 10.5 ha up to 100 ha arable land;
- Potential Commercial Farmers farming over 100 ha arable land; and
- New Era Commercial Farmers who are producing more than 250 tons/ year.

In this period of reporting we have actively engaged with the following numbers of farmer members in the categories described on at least one of our platforms:

New Era Commercial Farmers	89
Potential commercial farmers > 100 ha	185
Small Holder farmers (10.5 ha - 100 ha)	210
Subsistence farmers (0.5-10 ha)	5772

Total number of active female farmer members	4078
Total number of active male farmers	3915

→ It is important to remember that the focus of this programme is ALWAYS on farmer development rather than only on farmland development. Our primary aim is to assist active grain farmers to grow their farming enterprises and set their business on firm foundations whilst equipping farmers with information about the most current technologies and best practises appropriate to their unique farming units, regardless of the size of their operation.

→ **THE FOLLOWING ARE AMONG THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES BEING ROLLED OUT IN THE REGIONS:**

- A. - Study Groups
- B. - Support to Individual Farmers
- C. - Farm Visits
- D. - Demonstration Trials
- E. - Farmers Days
- F. - Farmer of the Year Competition
- G. - Training
- H. - Pula Imvula Magazine
- I. - School Visits

A. Study Groups

Study groups are considered the starting point. This is how the Grain SA Farmer Development program's footprint is established in key grain growing regions, particularly into some really remote areas. Entry Level Grain SA membership is facilitated here and this is where the team starts getting to know farmers and learning more about their unique needs, experiences and challenges. We also get to know more about other agri-business networks in the region. This is also where farmers learn more about what they can look forward to from Grain SA, what the goals of our organisation are and how the Farmer Development pro-

gramme works. They also learn that we can be counted on to assist them and confront the challenges they face together with them. The farmers learn that we are prepared to go to great lengths to meet up with them where they live and work.

The Study Group meetings serve as:

- **A platform for transfer of information both theory and practical, and**
- **A place where Managers and Mentors can be instrumental in updating farming systems and changing lives and livelihoods.**
- **The place where farmers can begin a journey of growing their farming enterprises.**



Advanced Farmer Joseph Mohlomi farms near Welkom in the Lejweleputswa District, Free State. Here he discusses field preparation with Grain SA mentor, Jacques Roux.

B. Support to Individual Farmers

It is the vision of Grain SA to see more and more developing farmers up-skilled, better equipped and independently managing viable, sustainable farming enterprises.

We have many farmer members who have grown beyond Study Group level and have demonstrated that they are committed and competent. They are at a point where they are

farming each hectare to produce the highest possible yields on their lands. These are farmers who have acquired the knowledge required and have completed a number of training courses and receive some mentorship. These farmers are still, at times, unsure of themselves and of some of the new practises; or they may be unaware of their negotiating power terms of in agricultural finance, insurances and marketing matter. We believe there is a distinctly significant role for dedicated *mentorship from one who can walk beside them and support them.*



Farmer Tamsanqa Raphael Masulu farms with maize, soya and livestock on Kwaggas Drift Farm. He is a member of the Osizweni-KwaMhlaba Study Group and he is also an Advanced Farmer who is mentored by Chris De Jager and has participated in a number of projects. He is a beneficiary of the Maize Trust - Soil, Insurance and Mentorship project.

C. Farm Visits

Our Regional Managers and their teams of Mentors are tasked with paying regular visits to the farmers and their fields. The visits include one-to-one mentoring on a wide range of top-

ics throughout the season; but also include visits to check on soil health and crop progress. In this way, our team can play an important part towards improving farmers' production practices and also identify unique challenges or assistance the farmer may need. We are also able to alert the farmer to any issues that may compromise his crop.



The maize fields of female farmer Mampho Adeline Thaele, a Potential Commercial farmer from the Matjhabeng Municipality. Mampho is mentored by DP Wepener. He had to tell her her maize was still too moist to be harvested and she needed to wait a few more days or else risk her crop being too moist at the silo.



A sampling of cobs from Ms. Mampho Thaele's maize field :

D. Demonstration Trials

Demonstration plots are an effective model for enhancing improved technology adoption



Trial plot intended to demonstrate the importance of weed control by comparing portions of the field with weed control spray programme and without. Growth patterns, competition and ultimately yields achieved are compared. Farmers are easily convinced of the value of consistent and informed spray program. Calibration of both knapsack and boom sprayers are valuable skills taught to the farmers.

Farmlands that are used to teach agricultural techniques and technologies – known as demonstration plots – are widely considered a smart investment that can help accelerate the adoption of game-changing innovations. Here farmers can learn new ways of doing things without having to do it on their farms and pay the price for not doing things correctly. Demonstration trials, whether planted by Grain SA or other industry stakeholders, are invaluable for developing farmers to see many aspects and possibilities of farming maize. We are always looking out for partners from industry to support these endeavours as we have seen

the effective learning that comes from “seeing” the different results from doing the right thing in the right way.

E. Farmers Days

The Farmer’s Days provide an opportunity to visit places where there is a learning opportunity. These days are also a platform for peer-to peer education where farmers can share experiences and exchange information. Farmers meet input supply company representatives, local extension officers and other sector stakeholders.

F. Farmer of the Year Competition

The Grain South Africa Developing Farmer of the Year competition has become an important event on our calendar. The aim is to put the spotlight on farmers who have proven to be exemplary in some way and are considered role models who could serve to inspire other farmers – a moment to celebrate learning, development and growth.



September 2022 - Day of Celebration. Grain SA's Sandile Ngcamphalala and Regional Manager, Du Toit van der Westhuizen with winner of the New Era Farmer award, Mapidianye Phillip Manoto stand in front of his prize - A John Deere tractor!

G. Training Courses

There is always something more to learn

Continuous new developments in technology, science, business management etc. mean that **farmer education is not unique to developing farmers** – all farmers require on-going education to keep up with the rapidly evolving environment. In the South African context developing farmers NEED SUPPORT - They are often new entrants who have not been exposed to modern farming methods and educational opportunities or benefitted from relevant skills development. **With high input costs, multiple risk exposure and profit margins being under extreme pressure, there is no margin for error** - No farmer can afford to learn by 'trial and error' in the current challenging economic climate!

Grain SA training courses are delivered in the language of the farmers and are designed to make an immediate impact to their farming business, workshop management knowledge and plant production capabilities.



A group of farmers attend a course "Farming for Profits" in the Ficksburg region.

H. Publication - Pula Imvula Newsletter

The newsletter aims to transfer knowledge and broadcast the timeous messages appropriately, and as widely as possible.



I. Schools Visits

This initiative aims to encourage and inform the youth about the agricultural sector. We try to alert to participate as future farmers or in other careers in agriculture. Africa is a young continent with 65% population below 35 years of age and 10 – 12 million young people estimated to enter the work force every year.

05. OTHER GRAIN SA/ PHAHAMA GRAIN PHAKAMA COLLABORATIONS

There are a number of other collaborations being implemented during this season. These are additional projects that have been rolled out and managed by Grain SA agricultural development specialists and mentoring teams.

5.1 GRAIN SA PROJECT DESCRIPTION: “BEYOND ABUNDANCE” - a collaboration with small scale maize farmers

This season the Beyond Abundance project has involved 2226 active farmers that planted 4047 hectares of maize. The farmers are receiving on-going support, field visits and training from Grain SA and other stakeholders in the sector who have offered discounted inputs. The

farmers have all put their own 'skin in the game' by contributing of their own funds towards the program. The majority of the crops performed well this season. Some regions had problems with too much rain while some farmers are still battling with weeds but on average yields are still better than traditionally have been seen by these farmers. The harvest was definitely compromised as a result of heavy rainfall and particularly impacted the grading of the maize at the silo door.

➔ Project support was also given to these farms in the form of input discounts by Kynoch, Farm Ag, Bayer and the Sasol Trust.

5.2. MAIZE TRUST: ADVANCE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT

This is a separate project that was historically channelled through the Grain Farmer Development Association (GFADA). This season Grain SA applied directly to the Maize Trust for Advanced Input Support for farmers. Funds were channelled to farmers requiring support for: Soil corrections, insurance and mentorship. In this period of reporting 20 farmers who are participating in different Grain SA programs have received this support. This project roll out is working very well in conjunction with farmers participating in the SACTA, AB-InBev and Standard Bank programs.

5.3. STIMULUS PROJECT - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DALRRD)

This season saw the implementation of 22 projects with developing commercial farmers. Grain SA managed joint accounts and budgets with the participating farmers. The Regional Offices involved were Bloemfontein, Lichtenburg and Louwsburg, Dundee, Kokstad and Paarl. These farmers received 209 farm visits which included business plan development and management, mentorship, crop monitoring and budget tracking support from the Grain SA farmer development team mentors.

5.4. DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (DSI)

Grain SA applied for funding from the DSI to train farmers, which they approved. This is targeted funding for training in Nixtamalization and Nutrition in collaboration with Grain SA Research Dept. and the University of the Free State. The impetus behind this project is to create awareness of how to improve the nutritional value of maize in our diets and also how to potentially develop small commercial ventures in the communities by teaching trainees how to make, package and sell products they make. The benefit of the Nixtamalization Process in reducing the mycotoxin levels present in grains is significant but it also makes the product available in new and diverse forms for incorporation into our diets.

In this period of reporting Grain SA held 123 training courses in Mpumalanga and Limpopo regions where farmers are eager to learn more about the processing of the grain for household and small business enterprise development. .

2582 attendees benefitted from the training in nutrition, nixtamalization, dry bean and nutrition.

5.5. SOUTH AFRICAN CULTIVAR AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (SACTA)

This period of reporting has seen the project involved with 39 farmers managed by the Bloemfontein, Dundee, Kokstad, Lichtenburg and Louwsburg and Paarl Regional Offices. These farmers had 520 farm visits from the farmer development team. The production input support is based on a revolving 3-year term loan for growing maize and soy bean in rotation. The project has run smoothly, and the crops have done well this season so the farmers' potential to pay back the loans is promising.

5.6. STANDARD BANK and THE KGODISO DEVELOPMENT FUND (PEPSICO)

Grain SA/PGP has managed 11 projects with farmers who successfully applied for Standard Bank production loans to grow maize, sunflowers, soybeans and sugar beans. The project is aimed at farmers who have the potential to become fully fledged commercial farmers. The

team at Grain SA worked very hard to compile complete business plans for each enterprise which is no small feat. The regional offices that managed these projects are Bloemfontein, Dundee, Lichtenburg and Louwsburg. These farmers received a total of 206 farm visits from the Grain SA farmer development team.

Since this season a new partner, **the Kgodiso Development Fund, an independent fund founded by PepsiCo Inc. has been collaborating with this project towards the full-scale commercialisation of farmers.** The Fund aims to support the broad socio-economic imperatives of education, SMMEs, emerging farmers and enterprise development. They have seen fit to collaborate with Grain SA farmer development in the Standard bank project and now contribute to the farmers participating in this project alongside Standard bank on a 50/50 basis.

5.7 AB-INBEV

Ab-InBev has prioritised the development of black commercial farmers and had been collaborating with Grain SA/ PGP towards establishing a project which has this goal in sight. The funds donated are individual farmers who benefit from production inputs support, mentorship and project management administration per hectare. This year 44 farmers participated in the Grain SA/ AB-InBev project and they received a total of 555 visits from the farmer development team.

06. CURRENT PROJECTS TO WHICH MAIZE TRUST FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED

The four areas where Maize Trust funds are allocated are as follows and are reported in more detail below:

- Service to Study Groups
- Support Services to Individual Developing Farmers
- Training Courses
- Pula Imvula Monthly Newsletter

6.1 PROJECT - CREATION AND SERVICE OF STUDY GROUPS

Farmers start at the study group level and then progress from there – Not all farmers can or wish to increase the size of their cropping enterprise, but ALL do wish to increase the yields they are attaining from their farming activities.

6.1.1 PROJECT TITLE

Creation of and service to Grain SA Farmer Development Programme Study Groups

6.1.2 TRUST DEED OBJECTIVES

Transformation of the maize industry, dissemination and collection of information, including Production and Market information in respect of the South African Maize industry inter alia by providing marketing infrastructure, training and assistance in rural areas where the need exists.

6.1.3 CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing

6.1.4 REASONS WHY IT IS DEEMED THAT THIS PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE

- Many developing maize farmers in South Africa are not yet producing at a commercial level.
- Some farmers are subsistence farmers growing grain for family consumption, with possibly a small amount extra for barter or sale. For various reasons they are not yet achieving the yield/ha that they potentially could.
- Other developing farmers are growing crops on a larger scale but are also not yet attaining the yields per ha that they should.
- As much as this is possibly the result of a lack of quality inputs, it can also be attributed to lack of knowledge and skills about appropriate modern production methods as well as a lack of understanding of business management and marketing skills. Such knowledge and skills have a direct impact not only on yields returned but also

on the viability and sustainability of farming enterprises regardless of whether they are subsistence, small holder or growing commercial operations.

The consistent production of maize will have a direct correlation with food security levels in rural South Africa, but there is also the larger picture of volatile global food prices rendering favoured consumables, even a staple foodstuff like maize, unaffordable. For this reason, empowering maize farmers to maximise their production for consumption and local and international markets is crucial to national food security levels.



2022.08.01.

Harvest time for the Sophumelela study group farmers who are mentored and supported by Regional Manager Luke Collier from the Kokstad office.

6.1.5 MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

The main aim of this project is:

- To encourage developing farmers, primarily subsistence and small holder farmers, to join Study Groups which are facilitated by a Grain SA Regional Development Manager and team who are experienced agriculturalists and generally competent in the language of each particular group of farmers.
- To ensure that the farmers and facilitators meet regularly throughout the season, to learn and share knowledge about improving maize production yields through modern methods of best practice at an appropriate level for the farmers.

- To arrange appropriate Training Courses and ensure all farmers who so wish, have free access to Training Courses which will build on their knowledge base and also offer opportunities for relevant skills development oriented towards the farming environments the farmers find themselves dealing with.
- The Study Groups are also a community platform for peer-to-peer learning; a place for discussion and sharing, where those who have less knowledge and skills in maize production can learn from more experienced growers who have already gained experience and graduated from the Study Group training programme. Developing farmers enjoy acquiring first-hand knowledge from the more experienced members of the group.

6.1.6 PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

6.1.7 SECTORS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

- Developing maize producers
- Maize Milling Enterprises
- All related industries e.g. livestock feed, poultry growers
- The maize industry, and
- The extended value chains

6.1.8 OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT

The budget allocated by the Maize Trust goes towards the costs of running Regional office support and Study Group meetings, training and activities. The Maize Trust currently contributes in part to the operational costs of all regional offices apart from the Paarl office. Bayer is also a valued partner towards the implementation of this particular project.

6.1.9 SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO PROJECT:

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual 31 AUG 22	Remaining Budget
Creation and servicing of study groups	R3 097 358,36	-R2 767 394,50	R329 963,86

6.1.10 DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING: PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

6.1.11 DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE

This project is the continuation of the programme that has previously been funded in part by the Maize Trust.

6.1.12 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this programme are:

- To use targeted funding from the Maize Trust to reach as many farmers as possible through the establishment and servicing of Study Groups in prime grain growing regions;
- Hold regular meetings with farmers and lead discussions about maize production covering topics as varied as land preparation and access to market. Guide the members of the Study Group through a structured and relevant training programme;
- Include the Departmental Agricultural extension officer in the Study Group meetings, where possible; and,
- Maintain a data base of Study Groups and members which includes the hectares they plant annually as well as the yields they achieve.

6.1.13 ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT

The study group lies at the heart of the GSA FD program. This is where we meet the farmers, get to know their circumstances and challenges and build relationships of trust; it is also where we have our strongest networking with the farmers. Through consistently pitching up

and being present with an attentive ear, a word of advice and sharing our passion for using what they have at their disposal as effectively and sustainably as possible, the farmers have learned that the team can be trusted to help. The meetings are dynamic and varied and are conducted indoors, where DVD and PowerPoint displays inspire them, and outdoors, where our development officers and mentors get down and dirty in the fields demonstrating, fixing, and teaching in very practical hands-on fashion. It is in this way that the farmers have learned that we care and can be counted on.

In the following section a general overview is provided of the activities taking place at regional level.

6.1.13.1 DUNDEE REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

The Dundee Provincial Development Office is managed by Development Manager Graeme Engelbrecht. The office is situated centrally to the grain farmers of northern KwaZulu-Natal. The map below highlights the footprint of this office.

The Dundee Development Office currently hosts the following 26 study groups with a total attendance of 670 farmers.

103 meetings have been held in the period of reporting.

A total attendance register of 1139 attendees is recorded.

The study groups are in the following regions:

Bergville Agric
Dukuza-Central
Dukuza-Inkosana
Dukuza-Oliviershoek
Emangweni- Makhekheni
Emangweni-Draycott
Emangweni-Gourton
Emmaus-KwaMkhize
Emmaus-Mhlwazini
Emmaus-Ngoba
Isandlwana

Mathondwane
Mhlungwini
Mtshezi
Newcastle B
Newcastle-Doornkop
Newcastle-Rutland
Newcastle-Sleevedonald
Nquthu
Osizweni-Dicks
Osizweni-KwaMhlaba
Siyaphambile Siyalima
Thabhane
Thabhane-Maswazini
Zwelisha

6.1.13.2 KOKSTAD REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

Luke Collier is the Regional Development Manager based in Kokstad. The Google Earth view shown below highlights the footprint of this programme in the Eastern Cape/ KwaZulu-Natal region. It reaches most rural regions and into the mountainous countryside where some farmers have been isolated from modern farming technologies. Agricultural potential here is high and could create many much needed jobs and secure food sovereignty in the region.

The Kokstad Development Office currently hosts the following 30 study groups.

157 meetings have been held in the period of reporting.

A total attendance register of 2864 attendees is recorded.

The study groups are in the following regions:

Amampisi Maize Project
Amandengane
Amantshangase Maize Project
Cancele Farmers
Colana
Etyeni Farmers
Goso Sugarbush
Khanyayo
Kilmon Farmers

Lungangeni - Mount Frere
Lutatani
Mbhongweni Maize Project
Mhlonyaneni
Mhluzini Farmers
Msikaba Study Group
Mthayise Maize Growers
Mthonjeni
Mvenyane
Mzalwaneni Maize Project
Ndunge
Njijini
Ntlomaca Farming Project
Ntlozelo
Ntunjini - Bizana
Sidlumhlaba Project
Siyaphambili Zangontshe
Siyazama Khanyayo
Siyazama Phepheni
Siyeza ePuka Agric
Tlali Mjila Farmers

6.1.13.5 LOUWSBURG REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

Jurie Mentz manages the Louwsburg Regional Development office which services farmers distributed from Louwsburg and Vryheid in KwaZulu Natal to as far north as Bronkhorstspuit and Middleburg in Mpumalanga.

The Louwsburg Development Office currently hosts the following 14 study groups

37 meetings have been held in the period of reporting

A total attendance register of 1307 attendees is recorded.

The following are active study groups in the region:

Amsterdam
Bethamoya
Breyten
Carolina
Donkerhoek
Driefontein SG

Emahlatini
Hlahlindlela
Leeunek
Louwsburg
Middelburg
Pixley Ka Seme (Daggakraal)
Qwebo SG
Sheepmoor
Siyacathula
Sulphur Springs
Uphuzane
Vryheid

6.1.13.6 MACLEAR REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

Maclear is in the Eastern Cape where agriculture is an important livelihood activity for many rural citizens. The Maclear Farmer Development Office services an extensive area and manages Study Groups, training and mentorship to farmers from Elliot and Cala to Mount Fletcher and Maclear, along the foothills of the Drakensberg escarpment.

Agricultural potential around Maclear is high and furthermore, has the potential to create many much needed jobs as well as secure food sovereignty in the region.

The Maclear Development Office currently hosts the following 13 study groups

49 meetings have been held in the period of reporting.

A total attendance register of 887 attendees is recorded.

The following are the active study groups in the region:

Hlankomo
Ikamvalethu
Katkop 1 Nxaxa
Katkop1
Katkop2
Katkop2 Ntaboduli
Khohlopong
Lower Tsitsana
Lunyaweni
Magedla

Ngqayi
Taung EC
Upper Tsitsana

6.1.13.7 MTHATHA REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

Here agriculture is an important livelihood activity for many rural dwellers. The office services an extensive area and manages study groups, training and mentorship to farmers distributed from the south near East London and Willowvale to as far as Queenstown and Co-fimvaba and Mthatha.

The Mthatha Regional Development Office currently oversees the following 30 study groups

There have been 437 encounters with these farmers in the period of reporting. A total attendance register of 2462 attendees is recorded.

The following are the active study groups in the region:

Amampisi Maize Project
Amandengane
Amantshangase Maize Project
Cancele Farmers
Colana
Etyeni Farmers
Goso Sugarbush
Khanyayo
Kilmon Farmers
Lungangeni - Mount Frere
Lutateni
Mbhongweni Maize Project
Mhlonyaneni
Mhluzini Farmers
Msikaba Study Group
Mthayise Maize Growers
Mthonjeni
Mvenyane
Mzalwaneni Maize Project
Ndunge

Njijini
Ntlomaca Farming Project
Ntlozelo
Ntunjini - Bizana
Sidlumhlaba Project
Siyaphambili Zangontshe
Siyazama Khanyayo
Siyazama Phepheni
Siyeza ePuka Agric
Tlali Mjila Farmers

6.1.13.8 NELSPRUIT REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

The Nelspruit Farmer Development Office is managed Regional Farmer Development Manager, Mr Jerry Mthombothi. The office services an extensive area of Mpumalanga as well as into Limpopo. It manages Study Groups, training and mentorship to farmers distributed from the east of Pretoria to the Swaziland border and further east to the borders of the Kruger National Park. The farming activities here are generally on a subsistence and small holder farming scale but this industry contributes significantly to household food security as well as household income. Agricultural potential here is high due to favourable rainfall and high potential soils.

The Nelspruit Development Office currently hosts the following 32 study groups

122 meetings have been held in the period of reporting

A total attendance register of 1542 attendees is recorded.

The following are the active study groups in the regions:

Arthurstone
Badplaas/Inkalane
Barberton
Bettysgoed
Dlamini SG
Elukwatini
Emakhazeni A SG
Emakhazeni B SG
Ga-Matsepe
Ga-Riba

Hartebeeskop
Intababomvu
Jeppe's reef
Legolaneng SG
Lijahasisu
Lubumbano
Luzamo A
Luzamo B
Lydenburg
Makgukubjane
Manthole SG
Mantjolo
Masoing SG
Matabane Co-op
Mogaung SG
Salubindza
Schuezendal
Sijamekuthuleni
Siyaphambili MP
Syferfontein SG
Thuthukani F/A
Zaaiplaas

6.1.13.9 LICHTENBURG REGIONAL FARMER DEVELOPMENT

The Lichtenburg Regional Development office is headed by Regional Manager Du Toit van der Westhuizen with support from Lebo Mogatlanyane. This office is located in the heart of a primary grain producing region and the developing farmers here need more individualised support. In light of the fact that the farmers in the region are largely bigger potential commercial and New Era farmers, this office has been mandated to primarily focus on services and support to individual farmers. The developing farmers in the region have however expressed their need to continue with Study Group contact sessions as well. The latter half of the year saw the Lichtenburg team holding 7 study group meetings with 7 different study groups. A total attendance register of 58 attendees is recorded.

The following study groups met:

Weltevrede/Mooipan/Sione
Sannieshof
Vrischgewacht
Brooksby

Mafikeng
Itsoseng
Putfontein

6.1.14 RESULTS ACHIEVED

The funds allocated to Grain SA Farmer Development by the Maize Trust for 2021/2022 have contributed to the operational costs of these regional development offices and have directly impacted:

- 201 Study Groups are currently being serviced by expert agriculturalists and trainers;
- Agricultural support services have been provided to farmers who are active members of the groups listed above and 10 259 attendances have been recorded;
- There have been a total of 1041 Study Group meetings in this period of reporting.

6.1.15 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

None. The project has been well received. Relationships with the developing farmers are good and there are tangible, positive results with regards to improved yields and better practices in the fields.

6.1.16 MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT

The budget application was not approved in full. This has meant adjustments had to be made on all levels of the project proposal.

Study groups are combining wherever possible to economise on travel, fuel costs impact all stakeholders.

6.1.17 ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT

The need is great and there will always be more work that needs to be done. The ripple effect that occurs from one season to the next is not insignificant as neighbours to active Grain SA farmer members are awakened to the possibilities that grain growing with best practices and readily available support systems offers them too. Grain SA Farmer Development will always be eager to access funding to deliver more services to more farmers be-

cause we believe farmer development is a noble and worthwhile pursuit which is making a real difference to rural farmers and sustainable sectoral transformation. We face significant challenges due to rising input costs and increases in fuel and travel costs.

6.1.18 THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION

This is an on-going project.

6.2 PROJECT - SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL FARMERS

The purpose of this programme is to support the outstanding candidates who have emerged from the study group system as Potential Commercial and New Era Commercial farmers. These are farmers who may still need some level of mentorship or training in terms of their business development e.g. production planning, business management, support in terms of financial applications, drawing up business plans and reporting etc.

6.2.1 PROJECT TITLE

Support to individual farmers who are growing their farming enterprises into stronger more commercially viable units and demonstrate the potential to develop even further.

6.2.2 TRUST DEED OBJECTIVES

- Transformation of the maize industry;
- Dissemination and collection of information, including Production and Market information in respect of the South African Maize industry;
- Developing viable and sustainable new black commercial farmers by providing mentorship and training relating to maize production and marketing where the need thereto exists.

6.2.3 CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing

6.2.4 REASONS WHY IT IS DEEMED THAT THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE

South Africa has some of the most advanced commercial farmers in the world. There is however a wide gap between those who are producing optimum tonnages of maize from their land and are farming each ha to produce the highest possible yield and Grain SA's New Era farmers and Developing farmers in general who still widely strive for viability and sustainability in the challenging commercial grain production sector. This project contributes towards building a safety net for farmers with the potential to become fully commercialised maize producers if they have the correct support services and systems that comes with focussed mentorship and training.

These are farmers who have progressed beyond the support that is offered at the Study Group level (information, training and demonstrations). The team has realised though, that these developing farmers are not yet quite ready to be launched and left to their own devices. It would be a tragedy to leave these farmers now to 'sink or swim' alone. There is invaluable support to be given to these developing farmers still.

6.2.5 MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

To provide intensive one-on-one support to outstanding candidates who have come out of the Study Group system in terms of production planning, management, making financial applications and reporting etc.

We believe this should better equip these farmers to manage as commercial farmers with occasional contact or even telephonic advice from their mentors. When a farmer is farming each hectare to commercial standards of yield and is producing more than 250 tons a year, he/she will be fast tracked into the commercial sector. This process contributes to the growth in numbers of black commercial farmers.

6.2.6 PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

6.2.7 SECTORS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY THAT COULD OR SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

Developing maize producers, millers, the grain value chain - all related industries and ultimately the whole maize industry - stand to benefit from a dynamic and sustainable developing grain farmer community with successful black farmers producing maize and contributing to national food security.

6.2.8 NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

None

6.2.9 SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual 31 AUG 22	Remaining Budget
Support to advanced and black commercial farmers	R2 227 939,00	-R1 964 750,05	R263 188,95

6.2.10 DETAIL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.2.11 DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.2.12 DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

6.2.13 DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS THAT WERE FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE

This project is the continuation of the programme that was funded previously by the Maize Trust.

6.2.14 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To identify and provide on-farm service to farmers;
- To give these farmers intensive training and support;
- To gather as much information as possible about the farmers access to land, farm equipment inventory, livestock numbers, soil status and whole unit production potential/ This information will assist in the designing of appropriate applications for funding, and in drawing up a detailed business plan for each farmer;
- To access, if possible, recapitalization from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform so as to ‘fast-track’ their development;
- To access production loans for the farmers wherever possible so that these farmers can use the land available to them;
- To assist the farmers with access to mechanization in cases where this is a challenge; and
- To build stronger support networks in the sector for the farmers to tap into.

6.2.15 ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT

A total of **118 farmers** are currently being supported in this period of reporting and they have received **1556 on-farm visits** with one-on-one mentorship. Over time these individuals have proved themselves on a number of levels including commitment, competency and potential. It is believed that with intensive one-on-one support they could grow their farming enterprises further.

Buda (Esinako Trading and Projects Primary co-op Ltd) Methelwa Sunnyboy
Dlamini Mgabiseleni Simon
Gondo (Gondo Buyela Ensimini) Alfred Manqoba
Gumede Xolani Zanovuyo
Hlalele Joseph Khahleli
Hleko (Milani Farming Trust 1) Thembeka Beauty
Hlela Thembakuye Jeffrey
Hlubi Sphelele
Jacobs T
Kheswa Mzansi Dam
Khitleli Lebohang

Khumalo Gadner Khulekani
Khumalo Harry Robert
Khumalo Lloyd Sphephelo
Khumalo Lucky Romegius Boniface
Khuto Isaac
Koalepe (Koalepe Trust 1) Jonas
Kubheka Zenzele Jetro
Lentswetshipi Seoke Ezekiel
Letuka Maseli Augustinus
Limbada Aziz
Mabala (Loop and Vaal Trust 1) Hendrik
Mabasa Velly John
Mabaso Moeketsi Sidwell
Mabaso Mohlolo Anton
Mabuza Bheki Isaia
Mabuza Simphiwe Senzeko
Mahlaba Abel
Maila (Bambaspha Co-op) Bhekimuzi Nkosana
Makatsa-Soka(Dee-Y Trading 1) Disebo
Makhunga Gua Abram
Maklaar (Maklaar Family 1) Emelda
Makoele (LJ Makoele 1) Lekhotla Johannes
Makoko Mokhathatsi
Malakoane Sello Isaac
Malinga (Bankhoek) Mkhawuleni Elphus
Manenzhe Philemon
Marareni Sipiwo
Masango Happiness
Masemola (Anix Trading) Reineth Lekake
Masiu (Masiu Family 1) Oujan
Masondo (Chairperson) Reginald Thokozani
Masuku Tamsanqa Raphael
Matasane William
Matshinini Fani Ezekiel
Mavundla (Mochochonono Farming 1) Jonas
Mazibuko Khayelihle Blessing
Mbhele Godfrey Sanele
Mbutho Luvuyo
Melken(Chairperson) Modisakwena Klerk
Mlotshwa Mathews Mfanimpela
Mngadi Nhlanhla Sicelo
Mnisi (Zondle AG Coop) Mduduzi David
Mofokeng Abednigo

Mofokeng Sello Ephraim
Mofokeng Thato Zacharia
Mofokeng Tshepo
Mogonediwa Daniel Mongale
Mohlomi Joseph
Mokaleng Joseph Tuelo
Mokgoetsi (Bokgotlo Ltd(Chairperson) Maleshoane Teresia
Mokoena Frans
Mokone Lesedi
Mokwena David
Moleme Joseph
Moloi Samuel
Mongane Itumeleng Naphtaly
Mosia Mapota Paulus
Motaung Mokone Amos
Motaung Oorlog
Mothusi(Mothusi & sons) Lazarus
Mothusi(Mothusi & sons)(Chairperson) Lebogang
Motlhabane (1) Johannes
Motlokoa Paul
Motsuenyane BS
Mphuthi Mokgaudi David
Mpomela(Dwaalkraal 1 Co-op)(Chairperson) Allman
Mthethwa Lethiwe Derril
Mthethwa Sabatha Ewart
Mthimkulu Mzewakhe
Mthombeni(Mthombeni Family Trust) Mhlolo Job
Mtimkulu Mareka Malefetsane
Ngcobo Phumlani
Ngwane Yonela
Ngwenya John Jabulanyi
Ngwenya Sizwe Innocent
Nhlapo Menjo David
Nkosi (Mbolo Trading) Mbolofithi Albert
Nkosi Mandla Enos
Nkosi November Makaab
Ntonga Thobani
Nxumalo Nhleka Joseph
Nzimande (Nzimande Farming Projects) (Chairperson) Boy Zakew
Phike Tseleng David
Pholo Ramoso
Rankatisho Samuel
Sabasaba Toka

Serema(Chairperson) Organ
Shabalala (Mnyuzi Projects) Thokoza Geoffrey
Shelembe Thanduyise Richard
Shongwe (Ingcongcosi PTY Ltd) Ntombizethu Noligwa Dorcas
Shuwisa (Chairperson) Hamu Samson
Sibeko (Tulmitkuil) Dumani Jonas
Sibiya Musa Thomas
Sithole Zakhele Mfemfe
Stuurman Patrick
Thaele (Thaele MP Perlot LTD 1) Mamphe Adeline
Thamae (Hanbury Ranch PTY LTD 1) Chairperson Lesole David
Tobo(Chairperson) Thembalihle
Tsephe Phutheho
Tsephe Thabang Mathitius
Tshabalala (Veringkraal) Thandi Maria
Tshabalala Paulos
Tsotetsi (TSO Farming) Ranko Petrus
Tswayi Maletsatsi
Vilakazi (Chairperson) Siphon Sybion
Vilakazi (VBA Farming Projects) Amos Fanki
Zwane Linda

The following statistics reflect the activities by the relevant regional offices:

Regional Office	Number of Farmers	Number of Farm Visits
Dundee	15	365
Kokstad	12	156
Bloemfontein	43	500
Lichtenburg	15	99
Louwsburg	33	435

6.2.16 RESULTS ACHIEVED

118 Advanced Farmers are currently receiving intensive one-on-one support with the intention of fast-tracking them into the fully commercial grain production sector.

6.2.17 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

The “Support to Individual Farmers” Programme has been very well received and our involvement has proved that there is indeed a need for focussed mentoring and intensive intervention for short periods of time per farmer.

- One of the major constraints to farmers in this sector is the access to production finance. Grain SA has assisted with business plans for farmers who needed input funding.
- If we are to achieve the transformation we desire, it is necessary that new and innovative ways of providing timeous financial support to farmers are designed. The current models are simply not working.

6.2.18 MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT

None

We do however need to access more funding in order to accommodate more farmers in this programme since many farmers have progressed well in their farming enterprises and show potential to develop further.

6.2.19 AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT

The funding for the current numbers of farmers in the programme is adequate.

6.2.20 THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION

The current season ends on 30 September 2022 however the nature of this programme demands that it is repeated annually to meet the needs of developing farmers who have the potential to expand their farming businesses.

6.3 PROJECT: TRAINING

“Unless Africa uses modern technologies, our farmers’ output will remain low and we will remain dependent on others to feed us.” Akinwumi Adesina, 2017 World Food Prize winner’

Farming in rural south Africa has too often been characterised by high numbers of people involved, significant financial input and human effort but low outputs and poor profitability.

The critical impact of training on farmers can be summarised into at least 6 major benefits namely: increase in work quality, increase in farm production, cost savings, time saving, improved income potential and improved networking opportunities.

There are two aspects to this project namely:

- TRAINING MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DUPLICATION
- TRAINING COURSES

The **lack of knowledge and practical skills** relating to advanced maize production, marketing and agri-business development amongst developing farmers requires consistent attention as part of a portfolio towards a meaningful disaster risk management strategy. If there is to be sustainable development in this sector, **farmers need to be trained appropriately.**

The department agricultural extension officers have many challenges and are not equipped to sustainably assist farmers. Among the challenges facing agricultural extension officials are limited practical knowledge and skills and current practical know-how relating to maize production. These challenges in the knowledge transfer process are serious and need to be mitigated with effective support from the agricultural development sector. **Partnerships have empowered Grain SA to design appropriate training courses which are practical and build capacity in farmers, contractors and even extension officers.**

Training courses are held close to the farmers and the groups of trainees are small. The courses are structured to address **theory and practical** application and **training is delivered in a language that the farmers understand** so our trainers are all able to communicate in appropriate indigenous languages.

The training we offer is designed to make an immediate impact to the trainees farming business administration, workshop management knowledge and plant production capabilities. The regular feedback from the farmers consistently reassures us that we are equipping and empowering them in a meaningful way.

6.3.1 PROJECT TITLE

Training Courses

6.3.2 MAIZE TRUST DEED OBJECTIVES

Transformation in the sector to enhance national maize production and improve market access in respect of the South African Maize industry - *inter alia* by providing training, development and mentorship to new farmers so as to assist them to become more competitive in the marketplace.

6.3.3 CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production Practices and Market Access

6.3.4 REASONS WHY IT IS DEEMED THAT THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE

- A lack of knowledge and practical skills relating to advanced maize production, marketing and agri-business development. Farmers need to be trained appropriately.
- Poor knowledge about modern agriculture and limited skills in advanced maize production are therefore compromised.

- Knowledge and skills required to enable further participation in the maize value chain, such as marketing and agri-business development, are weak and many of the farmers are daunted by these complex environments.
- Training to address such knowledge gaps is essential if there is to be sustainable development in the sector.
- It is important that training which is given to farmers should be purposefully tailored to be practical and relevant.

Attending the training courses has proven to be both beneficial and empowering for developing farmers, contractors and agricultural extension officer alike.

6.3.5 MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

We transfer relevant knowledge that positively impacts the on-far practices towards viability and sustainability.

Grain SA courses have been **certified and accredited by the AgriSETA**. The primary goal of our training programme is to further equip self-employed farmers and workers in the agricultural sector. We aim to offer relevant Training Courses at easily accessible venues, to farmers in the language of the particular region where the courses are held. Course Facilitators have been selected according to their technical skills and language competency for example, in Sesotho, Setswana, IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, English, and Afrikaans. Each attendee will receive a copy of the **Course Manual** to use as a farming resource based on the training he or she has received.

The training courses and manuals have been compiled and tailored by the Grain SA Farmer Development team to meet developing farmers' needs over a number of years.

The following 44 Maize Trust courses were presented during this term of reporting.

Event date	Province	Office	Donor	Name of course	Nr
2022-09-05	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Advanced Maize Production and Marketing	17
2022-09-05	Limpopo	Nelspruit	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	20
2022-09-05	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Workshop Skills (Welding, Hand Tools, Power Tools)	10
2022-08-29	Eastern Cape	Maclear	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	23
2022-08-22	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	17
2022-08-22	Limpopo	Nelspruit	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	20
2022-08-15	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Safe handling of Tools and Farm Equipment	10
2022-08-15	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	16
2022-08-15	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	25
2022-08-01	Limpopo	Nelspruit	MT	Farming for profits	20
2022-08-01	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	21
2022-08-01	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Workshop Skills (Welding, Hand Tools, Power Tools)	11
2022-07-30	Free State	Ladybrand	MT	Farming for profits	25
2022-07-25	Free State	Ladybrand	MT	Farming for profits	24
2022-07-25	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	20
2022-07-18	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Farming for profits	14
2022-07-18	Free State	Ladybrand	MT	Advanced Maize Production and Marketing	36
2022-07-11	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	5
2022-07-04	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	25
2022-07-04	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	23
2022-06-27	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Workshop Skills (Welding, Hand Tools, Power Tools)	9
2022-06-20	Free State	Ladybrand	MT	Workshop Skills (Welding)	6
2022-06-20	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Farming for profits	13
2022-06-06	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	25
2022-05-30	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	23
2022-05-23	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	13
2022-05-23	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	5
2022-05-16	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	10
2022-04-19	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	9
2022-04-04	Limpopo	Nelspruit	MT	Business Ethics	20
2022-04-04	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	8
2022-03-14	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	9
2022-03-07	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Tractor and Farm Implement Maintenance	10
2022-02-22	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	28
2022-02-16	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	11
2022-02-14	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	10
2022-02-09	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	12
2022-02-07	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	22
2022-02-02	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	6
2022-01-31	North West	Lichtenburg	MT	Introduction to Maize Production	10
2022-01-31	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	12
2022-01-24	Free State	Ladybrand	MT	Advanced Sunflower Production and Marketing	18
2021-11-08	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	10
2021-11-05	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	MT	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration	3
					684

6.3.6 PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

6.3.7 SECTORS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY THAT COULD OR SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

Since producers are better equipped they will have improved knowledge and skills. As a result the entire maize industry and its extended value chain stand to benefit from the effect of these courses.

All developing maize producers and millers; All related industries; and ultimately national food security.

6.3.8 NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Course donors during this period of reporting were:

Bayer – 20 courses;

DSI – 123 courses;

OPOT – 9 courses

6.3.9 SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual 31 AUG 22	Remaining Budget
Training	R1 347 146,65	-R1 174 832,18	R172 314,47

6.3.10 DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.3.11 DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

6.3.12 DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS THAT WERE FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE

This project is the continuation of the programme that has previously been funded by the Maize Trust.

6.3.14 THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE

We are encouraged by the feedback we receive from the farmers, trainers as well as the mentors and Development Managers who network with the farmers. There are continuously new requests for MORE training from farmers.

6.3.15 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

There have been no problems.

There is a need for further funding to translate some of the existing Training Manuals into more languages so that these 'take-home' manuals are more useful for farmers to use as reference works on their own.

6.3.16 MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT

To date all the courses have been presented as planned.

6.3.17 AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT

The funding is adequate although the need for training courses at more venues and the corresponding training manuals exceeds the funding on a continuous basis. The farmers are always thirsty for more knowledge and skills development.

6.3.18 THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION

Training of this nature is making a valuable contribution to transformation and skills development in the sector and is thus a vital and on-going activity to be continued in perpetuity.



Fanie Pienaar presented the course: Practical Skills - On farm maintenance and support_welding at NAMPO. Twenty learners attended.



Course attendees learn about the importance of accurate boom sprayer calibration



Course attendees learning about the nixtamalization of maize and the diverse uses of the grain, prepared these tasty treats from maize soaked in slaked lime and then processed.



Course attendees watch how to dig a profile hole and take soil samples in their learning about the importance of soil health and the nutrients that it makes available to the maize plants.

6.4 PROJECT H2: COMMUNICATIONS - PULA IMVULA NEWSLETTER

Grain SA has wide experience in pursuit of best agricultural practices through its close relations with successful commercial farmers, agri-businesses on the cutting edge of new technologies and many input supply networks. We are in a unique position to link developing farmers with relevant knowledge systems which are compatible with their unique farming realities. The Pula Imvula publication is integral to the process of disaster risk management insofar as it serves as a publication available in hardcopy and remains with the farmers as a point of reference for the long game.

We analyse and help remove the barriers that exist between current knowledge systems and modern technologies and how farmers use it. We work closely with our donors and partners like the Maize Trust, to understand and minimize the hurdles that hinder communication for developing farmers in South Africa. Grain SA's Pula Imvula magazine is a useful development communication tool. It is a colourful, modern, relevant publication reporting to the developing agricultural sector. It is also very well received by the farmers who tell us they find the information relevant, useful and easy to understand.



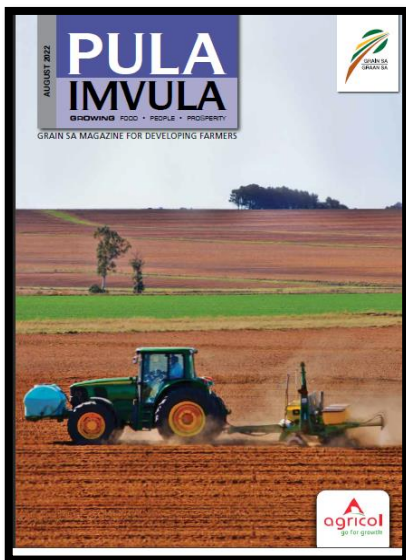
The Pula Imvula is a reliable source of steady information being delivered to developing grain farmers both large and small all around the country. The articles are designed specifically for developing farmers and topics cover many aspects of the production and marketing of specific crops as well important information that is important towards equipping farmers for the diverse tasks that present in farming as a business.

Copies of the magazine are distributed freely to recipients. They are also made available online via the www.grainsa.co.za platform and the publication can also be emailed to recipients in digital format.

It would be incorrect to assume the articles are only relevant to subsistence or smallholder farmers. In truth we tailor the articles for a wide target audience and include many articles on the fundamentals of managing the farm as a business which any farming entrepreneur and commercial farmer needs to be aware of. We cannot afford to underestimate the significance of this publication which ultimately becomes a tool in the farmers' hands. Grain SA's development managers, study group leaders and advanced commercial farmers all report that they find the publication a useful tool.

The full colour magazine has always been published monthly. Herewith the current distribution statistics as at **September 2022** as supplied by our project coordinator, Infoworks:

Pula Imvula	English	Sesotho	Tswana	Zulu	Xhosa	TOTAL
	2,243	1,960	1,075	4,815	5,675	15,759



Considering the critical importance of the role of maize in the South African farmers' toolbox, we believe this publication has an important role to play in the developing agriculture arena:

The information is published in time to address seasonal issues and create awareness of potential problems or monitoring processes which should be happening on the farm.

The articles are written in easy to understand terms which are not intimidating to the new farmer.

Spreading the news

We are very pleased to offer many of the articles and the full publications online via the Grain SA website at: www.grainsa.co.za. This is our effort towards making this knowledge available to an even wider readership.

➔ **The Maize Trust contribution to the budget has enabled the writing and publication of 92 articles relating to maize production, marketing and uses in the maize value chain during the period of reporting.**

6.4.1 PROJECT TITLE

Monthly newsletter: Pula / Imvula

6.4.2 TRUST DEED OBJECTIVES

Transformation of the maize industry through the production and dissemination of information, about Maize Production and Maize Markets in respect of the South African Maize industry

6.4.3 CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing, Dissemination of Information

6.4.4 REASONS WHY IT IS DEEMED THAT THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE

It is absolutely necessary for all those involved in the industry to have access to updated and appropriate industry information. The Pula/ Imvula makes vital up-to-date and appropriate information available to all those involved in the grain sector, and most importantly to developing farmers in English and other widely used indigenous languages.

6.4.5 MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

To disseminate industry information to all interested and involved parties in the developing agricultural sector through the monthly newsletters distributed in English and other indigenous languages namely English, Sesotho, Setswana sa Leboa, IsiZulu and IsiXhosa.

6.4.6 PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

6.4.7 SECTORS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY THAT COULD OR SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT

All developing maize producers, millers, all related industries and ultimately the whole maize industry should benefit from this project.

6.4.8 NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Maize Trust funds are used to publish at least 8 pages each month.

Other contributors to this project are:

- Oil and Protein Development Trust (OPOT)

There are a number of other sponsors from the industry who make generous contributions each month such as:

- Bayer
- Corteva
- Pioneer

6.4.9 SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

	Annual Budget	YTD Actual 31 AUG 22	Remaining Budget
Pula Imvula	R2 071 142,00	-R1 791 253,83	R279 888,17

6.4.10 DETAIL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.4.11 DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.4.12 DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

6.4.13 DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS THAT WERE FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE

This project is the continuation of the programme that was funded previously by the Maize Trust.

6.4.14 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To prepare, duplicate and distribute the monthly newsletter in 5 languages viz. English, Sesotho, Setswana, IsiXhosa and IsiZulu.

6.4.15 ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT

Each month various specialist technical agricultural journalists are requested to write articles on issues relevant to the season at time of publication of the new Pula/Imvula. The articles are all sent to translators for translation into 5 languages before being sent to the publishers for print and distribution.

We believe the distribution reach of the publication is having a significant impact as a tool in the hands of the developing farmers. There are limited other ways to place information with durability into the hands of developing grain farmers.

6.4.16 THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

92 articles relating to maize production, marketing and processing were published from October 2022 to September 2022.

The Maize Trust has sponsored Maize production related articles which have covered at least 8 pages in each monthly edition.

Successful pollination is crucial for crop yield


THE POLLINATION PERIOD IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MAIZE PLANT. BY THIS TIME THE PREPARATION WORK IS DONE. DURING THE POLLINATION WINDOW WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL. HIGH TEMPERATURES, TOO MUCH RAIN OR DROUGHT WILL HINDER EFFECTIVE POLLINATION, WHICH IS CRITICAL FOR TOP YIELDS.

POLLINATION PERIOD
The flowering stage of a maize plant is the most critical period in the development for grain yield.


There are seven key steps in the pollination process:

- Most maize hybrids tassels and silks about the same time. On a typical midseason, they peak pollen shed occurs in the morning between 08:00 and 11:00, followed by a second round of pollen shed late in the afternoon.
- The pollen shed begins in the middle of the central spike of the tassel and spreads out later over the whole tassel.
- Pollen grains are borne in anthers, each of which contains a large number of pollen grains. The anthers open and the pollen grains fall out.
- Pollen is light and is often carried considerable distances by the wind. Pollen shed is not a continuous process. It stops when the tassel is too wet or too dry and begins again when temperature conditions are favourable.
- Little to no pollen is shed when the tassel is wet, as there is not much chance of pollen being washed off the silks during a rainstorm.
- The silks are covered with fine, sticky hairs, which serve to catch and anchor pollen grains.
- Pollen grains remain viable for only 18 to 24 hours as the pollen grain starts growth of the pollen tube down the silk towards the ovule minutes of contact with a silk.


- The pollen tube grows the length of the silk and enters the female flower (ovule) in 12 to 24 hours.
- A well developed ear shoot should have 700 to 1 000 ovaries (the potential kernels) which each produce a silk.
- The silks from near the base of the ear emerge first and those from the tip appear last. Under good conditions, all silks will emerge and be ready for pollination within three to five days. This usually provides adequate time to pollinate all silks before pollen shed ceases.
- Each tassel contains as many as two million or more pollen grains, which translates to at least 2 000 pollen grains produced for each silk of the ear shoot.
- Shortages of pollen are a problem under conditions of excessive heat and drought; they may also occur in fields characterized by uneven emergence or in later emerging plants. ■




As the pollen falls from the pollen sac it is gathered by the beard on the silk.




A tassel emerges at the tip of the maize plant.



The tassel bearing the pollen.




Pollen sacs burst open to drop the pollen onto the tassels on the nearby silks.



JERRY MATHIEWS
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
SPECIALIST AND EDUCATOR

MAIZE POSSIBLE BY THE MAIZE TRUST



The pollen sacs shed the tiny particles of pollen.

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches
but to reveal to him his own – Benjamin Disraeli