AgriSETA Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision
Enabling a skilled and prosperous agricultural sector

MISSION
To increase access to relevant skills that is impact driven through strategic partnerships and credible research leading to inclusive economic growth

VALUES
Transparent | See through us
Responsible | I own it
Unity | In diversity
Service delivery | We are here to serve
Team work | Together we do more
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This month my message is short, because our partnerships speak for itself. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has partnered with AgriSETA, making available R66 million to train 400 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) learnerships and artisan development programmes. The funding was provided by the National Skills Fund (NSF) of the Department of Higher Education Science and Technology (DHEST) and forms part of the EPWP.

However, technology and access to such infrastructure is not a luxury afforded to the vulnerable and most needy of people. We therefore ensured the participation of 19 community radio stations across the country and particularly in the outlying areas where social media is also not an option, due to there being a cost to purchase data.

This is no small feat for us and we are honoured as AgriSETA to perform the obligations of the project implementation, which includes administration and reporting, as well as the procurement and contracting of relevant training providers, which will be done in consultation with DPWI to ensure clear guidelines and transparency.

As for career guidance, we had to think of a new way of reaching our beneficiaries. While the country was in lockdown, most of us had to embrace technology because without it, we would not be able to continue doing business.

In this regard and because the beneficiaries are the ultimate recipients of the work of SETAs, we pursued a new way of taking career guidance to the youth of South Africa. We partnered with a community based online medium and launched our virtual social media career guidance platform, called AgriSETA Learner Connect - The name of the campaign leverages on AgriSETA’s newsletter by the same name.
The notion remains the same, which is to change the perception of learners and to allow them to explore the world of work in the agricultural sector, and guide them towards future-proof careers in agriculture, particularly those that are considered to be scarce and critical skills. The programme includes inviting industry professionals to share their experience in their respective fields in agriculture and to provide guidance on how to make it a successful career of choice.

The pop-up podcast was produced specifically for the project, which will remain available online, potentially, forever. The podcast is available on all major podcast platforms, including Google, Spotify and Apple Podcasts and may be downloaded at any time at minimal cost.

We also formed a partnership with the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN), collaborating on research that falls within AgriSETA’s focus areas, and in training that will boost the agricultural sector.

By establishing key partnerships with Higher Education institutions, we ensure better quality research material for the agricultural sector and it serves to advance our skills development focus areas.

We end with an insightful interview with a young female artisan who is a millwright apprentice.

On the job, apprentices learn to set up, clean, lubricate, repair, and start machinery. During technical instruction, they are taught welding, mathematics, how to read blueprints, how to use electronic and pneumatic devices, and how to use grease and fluid properly. Many also receive computer training.

According to Zama Hlatshwayo, you need a sharp mind to solve technical problems and integrate both working as a team and working independently. You also need to be creative, have analytical thinking skills, time management skills and have good communication skills. Needless to say, this sounds like most women in society, who multi-skill and serve many purposes — no wonder they have been afforded an entire month of the most worthy recognition.

Sincerely
Zenzele Myeza
Chief Executive Officer
DPWI and AgriSETA collaborate on R66 million to train 400 Artisans

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has concluded an MoU, making available R66 million to AgriSETA, to train 400 EPWP participants to become Artisans.

This funding of R66 million was provided by the National Skills Fund (NSF) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), forms part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for skills programmes, learnerships and artisan development over a multi-year period.

“We partnered with AgriSETA, as they previously implemented a similar project and we were satisfied with the results. The department is committed to develop and nurture scarce skills as part of DPWI on-going transformation process of the built industry”, says Mr Imtiaz Fazel, the acting Director-General of the DPWI.

The agreement between DPWI and AgriSETA to implement the artisan development programme shall commence immediately and will continue up until 30 September 2023, and until completion of the project, whichever comes first.

AgriSETA will manage the implementation and provide technical support to the project, in order to ensure that 400 artisans are trained and certificated.

AgriSETA is also responsible for sourcing relevant workplaces for all 400 trainees in artisan development, as well as to certify all accreditation requirements of training and appointment of service delivery agents for the duration of the project.

AgriSETA will ensure joint monitoring with DPWI, continuous quality assurance, verification and the timeous completion of certification of successful participants.

“This is indeed an empowering collaboration, which is going to benefit many unemployed people and will increase the much needed essential skills that is required in all sectors of the country”, says Myeza.

The National Skills Fund Executive Officer, Mr Mvuyisi Macikama said that this project aligns to the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) III and the National Skills Development Plan 2030 which prioritises artisan development programmes to address technical skills shortage, and in line with the envisaged catalytic role of the NSF, to drive change towards partnership-based programmes and contribute significantly to raising the low base of education and training in the country, guided by government strategies and policies of redress and equity.
AgriSETA Learner Connect – a new way of doing career guidance

AgriSETA career guidance has integrated into an online platform that motivate, encourage and foster interest in high school learners to consider careers in agriculture. Whilst this forms part of AgriSETA’s mandate, we want to encourage careers in Agriculture as a first choice, making known the benefits it has in providing science, technology and future thinking for food security and business skills in farming.

This is a partnership with Food for Msanzi, who drives the campaign on behalf of AgriSETA, along with AgriSETA’s marketing team, who together launched the virtual career guidance platform, called “AgriSETA Learner Connect”.

AgriSETA Learner Connect is a campaign programme that runs on podcast of 19 radio stations broadcast and promoted extensively on the AgriSETA and Food for Mzansi social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). The campaign is also featured in each weekly edition of the popular Farmer’s Inside Track newsletter.

The different careers are profiled through interviews that are conducted with real persons in the agricultural sector, such as plant pathologist, a soil scientist, biotechnologist, among others. Different interviews are aired on a daily basis.

AgriSETA Learner Connect strategic overall intends to;
- focus on high school learners who are making important decisions on subject choices and tertiary study options;
- to reach high school learners across South Africa directly or via industry influencers in the sector;
- widening the horizon of ‘imaginable’ careers for these learners, by introducing them to a greater diversity of agricultural career options;
- promoting careers from the PIVOTAL list. Engaging learners by letting them listen to “real” people talking about their own agricultural career paths and passions.

Food for Mzansi’s editor, Dawn Noemdoe says, “so far the response to the AgriSETA Learner Connect has been exceptional. Learners now access information and gain first-hand knowledge on various opportunities available to them in agriculture, ‘hearing it straight from the horse’s mouth’.”
AgriSETA and Food For Mzansi partnered with the following radio stations to podcast the AgriSETA Learner Connect.

Waterberg Stereo: Bela Bela, Brits, Naboomspruit,
Pietersburg, Pretoria, Thabazimbi, Tzaneen – 104.9 FM
Waterberg Stereo: Thabazimbi, Naboomspruit – 104.9 FM
Laeveld Stereo: Nelspruit – 100.5 FM
Lichvaal Stereo: Lichtenburg – 92.6 FM
Overall Stereo: Viljoenskroon, Parys – 96.1 FM
Maluti FM Bethlehem – 97.1 FM
Rosestad FM: Bloemfontein – 100.6 FM
Wild Coast FM: East London – 98.6 FM
Gamka FM: Oudtshoorn – 87.6 FM
Kouga FM: Humansdorp 97.8 FM
Eden FM: Hessequa, Kannaland, Karoo,
Oudtshoorn, Plettenbergbaai, Riversdale, Uniondale – 93.8 FM
Radio Overberg: Bredasdorp – 98.4 FM
Caledon FM: Caledon – 89.3 FM
Whale Coast FM: Hermanus – 96.0 FM
West Coast FM: Vredenburg – 92.3 FM
Lara FM: Springbok – 91.6 FM
NFM: Okiep – 98.1 FM

The pop-up podcast is produced specifically for the project, which will remain available online potentially forever. The podcast is available on all major podcast platforms, including Google, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.
The University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN), through its School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences (SAEES), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with AgriSETA, enabling collaboration in research that falls within AgriSETA’s focus areas and in training that will boost the agricultural sector.

This agreement will help to cultivate collaboration between UKZN, a leader in agricultural research and capacity development in the country, and AgriSETA, which is responsible for the skills development of the agricultural workforce.

The collaboration creates the opportunity for UKZN to submit proposals for funding for various projects to AgriSETA, with an initial three-year funding cycle for research and training proposals for SAEES researchers and academics.

Dean and Head of SAEES Professor Fhatuwani Mudau said “by developing sustainable thematic research focus areas, we aim to build long-term projects and research teams that are sustainable beyond individualistic research projects”.

AgriSETA is mandated to provide training and development in the agricultural sectors aligned to the objectives of the 2030 National Skills Development Plan, which places emphasis on the importance of research, since it is vital for the improvement of food security and economic growth, and fosters the generation of new skills and knowledge.

UKZN and AgriSETA collaborate to ensure the agriculture sector’s research agenda

climate change; food and nutrition security; extension services; land and society; forestry; seed production; sugar; protein production; export crops; crop disease prediction and modelling; creating resilience among smallholder farmers; building human capacity throughout the food value chain; soil conservation, sustainable land management and water harvesting; integrated pest and disease management, biological control; market models and value chains; and promoting gender equity and participation of vulnerable groups in agricultural-food value chains.

Research produced under this collaboration will have strong proactive and participatory training and development components, contribute to the development of researchers and postgraduate students, be trans - or multi-disciplinary, feature diverse teams, focus on scarce skill areas and include robust knowledge dissemination plans.
The South African legislation has aimed to encourage more employment of women in the workplace, promote gender equality, the prohibition of unfair discrimination against women and the elimination of gender based violence. (The Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill (As introduced in the National Assembly, proposed section 75); the Bill published in Government Gazette No. 37005 of 6 November 2013)

AgriSETA is no exception in promoting gender equality, being all hands on deck in supporting women in the artisan industry and most importantly, encouraging them to apply to their closest TVET’s, NGO’s, Universities for practical training.

We had an opportunity to interview a young woman in the field of artisanship training, Ntombizethu Zamangele Hlatshwayo know as “Zama” from Madenedeni section 4 in Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Zama is currently doing her millwright artisan training funded by AgriSETA at Gert Sibande TVET College, Skills Academy in Mpumalanga. The duties of a millwright artisan are to maintain, repair, install, re-assemble and fault finding the machinery at her work place.

Zama, please tell us what does your day-to-day training entail?

I am currently learning the electrical part of the trade, this includes panel wiring, fault finding, testing of equipment and many other aspects of electrical. I will soon be moving to the fitting workshop where I will be learning the mechanical part of the trade.

What are the character traits that are needed for a millwright career?

I believe that one should personally have a passion for technology and be willing to work with your hands. On the technical side, you need a sharp mind to solve technical problems and integrate both working as a team and working independently. You also need to be creative, have analytical thinking skills, time management skills and have good communication skills.
So far tell us about your proudest career achievements

My proudest career achievements thus far is that I have completed my N6 in Electrical Engineering and added the needed mechanical subjects, to be a qualified millwright. Again getting the opportunity to be part of the AgriSETA’s 2020 Millwright Apprenticeship group, is very interesting and exciting. The knowledge and skills I receive every day at the workshop prepares me for the workplace as well as for the Trade Test.

Any advice that you can give young people who are interested in a Millwright career?

I will proudly say go for it, it doesn’t matter which gender you are, what really matters, is that you need to be a dedicated hard worker and face challenges as it goes.

Millwright career from others is considered as a male’s work, what is your intake from a female perspective?

That is true, but women must have a strong mind-set and show interest of becoming a millwright artisan and place the gender aside. You will be surprised of what good work female artisans are doing out there, the outputs are what counts, not the gender of the person who produced the product.

August is women’s month; what message can you give to all women of South Africa?

Just like our former Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi said “I think the most important thing we should be teaching young women today is leadership, regardless of what society has labelled women. It is a great blessing to be alive, we as women must be productive, show our capabilities and leave a name and legacy behind. Female artisans it is time for us to dominate the so-called male industries.

Zama, as you have heard or maybe seen, Gender Based Violence (GBV) is currently a major problem in South Africa, what message of encouragement can you give to all women and men of SA?

To all the women who are being abused in any form, whether it is physical, emotional, sexual or verbal at their various work places, please speak up, because keeping quiet is like slowly hurting yourself to your own end. There are many organizations that can offer a helping hand.
Reminder First Window Discretionary Grant application

Discretionary Grant 2021 Academic Year

2020/2021 Financial Year first window application
Closing date 15 September 2020

Whistleblowing information

We wish to share with you the new details of AgriSETA’s Fraud and Whistleblowing Hotline is managed by an independent company called, The Corruption Hotline (Pty) Ltd.

- 24-hr Fraud Hotline reporting number: 0800 869 624
- Free fax reporting number: 086 439 0530
- Mail box reporting address: PO Box 1968, Durban, 4001
- Email reporting address: agriseta@thecorruptionhotline.com;
- Website: www.thecorruptionhotline.com

The Protected Disclosures Act no 26 of 2000, implemented in February 2001 helps to deter and detect wrongdoing in the workplace, acting as an early-warning mechanism to prevent impropriety and corruption within the public sector.