



The Agricultural Economics  
Association of South Africa

# AEASA **62<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Conference



**29<sup>th</sup>** September to  
**01<sup>st</sup>** October **2025**



**River Meadows  
Manor, Irene  
Gauteng  
South Africa**

## PROGRAMME



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The Agriculture and Agroprocessing Master Plan is a product of negotiations between government, business, labour and civil society organisations in the agriculture and agro-processing sectors.



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## Welcome message: Chairperson of the LOC

AEASA Member, Invited Guests, Student Member

On behalf of Local Organising Committee (LOC), the Management Committee and whole membership of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) I have the honour and privilege of welcoming you to the 62nd annual conference. Gauteng Province is home of National Government and the Gauteng Provincial government with a number of industry bodies, academic institutions, research organisations and civil society formations. It is these organisations that have availed themselves through their staff members to serve in the LOC as active members of the association. With financial support from the government of Gauteng, National government, academia, government organisations and the private sector, this conference is a true manifestation that as partners we are stronger than acting individually.

The theme of the 62nd annual conference of AEASA was influenced by the investigations of South Africa's competition authority in respect of the agricultural sector. The latest investigation by the Competition Commission of South Africa into the workings of Fresh Produce Markets stimulated huge interests in South Africa and among members of the agricultural economics fraternity. The intensity of the voices showed well that those who were questioning the rationale of the Competition Commission work and those who understood their perspective were even shared widely.

With agricultural economists working in different areas of South Africa's economy it became clear that a topical matter like this needs to be addressed in greater detail. This conference has brought a number of invited guest speakers who will share their views in respect of the competition law or economics as well as the industry perspective on the recent investigation. Additionally, the conference has an invited session of the role and the future of the rules-based trading system. The conference attracted attention from members with papers that were submitted exceeding one hundred, and five workshops.

The highlight of the conference will be on the three upgraded papers, the Simon Brandt Memorial Lecture, and the annual general meeting. On behalf of the LOC, I wish you all the best. To the students who are attending the conference for the first time, make better use of the opportunity to meet members of academia whose work you have seen and referenced. To the established members of the association, remember to have some time with these young members of the association. With over 240 delegates who registered two weeks before the start of the conference, we hope that the conference offering will bring the best out of you. We have the welcome cocktail, the gala dinner, and a line-up of great presentations.

Enjoy the conference!





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## Programme

START	FINISH
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**Sunday, 28 September 2025**

**12:00 - 18:00**

**ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION** (River Meadow Manor | Irene | Gauteng)

**Monday, 29 September 2025**

**07:30 - 08:30**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

**08:30 - 10:30**

**WORKSHOPS**

**Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) as an antidote for both market failures:  
The case of production schemes**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

*National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)*

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**Collaboration or Competition? Lessons from a Decade-Long Consortium of Agricultural  
Economists in South Africa**

**Venue:** Back Patio

*Agricultural Research Council (ARC)*

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**Strengthening climate-smart maize value chains in South Africa: policy, practice, market  
transformation and interactive learning**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

*University of Limpopo (UL)*

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**Bridging the Gap: Developing Inclusive Agricultural Economics Qualifications in the  
University of Technology Sector**

**Venue:** Pool Room B

*Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)*



START	FINISH
08:30 - 10:30	<b>OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Large Marquee  <i>Facilitator: Mr Bonani Nyhodo (AEASA 2025 LOC Chairperson)</i>
11:00 - 11:25	<b>Official opening of the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of AEASA:</b> Prof Jan Hlongwane (AEASA Vice President)
11:25 - 12:00	<b>Keynote address:</b> Mr Mooketsa Ramasodi (Director General, Department of Agriculture)
12:00 - 12:50	<b>Presidential Address:</b> Dr Sifiso Ntombela (AEASA President)
12:50 - 13:40	<b>Lunch</b>
13:40 - 15:30	<b>UPGRADED CONTRIBUTED PAPERS PRESENTATION (25 minutes each)</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Large Marquee  <i>Facilitator: Prof Abbyssinia Mushunje</i>
<p><b>Green Trade, Unequal Burdens: The EU Green Deal's Implications for Developing Country Fruit Exporters</b>  <b>Authors:</b> <i>Kandas Cloete, Marnus Gouse, Tracy Davids, Helga Ottermann, Wiltrud Durand, Karen Truter, Divan van der Westhuizen, and Melissa van der Merwe</i></p> <p><b>Effects of perception on value-chain digitalization: A case for proactive land acquisition strategy (PLAS) farmers in the Mpumalanga province, South Africa</b>  <b>Authors:</b> <i>Mcdonald Garai, Moraka N. Makhura, Sukoluhle Mazwane and Michiel Aliber</i></p> <p><b>Economywide effects of US reciprocal tariffs on the South African economy: Exploring trade diversion to alternative markets for the agriculture sector</b>  <b>Authors:</b> <i>Bhekani Zondo, Bernard Manganyi, Maremo Mphahlele, Moses Lubinga Victor Thindisa, and Heinrich Bohlmann</i></p>	
15:30 - 15:45	<b>Tea Break</b>
15:45 - 18:30	<b>AEASA Elective Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Large Marquee

19:30

**Welcoming Cocktail**





# About NAMC

The NAMC was established in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act No. 47 of 1996, as amended by Act No. 59 of 1997 and Act No. 52 of 2001. We are a statutory body reporting to the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

**Our mandate is captured in our four core divisions namely:**



**Agribusiness  
Development**



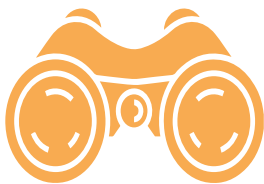
**Agricultural Trusts**



**Statutory Measures**



**Markets and  
Economic Research  
Centre (MERC)**



## **Our Vision**

Strategic positioning of agriculture in a dynamic global market.



## **Our Mission**

To provide marketing advisory services to key stakeholders in support of a vibrant agricultural marketing system in South Africa.

**The work of the NAMC is aligned to the four strategic objectives as set out in Section 2 of the MAP Act, 1996 namely:**



**Increasing market access  
to all market  
participants**



**More efficient marketing  
of agricultural  
products**



**Optimising export  
earnings from  
agricultural  
products**



**Enhanced viability of  
the agricultural  
sector**



07:30 - 08:30 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

08:30 - 10:30 **Plenary: Competition Law - Report of the Competition Commission on Fresh Produce Markets**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Tracy Davids

**SPEAKERS:**

- **A presentation from the Department of Agriculture:**  
Mr Stanford Mantatha (Deputy Director in the Directorate of Marketing)
- **A presentation from the South African Union of Food Markets:**  
Mr Thando Mpulu (President SAUFM and Market Master of Buffalo City Municipality)
- **A presentation by the South African Local Government Association:**  
Mr Mxolisi Mchunu (SALGA)
- **A presentation by the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC):**  
Mr Francois Knowles (Registrar of APAC)

10:30 - 10:50

Tea Break

10:50 - 12:05 **PARALLEL CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION BLOCK 1 (25 minutes each)**

**Theme: Agricultural Inputs and Farm Production**

**Venue:** Pommery Back Patio

**Facilitator:** Mr Blessing Zitha

**The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the prices of agricultural inputs in South Africa: A case of fertilizers**

**Authors:** Moses H. Lubinga, Bhekani Zondo, Naledi Radebe, Victor Thindisa and Zimbini Mdlulwa

**Willingness to pay for fodder seed technology and access to seed companies among small-scale livestock farmers in OR Tambo District, Eastern Cape, South Africa**

**Authors:** Toko. A, Mayekiso. A, Mamabolo. M, Tjelele. TJ, Kau. J and Mkhize. NR

**Arable land underutilization among smallholder farmers in Northeastern Zimbabwe: The impact of input subsidies and other key drivers**

**Authors:** Freddy Ruzhani and Abbyssinia Mushunje

**Theme: Marketing, Market Access, and Commercialization**

**Venue:** Small Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Siphokazi Ngcinela



**Who gains what? Tracing value addition and trade benefits in the South African wool industry**

**Authors:** *Mkhutshwa Simamkele and Ngcinela Siphokazi*

**Market Share Concentration in South African National Fresh Produce Markets**

**Authors:** *Bernard Manganyi, Prince Nketiah, Colleta Candidzanwa, Kayaletu Sotsha and Victor Thindisa*

**Determinants of participation in international and local markets: The competition case of emerging citrus growers in South Africa**

**Authors:** *Phokane Moipone, Kalaba Mmatlou and Selomane Odirilwe*

**Theme: Electricity as an important factor of production**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

**Facilitator:** *Ms Heidi Phahlane*

**Economywide effects of rising energy costs on the competitiveness of South Africa's agriculture sector: A case of electricity tariff**

**Authors:** *Zondo Bhekani, Dladla Lwazi, Ntshangase Thandeka, Smith Ricardo Thindisa Victor, Molepo Solly and Bohlmann Heinrich*

**Case in point: Quantifying the impact of loadshedding on the Western Cape agricultural sector**

**Authors:** *Kandas Cloete, Melissa van der Merwe, Tracy Davids, Ferdinand Meyer, and Louw Pienaar*

**Disrupting the Value Chain: A Comparative Analysis of Load-Shedding, Meat Production, and Frozen Wholesale Meat Prices in South Africa from 2014 to 2023**

**Authors:** *Kegaogetswe Thokozani Baloyi, Mmaphuti Andrias Nkoana Lesetja Jacob Ledwaba, and Mapula Hildah Lefophane*

**Theme: Price transmissions and International Trade**

**Venue:** Marquee, Pool Room B

**Facilitator:** *Dr Thulasizwe Mkhabela*

**Price Transmission of tomatoes in South Africa's five major fresh produce markets: Vector Autoregressive Model**

**Authors:** *Lungwana M, Kau J Molepo S, Dube B, Mabhunu N and Moswane L*

**Analysing the export performance of the South African potato industry on selected SACU markets: Panel Approach**

**Authors:** *Solly Molepo, Buhlebemvelo Dube, Joseph Kau, Lucas Moswane Mamakie Lungwana and Nokwanele Mabhunu*

**Drivers of South Africa's Apple Export Performance and Competitiveness in High-Value European Markets**

**Authors:** *Dube B, Lungwana M, Molepo S, Kau J, Moswane L and Mabhunu N*



**Theme: The forgotten and yet resolute children of agriculture (garlic, orphans, and goats)**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Walter Shiba

**Agri-markets and the Marginalisation of African Indigenous Crops: Implications for Inclusive Agri-food system Transformation in South Africa**

**Authors:** Mendi Glen and Siphe Zantsi

**Forecasting Garlic Prices in South Africa: A Time Series Approach**

**Authors:** Mohale Tumelo Arthur, Hlongwane Johannes Jan and Ledwaba Lesetja

**Assessing the Competitiveness of Namibia's Goat Industry: Profitability, Trade Dynamics, and Structural Determinants**

**Authors:** Kunda Kalimbwe and Salomo Mbai

**12:05 - 13:25**

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

**Venue:** Small Marquee

**Market access constraints and concentration effects on small-scale goat farmers in Nyandeni, South Africa**

**Authors:** Lungile Sivuyile Gidi and Lelethu Mdoda

**Analysing effects of micro-credit on the food security status of rural households: a case study of Seleteng Village, Lepelle Nkumbi Municipality, Limpopo Province**

**Authors:** Ntsako Khodase Mkhabela, Reshoketswe Ramaredi Mphahlele and Lungile Sivuyile Gidi

**The inverse relationship revisited: Economies of scale and efficiency in the PLAS project**

**Authors:** Euan Chew, Siphe Zantsi and Beatrice Conradie

**Trade Competitiveness of the South African Avocado Market: A Systematic Review**

**Authors:** Belemu Vhahangwele and Isaac B Oluwatayo

**An Analysis of the effectiveness of extension teaching methods used for technology and skills transfer to farmers in the Pfumvudza climate smart agricultural extension project in Mutare District.**

**Authors:** BK. Mashayamombe, A Mushunje and F Ruzhani

**Influence of multinationals, technology companies and other emergent factors on agricultural transformation, inclusivity and growth in Africa.**

**Authors:** Masilo Sepaela

**Market Concentration and Competition Law in African Agriculture: Experience, Emergent Challenges, and Pathways to Inclusive Growth**

**Authors:** Noluvuyo Maliwa

**Strategic Market Orientation in Agripreneurship: How Segment Specialization and Bricolage Drive Farm performance**

**Authors:** Chiedza Tsvakirai

**Assessing smallholder farmers' knowledge, attitude and practices on hemp cultivation and evolving regulatory frameworks in Limpopo**

**Authors:** Mailula LP, Zantsi S and Mushunje A



**Breaking the seed monopoly: Community-Based seed systems and market concentration in South Africa's agricultural input sector**

**Authors:** Whitney Matli and Karabo Lengoabala

**Determination of Social Capital Factors for Sustainability towards Market Accessibility among Citrus Resource-Poor Farmers in South Africa: A Multiple Linear Regression Analysis**

**Authors:** Joseph Kau, Victor Mmbengwa and Jan Swanepoel

**Assessing the impact of the SACU common external tariff on the competitiveness of the sugar industry**

**Authors:** Nicole Gericke, Elouné Prinsloo, Carla van der Watt, Wegayehu Fitawek and Sifiso Ntombela

**Investigating factors affecting the effectiveness of an agricultural input subsidy programme on household crop production: a case study of Oshikoto Region, Namibia**

**Authors:** Gerhard Shaanyenenge, Thinah Moyo and Teofilus Shiimi

**Extension agents' choice of communication channels in disseminating climate-smart agriculture to smallholder farmers in the OR Tambo District Municipality.**

**Authors:** Magazi S, Mushunje, A Bontsa, N.V, Mushunje M

**Determinants of smallholder tomato farmers' willingness to adopt indoor vertical farming technology in the face of climate change in Atok Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality of Limpopo Province, South Africa**

**Authors:** Mmethi M, Nkoana MA, Thaba TK, Moraka RL and Hlongwane JJ

**How Competition in Agriculture Affects Animal Health, Environment, and Disease Control: A One Health Approach Cryptosporidiosis in South Africa**

**Authors:** Zitha, NB. Mamabolo, M. Chaminuka, P. Wale, E

**The impact of cooperative membership on market access and participation in the value chain among small-scale farmers in Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.**

**Authors:** Aneza Madini and Thembaletu Seti

**Industry Structure, Agricultural Value Chains and Agribusiness in South Africa: Addressing Power Imbalances and Market Access Constraints**

**Authors:** Wantwa Mwangomba and Livhuwani Masola

13:25 - 14:10

Lunch

**SIMON BRAND MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Moderator:** Prof Jan Hlongwane

14:10 - 14:40

**Keynote Address by MEC of Agriculture in Gauteng:**

**MEC Vuyiswa Ramokgopa (MPL)**

14:40 - 15:30

**SIMON BRAND SPEAKER: Prof Channing Arndt - Director of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP)**



**Theme: Market concentration, competition and climate change**

**Venue:** Small Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Victor Thindisa

**Market Concentration, Climate Shocks, and Wheat Security in South Africa: An ARDL-Based Policy Analysis under the G20 Food Security Agenda**

**Authors:** Dube B, Mabhunu N, Lungwana M, Molepo S, Kau J and Moswane L

**A systematic review and structural design of the maize value chain in South Africa: market and transformation implications**

**Authors:** Malebati LV, Hlongwane J, Mmbengwa VM, Nkoana MA and Dlamini BB

**Factors influencing smallholder farmers' levels of adaptive response strategies towards climate change in KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa**

**Authors:** Siphesihle Merit Mabaso and Abbyssinia Mushunje

**Theme: Consumption Patterns, Climate, and Food Security**

**Venue:** Back Patio

**Facilitator:** Prof Mmapatla Senyolo

**Diverging Consumption Realities: A Comparative Analysis of Macadamia Nuts' access and Socioeconomic Structure in Limpopo Province, South Africa**

**Authors:** Nthabeleng Rosa Mafeo, Mmapatla Precious Senyolo and Johannes Jan Hlongwane

**Exploring climate-related technology adoption in Limpopo Province of South Africa's potato agriculture: trends, challenges, and opportunities**

**Authors:** T Nevhutalu, SP Mabatha1 LJ Ledwaba and JJ Hlongwane

**Food insecurity analysis among the small-scale farmers in Gauteng Province: The case of agro-processing participants and non-participants**

**Authors:** Lesedi Molefe Maesela and Grany Mmatsatsi Senyolo

**Theme: Land Reform and Rural Development**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

**Facilitator:** Mr Bhekani Zondo

**Large-Scale Land Acquisitions (LSLA) in South Africa (2000-2025): Determinants of Contract Size and Overview of Land Use Priorities**

**Authors:** Sepuru Cindy Chokoe

**Trends in land prices paid for farms redistributed under the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) in South Africa (2005-2018)**

**Authors:** Siphe Zantsi, Kayaletu Sotsha, Walter Shiba and Aart-Jan Verschoor

**Estimating the Efficiency of Land Redistribution (PLAS) Farms and the Role of ICTs in Enhancing Farm Performance in South Africa**

**Authors:** Madyo. S, Aliber. M, Chaminuka. P and Zantsi. S



**Theme: Market Concentration and Industry Structure**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

**Facilitator:** Mr J Kau

**Market Concentration and Competitiveness in South Africa's Table Grape Industry: Trends and Implications (2002-2022)**

**Authors:** Simphiwe Mlotshwa, Mdoda Lelethu and Thembaletu Macdonald Seti

**Information Sharing or Market Collusion? Exploring Anti-competitive Concerns in Agricultural Industry Networks**

**Authors:** Kegogetswe Thokozani Baloyi, Rudzani Nengovhela, Mmaphuti Andrias Nkoana Lesetja Jacob Ledwaba and Mapula Hildah Lefophane

16:40 - 16:50

Tea Break

16:50 - 18:00

**PARALLEL CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION BLOCK 3 (25 minutes each)**

**Theme: Agricultural Digitalization and ICT**

**Venue:** Small Marquee

**Facilitator:** Prof Grany Senyolo

**A comparative analysis of agricultural digitalisation between Gauteng and Mpumalanga Provinces of South Africa**

**Authors:** Mathekga K.C, Makhura M.N and Mazwane. S

**Identifying Factors Influencing the Adoption of Different ICTs by PLAS Farmers: A Multivariate Probit Model Approach**

**Authors:** Madyo. S, Aliber, M and Chaminuka, P

**Agricultural Market Information, Accessibility, and Usability in South Africa**

**Authors:** B Manganyi, M Maila, K Rambau, K Sotsha, Victor Thindisa and Eliaza Mkuna

**Theme: Value Chains Analysis and Transformations**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

**Facilitator:** Dr Andrias Nkoana

**Economic Contribution and Value Chain Analysis of the South African Pecan Nut Industry Within Concentrated Agricultural Markets**

**Authors:** Ayabonga Sibulali and Mzwanele Lingani

**Value chain mapping and Netchain integration of the South African potato value chain**

**Authors:** Sibonelo Zwane and Melissa van der Merwe

**Value chain competitiveness analysis: mapping and analysing the South African avocado value chain**

**Authors:** S Zwane and S.R.D. Ferrer



**Theme: Livestock Economics**

**Venue:** Back Patio

**Facilitator:** *Dr Kingsley Thaba*

**Zoonotic disease burden and unequal access to veterinary services: Implications for smallholder inclusion in South Africa's livestock economy**

**Authors:** *Ngcobo N, Mdoda L, Verschoor AJ, Mkhize N.R and Qange S*

**Herd size and income benefits among communal sheep farmers: Evidence from Gxididi, Eastern Cape, South Africa**

**Authors:** *Lonwabo Tunzi and Michael Aliber*

**Examining the effectiveness of existing interventions to integrate communal livestock farming/ beef production into formal value chains in South Africa**

**Authors:** *Keka Vuyolwethu*

**Theme: Agricultural Finance**

**Venue:** Pool Room B

**Facilitator:** *Mr Matume Maila*

**Innovative Agriculture Finance: Cash or Inventory Credits for Irrigated Rice Productivity Improvement in the Volta Region of Ghana**

**Authors:** *Simon Doegah Amemasor, Franklin Nantui Mabe and Oluyemi Theophilus Adeosun*

**Factors influencing saving patterns of smallholder farmers in savings groups in Sironko district, Uganda**

**Authors:** *Mohlahli Molaba, Moraka N. Makhura and Bukuwa E. Nambale*

**Enhancing Financial Inclusion for Small-Scale Farmers in Vhembe and Mopani Districts, South Africa: Drawing Lessons from Global Digital Innovation Case Studies**

**Authors:** *T Nevhutalu, LJ Ledwaba and VA Baloi*

**19:30**

**GALA DINNER**

**Venue:** Large Marquee





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08:00 - 08:30 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

08:30 - 10:00 Plenary: Trade - Rules based multilateral trading system

Venue: Large Marquee

Moderator: Dr Mmatlou Kalaba

**SPEAKERS:**

- **A presentation on the future of the rules-based multilateral trading system/regime - legal perspective:** Mr Hilton Zunckel - (Director at HiltonLambert - Practitioners of Trade Law)
- **A presentation on the future of the rules-based multilateral trading system/regime- a regional perspective:** Dr Tinashe Kapuya - Director of Research, and Head of the Modeling Services Center - Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI)
- **Reflections: Implications for the research/ non-state actor community:** Ms Trudi Hartzneberg (Managing Director - the Trade Law Centre (Tralac))

10:00 - 11:15 PARALLEL CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION BLOCK 4 (25 Minutes each)

**Theme: Agricultural Inputs and Farm Production**

Venue: Back Patio

Facilitator: Mr Bernard Manganyi

**Evaluating the Net Farm Income and Rentability of the South African Agricultural Sector between 1970 and 2023: Is the Data Correct?**

**Authors:** Khwezi Mbongwe, André Jooste and Louw Pienaar

**Comparative Forecast of Avocado Production and Market Growth Potentials of South Africa**

**Authors:** Chivenge Wilson, Mushunje Abbyssinia and Mafirakurewa Tariro

**Investigating Agricultural Market Structure Characteristics Influencing Smallholder Vegetable Farmers' Transition Towards Commercialisation Status**

**Authors:** Khorombi Takalani Isaac, Phaswana Dakalo and Mpho Tshikororo

**Theme: Marketing, Market Access, and Commercialization**

Venue: Pool Room A

Facilitator: Dr Lindikaya Myeki

**The status of competitiveness in the Joburg Fresh Produce Market, the case of Potato varieties: Herfindahl-Hirsch index analyses approach**

**Authors:** Kau JS, Molepo S, Phetshula N, Lungwana M, Dube B and Moswane, L

**Market structure and participation gaps: Insights from smallholder farmers participating in the forage seed value chain in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa**

**Authors:** M. Lungwana, W. A. Lombard, Y. T. Bahta, J. Kau, M. Mamabolo, T.J. Tjelele and N.R. Mkhize

**Assessing the Impact of Training on Market Participation among Small-scale farmers in Gauteng Province: Application of Endogenous Treatment Effect Model**

**Authors:** Mabala Sekgoadi Gift, Senyolo GM and Mokoena Madime Reuben



START	FINISH	
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### Value chain and Competitiveness

**Venue:** Small Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Vutomi Baloi

### Sorghum Value Chain Competitiveness and Sustainability in South Africa

**Authors:** Matume Maila and Maremo Mphahlele

### Assessing the Competitiveness of Namibia's Goat Industry: Profitability, Trade Dynamics, and Structural Determinants

**Authors:** Kunda Kalimbwe, Salomo Mbai and Johan Van Rooyen

### Analyzing the relationship between oil prices, agricultural output, and food prices in South Africa (2000-2023): A Vector Autoregressive Approach

**Authors:** Zolule Filane, Jan Hlongwane and Kingsley Thaba

### Theme: Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Lesetja Ledwaba

### Understanding the intensity and determinants of Climate Smart Agriculture adoption among smallholder crop farmers in South Africa: A Review

**Authors:** Ngobeni Light, Makhura Moraka Nakedi, Mamabolo Manana and Walter Shiba

### An analysis of the impact of agricultural drought resilience on the welfare of commercial livestock households in Northern Cape Province, South Africa

**Authors:** Hermanus Coffee Jordaan (Hano), Yonas T. Bahta, Frikkie Maré and H.N. van Niekerk

### Livelihood Vulnerability of Commercial Livestock Farmers to Agricultural Drought in South Africa

**Authors:** Hanipher Mili, Yonas T. Bahta, Frikkie Mare, Hermias Van Niekerk and Stephen Nyaki

11:15 - 11:30	Tea Break
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11:30 - 12:15

### PARALLEL CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION BLOCK 5 (25 minutes each)

### Theme: Consumption Patterns, Nutrition, and Food Security

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Facilitator:** Dr Moses Lubinga

### The Role of Grant Policy on Food Insecurity in South Africa

**Authors:** Lateef Olalekan Bello and Dorah Dubihlela

### Climate Risks Compounded with Economic Stresses: Empirical Evidence on Household Welfare Effects in Ethiopia

**Authors:** Gebremeskel Berhane Tesfay and Edilegnaw Wale

### Analysis of the Influence of Livelihood Assets on Diversification Strategies among Informal Food Traders in the Post-COVID-19 Era: Evidence from Polokwane Local Municipality

**Authors:** Motsatsi Morwatshehla and Hildah Lefophane



**Theme: Land Reform and Rural Development**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Facilitator:** Prof Michael Aliber

**Alternative Livelihood Strategies to Charcoal Burning: Perspectives from Smallholder Farmers in Northern Uganda**

**Authors:** Lucy Aciro, Margherita Muzzillo, Casati Mirta, Jino Mwaka Okech  
Daniel Michael Okello and Elena Castellari

**Unlocking Inclusive Growth in South African Agriculture: Seed Systems and Fresh Produce Markets as Levers for Transformation**

**Authors:** TS Mkhabela

**Factors affecting land allocation for the selected field crops among emerging farmers in SA: Ordinary Least Square analysis approach**

**Authors:** Azola Msezeni, Joseph S. Kau, Abbyssinia Mushunje, Jabulile Z. Manyike

**Theme: Value Chains Analysis and Transformations**

**Venue:** Pool Room A

**Facilitator:** Ms Mankaba Matli

**Effects of statutory measures on the performance of South African pork industry: Error Correction Model approach**

**Authors:** Solly Molepo, Lucas Moswane, Joseph Kau, Buhlebemvelo Dube, Mamakie Lungana  
Nokwanele Mabunu, Matsobane Mpyana and Victor Thindisa

**Transformations in wholesale-retail of South African beef value chain**

**Authors:** Yetunde K. Olugbade and Danie Jordaan

**Mapping Pathways to an Inclusive and Competitive Cannabis Industry in South Africa through Systems Thinking and Systems Dynamic Modelling**

**Authors:** Siphokazi Ngcinela, Sibongile S. Tekana and Abbyssinia Mushunje

**Value Chains Analysis and Climate Change**

**Venue:** Back Patio

**Facilitator:** Dr Siphe Zantsi

**What Drives Crop Abandonment in Zambia?**

**Authors:** Nixon S. Chekenya

**Small-scale maize farmers' willingness to pay for changing planting dates in the face of climate change: a case study of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Limpopo Province**

**Authors:** Lekobane Lebogang Tau, Mmaphuti Andrias Nkoana, Rudzani Nengovhela  
Jan Johannes Hlongwane and Mabatha Sekedi and Thabang Mamabolo

**Analyzing the Market Concentration Perception and Willingness of Farmers to Participate in Organic Crop Production in Greater Tzaneen Municipality**

**Authors:** M Mmethi, P.V Mokoena and V.A Baloi



12:15 - 13:45

**Plenary: G20 Agricultural Sherpa Track - what is it all about?**

**Venue:** Large Marquee

**Moderator:** DDC Komape

**SPEAKERS:**

- **A presentation of the Food Security Task Force:** *Ms Thulile Dlamini*
- **A presentation of the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists:** *Dr Petronella Chaminuka*
- **A presentation of the agriculture working Group:** *Mr Thapsana Molepo*
- **Closing remarks:** *DG Mooketsa Ramasodi*

13:45 - 14:00

**CONFERENCE CLOSURE**

**Lunch**

**DEPARTURE**





# GLOBAL TRADE ANALYSIS PROJECT

Founded in 1992, and coordinated by the Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University, the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) is a network of over 30,000 individuals engaged in quantitative analysis of 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. A consortium of 30 leading national, international, and private institutions provides baseline financial support and strategic advice to the Center for Global Trade Analysis in support of GTAP. Guided by a philosophy of collaboration in domains of mutual benefit, notably data development, combined with an open marketplace for ideas in analytics, GTAP aims to advance high-quality quantitative analysis of global issues and facilitate deliberate decision-making. To this end, GTAP:



Global Trade Analysis Project

## LOWERS BARRIERS

for conducting high-quality analysis of global issues

### Data

GTAP assembles, documents, and makes publicly available a suite of databases that are widely regarded as the gold standard for global economywide analysis.

### Models, tools, and software

GTAP develops and makes publicly available a suite of cutting-edge and fully documented models and tools and collaborates with leading analytical software providers and the open-source programming community in the application of those models.

### Training

GTAP offers regular training courses, ranging from introductory to advanced, to scaffold network members in the application of the data, models, and software.

***GTAP-related analytics are a regular feature in the world's most prestigious scientific journals and inform a vast array of decision-making processes by governments, international organizations, and private entities around the world.***

## CONDUCTS RESEARCH

on pressing issues with global ramifications

While the bulk of GTAP-related research is conducted by GTAP Network members, the Center for Global Trade Analysis houses one of the largest groups of top-flight economywide modelers in the world. This unique concentration of skill is buttressed by sector expertise, notably in energy and food systems. Guided by a distinguished Scientific Council, GTAP researchers, often in collaboration with network members, address a range of issues including trade and industrial policy, energy transitions, climatic change, economic development, biodiversity preservation, pollution abatement, and the circular economy.

## SERVES AS A PLATFORM

for discussion and dissemination of novel approaches and new ideas

GTAP brings together thought leaders at the Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis, fosters innovation through the peer-reviewed *Journal of Global Economic Analysis*, hosts a Virtual Seminar Series, and maintains an active presence on social media.



Learn More

<https://youtu.be/0pQPdEb4S4>



**Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) / Center for Global Trade Analysis**

Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University  
403 Mitch Daniels Blvd., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2056 USA

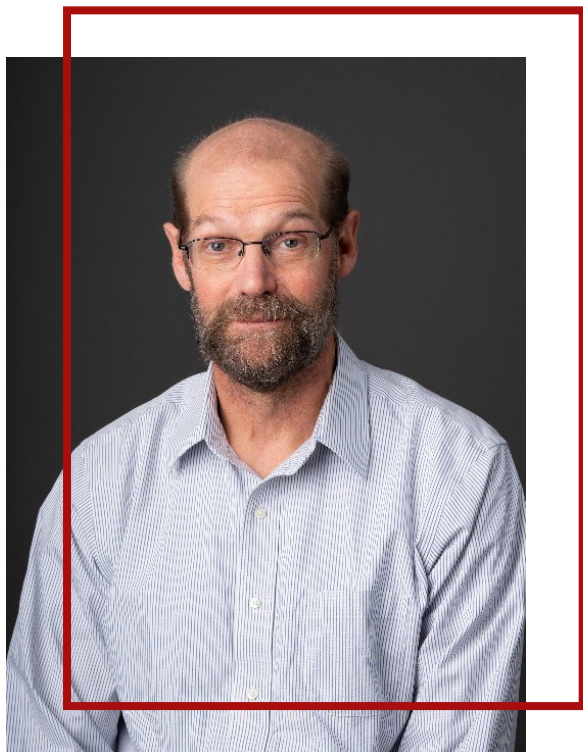


**Stay Connected with GTAP**

[contactgtap@purdue.edu](mailto:contactgtap@purdue.edu)  
[www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu](http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu)



## ***Simon Brands Memorial Lecture Speaker***



### **Prof Channing Arndt**

Channing Arndt directs the Global Trade Analysis Project, which is housed in the Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University. GTAP is the world's leading network for economic analysis in general equilibrium. It is supported by a consortium of 31 key institutions from around the world.

GTAP provides the world's most-used fully reconciled and complete data set for global economic analysis, delivers training on modeling in general equilibrium, and conducts research on a diversity of topics including international trade, climate change, and economy/environment interactions.

Prior to directing GTAP, Arndt directed the Transformation Strategies Department at IFPRI/CGIAR overseeing a research budget of about \$65 million and about 350 staff. Arndt has more than 30 years of experience in analytics for economic policy, with emphasis on large-scale global trends and their implications for country level-strategy and policy. He has published more than 95 articles in leading academic journals.

His books include *Growth and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa*, *Measuring Poverty and Wellbeing in Developing Countries*, and *The Political Economy of Clean Energy Transitions*, all published by Oxford University Press. Arndt has an established reputation for building institutional capacity in Mozambique, South Africa, Morocco, and Viet Nam and within the framework of the African Economic Research Consortium. He has been a consistent advocate for the creative and effective use of distance learning technologies, beginning with the development and implementation of distance approaches to support GTAP short courses more than 25 years ago.

## ***Photos and short resumes of all invited plenary speakers***

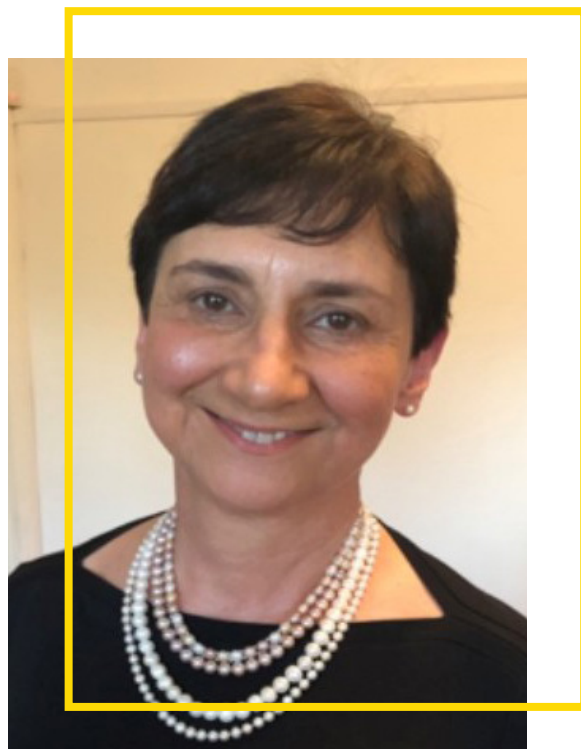
### **Ms Trudi Hartzenberg**

*Plenary: Trade - Rules based multilateral trading system*

Trudi Hartzenberg is the Executive Director of the Trade Law Centre (tralac). She works on international trade, and Africa's regional integration agenda. Her research interests also include investment, industrialisation, competition policy and trade and gender.

She has a keen interest in capacity building and institutional development and a special interest to support women policy makers. She developed tralac's SheGovernsTrade programme to support young women policy makers in African countries.

She serves on the WTO Chairs Advisory Committee and is a member of the Committee for Development Policy of ECOSOC.







## Mr Hilton Zunckel

Hilton is the Managing Director at 'HiltonLambert – Practitioners of Trade Law' where he specialises in agricultural trade issues.

He has acted as co-counsel to the ACP Group and the West African cotton initiative (the C4) in their WTO negotiations, and he is on the roster of WTO dispute settlement panellists. His recent assignments have included acting as co-counsel in the WTO citrus dispute between South Africa and the EU. Hilton was formerly an executive at an agricultural industry association where he served on a number of fora in liaising between business and government, during which he had the opportunity to form part of South Africa's representation to the WTO Committee on Agriculture, the International Grains Council, and various bilateral trade negotiating forums.

Hilton holds a master's degree in international law and in economics from the Swiss World Trade Institute at the University of Bern, and he is a contributing author to the Elgar Encyclopaedia

of International Law. His primary leisure activity is the consumption of agricultural produce, preferably in a distilled or fermented form.

## Dr Tinashe Kapuya

### *Plenary - Report of the Competition Commission on Fresh Produce Markets*

Tinashe Kapuya, PhD – is Director of Research at the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI). He is also head of the Modelling Services Center (MSC), the technical arm of ANAPRI, which is supporting Value Chain Analysis across different parts of Africa.

Tinashe is also leading multiple projects that generate and deliver data, evidence and analysis for African governments in order to make more informed policy decisions. Before Joining the ANAPRI Tinashe had worked for several institutions across the continent, including AGRA, Genesis Analytics, the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz), BUSA, among others.







### **Mr Mxolisi Mchunu**

Mxolisi is an accomplished Development practitioner with an impressive track record spanning over fifteen (15) years in the field of local government. Throughout his distinguished career, he has demonstrated exceptional versatility and expertise by serving in a range of management roles, including those related to Development Planning, Human Settlements, and local economic development.

His educational background underscores his commitment to excellence, with an Honours degree in Spatial Planning and a Masters in Urban & Regional Planning, showcasing his dedication to advancing his knowledge and skills in the domain of urban development and regional planning.

Mxolisi's professional journey has been enriched by his tenure at both local and District municipalities, where he gained invaluable insights into the intricate mechanisms and dynamics of local government operations.

These experiences have been instrumental in shaping his profound understanding of the complexities and challenges inherent to this sector. Currently, Mxolisi holds the position of Specialist for Economic Development at SALGA, where he continues to leverage his extensive expertise and knowledge to contribute to the advancement of economic development within the local government sphere.

### **Mr Francois Knowles**

Mr. Francois Knowles serves as the Chief Executive Officer (Registrar) of the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC). He brings more than 30 years of experience in the fresh produce market sector, underpinned by academic achievements that include a master's degree in Fresh Produce Market Development from the University of Pretoria.

APAC is a self-sustaining regulatory body mandated to oversee and regulate the professions of fresh produce, export, and livestock agents in South Africa—an industry valued at over R130 billion annually.

Mr. Knowles is deeply passionate about the agricultural sector. In his capacity as Registrar, he provides regulatory oversight and ensures reasonable assurance to farmers who rely on the aggregated services of fresh produce agents.







### **Mr Stanford Manthata**

Mr. Manthata currently serves as the Deputy Director for post-harvest support and linkages at the Directorate: Agricultural Marketing in the Department of Agriculture, where he provides leadership in coordinating the linking producers to markets program. He spearheads initiatives such as Project Rebirth for National Fresh Produce Markets, the Market Access Program, Food Safety Certification Programs, Post-harvest Infrastructure Program, and the Market Access Export & Import Permit Allocation Program. Additionally, he is a Council Member of the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC). His career began in 2000 as an Agricultural Economist at Epa Development (Pty) Ltd, followed by a role as Business Development Officer at Pannar Seed (Pty) Ltd from 2003 to 2006, where he led business development strategies for subsistence, small-holder, and aspirant commercial farmers. From 2006 to 2009, he served as a Senior Agricultural Economist in the Department of Agriculture's Marketing Directorate, analyzing South African agricultural marketing value chains and producing commodity value chain

profiles for horticulture. Mr. Manthata holds an M.Inst.Agrar in Agricultural Economics from the University of Pretoria, a B.Agricultural Management, and an Honours degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Limpopo. With extensive experience as an Agricultural Economist, Researcher, Facilitator, and Consultant, his interests lie in agricultural marketing, rural and agricultural development, and small-scale farming development programs.

### ***Members of the Local Organising Committee***

#### **Mr Bonani Nyhodo (Chairperson)**

Mr Bonani Nyhodo is the country node coordinator for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) in South Africa as well as a Senior Manager – Agricultural Industry Trust – at the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC).

The portfolio covers the 10 agricultural industry trusts that inherited assets from the former Control Boards. The approach to managing these trusts has always been to ensure that they are kept evergreen and the additional rental income or interest from investments are used to finance industry's generic functions such as research, consumer studies, skills development, transformation and promotions (export or domestic market).

The NAMC plays a liaison role between these trusts and the Minister of Agriculture. Mr Nyhodo is an agricultural economist by profession in possession of an Msc in Agricultural Economics



and is a member of the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA), and also a member of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE). He was part of the South African team that won the inaugural Student Case Competition of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) in 2006. He has presented papers for each of these associations and written peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters.





## **Mr Tediso Molepo (Deputy Chairperson)**

Tediso Molepo is an Agricultural Economist based in Gauteng Province, with over 20 years of experience and a strong commitment to the sector.

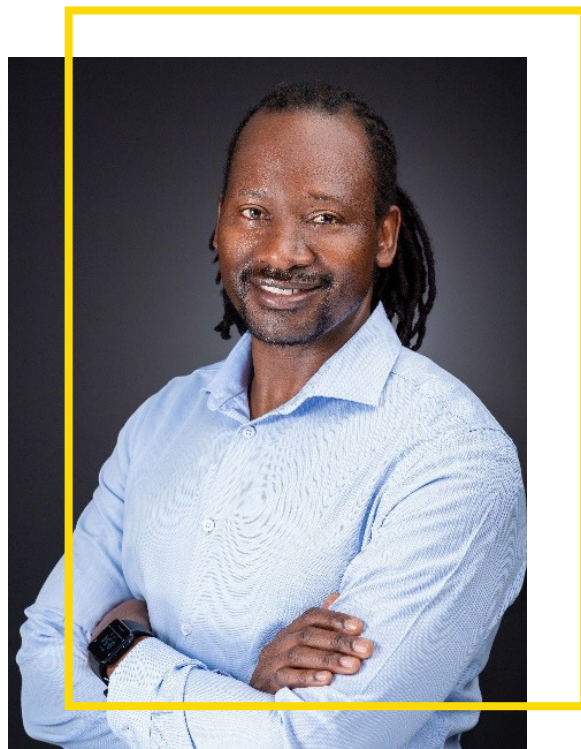
He holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Pretoria and a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture (MSA) from the University of the Free State. He is currently the Director for Agricultural Economic Services at the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), and has previously worked for the Agricultural Research Council, Department of Education and Food and Trees for Africa as a Project Manager.

He is a specialist in areas of Strategy Development, having led the development of the Gauteng Agroprocessing Strategy (2007), Gauteng Rural Development Strategy (2009) and the Gauteng Agricultural Cooperative Strategy (2012) amongst others.

## **Dr Mmatlou Kalaba**

Dr. Mmatlou Kalaba serves as a respected Senior Analyst and Director within the Commodity Markets and Foresight division at BFAP, while also holding a research fellowship at Stellenbosch University. He is regarded as an academic and practitioner, with expertise spanning international trade and agricultural policy.

With a strong track record of supervising postgraduate researchers, his work focuses on critical issues such as non-tariff measures, climate change, and regional trade agreements. Dr. Kalaba's ability to bridge rigorous economic research with practical market modelling provides valuable insights into inform policy and trade strategies at both national and regional scales. Mmatlou also serves as the Research Director for the African Network of Agricultural Research Institutes (ANAPRI), with the role in coordinating research across the continent to support evidence-based policymaking, implementation and resource mobilisation.







### **Dr Ferdi Meyer**

Professor Ferdi Meyer is an agricultural economist with more than two decades of experience in agricultural market and trade modelling, value chain analysis, strategic foresight, and scenario planning. As a founding member and Managing Director of the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) since its establishment in 2004, he has played a pivotal role in fostering national and international networks, guiding multidisciplinary teams, and advancing sustainable development within the agricultural sector. In addition to his leadership at BFAP, Professor Meyer serves on the boards of various companies and serves as non-executive director on the board of the South African Reserve Bank(SARB).

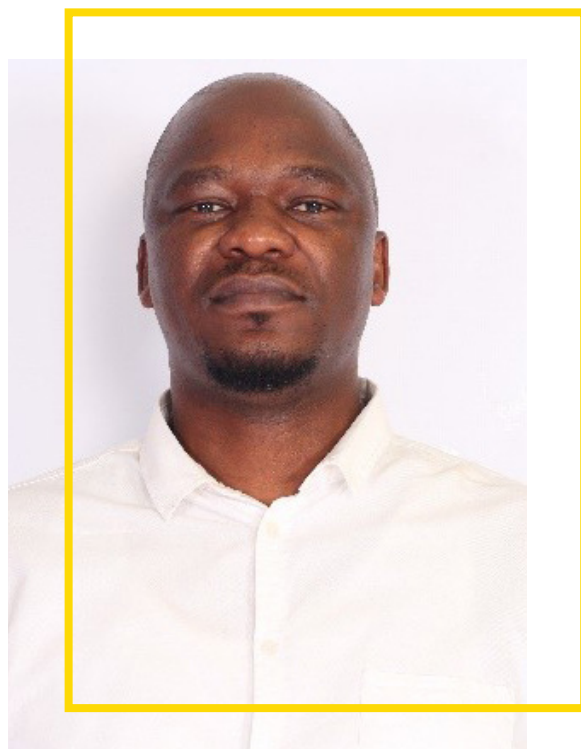
He holds the position of Professor Extraordinary in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University. His deep understanding of agriculture is rooted in his upbringing and involvement on a crop and livestock family farm in South Africa's North West Province.

### **Dr Solly Molepo**

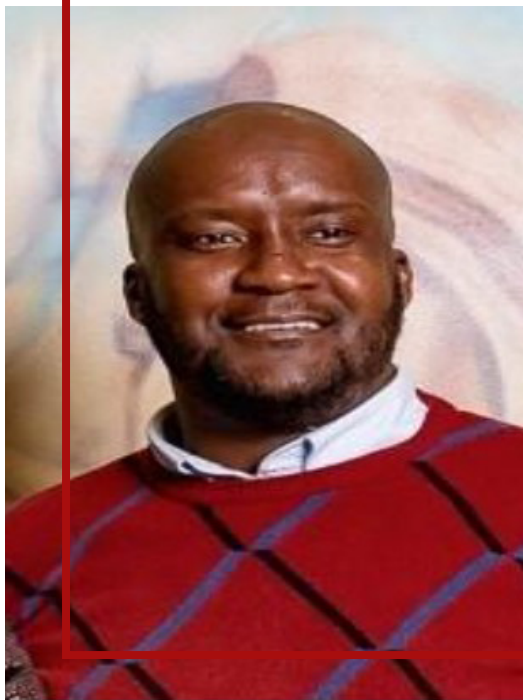
Dr. Solly Molepo, with over 13 years of experience as an agricultural economist, serves as the Manager: Trade Research at the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) since May 2024 and is an Extraordinary Senior Researcher at North West University's Department of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Previously, he was Director at the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, overseeing Agricultural Producer Support, Development, and Research Services, and held roles as Deputy Director: Agro-processing at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), championing the UN's Sustainable Food Systems from 2017 to 2022, and as Senior Agricultural Economist at DALRRD and Western Cape Department of Agriculture, focusing on Africa bilateral trade and market access for producers.

Dr. Molepo holds a Doctoral Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Limpopo and a Master of Philosophy in Industrial Policy from the University of Johannesburg.







## **Dr Victor Thindisa**

Dr Thindisa has more than 26-years of consecutive experience in the public service as an Agricultural Economist. He acquired more than 10-years of experience as a member of the Senior Management Service (SMS) responsible for Agro-processing and Marketing.

Dr Thindisa has acquired the following skills and competencies. At a professional level: he is an agricultural economist by profession, serving the agrifood industry in various capacities including assisting farmers in various aspects such as agribusiness development, enterprise-supplier development, market intelligence, trade promotion, market access, value chain analytics, macro-economic research etc.

At academic level, he possesses a Ph.D. in agropreneurship. He has published and presented scientific-peer reviewed articles in domestic and international journals and conferences.

He is an external examiner to post-graduate students. Peer reviews articles for publishing in academic journals. Dr Thindisa regularly publishes articles on topics of interest in reputable magazines and newspapers.

## **Dr Manana Mamabolo**

Dr. Manana Mamabolo is a distinguished agricultural economist at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa, specializing in rural development and poverty alleviation.

Holding a PhD from the University of Pretoria, her 2022 dissertation on income diversification in rural municipalities revealed stark economic stagnation, advocating for targeted investments in education and agri-business to break poverty cycles.

At the ARC, she drives impactful research, including a 2025 One Health Outlook study on zoonotic disease prevention, integrating economic and biosecurity strategies. Elected to the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa's Management Committee, Dr. Mamabolo's evidence-based work continues to shape policies for sustainable agriculture and equitable growth in South Africa's rural landscapes.



## **About SAPA**

One of South Africa's oldest agricultural organisations, the South African Poultry Association (SAPA) started off in Kimberley in 1904 as a body of poultry hobbyists. The Association catered to the needs of the various poultry clubs by regulating the rules and appointing judges for the popular poultry shows and egg laying tests staged at the time. Over the years, the poultry industry evolved from what was essentially a backyard industry, with thousands of people keeping small flocks but only a few large producers, to the mature, efficient and highly productive commercial operations we see today. Responding to the needs of its members, SAPA served as the industry's collective voice to the public and to Government.



Strengthening its authority, credibility and legitimacy, a South African Poultry Breeders Register was established in 1926, and ten years later, Government gave the assurance that it recognised SAPA as the official representative organisation of the country's poultry industry. As the industry has changed, so too has SAPA adapted to meet the industry's changing needs. The Association is involved in a continuous process of identifying issues affecting poultry producers and taking positive steps to deal with these.

The poultry industry is the largest single contributor to the agricultural sector in South Africa. In 2023, some 17.8 % of the total agricultural gross value and 42.9 % of animal product gross value stemmed from poultry production. It is estimated that the industry provides direct and indirect employment to approximately 134 000 people. It is the second largest consumer of maize in the country and supports many peripheral businesses (including the feed industry) and those further downstream in the value chain. The objectives of the streamlined South African Poultry Organisation are as follows:

- To establish and maintain national divisions of the Association in South Africa and enable members to co-operate effectively for the development of the broader poultry industry;
- To co-ordinate the views, aims and efforts of the national Organisations in the interests of the poultry industry in South Africa;
- To advance and improve the broader poultry industry in South Africa by embracing and coordinating the objectives of the national Organisations and particularly by:
- Protecting the broader poultry industry from adverse legislation and any other aggression and by initiating, promoting and assisting with the promulgation of legislation and regulations which are beneficial to the broader poultry industry;
- Encouraging poultry education, conducting and/or assisting in investigational work of a practical and scientific nature and the organisation of seminars and courses;
- Facilitating and providing guidance in respect of the transformation of the broader poultry industry in line with applicable government policies, objectives and legislation;
- Forming public private partnerships with government bodies and other public bodies as may be required from time to time; o Representing the broader poultry industry on appropriate international bodies and forums for purposes of developing global regulatory and trade frameworks which are to the benefit of the broader poultry industry;
- Publishing literature, journals, pamphlets, and circulars dealing with all matters pertaining to the broader poultry industry; and conducting communications on behalf of the industry;
- Establishing codes of practice (COP) in relation to the broader poultry industry; o Promoting the

consumption of poultry products in South Africa;

- Assisting in the opening up and maintaining of export markets for South African egg and poultry meat products;
- Procuring the compilation of statistics using information received from Members and the broader poultry industry, for purposes of maintaining suitable databases for use in the furtherance of the aims of the Association;
- Acting as arbitrator in the settlement of any dispute between Members which may arise in any matter pertaining to the broader poultry industry, in accordance with and subject to the rules;
- Dealing with any matter which may be in the interests of the broader poultry industry, the Association and/or its Members.

## **The Broiler Organisation**

The SAPA Broiler Organisation represents commercial broiler producers and associated breeder farmers and hatchery operations with the intention to serve the interests of the broiler industry on a national basis. The Broiler Organisation is funded by a voluntary levy.

The CEO of the Broiler Organisation is Izaak Breitenbach.

## **The Egg Organisation**

The Egg Organisation operates as an independent subsidiary of the South African Poultry Association. The purpose of the Egg Organisation (and its committee) is to improve the egg industry and promote it at a national level. This entails a critical evaluation of the methodology of control structures, achieving a higher level of operational input, liaising with government on crucial matters, liaising with consumer bodies, and striving to build a stronger image for the egg industry on an ongoing basis. Membership of the Egg Organisation had declined over a number of years, and it became clear that the only way to fund the organisation would be through a statutory levy.

An application was made to the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) and supported by the producers of more than 66 % of the country's eggs. The application was successful and a statutory levy on table eggs was gazetted in mid-2018, coming into force from 27 July 2018. An application for a new egg and egg product statutory measure was finalised in August 2021 and was approved by DALRRD Minister Thoko Didiza on 14 December 2021 (gazetted on 21 January 2022). All egg producers and packing stations contribute 1.8 c/dozen eggs traded. The statutory measure will remain in place from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026, with an option to increase the levy in 2024, if approved by the egg industry.

Dr Abongile Balarane is the CEO of the Egg Organisation







### **Prof Granny Senyolo**

Prof Grany Mmatsatsi Senyolo is an academic and researcher at the Tshwane University of Technology with expertise in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and rural development. She is committed to advancing food security, sustainable agriculture, and inclusive value chains, with a strong focus on empowering smallholder farmers and rural communities. Her work explores themes such as market access, climate change adaptation, and neglected and underutilized species.

She is actively engaged in postgraduate supervision, curriculum development, and the design of short learning programmes aimed at enhancing youth skills in agriculture and entrepreneurship. Prof Senyolo coordinates the EU-funded MASSTER project, advancing innovation and transformation in African food systems, and is an active member of the Africa-Australia Universities Network (AAUN), contributing to collaborative research and policy dialogue. She was also part of the Teaching Advancement at Universities (TAU) 5 cohort, reflecting her commitment to excellence in higher education.

### **Prof Aluwani Maiwashe-Tagwi**

Professor Aluwani Maiwashe-Tagwi is the Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Animal Health at UNISA. With over 13 years' experience in academia, she specialises in agricultural energy economics and the circular economy, and has an interest in trade matters. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and is completing an MCom in Energy and Environmental Economics at WITS.

She currently leads the UNISA-AgriSETA Bioenergy Programme, which is featured on South Africa's National Bioeconomy Portal, showcasing its role in building sustainable pathways for smallholder farmer participation in the bioenergy sector within the Just Energy Transition framework, driving pathways for smallholder farmer participation in South Africa's bioenergy sector within the Just Energy Transition framework. A recognised thought leader and HERS-SA mentor, she has supervised 3 PhD and 12 MSc graduates to completion, and was named UNISA Woman of the Year (2023) by Unisa Women Forum



and nominated for the SANEDI Women in Energy Award (2024) for her contributions to rural bioenergy research and agricultural transformation. She is also part of the G20 Agriculture working Group. Prof Alu also holds a National Research Foundation (NRF) Y2 rating.





### **Ms Heidi Phahlane**

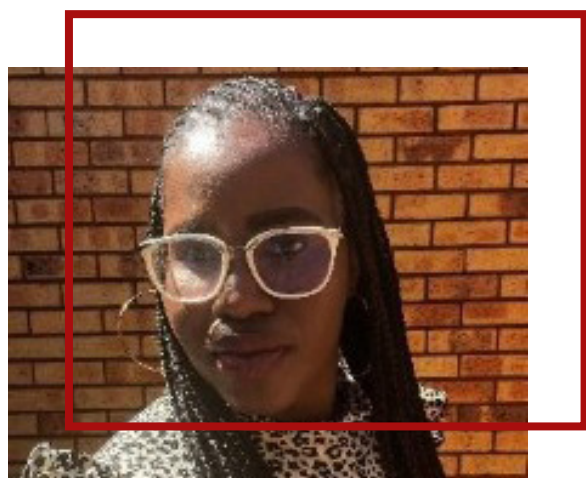
Heidi Phahlane, an accomplished agricultural economist with an MSc from the University of the Free State. She is currently working as a Deputy Director at DALRRD's Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis. With over 15 years of experience, she manages a team of economists, oversees key publications like the Quarterly Economic Overview of the Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries (AFF) Sector, and co-champions the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Report for the AU Summit.

Her expertise in trade policy analysis and rural development, coupled with her role in drafting the 2020/2021 Agricultural Agro-processing Master Plan, highlights her impact on South Africa's agricultural sector. Heidi finds joy in improving lives through her work and advises aspiring agricultural economists to practice agriculture and build resource networks.

### **Ms Ikageng Maluleke**

Ikageng Maluleke is the Economic Research Manager at SA Canegrowers, where she leads data-driven insights to support grower sustainability and industry policy.

She holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Pretoria and brings over 10 years of experience in the field. Her career includes roles at Grain SA, the University of Pretoria, and consultancy work focused on farmer development, youth and women empowerment, and market access. She also serves on AEASA's Management Committee, where she is responsible for newsletter editing and communications.



### **Ms Yolanda Potelwa**

Yolanda Potelwa is a seasoned Agricultural Economist with over 10 years of experience. She holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics and has worked with GDARD, Potatoes South Africa, and NAMC.

Yolanda is a friend of the farmer, with a strong commitment to the sector. Her strengths include entrepreneurship development, enterprise budgeting, and market access facilitation. She is also a published researcher in regional agricultural trade, trade policy, and macro-economic analysis.





## Prof Wale Zegeye

Edilegnaw Wale Zegeye has more than 25 years of experience in research, teaching, postgraduate supervision, consultancy (IFPRI and ILRI), and community development. Currently, he is the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension, and Rural Development and Professor of Agricultural Development Economics and Policy.

He has extensively published in accredited journals and supervised fourteen PhD theses and 23 MSc dissertations to completion. His research and development focus areas include water use in smallholder agriculture, agrobiodiversity conservation, technology adoption on smallholder farms, agricultural development policy, and impact assessment of development projects/programs/policies.

## Mr Wandile Sihlobo

Wandile Sihlobo is the Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), where he analyzes market trends, export dynamics, and policy impacts on the sector, and a prolific author of three books: *The Uncomfortable Truth About South Africa's Agriculture* (2025), *A Country of Two Agricultures: The Disparities, The Challenges, The Solutions* (2023), and *Finding Common Ground: Land, Equity and Agriculture* (2020). He serves as a Senior Lecturer Extraordinary at Stellenbosch University's Department of Agricultural Economics, a Visiting Research Fellow at the Wits School of Governance, and a Research Associate at Rhodes University's Institute of Social and Economic Research, while holding key advisory roles including member of the Council of Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), Commissioner at the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC), and appointee to President Cyril Ramaphosa's Presidential Economic Advisory Council since 2019. A prominent commentator, Sihlobo



contributes columns to *Business Day*, *The Herald*, and *Farmers Weekly*, hosts the weekly podcast *Agricultural Market Viewpoint* with Wandile Sihlobo, and advocates for equitable growth in South Africa's dualistic agricultural landscape.





## VISION

A food secure and healthy Gauteng through sustainable, inclusive, transformed and globally competitive agricultural value chains.



## Mission

- To attain the Department's vision through:
- Ensuring sustainable agricultural production and land use.
- Enabling participation in inclusive commercial agri-food value chains.
- Promoting food security and food safety in line with international best practice.
- Facilitating agricultural and rural development that stimulates sustainable jobs.
- Contributing to the One Health System.
- Leveraging effective partnerships.



## Values

1. Integrity
2. Accountability
3. Commitment
4. Responsiveness
5. Innovation
6. Activism
7. Team Orientated

### GDARD SERVICES Agriculture

The Agriculture Chief Directorate optimises the contribution of sustainable agriculture towards the equitable development of all communities and economy in Gauteng Province, to enhance food security, income generation, job creation and the quality of life. The chief directorate's strategic priorities include working towards changing races and gender patterns of asset ownership in the agricultural sector, contributing to the economic growth of Gauteng and also promoting improved levels of food security, particularly at the household level. Other services include job creation and contribution to economic growth.

### Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Services Chief Directorate works towards providing an integrated provincial veterinary services system and promoting a sustainable resources management system, in order to enhance the quality of life for all.

### Rural Development

The Chief Directorate's strategic objective is to enable and support the transformation of the agricultural sector to actively contribute to economic growth, inclusion, equality and the creation of decent work. The Chief Directorate coordinates rural development in Gauteng Province – a mandate that it carries out at the request of and on behalf the Gauteng Premier's Office.

### Agro-processing and Economic Services

The Agro-processing and Economic Services Chief Directorate is responsible for contributing to the inclusive development of agri-food economy in Gauteng Province. The core functions include managing and coordinating the provision of agricultural economics services, including the agri-food research and technology development services. This extends to the implementation of the Agriparks programme, to support and coordinate the establishment and growth of agro-processing enterprises for increased contribution to the agri-food economy. The Chief Directorate is guided by the Gauteng Agroprocessing Strategy, Gauteng Agri-Food Transformation Strategy, National Agriculture and Agro-processing Masterplan, Agriculture Policy Action Plan and National Development Plan. The five focus areas are agriparks and processing infrastructure per value priority of horticulture, grain, poultry, piggery and red meat; township processing facilities, agro-logistics (Cold Chain Program) and enhancing market access.

## MOTTO

## GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

### OFFICES

#### Johannesburg

GDARD Headquarters Address: 56 Eloff St, Umnotho House

Tel: 011 240 2500

Fax: 011 240 2619

GDARD is headquartered in the Johannesburg central business district (CBD).

#### Regional Offices

The regional offices are satellite centres from where our veterinary, agriculture and conservation services are available to meet the needs of local communities.

#### Pretoria

Regional Office: Gauteng North

Tel: 012 328 5140

Fax: 012 328 5140

E-mail: Fred.vandervyfer@gauteng.gov.za

#### Agriculture contact person: Jan Potgieter

E-mail: jan.potgieter@gauteng.gov.za

Veterinary Service Contact Person:

Fred Vandervyfer

E-mail: Fred.vandervyfer@gauteng.gov.za

#### Randfontein

Regional Office: Gauteng West

Tel: 012 328 5140

Fax: 012 328 5140

E-mail: Fred.vandervyfer@gauteng.gov.za

Veterinary Service Contact Person:

Dr Ian Macdonald

E-mail: ian.macdonald@gauteng.gov.za



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





## Ms Whitney Matli

Whitney Matli is a Junior Agricultural Economist in the Economic Analysis Unit within the Research Support and Coordination Division of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in South Africa.

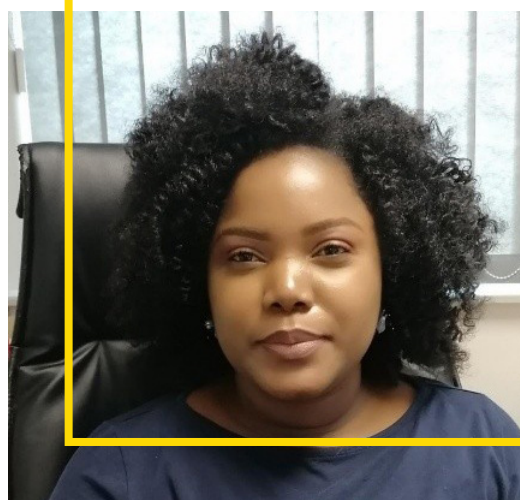
She holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics and has been involved in various impact assessment research projects. Her work focuses on advancing evidence-based insights that support smallholder farmer development, strengthen market systems, and promote sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems.

## Ms Bethusile Malibe

Ms. Bethusile Malibe is a dedicated public servant and key figure in South Africa's agricultural sector, serving as a senior official within the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). With a robust background in rural development and sustainable farming practices, she has played a pivotal role in initiatives aimed at enhancing food security and economic transformation in urban and rural communities across Gauteng province.

Under her leadership in various programs, Malibe has championed inclusive agri-food value chains, supporting small-scale farmers through capacity-building workshops, access to markets, and

climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Her commitment to the One Health System integrates animal, human, and environmental health to promote sustainable land use and job creation in the sector. Passionate about empowering women and youth in agriculture, Malibe's efforts have contributed to GDARD's mission of fostering integrated, smart communities, earning her recognition as a transformative leader in provincial development.



## Dr Tracy Davids

Dr. Tracy Davids is the Director of the Commodity Markets and Foresight Programme at BFAP, where she leads expert teams in agricultural market modelling, trade analysis, and strategic foresight. With a strong foundation in agricultural economics and deep modelling expertise, she plays a pivotal role in shaping South Africa's baseline outlooks, impact assessments and global trade competitiveness insights. Her work spans across countries and disciplines, contributing to evidence-based decision-making at both national and continental levels. Tracy is also deeply involved in capacity building across Africa, fostering modelling skills and policy research collaboration through institutions such

as ANAPRI and other international collaborators. Her blend of technical depth and strategic leadership makes her a core pillar of BFAP's impact on food system foresight in Africa.



# Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development (AEERD)

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension, and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria is passionate about the various applied fields of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Agricultural Extension, Rural Development, Environmental & Natural Resources Economics, Macroeconomics & Trade, and Agri. Development Policy. The Department deals with research, training, and outreach issues at the heart of the agricultural and rural development agenda, focusing on the knowledge-strategy-policy interface. To achieve this, we partner with private and public sector organizations locally, continentally, and globally to align our work with industry needs and policy questions. As such, our staff and graduates play a central role in a wide range of professional engagements (research, evidence-based policy dialogue, and consultancy) in the agricultural and food sector in South Africa and the African continent. Through our transdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral research, participatory teaching, and public/private sector engagement, we continue to address key business and societal challenges, including poverty, food/nutrition insecurity, unemployment, economic inequality, energy security, and sustainability.

AEERD is strategically located to work with partners and stakeholders in South Africa, the broader Southern Africa region, and beyond. These include agribusinesses, universities, continental and global organizations, government entities, and non-governmental organizations. We are open to collaborative relationships as a partner in addressing the multi-dimensional and complex challenges of sustainable development. Our programs, regularly under review, are focused on understanding the complex nexus of interactions among agriculture, food, water, energy, ecosystems, and health. We pride ourselves in our willingness and capacity to participate in or lead research and development partnerships. Our team and graduates have the necessary skill sets to think critically and contribute to the complex nexus of sustainable development challenges. We ensure our graduates can provide thought leadership, essential evidence, and knowledge-based advice for policy and business decisions.



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## Bridging the Gap: Developing Inclusive Agricultural Economics Qualifications in the University of Technology Sector

Developing a Diploma in Agricultural Economics at TUT

The workshop will introduce the initiative to establish a three-year Diploma in Agricultural Economics at the Tshwane University of Technology. The programme aims to fill a critical gap in South Africa's higher education landscape by equipping graduates with practical skills in agribusiness, farm management, agricultural

marketing, financial management, and policy analysis—combined with a six-month work-integrated learning component.

Help Shape the Future of  
Agricultural Economics at TUT



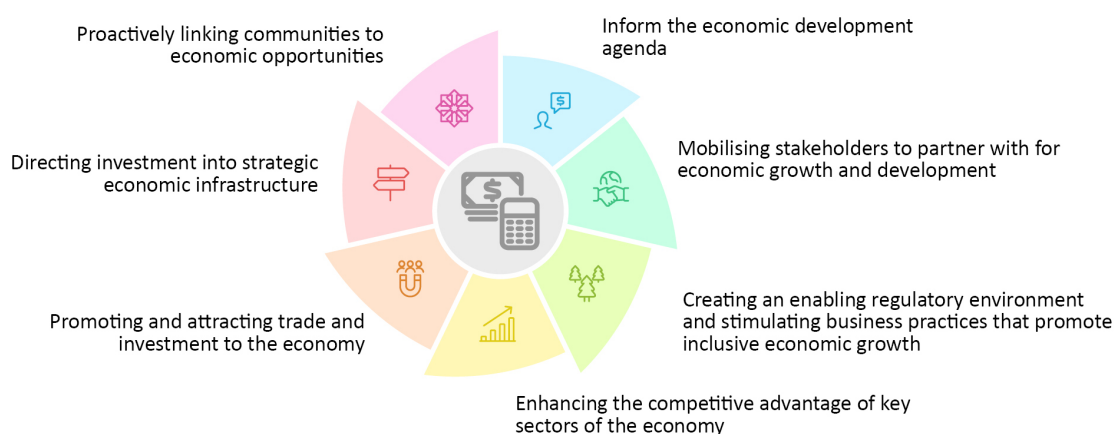
**Help Shape the Future of Agricultural Economics at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).** We value your input in developing the new Diploma in Agricultural Economics. Scan the QR code to complete a short survey and share your ideas on the modules and skills this programme should include. Your feedback will play a vital role in designing a qualification that meets industry, student, and community needs.



Tshwane University  
of Technology  
*We empower people*



The Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) is mandated to facilitate, promote and develop economic growth in the Gauteng City Region. This is done with a targeted commitment to focus on enhancing inclusivity in the economy, whilst not neglecting to improve its competitiveness. The Department's mission is to be a developmentally focused whilst contributing to an inclusive and growing economy in Gauteng by providing thought leadership to:



The Department implements its mandate through its Implementing Agencies, namely:

- 1) Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COHWS)
- 2) Dinokeng
- 3) Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP)
- 4) Gauteng Gambling Board (GGB)
- 5) Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)
- 6) Gauteng Liquor Board (GLB)
- 7) Gauteng Tourism Authority (GTA)
- 8) Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ)

Currently, the GDED is implementing the High Impact Partnership Delivery Model (HIPDM) which is a strategic public-private partnership mechanism designed to enhance collaboration, mobilise resources, and scale impact across priority programmes to accelerate its mandate. The Model is implemented with an intention to assist the provincial economy to promote and enhance the following aspects in prioritised economic sectors:

- 1) Funding structuring and investments attraction into township economy,
- 2) Skills development and training capacitation,
- 3) Incubation programmes,
- 4) Enterprise and Supplier Development programmes, and
- 5) Specialized project management solutions.

**Tel No.:** 011 355 8000

**Email:** [gdedinquiries@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:gdedinquiries@gauteng.gov.za)

**Website:** <https://www.gauteng.gov.za>

**Street Address:** 56 Eloff Street, Marshalltown, JOHANNESBURG, 2107



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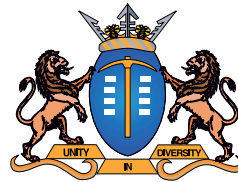
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**NOTES:**





The Agricultural Economics  
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