



**Phahama Grain Phakama NPC
Grain SA Farmer Development Division**

FINAL REPORT TO:

**THE MAIZE TRUST
STUDY GROUPS, ADVANCED FARMERS, TRAINING AND
THE PULA**

1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024

Submitted: September 2024

Contents

1.	FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FRAMEWORK IN BRIEF	3
2.	FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOOTPRINT	3
2.1.	Farmer Categories.....	4
3.	PROJECT - CREATION AND SERVICE OF STUDY GROUPS	6
4.	PROJECT – SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL ADVANCED FARMERS	13
5.	PROJECTS: TRAINING COURSE IMPLEMENTATION	23
6.	PROJECT: COMMUNICATIONS – PULA IMVULA NEWSLETTER	30

Grain SA Farmer Development Programme (PGP) would like to thank the Maize Trust most sincerely for the funding made available to support the developing sector. Your support over many years has been the anchor of the programme.

Phahama Grain Phakama NPC

Maize Trust: Farmer Development Programme

Financial Period: 1 October 2023 - 31 August 2024

Description	YTD ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	REMAINING BUDGET
Maize Trust FD Programme Income			
MT: Creation and servicing of study groups income	- 1 238 943	- 1 548 679	- 309 736
MT: Support to advanced and commercial farmers income	- 891 176	- 1 113 970	- 222 794
MT: Training courses income	- 851 127	- 1 063 909	- 212 782
MT: Training material income	- 82 319	- 102 898	- 20 580
MT: Pula Imvula Magazine income	- 828 457	- 1 035 571	- 207 114
MT: FD Programme Support Fee @ 7% income	- 272 441	- 340 552	- 68 110
Total Maize Trust FD Programme Income	- 4 164 463	- 5 205 579	- 1 041 116
Maize Trust FD Programme Expenses			
MT: Creation and servicing of study groups expenses	1 547 299	1 548 679	1 380
MT: Support to advanced and commercial farmers expenses	1 121 950	1 113 970	- 7 980
MT: Training courses expenses	1 171 837	1 166 807	- 5 030
MT: Pula Imvula Magazine expenses	1 137 386	1 035 571	- 101 815
Total Maize Trust FD Programme Expenses	4 978 471	4 865 027	- 113 445
Management Fee on MT FD Programme Expenses	312 173	340 552	28 379
TOTAL MT FD INCOME	4 164 463	5 205 579	1 041 116
TOTAL MT FD EXPENSES	- 5 290 644	- 5 205 579	85 065
TOTAL MT FD SURPLUS/ DEFICIT	- 1 126 181	-	1 126 181

*Any over expenditure is carried by PGP

*Final figures to be submitted in November 2024 with the signed AUP

1. FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FRAMEWORK IN BRIEF

- The underlying incentive for this program is **intentional participation in the transformation of the agricultural sector**.
- The purpose of the project is to proactively participate in farmer development in the grain producing sector, by **providing constructive guidance on agricultural activities through teaching, best practices and making appropriate recommendations** to farming communities.
- **We continually strive to reliably deliver appropriate support to developing or previously disadvantaged farmers in the sector of grain farmer development.**

With the donor funding from our different partners and the expertise of the PGP Farmer Development team, the program actively contributes to:

- Farmer education and skills development;
- Identification of appropriate best practices and ways to use modern technology in the development arena;
- Optimisation of production on the area available to the farmers;
- Increasing levels of food security;
- Increasing nutrition security in farming households;
- Raising the level of contribution to national food security by developing farmers;
- Helping establish a support network for developing farmers at local, regional and national levels; and to networking at grass root levels.

2. FARMER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOOTPRINT

Introduction

The reality we face in South Africa is that there are indeed individuals who can access land and who desire to utilise the natural resource to improve their livelihoods. At the same time there are **many factors which inhibit farming success** such as:

- Poor infrastructure
- Poor road networks
- Lack of available transportation and storage

- Lack of marketing skills and access to relevant market information
- Shortages of appropriate agricultural vehicles, implements and tools
- Farm management skills
- Financial management skills
- Insufficient knowledge about best practices.
- Limited extension services available.

2.1. Farmer Categories

Just as every farmer is a unique individual, in the same way every single farming enterprise has specific and unique characteristics. For development to be effective and true, these characteristics all need to be addressed over time so that in the end the whole farm is developed optimally.

The grain farmer members of our program are involved in activities on different platforms. We have currently defined the following groups of farmers:

- Subsistence Farmers cultivating less than 3 ha of arable land;
- Small-holder Farmers operating on 4 ha up to 49 ha arable land;
- Potential Commercial Farmers farming over 50 - 249 ha arable land; and
- New Era Commercial Farmers who are producing more than 250 tons/ year.

The program currently has the following farmer members in the categories described above. These **3 656 active developing farmer members** supported in the programme during the 2023/24 season are spread across all the regional development offices as follows:

Province	Service Centre	Subsistence			Small Holder			Potential commercial			New era commercial			Total
		Active	Inactive	Total	Active	Inactive	Total	Active	Inactive	Total	Active	Inactive	Total	All categories
EC	Kokstad	361	3861	4222	5	35	40	11	13	24	3	3	6	4292
EC	Maclear	396	2405	2801	0	43	43	0	3	3	0	2	2	2849
EC	Mthatha	579	6934	7513	29	81	110	1	5	6	0	0	0	7629
MP and Limpopo	Nelspruit	678	2156	2834	20	93	113	0	1	1	0	0	0	2948
KZN	Dundee	432	2377	2809	24	14	38	10	2	12	4	2	6	2865
KZN and MP	Louwsburg	809	2025	2834	32	15	47	21	4	25	11	9	20	2926
NW	Lichtenburg	6	175	181	76	205	281	39	111	150	15	24	39	651
FS	Bethlehem	0	1	1	11	36	47	34	52	86	13	23	36	170
FS	Bultfontein	0	0	0	0	17	17	26	32	58	10	8	18	93
		3261	19934	23195	197	539	736	142	223	365	56	71	127	24423

The support to farmers in each category is tailored to their needs and the size of land they are actively cultivating. The subsistence level farmers average around 1 ha of land under maize production which they plant using own funds through our Beyond Abundance project. These farmers are in the former homeland areas of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The Small holder farmers plant using own funds and this year we have been fortunate to access production loans for them from PepsiCo, the Landbank and Tiger Brands (still in progress). These farmers are mostly in KZN, the Free State and North West.

The Potential commercial farmers are able to plant by accessing loans from SACTA and they are mostly in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, the Free state, the North West and this year for the first time, we have 3 in the Eastern Cape.

The New Era farmers plant using loans from the Standard Bank and Kgodiso Development Fund – they are in the Free State, North West, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal.

The larger and more commercial farmers are serviced through Advanced Study Groups and otherwise on an individual basis through farm visits, whereas the smaller farmers are mostly serviced through the study groups in the various areas.

3. 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.

3.1. PROJECT TITLE

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

3.2. 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 thereto exists.

3.3. CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing

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

Most developing maize farmers in South Africa are not yet producing at a commercial level. Many are subsistence farmers growing grain for family consumption, with possibly a small amount extra for trading or sale. For various reasons they are not yet achieving the yield/ha that they potentially could. Other 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.

Empowering maize farmers to maximise their production for consumption and local and international markets is crucial to national food security levels.

3.5. MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

- To encourage developing farmers, primarily subsistence and small holder farmers, to join Study Groups which are facilitated by a Grain SA/PGP Regional Development Coordinator 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.
- 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.
- To identify producers that has the ability and capacity to grow into Commercial farmers. This introductory level feeds the pipeline and identifies potential for growth.

3.6. PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

3.7. 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 chain
- Local communities

3.8. OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT

The budget allocated by the Maize Trust goes towards the costs of running Study Groups. The Maize Trust currently contributes in part to the operational cost of operating the study groups run by our regional offices.

3.9. SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO PROJECT A1:

1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Budget
Creation and servicing of study groups	R1 548 679	R1 548 679	R1 380

3.10. DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING: PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

3.11. DETAILS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS FUNDED BY OTHER ENTITIES BEFORE

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

3.12. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this program 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.
- Maintain a data base of Study Groups and members which includes the hectares they plant annually as well as the yields they achieve.

3.13. 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.

It is our dependability that has become our trademark and ensured the healthy relationship that has developed with the farmers. By 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.

Study group events as held per Regional Development Office during the period of reporting:

Service centre	No of Study Groups	Visits in this reporting period	Active member	Average members
Kokstad	17	73	353	21
Maclear	12	82	396	33
Mthatha	52	103	622	12
Free State	11	0	145	13
Dundee	10	116	470	47
Louwsburg	17	85	917	54
Nelspruit	32	61	414	13
Lichtenburg	7	7	139	20
	158	527	3456	22

3.14. THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

- Agricultural support services have been provided to farmers who are active members of the groups listed above.
- Feedback from farmers is positive and they appreciate the mentorship, practical advice and help with their many logistical challenges ;
- There have been a total of 527 Study Group encounters in this period of reporting.

Since the end of the Jobs Fund Project which we called From Subsistence to Abundance, Grain SA continued with a similar project called Beyond Abundance. This

project has continued over many years and in this year it has gained good traction again. The Table below shows the BA figures over the past number of years:

Year	Contribution per ha	Number of farmers	Number of hectares		
BA 19/20	R3 500,00	5104	7000	4,13	R24 500 000,00
BA 20/21	R4 000,00	2497	3118	3,45	R12 472 000,00
BA 21/22	R4 000,00	2778	4073	3,8	R16 292 000,00
BA 22/23	R8 100,00	682	593	4	R4 803 300,00
BA 23/24	R9 000,00	565	573	3,8	R5 157 000,00
BA 24/25	R6 600,00	1103	1570		R10 362 000,00

As can be seen from the table, the numbers dropped during the Covid period when the study groups could not be visited actively. During this past year, we have been very active with the study groups and this is reflected in the number of hectares bought by the farmers.

We are very fortunate to have received financial support for the project from SACTA as well as the Sasol Agricultural Trust. This enabled us to reduce the costs of the inputs to the farmers.

In the coming financial year, we are hoping to expand this project to include larger farmers who are willing to pay their contribution per hectare from their own funds. This is a much less risky way to increase the hectares planted and ensure full farmer ownership and participation.

3.15. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

None. The project has been well received. Relationships with the developing farmers are good and there are tangible changes bearing fruit and delivering positive results

3.16. MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT

To ensure sustainability in light of rising costs and consequent budget constraints, we have reduced the numbers of study groups in most regions. Wherever feasible we have combined other groups to ensure inclusivity as always.

3.17. 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.

Grain SA/PGP Farmer Development will always be eager to access funding to deliver more services to more farmers because 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.

3.18. THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024



Study group meeting: Siyazama Phepheni – Kokstad



Study group meeting: Ga-Riba, Burgersfort, Limpopo



Study group meeting: Donkerhoek, Yende Hall.

4. PROJECT – SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL ADVANCED FARMERS

The purpose of this programme is to support the outstanding candidates who have emerged from the study group system as potential New Era commercial farmers. These are farmers who, although they demonstrate promise and potential, need one on one support in terms of production planning, management, support in terms of financial applications and reporting as well as business and entrepreneurial skills development etc.

It is a priority of Grain SA to assist farmers to full commercialisation so once these developing and outstanding farmers are identified, we target them with focussed services and support.

The Maize Trust funds for soil corrections, insurance and mentorship are directed to these farmers

4.1. PROJECT TITLE

Support to Advanced and Potential New Era farmers

4.2. 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 mentorship and training about maize production and marketing where the need thereto exists.

4.3. CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing

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

South Africa is well recognised for its innovative and sophisticated agricultural systems. There is however, a wide gap between the country's advanced commercial farmers and Grain SA's New Era farmers who are producing optimum tonnages of

maize from their land and are farming each ha to produce the highest possible yield on a semi-commercial scale.

The New Era farmers have in fact progressed far beyond the support that is offered at the Study Group level (information, training and demonstrations). However we are very aware that many of the advanced and potential commercial farmers are not yet quite ready to have “the apron strings cut”. It would be irresponsible to leave them to ‘sink or swim’ – they cannot be left completely unsupported at this stage.

4.5. 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 telephonic advice from their mentors. When a farmer is farming each ha 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 rapidly to the growth in numbers of black commercial farmers.

4.6. PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

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

Developing maize producers, millers, all related industries and ultimately the whole maize industry stand to benefit from a dynamic and sustainable developing grain farmer community.

4.8. NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Bayer.

4.9. SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Budget
Support to advanced and black commercial farmers	R1 113 970	R1 113 970	-R7 980

4.10. DETAIL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

4.11. DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

4.12. DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

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.

4.14. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To identify and provide on-farm service to farmers;
- To give these farmers intensive, individualised 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, wherever possible, recapitalization from the Department of Rural Development
- 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.

4.15. ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARDS TO THE PROJECT

The Farmers

The following farmers have been beneficiaries of this project during the period of reporting:

Last name	First name	Prov.	Involvement	District Municipality	Local Municipality	Gender
Hlela	Jeffrey	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Marareni	Siphiwo	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Mgijima	Bonginkosi	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Mohoto	Thabiso	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Ntonga	Thobani	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Stuurman	Patrick	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Tenza	Kenny	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Tenza	Nonopa	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	F
Tobo	Thembalihle	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Mbizana LM	M
Tsephe	Phutheho	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Zigana	Vuyani	EC	Advanced	Alfred Nzo DM	Matatiele LM	M
Nombewu	Daliwonga	EC	Advanced	O.R. Tambo DM	Mhlontlo LM	M
Hlalele	Joseph Khahleli	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	O.R. Tambo DM	KSD LM	M
Jacobs	Tom	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Metsimaholo LM	M
Koalepe	Jonas	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Ngwathe LM	M
Letuka	Maseli Augustinus	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Makoele	Lekhotla Johannes	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Malakoane	Sello Isaac	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Masiu	Oujan	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Matshinini	Madinda Jabulani	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	O.R. Tambo DM	KSD LM	M
Mavundla	Jonas Sello	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Fezile Dabi DM	Metsimaholo LM	M
Mohlomi	Joseph	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM		M
Moloi	Samuel	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Dihlabeng LM	M
Mosia	Mapota Paulus	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Ngwathe LM	M
Mosoeu	Mojela	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Ngwathe LM	M
Motaung	Oorlog	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Phumelela LM	M
Motlokoa	Paul	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Fezile Dabi DM	Metsimaholo LM	M

Mphuthi	Mokgaudi David	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Phiri	Raebere Sam	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Ngwathe LM	M
Sawukazi	Simon	FS	Advanced	Fezile Dabi DM	Ngwathe LM	M
Thaele	Mampho Adeline	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Dihlabeng LM	F
Thamae	Lesole David	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Tshabalala	Paulos	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Tsotetsi	Ranko Petrus	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	M
Zwane	Linda	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	F
Hleko	Thembeke Beauty	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	F
Khosimore	Jan	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Lekgari	Francis	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Mabaso	Moeketsi Sidwell	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Mabaso	Mohlolo Anton	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Madika	Solly	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Mahlatsi	Edwin	FS	Advanced	Lejweleputswa DM	Nala LM	M
Mahlelehele	Dieketseng Gladys	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	F
Mahlelehele	Isaac	FS	Advanced	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Mantsopa LM	M
Mokoena	Frans	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Thabo Mofutsanyane DM	Mantsopa LM	M
Moloi	Aupa Andrews	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Monnane	Pule	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Mothabane	Johannes	FS	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Setshogo	Nthowa Johannes	FS	Loan Funded 23/24	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Hlubi	Ayanda Nkululeko	KZN	Advanced	uThukela DM	Okhahlamba LM	M
Khoza	Philani Patrick	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	uThukela DM	Okhahlamba LM	M
Khumalo	Lucky Romegius	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Mabizela	Lungelo Boxer	KZN	Advanced	uMzinyathi DM	Endumeni LM	M
Mahlinsa	Siphiwe Moses	KZN	Advanced	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Masondo	Reginald Thokozani	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Masuku	Tamsanga Raphael	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Amajuba DM	eMadlangeni LM	M
Mazibuko	Khayelihle Blessing	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	uThukela DM	Inkosi Langalibalele LM	M
Mkhwanazi	Samkelo	KZN	Advanced	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Mthethwa	Lethiwe Derril	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	F
Mthiyane	Minenhle S'hlonti	KZN	Advanced	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Ngwenya	John Jabulanyi	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Ntuli	Benjamin Peter	KZN	Advanced	Amajuba DM	Newcastle LM	M
Thwala	Jacob Mlungisi	KZN	Advanced	Amajuba DM	Dannhauser LM	M
Gadalane	Mshiyeni	KZN	Advanced	Harry Gwala DM	Greater Kokstad LM	M
Hlela	Thembakuye Jeffrey	KZN	Loan Funded 23/24	Harry Gwala DM	Ubuhlebezwe LM	M
Mbutho	Luvuyo	KZN	Advanced	Harry Gwala DM	Greater Kokstad LM	M
Mkhungo	Sthabiso	KZN	Advanced	Harry Gwala DM	Ubuhlebezwe LM	M
Ngceke	Khwezi	KZN	Advanced	Harry Gwala DM	Greater Kokstad LM	M
Nomlala	Siyabonga	KZN	Advanced	Harry Gwala DM	Greater Kokstad LM	M
Kubheka	Zenzele Jetro	KZN	Advanced	Zululand DM	AbaQulusi LM	M
Dhlamini	Buyisiwe Steven	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M

Gondo	Alfred Mangoba	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Nkangala DM	Steve Tshwete LM	M
Gumede	Xolani Zanovuyo	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Hlatshwayo	Thokozani Daniel	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Mabuza	Bheki Isaia	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Mabuza	Simphiwe Senzeko	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	M
Maila	Bhekimuzi Nkosana	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	M
Makhunga	Gua Abram	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Chief Albert Lithuli LM	M
Makua	Nokuthula Happy	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	F
Malinga	Mkhawuleni Elphus	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Chief Albert Lithuli LM	M
Mathebula	Jeremia Makhosini	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Mavuso	Mafika Johannes	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	M
Mlotshwa	Mathews Mfanimpela	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Mnisi	Mduduzi David	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	M
Ngwenya	Sizwe Innocent	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Nkosi	Jeremiah Obrey	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Nkosi	Thabo Hendric	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Nkosi	Mandla Enos	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Nkosi	Mbolofithi Albert	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Nzimande	Boy Zakew	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Shabalala	Thokoza Geoffrey	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Shabangu	Simon Khuzelwa	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Chief Albert Lithuli LM	M
Shongwe	Calendar Kally	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Msukaligwa LM	M
Shoyisa	Mqaleni Sandile	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Sibeko	Dumani Jonas	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Sibiya	Musa Thomas	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Skosana	Andile Chris	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	M
Skosana	Moniwa Badge	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Nkangala DM	Dr JS Moroka LM	M
Tshabalala	Thandi Maria	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Lekwa LM	F
Vilakazi	Sipho Sybion	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Vilakazi	Amos Fanki	MP	Loan Funded 23/24	Gert Sibande DM	Lekwa LM	M
Xaba	Mthobisi Derrick	MP	Advanced	Gert Sibande DM	Mkhondo LM	M
Dikokwe	Lawrence	NW	Advanced	Dr Kenneth Kaunda DM	Matlosana LM	M
Lentswetship i	Kopano	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Mahikeng LM	M
Lentswetship i	Seoke Ezekiel	NW	Loan Funded 23/24	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Mahikeng LM	M
Magoshane	David	NW	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Moses Kotane LM	M
Malo	Lungile	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Tswaing LM	M
Melken	Modisakwena Klerk	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Tswaing LM	M
Mogonediswa	Daniel Mongale	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Mahikeng LM	M
Mokaleng	Joseph Tuelo	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Tswaing LM	M
Mokwena	David	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Tswaing LM	M

Mpomela	Allman	NW	Loan Funded 23/24	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Mahikeng LM	M
Mtimkulu	Nkosana	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	M
Munyai	Mpho	NW	Advanced	Bojanala Platinum DM	Madibe LM	M
Rankatisho	Samuel	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Mahikeng LM	M
Serema	Organ	NW	Loan Funded 23/24	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Ditsobotla LM	M
Tshabalala	Bothale	NW	Advanced	Ngaka Modiri Molema DM	Ditsobotla LM	M

➔ Each Regional Farmer Development office is responsible for identifying farmers to participate in this program.

Farm Visits per Regional Farmer Development Office:

Over time these individuals have proven 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.

4.16. THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

The farmers in this program are involved in a number of different projects that Grain SA/PGP is collaborating with and ensures that the projects stay on track through mentorship support and skills development. Farmers who have moved through the program, some starting at study group level and others who moved through the advanced farmer program are now involved with the following projects currently being managed by Grain SA/PGP Farmer Development.

Below is a list of all the farmers that have been visited on their farms as well as the number of visits they have had in this reporting period.

As can be seen from the table below, the number of visits per farmer vary very much and this is as a result of a number of different reasons which include the funding available to the farmer, the number of different loans that the one farmer might have, support in terms of soil correction, challenges relating to weather or farming conditions, the health of the farmer, the perceived levels of risk, and many more.

Province	Farmer	No of visits	Province	Farmer	No of visits
EC	Gadalane Mshiyeni	16	KZN	Nomlala Siyabonga	19
EC	Khitlile Lebohlang	9	KZN	Shelembe Thanduyise Richard	35
EC	Marareni Siphwo	8	KZN	Shuwisa Hamu Samson	2
EC	Mbutho Luvuyo	8	KZN	Thwala Jacob Mlungisi	1
EC	Nombewu Siphwe	2	KZN	Tsephe Phutheho	1
EC	Ntonga Thobani	6	KZN	Zwane Samukelisiwe	1
EC	Tenza Kenny	2	KZN	Zwane Samukelo Musawenkosi	1
EC	Tsephe Thabang Mathitius	17	MP	Dhlamini Mazonya Elijah	8
FS	Brodie Manie	2	MP	Gondo Alfred Manqoba	37
FS	Hlalele Joseph Khahleli	1	MP	Gumbi Gcinile Beauty	2
FS	Hleko Thembeka Beauty	2	MP	Gumede Xolani Zanovuyo	15
FS	Khosimore Jan	4	MP	Hlatshwayo Thokozani Daniel	1
FS	Koalepe Jonas	1	MP	Kubheka Zenzele Jetro	1
FS	Kokoma Jack	1	MP	Mabuzza Simphiwe Senzeko	34
FS	Lekgari Francis	2	MP	Mabuzza Bheki Isaia	4
FS	Lenyehelo Jeanett	3	MP	Mabuzza Ellie Jabhile	1
FS	Lephoto Thabo Aaron	1	MP	Mabuzza Zanokuhle Nonkululeko	1
FS	Letsitsa Petrus (Happy)	1	MP	Mahlangu Amos	1
FS	Letuka Maseli Augustinus	2	MP	Maila Bhekumuzi Nkosana	5
FS	Limbada Aziz	5	MP	Makhunga Gua Abram	28
FS	Mabaso Moeketsi Sidwell	3	MP	Makua Nokuthula Happy	2
FS	Mabaso Mohlolo Anton	3	MP	Malinga Mkhawuleni Elphus	1
FS	Madika Solly	1	MP	Masango Happiness	2
FS	Mahlaba Abel	3	MP	Mathebula Jeremia Makhosini	1
FS	Mahlelelele Dieketseng Gladys	27	MP	Mathelela Thokozile Hazel	1
FS	Maklaar Emelda	4	MP	Mavuso Mafika Johannes	2
FS	Makoele Lekhotla Johannes	33	MP	Mdiniso Bonisiwe Berlinah	2
FS	Malakoane Sello Isaac	32	MP	Mlotshwa Mathews Mfanimpela	33
FS	Manenzhe Philemon	1	MP	Mnisi Mduduzi David	1
FS	Masiu Oujan	55	MP	Ngwenya Sizwe Innocent	33
FS	Matasane William	1	MP	Nkosi Mbolofithi Albert	5
FS	Matshinini Madinda Jabulani	34	MP	Nkosi Jeremiah Obrey	3
FS	Mavundla Jonas Sello	25	MP	Nkosi Mandla Enos	34
FS	Modukanele Maletsoku	1	MP	Nxumalo Postol Solomon	1
FS	Mohlomi Joseph	7	MP	Nzimande Boy Zakew	4
FS	Mokoena Frans	11	MP	Shabalala Thokoza Geoffrey	1
FS	Moleme Joseph	6	MP	Shabalala Sellinah Celiwe	1
FS	Moloi Aupa Andrews	2	MP	Shabangu Simon Khuzelwa	2
FS	Moloi Samuel	50	MP	Shongwe Calendar Kally	1
FS	Monnane Pule	3	MP	Shongwe Ntombizethu Nologwa Dorcas	3
FS	Motaung Oorlog	2	MP	Shoyisa Mqaleni Sandile	1
FS	Motlhabane Johannes	2	MP	Sibeko Muzayifani Mica	1
FS	Motlhabane Israel	1	MP	Sibeko Sabeth Sisana	1
FS	Motlhabane Ruben	2	MP	Sibiya Musa Thomas	2
FS	Motlokoa Paul	19	MP	Skosana Moniwa Badge	35
FS	Mphuthi Mokgaudi David	1	MP	Skosana Andile Chris	1
FS	Mthimkulu Koos	1	MP	Tshabalala Thandi Maria	1
FS	Mtimkulu Elias	1	MP	Vilakazi Siphso Sybion	1
FS	Phahla Patrick Gama	2	MP	Vilakazi Amos Fanki	30
FS	Phike Tseleng David	8	MP	Xaba Mthobisi Derrick	1
FS	Rakhongoana William	2	NW	Dikokwe Lawrence	1
FS	Setshego Nthowa Johannes	17	NW	Lentswetshipi Kopano	1
FS	Thaele Mampho Adeline	1	NW	Lentswetshipi Seoke Ezekiel	27
FS	Thamae Chairperson Lesole David	2	NW	Mafoko Victor	1
FS	Tshabalala Motsoagole Gideon	12	NW	Magoshane David	1
FS	Tshabalala Paulos	3	NW	Malo Lungile	1
FS	Tsotetsi Ranko Petrus	51	NW	Mazwi Simon	2
KZN	Hadebe Nkosinathi Duncan	1	NW	Mogogane Obakeng	1
KZN	Hlela Thembakuye Jeffrey	12	NW	Mogonediwa Daniel Mongale	4
KZN	Hlubi Ayanda Nkululeko	1	NW	Mokgoetsi Maleshoane Teresia	3
KZN	Hlubi Sphelale	5	NW	Mokwena David	1
KZN	Khoza Philani Patrick	39	NW	Mongane Itumeleng Naphtaly	3
KZN	Khumalo Zenzele Vincent	2	NW	Mothusi Lebogang	10
KZN	Khumalo Lucky Romegius Boniface	44	NW	Motsuenyane Mokgethi	1
KZN	Kubheka Lindiwe Maureen	1	NW	Mpabanga Amanda	1
KZN	Mahlinsa Siphwe Moses	1	NW	Mpomela Allman	14
KZN	Masondo Reginald Thokozani	38	NW	Mtimkulu Nkosana	1
KZN	Masuku Tamsanqa Raphael	41	NW	Munyai Mpho	2
KZN	Mazibuko Khayelihle Blessing	21	NW	Ntuli Vincent	1
KZN	Mbhele Godfrey Sanele	11	NW	Pholo Ramoso	5
KZN	Mngadi Nhlanhla Siculo	12	NW	Rankatisho Samuel	2
KZN	Mthethwa Day Laswell	2	NW	Selepe Mokete	1
KZN	Mthethwa Lethiwe Derril	38	NW	Sepeng Tlotlo	1
KZN	Mthethwa Sabatha Ewart	1	NW	Serema Organ	16
KZN	Ngceke Khwezi	2	NW	Tlotleng Johanna	2
KZN	Ngwenya John Jabulanyi	42	NW	Tshabalala Bothale	1
				155 different farmers	1345

4.17. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

The “Support to Individual Farmers” Program 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/PGP 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 still simply not working effectively enough to facilitate viable, sustainable development in the sector.

Unfortunately, the past summer season was very dry in the Free State and North West which has resulted in some farmers not being able to repay their production loans. We have also had incidence where farmers have acted dishonourably and sold their grain outside of the cessions registered against the crop. The weather related defaults are easier to manage as we are able to explain the problems, however, the dishonesty of the farmers is another matter and we are acting very strongly with these farmers. Any forms of dishonestly will immediately disqualify a farmer from future support.

4.18. 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 program since many farmers have progressed well in their farming enterprises and demonstrate promise that they could potentially become fully commercialised with the right support structures in place.

4.19. 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 program is adequate.

4.20. THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROJECT UNTIL COMPLETION

The current season ends on 30 September 2024 however the nature of this program demands that it is repeated annually to meet the needs of developing farmers who have the potential to expand their farming businesses.



Maila (Bambaspha Co-op) Bhekimuzi Nkosana – busy with implement maintenance in the Ermelo regions (Louwsburg office) – mentors assist in identifying issues and help rectify where possible or advise on procedures.



Magoshane David from Robega (Lichtenburg office) – farmer and mentor doing resource assessment

5. PROJECTS: TRAINING COURSE IMPLEMENTATION

There are two aspects to this project namely:

- PROJECT TRAINING MATERIAL
- PROJECT - TRAINING COURSES

Who benefits?

There is a worrying **lack of knowledge and practical skills** relating to advanced maize production, marketing and agri-business development. If there is to be sustainable development in this sector, **farmers need to be trained appropriately**. Over many years Grain SA has networked with agriculture development experts to develop well designed and appropriate training courses. We roll out these courses as needs are identified by regional team members with the goal of increasing the sectoral skills and knowledge of grain farmers, contractors as well as farm workers.

What is the course content?

Our training courses are structured to address **theory and practical** application on a wide range of topics. They cover a vast spectrum of topics directly related to grain farming and business development. The courses are sponsored by a number of invested partners.

What are considered important criteria in project roll out?

- The training we offer is designed to make an immediate impact to their farming business, workshop management knowledge and plant production capabilities.
- Attention is paid to theory but there is an important practical aspect to each course too.

5.1. PROJECT TITLE

Training Courses – Operational and Implementation Costs

Training Course Material – Course development and duplication

5.2. 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 market place.

5.3. CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production Practices and Market Access

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

- One of the most common characteristics of farmers who join the Grain SA/PGP Study Groups is that they have very poor knowledge about modern agriculture and their skills in advanced maize production are therefore compromised.
- Furthermore, the knowledge and skills required to enable further participation in the maize value chain, such as marketing and agri-business development, are inadequate 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. It is unfortunate that State agricultural extension officers are often lacking in knowledge and practical skills regarding maize production.

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

5.5. MAIN AIM OF THE PROJECT

The objective of our training program is specifically intended to further equip self-employed farmers and farm workers in the agricultural sector. Courses are delivered to maize growers wherever a particular need is identified.

5.6. PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

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

Since producers are better equipped after these learning encounters, 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.

5.8. NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Maize Trust – all maize projects

5.9. SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Budget
Training Courses and Materials	R1 166 807	R1 171 837	-R5 030

5.10. DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

5.11. DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

5.12. 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.

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

It is important to understand that the PGP team avoids distracting farmers from their fields during peak seasons in the summer grain production time-table. Farmers are expected to be present monitoring and scouting their fields and operations during these critical times. The growing season does influence our training dates.

5.14. THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE

Although over many years, with the help of the Maize Trust, the Grain SA/PGP Development Programme has presented many courses, there is still a great need for more training. As the farmers progress, the need information about production, advanced production and marketing, mechanization and mechanical maintenance, calibration, management, financial management, succession planning and ethical business practices.

During this year, we are updating all the manuals to ensure that the contents is relevant and up to date. We are also developing additional courses to address new needs as they arise.

The table below is a summary of the courses that were presented in this reporting period.

Number of attendees	Province	Service center	Date of course commencement	Days	Name of course
12	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-06-10		Advanced Maize Production and Marketing
11	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	2024-08-19	5	Advanced Maize Production and Marketing
6	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	2024-08-19	5	Advanced Maize Production and Marketing
9	Limpopo	Nelspruit	2024-07-16	5	Advanced Maize Production and Marketing
13	North West	Lichtenburg	2024-04-23	3	Business Ethics
12	Free State	Bloemfontein	2024-08-20	3	Introduction to Farm Management and Farm Finance
11	North West	Lichtenburg	2024-08-06	3	Introduction to Farm Management and Farm Finance
15	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	2024-06-25	3	Introduction to Farm Management and Farm Finance
7	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	2024-07-23	3	Introduction to Farm Management and Farm Finance
17	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-07-09	3	Introduction to Farm Management and Farm Finance
7	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-03-26	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
19	Free State	FS East	2024-04-16	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
9	Free State	FS West	2024-04-11	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
12	North West	Lichtenburg	2024-04-03	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
11	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	2024-04-09	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
14	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-04-11	2	Introduction to Grain Marketing
25	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-07-22	4	Introduction to Maize Production
25	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-08-26	4	Introduction to Maize Production
20	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	2024-08-20	4	Introduction to Maize Production
25	Kwazulu Natal	Louwsburg	2024-07-29	4	Introduction to Maize Production
18	Eastern Cape	Maclear	2024-06-04	4	Introduction to Maize Production
19	Eastern Cape	Maclear	2024-08-27	4	Introduction to Maize Production
23	Eastern Cape	Mthatha	2024-05-20	4	Introduction to Maize Production
25	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-05-06	4	Introduction to Maize Production
15	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-21	4	Introduction to Maize Production
25	Limpopo	Nelspruit	2024-08-26	4	Introduction to Maize Production
8	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-08-19	4	On-Farm Maintenance and Support (MTU)
9	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-08-26	4	On-Farm Maintenance and Support (MTU)
19	Eastern Cape	Maclear	2024-08-20	1	Practical Skills: Spraying and Mixing of Chemicals
20	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-19	1	Practical Skills: Spraying and Mixing of Chemicals
20	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-21	1	Practical Skills: Spraying and Mixing of Chemicals
15	Limpopo	Nelspruit	2024-08-26	1	Practical Skills: Spraying and Mixing of Chemicals
20	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-28	1	Practical Skills: Spraying and Mixing of Chemicals
7	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-04-10	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
11	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-04-11	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
6	Free State	FS East	2024-04-15	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
6	Free State	FS East	2024-04-19	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
5	Eastern Cape	Kokstad	2024-03-26	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
5	Kwazulu Natal	Kokstad	2024-03-27	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
5	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	2024-04-26	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
6	Mpumalanga	Louwsburg	2024-04-29	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
21	Eastern Cape	Maclear	2024-04-04	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
20	Eastern Cape	Maclear	2024-08-21	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
5	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-04-10	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
18	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-20	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
21	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-22	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
15	Limpopo	Nelspruit	2024-08-27	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
20	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-08-29	1	Practical Skills Course - Planter- and Boom Sprayer Calibration
5	Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	2024-04-09	5	Practical Skills Course - Setting of Implements
12	Kwazulu Natal	Dundee	2024-06-11	3	Succession Planning
5	Free State	FS East	2024-08-29	5	Workshop Skills (Welding)
709	Attendees				
52	Courses presented				

5.15. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE PROJECT

There have been no problems.

5.16. MILESTONES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE REASONS FOR THAT

The main body of the training program will be actioned in the second half of the budget period, which is the quieter season for summer grain crop farmers.

5.17. 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 is necessary for both farmers and farm workers.

5.18. 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.



Calibrating boom sprayer during the Advance Maize Production and Marketing course in Tsolo Eastern Cape



Practical Skills course (Welding) where the farmers are taught how to do it themselves – Free state East



Introduction to Grain Marketing course presented in FS East Qwa-Qwa

6. PROJECT: COMMUNICATIONS – PULA IMVULA NEWSLETTER

Development communication and extension advisory services are important instruments for encouraging dialogue about science-based farming solutions with communities, helping to stimulate agricultural production.

Grain SA's Pula Imvula magazine is a useful development communication tool. It is an exciting, multi-dimensional publication disseminating important information to the developing agricultural sector. It is well received by the farmers who tell us they find the information useful and easy to understand. The Pula Imvula has become recognised as a reliable source of information that is tailored specifically for developing farmers. Topics cover many aspects of production and marketing of specific crops as well as other generic information that is useful towards equipping and upskilling the farmers.

Copies of the magazine are distributed 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. Regrettably, due to the demise of the Post Office services, we are changing over to Courier delivery of the Pula.

The target audience is wide and this publication holds interest for all stakeholders interested in farmer development, as well as farmer development facilitators and developing farmers who wish to equip themselves better. In light of the fact that many of our farmers live in remote deep rural areas where expert mentorship, advice and knowledge about modern farming and latest technologies and farming systems is scarce and difficult to access we believe this publication is significant.

Grain SA's development managers, study group leaders and farmers all report they find the publication invaluable.

Since January 2024 the magazine has only been published in 3 languages namely, English, Tswana and Zulu. After consultation with the farmers, coordinators and mentors, in the interest of cost saving and increased content, we have decided to move to an only English version of the Pula Imvula as from October 2024. It has been

20 years now that the Pula has been in all the different languages, but the cost of all the different aspects of the multiple languages, we agreed to move towards only English.

Considering the critical importance of the role of maize in the South African farmers' toolbox, we believe our Pula Imvula 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.

6.1. PROJECT TITLE

Monthly newsletter: Pula / Imvula

6.2. 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

6.3. CATEGORY UNDER WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE

Sectoral Transformation: Production and Marketing, Dissemination of Information

6.4. 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.

6.5. 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.

6.6. PROJECT DURATION

1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

6.7. 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.

6.8. NAMES OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Other contributors are:

Oil and Protein Development Trust (OPOT), Agriseker and PANNAR.

6.9. SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL BUDGET RELATING TO THE PROJECT

1 October 2023 to 31 August 2024	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Budget
Pula Imvula (Monthly newsletter)	R1 035 571	R1 137 386	-R101 815

6.10. DETAIL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.11. DETAIL OF OVERSEAS TRAVELLING EXPENSES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT APPLICATION

None

6.12. DETAIL OF SURPLUS MAIZE TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

None

6.13. 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.

6.14. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To prepare, duplicate and distribute the monthly newsletter

6.15. 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.

6.16. THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

It is our firm belief that the work being done in this program currently is steadily contributing towards development and growth on the farmer development platform in South Africa's agricultural sector.

At the same time we recognise we still have a lot more ground to cover and many more lives to change, and we need sustainable partnerships like the one we currently enjoy with the Maize Trust to work towards the goal of successful farmer development that transforms lives, equips people and ensures optimal production on the farmland available to the farmers.

ISSUE	ARTICLE	PAGES
Oct. 2023	Chemical labels contain new requirements	2
	14 top tips on planter maintenance	2
	Overseas trends influence crop prices	1
	Why a bookkeeper comes in handy	1
	A programme that is changing lives (report about the FDP)	2
Nov. 2023	Minimise risks with crop insurance	3
	Use electronics to your advantage	2
	Hedging: A tool to ensure profit	1
	Guard your good good name	1
	A programme that is changing lives	1
Dec. 2023	PROUD FARMERS CELEBRATE their success (Day of celebration)	4
	Assess the body condition of your cows (feeding)	2

	An in-DEPTH LOOK at the past maize season	2
Jan./Feb. 2024	HAY is an IMPORTANT LINK in animal production	2
	Strategies to combat maize ear rots	3
	Grain hedging can save costs	1
	Machine maintenance can SAVE YOU MONEY	3
	BEAT THE TAX burden effectively	1
	AVOID CROP LOSSES WITH early harvesting	2
	High crop yields expected after good rainfall	2
	A programme that is changing lives	2
Mar. 2024	GIBBERELLA STALK ROT is a serious threat	2
	NAVIGATING OPTIONS: Choosing a put or call	2
	Do MAINTENANCE before harvesting	3
	A programme that is changing lives	2
Apr. 2024	Gerbils can destroy a harvest	2
	Tips to fight vedffires on the farm	2
	Climate conditions problematic for grain producers	1
	Corner Post: Philani Khosa	1
	A programme that is changing lives	2
May. 2024	Take soil samples to get healthy crops	2
	EXPLORING the future market	2
	Have a BENCHMARK to measure success	2
	A programme that is changing lives	2
Jun. 2024	Control winter weeds for better grain yields	2
	Weather patterns influence maize prices	2
	CONGRESS 2024: Making plans to thrive amid challenges	2
	A programme that is changing lives	2
Jul. 2024	Agriculture is celebrated AT NAMPO HARVEST DAY	2
	How to FEED your crop, not the WEEDS	3
	Compile a BUSINESS PLAN for your farm	1
	A programme that is changing lives	2
Aug. 2024	Soil cultivation is key to a good yield	3
	Meet the Farmer of the Year finalists	2
	DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE BUYING SEEDS	1
	Invest time in a BUSINESS PLAN	1
	A programme that is changing lives	1
Sep. 2024	Cutworm management is crucial	2
	Keep farm equipment in tip-top shape	2
	Market options for small-scale farmers	1
	How to present your business plan TO STAKEHOLDERS	1
	A programme that is changing lives	1

SEPTEMBER 2024

PULA IMVULA

GROWING FOOD • PEOPLE • PROSPERITY

PGP MAGAZINE FOR DEVELOPING FARMERS

