



**ANNUAL REPORT 2022 / 2023**



**UKHANYO  
FARMER  
DEVELOPMENT**



## Our Vision












To commercialise small-scale and underserved rural farmers across the Eastern Cape.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to create scale in rural areas by aggregating fragmented farming communities and cooperatives. We aim to develop commercial rural farmers, build inclusive and sustainable agriculture, improve crop yield and quality, deploy technology and innovative solutions, fully utilise marketing and export platforms, create infrastructure and logistical platforms, boost income of farming communities, support farmers with working capital, overcome information asymmetries, and enhance rural communities through training and development.



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## Chairman's Message

As we reflect on the year 2022/2023, it is evident that Ukhanyo Farmer Development (UFD) encountered its fair share of challenges. However, as always, our team rose to the occasion and demonstrated exceptional resilience, delivering on our commitments.

Amidst these challenges, we reached significant milestones, most notably establishing an official partnership between UFD and John Deere SA under the Smart Program in the Eastern Cape. We are proud to welcome esteemed professionals, Siphemathi Feni as Mentor and Bayanda Nodo as Admin Office Manager, along with Ms. Amohelang Hlakotsa as the Executive Assistant. Additionally, the formation of our first Advisory Board represents a momentous step forward for UFD.

While we bid farewell to valued team members, Thandanani Nongalo, Anelisa Topu, and Yonela Sisusa, who made substantial contributions to our cause, we extend our best wishes for their future endeavours. In the past season, we celebrated several personal highlights, including formalising the partnership with John Deere SA, hosting our first ever Gala Dinner to celebrate our farmers and thanking our public and private partners who have supported us since inception, and constructing our first rural-based commercial grain storage facility, all made possible through the unwavering support of our partners.

One of our proudest achievements was the appointment of our dynamic CEO, Mbali Nwoko, whose invaluable contributions have elevated our impact and potential beyond measure.

At UFD, our commitment to excellence remains steadfast, and despite the challenges, we managed to meet and exceed farmer expectations. We are truly humbled and grateful for the ongoing support from our partners, funders, and the farming community, which makes our vision a reality.

Looking ahead, our expansion plans for the coming year encompass introducing crop insurance in rural areas, investing in human capacity development, and intensifying efforts in crop diversification, infrastructure, and production machinery.

While medium to long-term plans are under internal discussion, rest assured that formal announcements will follow in due course.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire UFD Team for their unwavering commitment and passion in pursuit of our mission. Together, we will continue to be catalysts for true rural development, fostering a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Ukhanyo Farmer Development. We look forward to another year of progress and success as we strive for collective excellence.



**...At UFD, our commitment to excellence remains steadfast, and despite the challenges, we managed to meet and exceed farmer expectations.**

Sinelizwi Fakade



## CEO's Message

The South African agricultural sector has faced several notable challenges throughout the year, impacting farmers at all levels. One of the prominent challenges encountered by the grain sector in 2023 is adverse weather conditions. Erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events have led to reduced crop yields and compromised overall agricultural productivity. These climatic uncertainties disrupted planting schedules and affected crop growth, resulting in potential food shortages and increased input costs for farmers. UFD farmers were not immune to these challenges, as most of our plantings commenced later than usual.

Additionally, the industry has grappled with rising input prices, including fertilisers, pesticides, and fuel, imposing financial pressure on farmers. Fluctuating international markets and currency exchange rates have further complicated the economic landscape for grain producers and exporters.

Addressing these challenges as a development organisation necessitated collaborative efforts from both our public and private partners, with a focus on bolstering agricultural resilience and fostering sustainable practices.

With that said, I am delighted to share the progress and achievements of Ukhanyo Farmer Development (UFD) over the past year. Our commitment to driving rural farmer development in the Eastern Cape has resulted in significant milestones and impactful initiatives, shaping a brighter future for our farming communities.

Central to our success has been the establishment of strategic partnerships that advance our mission. We take immense pride in unveiling an exciting and groundbreaking alliance between UFD and the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership (ECHTKL), formalised through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This agreement facilitates and coordinates agro-rural development initiatives, promoting the sharing and exchange of information, knowledge, research, and activities of mutual benefit to both institutions and the communities we serve.

As part of our commitment to innovation, we have initiated groundbreaking programs to equip our mentors with cutting-edge knowledge and tools. Particularly, we have focused on empowering them with expertise in grain farming through the integration of technology. Embracing digital advancements and modern agricultural practices, our mentors are better prepared to guide farmers in maximising crop yield and quality.

Moreover, we have prioritised upskilling our farmers in good production practices, financial management, and the effective utilisation of mechanisation. Enhancing their proficiency in these critical areas ensures that our farmers optimise resources, mitigate risks, and create sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

As we approached our harvesting season, our goal to achieve high yields was challenged by unusual rainfall during the winter season, leading to increased grain moisture levels. Additionally, in some of our districts, farmers' maize crops suffered significant damage from veld fires and livestock, leaving some farmers destitute without income as the new season commences. Consequently, we recognise the urgent need for crop insurance that covers hail damage, veld fires, drought, and excessive rains.

Nonetheless, through our combined efforts, we have witnessed remarkable progress and heightened self-reliance among our farming communities. These tangible results reflect our collective dedication to rural development.

I extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making a difference this season, and with a determined mindset and approach, we forge ahead, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the coming year.



**...Nonetheless, through our combined efforts, we have witnessed remarkable progress and heightened self-reliance among our farming communities. These tangible results reflect our collective dedication to rural development.**

Mbali Nwoko




# The Numbers

  
**FARMER STATS**

**R70**  
Farmer Annual Membership Fee

**2600**  
Number of Farmers Supported

**R182 000**  
Farmer Membership Fee Raised

  
**PRODUCTION STATS**

**R4800**  
Input Cost Per Hectare (ha)

**3165**  
Total Number of Hectares

**R15 192 000**  
Total Input Cost Raised From Farmers

**R23 000 000**  
Total Cost For 2022/2023 Inputs Season (Basket of Goods)

  
**STAKEHOLDERS**

**R13 946 640**  
Total Money Raised From Stakeholders For Farmer Support

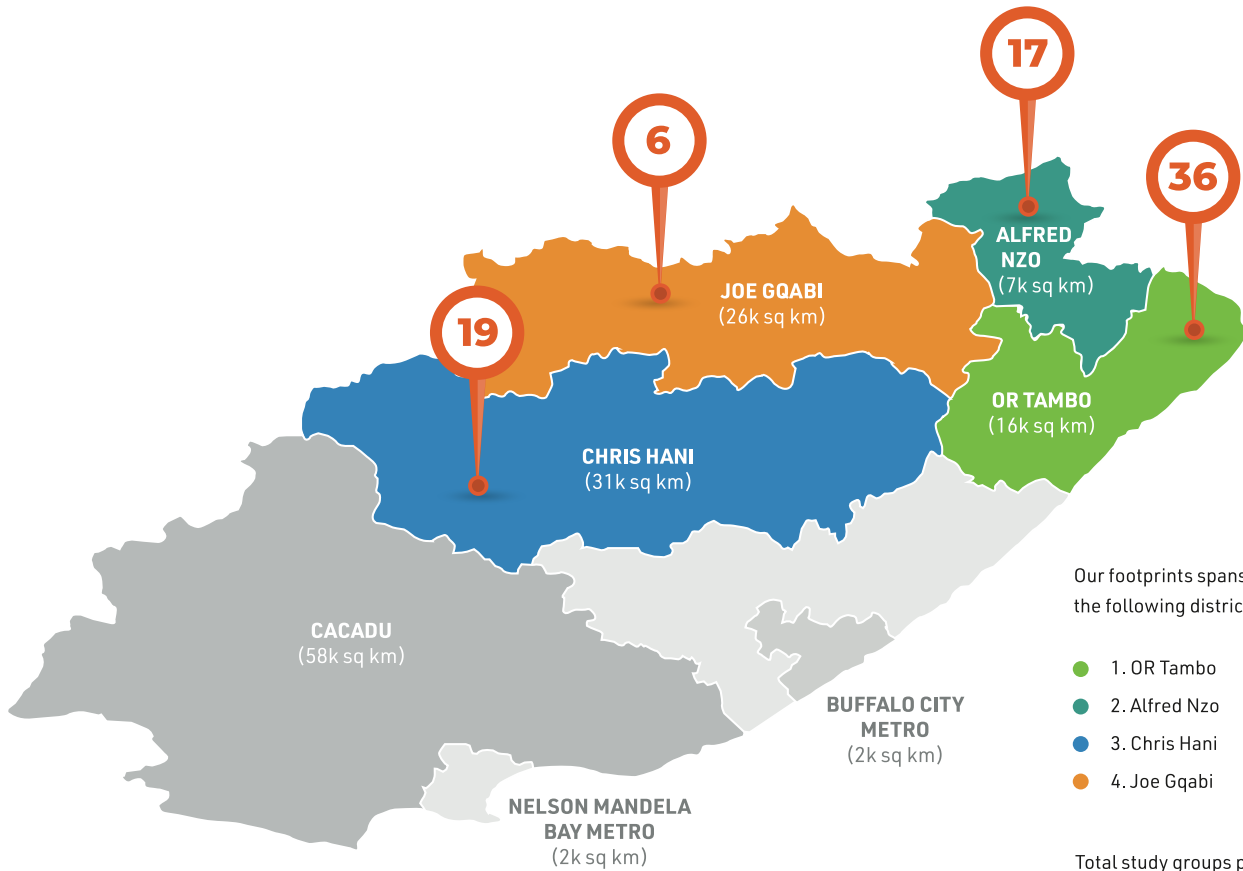
**11**  
Total Number of Mentors

**45**  
Number of Mechanisation Contractors

**150**  
Number of Direct Jobs Created

**7800**  
Number of Indirect Jobs Created (Average 3 Jobs Created Per Farmer During Harvesting Season)

# Our Footprint



Our footprints spans across the following districts:

- 1. OR Tambo
- 2. Alfred Nzo
- 3. Chris Hani
- 4. Joe Gqabi

Total study groups per District

Alfred Nzo - 17

Chris Hani - 19

Joe Gqabi - 6

O.R.Tambo - 36



## Our Programmes

### Household Grain Production Project



Our partnership with FarmSol through the Household Grain Production Project is focussed on empowering 250 subsistence farmers to successfully produce maize (yellow or white), on one - two hectares per farmer or per household. UFD's role is to facilitate co-financing partners, input suppliers, technical partners and offer farmer development support and training to these farmers for the 2022/2023 season.



**250**

Total number of **farmers** supported through this initiative.

**8**

Total number of **study groups** supported through this initiative.





# Our Programmes

## JOHN DEERE S.M.A.R.T Initiative



JOHN DEERE

The John Deere S.M.A.R.T initiative has seen great success in Africa. Focused on providing farmers with the right solution for their operation, the mechanisation they need for better yields, access to finance making the un-bankable bankable, reliability at lower costs, and access to training and technology.

Through this initiative, a total of 11 qualifying farmers were selected to become the first cohort of this initiative where the programme provided farmers with the specific equipment they needed to optimise the season: tractors, off-sets, ploughs and planters to better prepare their soil for optimum yields.

This initiative is the first of its kind in the Eastern Cape and this covers Ukhanyo Farmer Development goal of assisting our farmer members with mechanisation for their production.



10

Total number of **SMART** beneficiaries

Total **jobs** created through this initiative

30  
TRACTOR OPERATORS

R14 152 158,75

Total **value** of this initiative



## Our Programmes

### Agricultural Bio-economy Innovation Partnership Programme



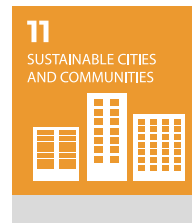
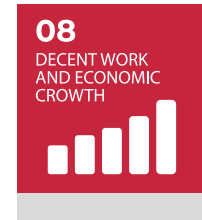
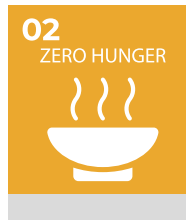
Our partnership with the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and DRDAR began a Canola Cultivar Evaluation Trial. The implementation of the project spanned across three District Municipalities namely, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi and Sarah Baartman focusing on:

- 1 Determining the grain yield performance of different cultivars in the different local municipalities of the Eastern Cape.
- 2 Determining the number of days each cultivar takes from planting to flowering.
- 3 Observing the incidence of pest and diseases for each cultivar.
- 4 Determining the oil and protein content of each cultivar.

Our long term goal as Ukhanyo Farmer Development is to ensure that our farmers farm sustainably by ensuring that the farmers practise good cultivation practices which includes crop rotation and not rely only on yellow maize as a commodity. Hence such initiatives give us an opportunity to test further commodities that will work well in the Eastern Cape for farmers to farm.



# Our Farmer Programme in Support of SDG Goals



In perfect harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2030, our unwavering dedication lies in empowering farmers and fostering sustainable agricultural practices for a thriving world. Our paramount measure of success revolves around delivering superior quality inputs to farmers promptly, well before the commencement of the production season. Aligned with SDGs 1, 2, and 5, we aim to eradicate poverty, end hunger, and promote gender equality, thus creating a virtuous cycle of progress.

Through our transformative approach, we not only strive to achieve increased yields per hectare, benefiting the environment and the global community (SDGs 8 and 13) but also aim to augment the income of individual farmers, uplifting their lives and ensuring economic prosperity (SDG 1).

As we forge ahead, we envision dynamic, sustainable communities (SDG 11) that thrive on the principles of responsible growth and environmental stewardship. Our unwavering commitment to sustainability aligns perfectly with SDG 17, fostering strong partnerships that transcend borders and unite us all in this noble quest.

# Events & Campaigns

## Our Gala Dinner

In April 2023, we proudly hosted our inaugural UFD Gala Dinner, a momentous occasion aimed at expressing our heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed partners for their unwavering support over the years. This prestigious event brought together our valued farmers, stakeholders, and government departments in a unified celebration, providing a platform to showcase the remarkable achievements of UFD since its inception in 2019.

Throughout our journey, UFD has made a profound impact on numerous communities across the Eastern Cape. The gala dinner served as a testament to our commitment to creating positive change, recognising the collective efforts of every individual who has contributed to the success of our Non-Profit Organisation.

This prestigious gathering not only served as an opportunity to express our gratitude but also to acknowledge and appreciate the dedication and hard work of all involved. With great pride, we showcased the transformative work UFD has accomplished, illustrating the positive ripple effects it has had on countless lives.

As we look back on our journey thus far, we stand inspired by the unity and collaboration that have driven UFD's success. Our gala dinner was a powerful testament to the strength of partnerships and the shared vision of fostering sustainable development in rural communities.

We extend our sincerest appreciation to each and every participant who graced the event, contributing to the collective momentum that propels us towards an even brighter future. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to making a lasting impact and continue our journey as catalysts for positive change across the Eastern Cape.





## Our Partners

### Thank You To Our Partners





## Contact Us

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