



Newsletter



Final Quarter  
2021



## Supporting Farmers Associations

*The backbone of HGA*







## Our Strategic Partners





## Gardening for Food Security

Mr Dougie Strachan continues his invaluable role of purchasing, repackaging and distributing inputs to those involved in his project and in the first part of the planting season distributed no less than 250 bags of seed. It would seem the enthusiasm for home gardening among the rural communities within which we work is growing rapidly!

With only about 20% of the half a million people in our district municipality living in the urban centres, it makes sense that our initiatives emphasis on home gardening for food security continues to grow and we are grateful to have the support of the private sector in this process. We gratefully received 200kg of 4:3:4 (40) Zn from GWK and a bag of SC506 maize seed from Limagrain in November which was used in the starter packs being issued to new home gardeners.



Planting demonstrations at the farmer's day held near Donnybrook last September



## Mphithini Co-op

The Mphithini co-op has had some restructuring and Mr Absolom Mazibuko (pictured here) has been elected the manager of the project by his peers, which we are pleased about. Mr Mazibuko has been the driving force behind the project since the onset and the one who sought HGAs support in the beginning. He will also be taking over the reins of the book-keeping responsibility; part of the process of HGA devolving responsibility to the co-op as they move towards self-reliance.

The Co-op received some fencing material from the Department of Agriculture and have begun using that to prepare for the expansion of their area under cultivation. Their mechanisation woes however continued this planting season with a fair amount of trial and error before they found someone with a planter that was functional. Their combination of white and yellow maize was however in the ground by the 13<sup>th</sup> of December and dry beans will be planted in January.





24<sup>th</sup> Aug



## Runnymede Food Security Project



The Runnymede vegetable garden has been flourishing and the CHEP staff members have enjoyed access to a range of crops including cabbage, beetroot, spinach, baby marrow, and lettuce, and are waiting to harvest, brinjal, cauliflower, carrots, onions and garlic.

The garden design has also taken shape thanks to the provision of timber offcuts from Columbia Forestry which were used as edging around the beds and woodchips provided by Weatherboard Sawmill for the walkways between the beds. With six 8x2m beds now planted the next 8 beds will be prepared for planting and plans will begin to be made for establishing a vegetable garden on CHEP's property Draaikloof, near Kokstad.

*(Photos taken by Dylan Weyer)*

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov





## In-service Training Programme

We conducted a survey of past and present students recently in order to find out what their households financial position was at the time of enrolling in our programme. We learnt that for 50 % of students, the stipend they began receiving from HGA was their household's only income besides the social grants some were receiving.

A combination of loyal support from Pannar Seed, significant contributions from the P. Trimborn Agency, and the willingness of our commercial farming community to give students an opportunity to gain experience on their farms, has meant that we not only have been able to help agricultural students obtain their qualifications and further their careers but also reduce the vulnerability of the families from which many of them come. For that we are grateful.

81 % (n=27) of the diploma applications we have assisted students in submitting have now been accepted with the balance still pending. A 'pass rate' we think we can start to feel satisfied with!

*Former student: Njabulo Makhathini (pictured here): had the following to say after receiving his qualification:*

*"Looking back at how I entered this program, you're the one who made it possible. Even when our diplomas got rejected, you never gave up. Continue doing the great work you doing! Thanks again."*





## Other news

HGA held its fourth successful AGM in November, once again at the fantastic establishment that is the Hilton Bush Lodge. The meeting was well attended and we are grateful to Standard Bank for fitting the bill for the event. The 2020/2021 annual report was also released and this is available for download on our website:

<https://www.harrygwalaagri.co.za/annual-reports>

We would like to make mention and thank Express Petroleum who made a generous donation of R10 000 to the organisation in December.



AGM  
17th November 2021

Outgoing HGA Chairperson, Mr Rory Bryden delivers his annual report at the AGM held in Hilton last November



For more info: [www.harrygwalaagri.co.za](http://www.harrygwalaagri.co.za) and [www.facebook.com/ harrygwalaAGRI](https://www.facebook.com/harrygwalaAGRI)  
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