



UKHANYO
FARMER
DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 / 2024

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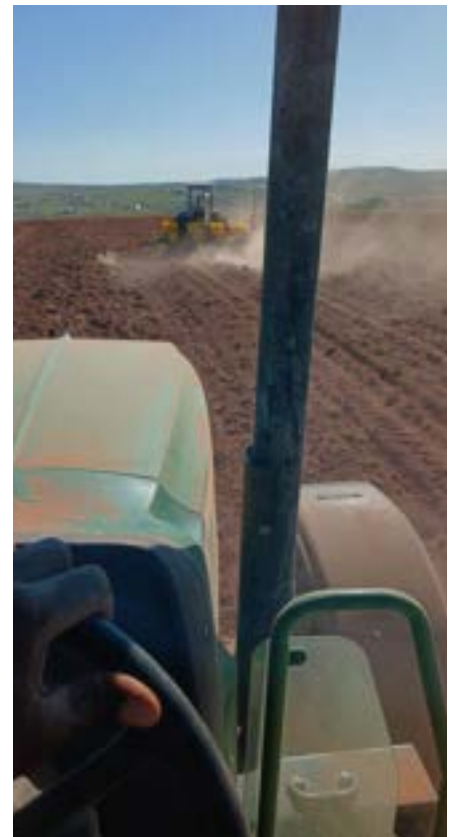


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Introduction

The 2023/2024 season has been a transformative year for Ukhanyo Farmer Development (UFD). Through strategic partnerships, innovative training programs, and dedicated support to our farmers, we have achieved remarkable milestones that continue to strengthen the agricultural sector in the Eastern Cape. This report provides an overview of our accomplishments, financial achievements, and the impact of our initiatives on farmers, stakeholders, and rural communities.



CEO Message



Season 2023/2024 was an exciting year which had its challenges and a lot of positives for Ukhanyo Farmer Development.

With the change in strategy which was implemented a season ago, the results have been something to be proud of. The reality and achievement of our results was extremely positive for the organization and its objectives. The dedication and commitment of our team, showed yet again why it's such a special group of personnel, who really enjoy and are passionate about the work they do for UFD and the farmers we serve.

Farmer Participation

For the 2023/2024 season, where we had 600ha under production with 800 members registered. Given our strategic direction change which included the farmers paying fully for their inputs, instead of previously being heavily subsidized, farmer participation was beyond expectation in the 2023/2024.

Growing Partnership Participation

We also had some key partnerships to join the Ukhanyo Family. This also allowed us to diversify cropping, with the introduction of soyabeans on communal lands. This catalytic direction by Ukhanyo Farmer Development speaks to unlocking more grain potential within rural areas and communal lands, which was made possible by the partners and funders who support the Ukhanyo Farmer Development vision and mission.



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...The dedication and commitment of our team, showed yet again why it's such a special group of personnel...

Sinelizwi Fakade





CEO Message



Management Adjustments

Mbali Nwoko who was our CEO for 2 years, was strategically deployed to lead our commercial entity within the Ukhanyo Family, being Ukhanyo Grains Pty Ltd. This then meant, I as Sinelizwi Fakade would step into being CEO of Ukhanyo Farmer Development NPO in the interim until such a time a permanent CEO is appointed. With a strong surge of commercial opportunities for our more commercial farmers, it was very important that we strategically position ourselves to be able to access those opportunities for the beneficiation of our farmers, and a commercial vehicle was required and needed strong leadership to establish and guide.

Staff Adjustments

In the past season, our personnel change involved some additions into the team. We had 2 young agricultural graduates join Ukhanyo Farmer Development as mentors and office support. This was made possible through the partnership program UFD runs via the Department of Agriculture EC.

Our 2 young agricultural graduates **Sisipho Maqukwana** and **Ziyanda Gegile**, join Ukhanyo Farmer Development as mentors and office support.



CEO Message

Existing Partnerships and Growth

Ukhanyo Farmer Development work has been privileged to be working and Partnering with funders and stakeholders that truly support the work we do and the impact we've made in the livelihoods of developing farmers. The various programs under UFD and the successes we have achieved speaks to the support we continue to receive from our partners and stakeholders.

With any strategic and or direction change, there will be teething problems in the beginning and it may lead, at times, to decline in performance, slower growth. Our partners however, even through such transitional periods, have remained solid behind our vision. I would like to take this opportunity and appreciate them all. Our continued success and growth is hugely due to their unwavering support throughout the year. The partners that have joined us in the past year, are able to associate themselves with us due to the work we've achieved and the partners that back us year on year.

Lastly, to our farmers, the reason we cease to exist as an organization. Ukhanyo Farmer Development's existence is to shine the light, and for those that want to follow, will follow. It's to be a beacon of hope to those that have lost hope, it's to be a unifier where division has taken centre stage. The farmers who have entrusted us to deliver a better chance for their success and growth, are the exact reason UFD existence, is what it is today. The achievements and the growth in the past season are testimony that our purpose is permanent, and our work and the results we achieve, must do the talking.

I look forward to an even more exciting 2025/2026 season. With UFD charting its own path in Farmer Development, we can only remain resolute and committed to our calling as a team, and as an organization. Makukhanye mzi ka Ukhanyo, ndinithanda nonke!!

Enkosi



“

...The achievements and the growth in the past season are testimony that our purpose is permanent...



Mentor Training and Development

Mentorship remains a cornerstone of UFD's mission to empower farmers with knowledge and technical expertise. During the 2023/2024 season, we trained and deployed a total of 10 UFD mentors to provide hands-on guidance and support to our farmers.



During the
2023/2024
season, we trained
and deployed
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10
UFD mentors



MENTOR NAME	INSTITUTIONS
Mihle Fodo	B Tech Unisa
Yondela Diko	Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute
Ntombizandile Cewu	Allenby Business College / Gordon's Institute for Business Science, University of Pretoria
Siphenathi Feni	Walter Sisulu University
Siphesihle Cabane	Central University of Technology BTech
Bongiswa Konzani	University of Free State
Xhamakazi Sali	Walter Sisulu University / University of Free State
Asandile Gana	University of Fort Hare
Bayanda Nodo	University of Free State / Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute / University of Mpumalanga
Sisipho Sobekwa	University of Fort Hare



Mentor Training and Development



Farmers



Total Registered Framers

1586



Farmers Contributed

991



Gender Total

443

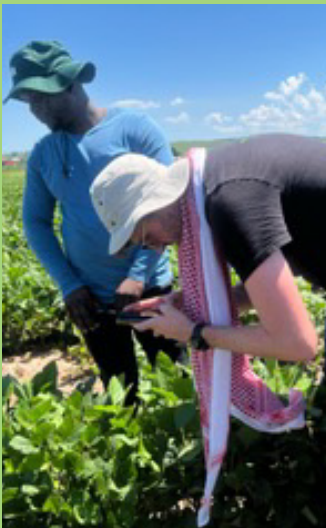
FEMALE

540

MALE

8

YOUTH



Mentor Training and Development



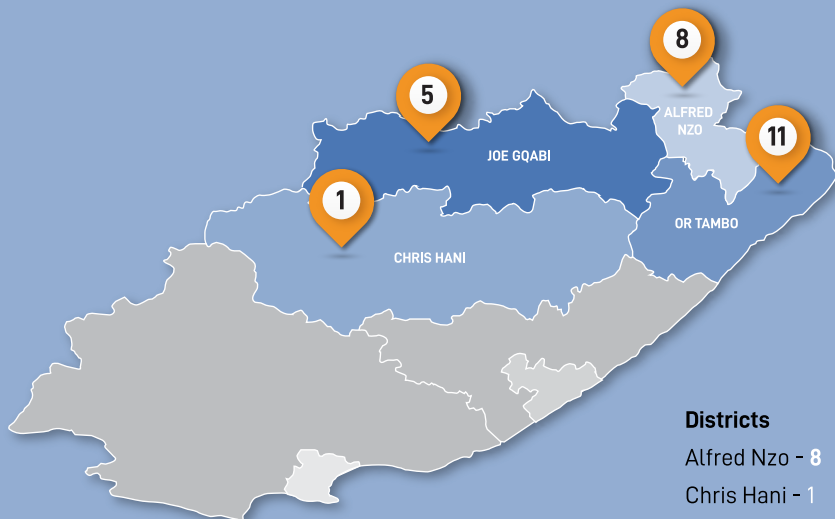
Districts and Farmer Distribution

District	Municipalities	Total Farmers	Study Groups	Individual Farmers
Alfred Nzo	Umzimvubu, Ntabankulu	353	19	6
Chris Hani	Dr AB Xuma, Intsika Yethu	497	17	1
Joe Gqabi	Elundini	73	7	8
OR Tambo	KSD, Mhlontlhlo, Nyandeni	663	31	17



Mechanisation Contractors

To improve efficiency and productivity, UFD expanded its mechanisation support program. A total of 25 mechanisation contractors were engaged across multiple districts.



Districts

Alfred Nzo - 8

Chris Hani - 1

Joe Gqabi - 5

O.R. Tambo - 11



25

Mechanisation
Contractors



Operations

The 2023/2024 season saw significant progress in terms of yield improvement and capital investment. The support provided to farmers through mechanisation, mentorship, and financial assistance resulted in increased productivity across various districts.



Districts	Total ha planted	Yield (Tonnes)	Average Yield (Tonnes/ha)	Capital Raised (R)	DRDAR Mechanisation Funding (R)	ECRDA Funding	Farmer Input Contribution	Membership Fees Raised (R)
Alfred Nzo	142	639	4,5	904 800	454 400	202 800	1, 107, 600	24 710
Chris Hani	252	882	3,5	1, 802, 600	806 400	163 000	1, 965, 600	34 790
Joe Gqabi	99	465,3	4,7	538 200	316 800	234 000	772 200	5 110
OR Tambo	762	4, 038,60	5,3	5, 070, 000	2, 438 400	873 600	5, 943, 600	46 410
TOTALS	1 255	6,024.9	4.5 (avg.)	8, 315, 600	4, 015, 200	1, 473, 400	9, 789, 000	111 020

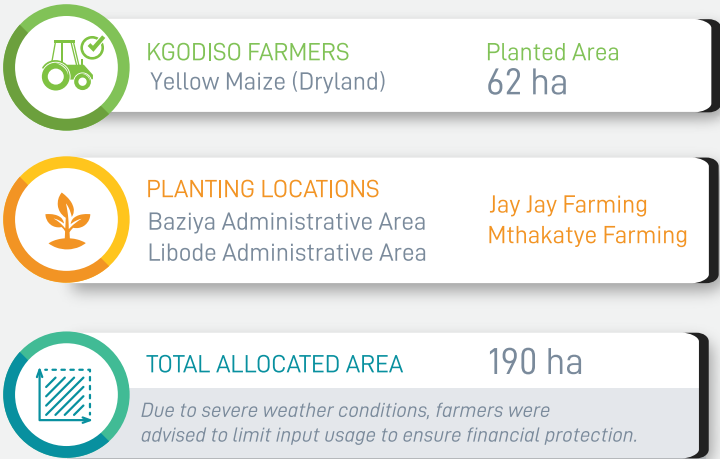
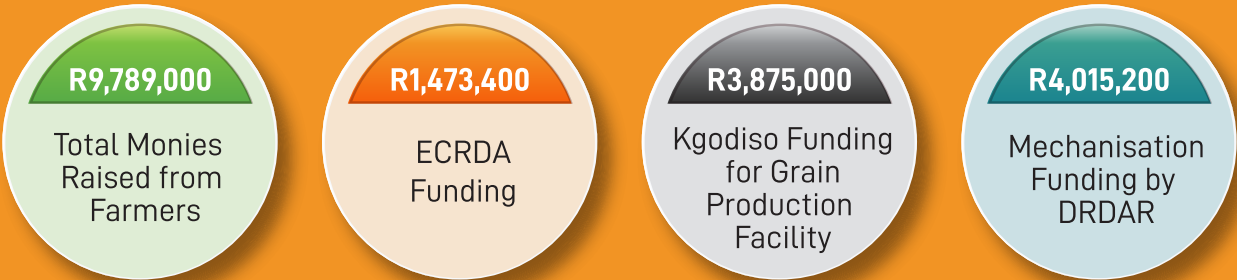


Financial Contributions and Allocations

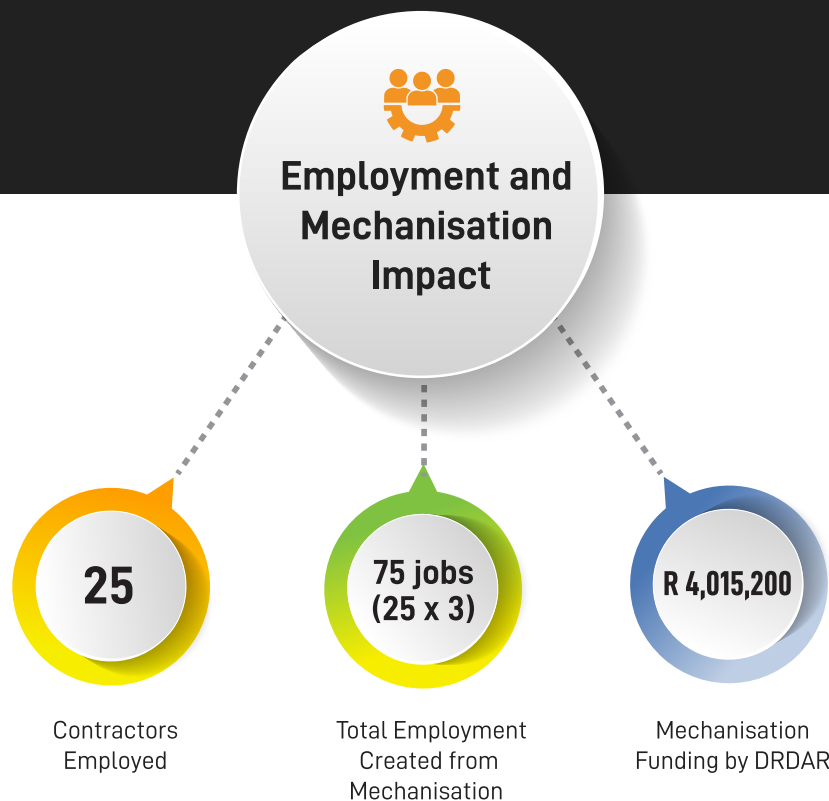


Farmer Development Support Programmes

UFD successfully secured financial contributions from various stakeholders to support farmer development and mechanisation programs. Key financial highlights include:



Employment and Mechanisation Impact



UFD's mechanisation efforts not only improved productivity but also created employment opportunities for local communities.

Total Hectares Planted



Despite the challenges of severe weather conditions, UFD successfully facilitated the planting of **1,255 hectares** during the 2023/2024 season.

Events and Training Initiatives



Hands-on training for efficient and safe tractor operation.



John Deere Tractor Training 9th October 2024



UFD 5th Celebration 24th May 2024

Marking five years of UFD with key achievements and success stories.

Ukhanyo Farmer Development marked **five years of impact and growth** with a special celebration honoring the **farmers, mentors, and partners** who have contributed to its success. The event highlighted **key milestones**, shared inspiring farmer success stories, and reinforced UFD's commitment to empowering smallholder farmers. A special awards ceremony recognized outstanding achievements, including:

Top Performing Mentors: Mihle Fodo and Asandile Gana

Top Contractors: Hein Cloet, Nosintu Tshangana, Jay Jay Farming, Mbumaza Trading Enterprise

Best Study Group/s: Ncembu SG, Masiphuhle SG, Siyakhula Maize Trade and Ngqwashu Study Group



Events and Training Initiatives



Urban Farmers Event 22 & 23 August 2024

The event was a 2 day visit by Urban Farmer aimed at identifying feed requirements and operations to develop suitable products for sheep and goats. It involved farm facility tours, meetings with local farmers, feed analysis sessions and site visits.

Strategic planning session to align goals and reinforce support.



Stakeholders Breakfast 7 March 2024



FABI Training 23 - 24 July 2024

Specialized pest and disease management training. This two-day training event focused on grain diseases, pests, and digital diagnostic tools. Participants gained both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience to enhance their understanding of crop health and modern agricultural technology.



Conclusion

The 2023/2024 season has been a year of significant growth, resilience, and progress for Ukhanyo Farmer Development. Through dedicated mentorship, strategic financial investments, and impactful training programs, we have strengthened the agricultural landscape in the Eastern Cape. Looking ahead, we remain committed to empowering small-scale farmers, enhancing mechanisation efforts, and fostering sustainable agricultural development.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and farmers for their continued support and dedication. Together, we are shaping a future of thriving and sustainable farming communities.



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