



Newsletter

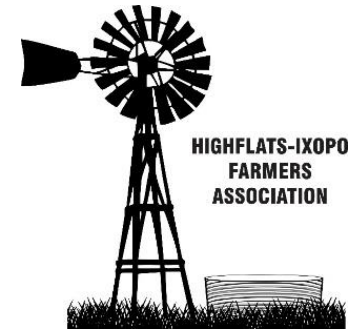


Third Quarter of 2021



Supporting Farmers Associations

The backbone of HGA





Our Strategic Partners



Limagrains Zaad South Africa



Standard Bank

Lilydale Farmer's Day

Subsequent to the farmers' day held in Mazabakweni near Highflats in late May, a follow-up event was held at Lilydale Farm in the Donnybrook area in September and was attended by community members from the Eastwolds/Mackenzie area as well as Creighton. Dougie Strachan once again performed a demonstration of the agro-ecological cultivation technique that has proven so successful in his project. A total of 25 starter packs were given to households wishing to start cultivating their own home gardens and the packs included a fork, a rope to measure out planting intervals, and fertilizer and seed. The next phase in the rollout of this project is to establish hubs from which fertilizer and seed can be repackaged and sold locally in the same way that has been done so successfully by the Strachan's at the Mazabakweni and Umzimkhulu sites.



Mphithini Co-op

The Mphithini Co-op decided to plant dry beans last season and although only 0,4 Ha was planted they managed a yield of just over a tonne and within a few weeks after the harvest thereof, it had been sold in its entirety to local community members. The yellow maize was also sold very quickly, being popular among livestock owning locals who use it as feed. The white maize which is being milled on site using the newly acquired hammermill, has also proven popular.

Soil samples were taken in late July and the results are now showing the reward of soil corrections that have been made since 2019 and mean that the co-op will reduce their input costs in the 2021 planting season. Thanks go to Omnia, Geyser's Fertilizer & Lime, Stapylton-Smith Farming CC and Pannar Seed for your contributions of lime, fertilizer and seed last season.



Runnymede Food Security Project

The food security project in partnership with CHEP is off to a good start. The fencing of the plot was completed at the end of August and this was done by a team from Springfontein Farm, located in the Cedarville Flats and owned by the Makhoba Trust. The team have completed a year of training on the farm through the Yes programme during which they acquired a range of skills, including fencing. It was good to be able to offer them further work experience and we would highly recommend their expertise in the fencing department.

The first vegetables were planted at the end of September and include spinach, cabbage, spring onion and green pepper along with nasturtium and marigolds to ward off pests and add to the aesthetics of the garden. Up until this point, entirely organic methods have been employed utilising lime and compost to prepare the soil in line with the results from the soil tests and the use of manure, compost and bonemeal while planting.

The photos to the right are a snapshot of the progress made to date (taken by Dylan Weyer).



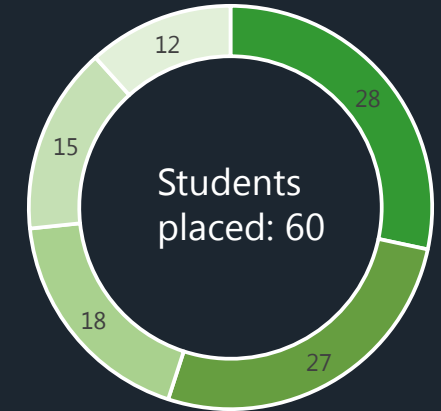
In-service Training Programme



We would like to acknowledge and thank Pannar Seed who have agreed to commit to our in-service training programme for another year next year. Pannar Seed made it possible to launch the programme in early 2018 and have been our primary funder since then, having now invested over R1 000 000 in the students by way of the stipends they receive whilst undergoing their training. We thank them for allowing us to extend support to the next generation of farmers in our country.



In other news, our 60th student recently enrolled in our programme. The graphic below shows the proportion (%) that have now received their qualifications, those still undergoing their training and those waiting to receive their qualifications or yet to submit their applications.



■ National Diploma awarded (28%)

■ Currently enrolled (27 %)

■ Did not complete their training or was a graduate intern (18%)

■ Qualification pending (15%)

■ Still to submit diploma application (12%)

Photo Right: Former HGA student and current Junior Farm Manager, Mr Walter Khumalo

For more info: www.harrygwalaagri.co.za and www.facebook.com/harrygwalaAGRI
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