



**ABOVE:** Through the rural agri-hub, smallholder farmers who previously had limited access to markets can now yield great profits for their produce.



**SPAR**



A partnership between the public and private sectors has led to the development of a rural agri-hub model in Sekororo, Limpopo Province. The said model is derived from the Ofcolaco SPAR Agri-Hub model, another public-private partnership which is a response to the challenges of food security and rural socio-economic development.

SPAR is a partner on The Jobs Fund Farmer Support Programme currently implemented by LIMA over a five-year period in Sekororo and other sites in Limpopo. Beerseun Boerdery, a local commercial farming enterprise, provides mentorship on the project. The purpose of developing the local rural hub is to enable produce from local emerging smallholder farmers to be consolidated for supply to local retail stores and other markets. Through this model, rural consumer groups will gain improved access to fresh, nutritious food. The project is facilitated by Judy Burman, alongside Karabo Minnyene. The technical support provided by the two include assisting with detailed costings, fertilisation and chemical spray programmes, as well as teaching farmers how to maximise yields for their crops, among other tasks. Farmers are also assisted with gaining local Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) accreditation.

Of the progress made thus far, Burman said: "Our farmers have produced butternut, cabbage, tomatoes and green peppers into the Hub. We have also managed to obtain a gherkin contract from Miami Cannery. It is extremely satisfying to see farmers getting good yields and decent prices for their crops. One of our farmers recently picked 33 tons off a hectare of butternuts and got an average of R4 per kg (approximately R132 000)."

Burman says they have an extremely ambitious winter planting programme for 2017, with farmers scheduled to plant over 30 hectares per month. This, she says, will require intense planning and preparation, considering how badly the drought has affected the area. The 18 farmers earmarked to grow and meet production schedules will therefore need to be trained and developed accordingly.

# LUBISI 1000 HOUSING PROJECT

## SIXTY HOUSES COMPLETED AND COUNTING!



**ABOVE:** A “Malibongwe” designed house, one of the sixty completed houses.

In August 2015, the [Eastern Cape Department of Human Settlements](#) appointed LIMA’s engineering division as the community resource organisation (CRO) for its two-year housing project in Lubisi.

This after the Lubisi community had also been in favour of LIMA being its CRO, following the organisation’s presentation and demonstration of the award-winning housing project it implemented in Elliotdale.

The Lubisi housing project is an Enhanced People’s Housing Process (EPHP) which allows for the active involvement of beneficiaries in the decision making of the housing process and building of their own homes.

Since the project was handed over to LIMA in September 2015, work has commenced in 154 sites and, currently, 60 houses have been completed. The beneficiaries have the option of choosing either the L-shaped (Malibongwe) or the square-shaped (Siseko) design.

According to Project Manager Brighton Shumba, the beneficiaries are impressed with “the quality of work produced by LIMA so far”.

Shumba says the organisation has also been given the mandate to do a social scoping exercise and this involves establishing the status quo of the livelihoods of the various households in Lubisi. Based on the results of this exercise, LIMA is expected to then draw up and submit proposals for improvement to the relevant stakeholder departments.

“The project is multifaceted in that it promotes capacity building, social cohesion and citizenship as well as the establishment of small enterprises. I am delighted to say that to date, more than 120 jobs have been created through this initiative.

There have also been many business opportunities for sub-contractors as well; we have more than 20 appointed on the project,” said Shumba.



# NDUMO-B IRRIGATION SCHEME

## FARMERS RISE ABOVE DROUGHT CONDITIONS



**ABOVE:** The Ndumo B Irrigation Scheme is comprised of farmers of various age groups, most of which are between 26 and 45 years. This, according to a Golder report, is a positive indicator of the long-term viability of the scheme.

Since 2015, [Golder Associates Africa](#) (Pty) Ltd (Golder) and LIMA have been working on the second phase of the irrigation scheme in Ndumo B, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), and, to date, pleasing progress has been made.

The project is one of four KZN irrigation schemes prioritised and funded by the provincial [Department of Rural Development and Land Reform](#) (DRDLR). The intention is to provide smallholder farmers in the selected areas with adequate agricultural training and the right tools to enter the commercial farming space. DRDLR appointed Golder (which, in turn, contracted LIMA) to conduct an assessment on, develop business plans for and facilitate the implementation of these schemes.

The Ndumo B Irrigation Scheme was established a couple of years ago with approximately 179 of its total 446 hectares utilised. This is known as Phase 1 and it comprises 13 individual farmers who grow a wide variety of vegetables on about 10 hectare plots each. Phase 2 is a 267 hectare extension of the first phase and is divided into 27 individual farms operating as commercial plots. Following their assessment of the scheme, Golder developed a business plan which informs the implementation work currently undertaken by LIMA.

There is a full-time LIMA project facilitator who supports farmers in their day-to-day activities and three other staff, from the organisation, who provide specialised support on the project. Planting on Phase 2 began in March 2016 with vegetables such as cabbage, chilli and sugar beans. These were sold locally to the community, wholesalers and the Msholozhi Fresh Produce Market which supplies the school nutrition programme. Given the size of the scheme and what it is able to produce, marketing has proved a challenge given the location of the scheme.

When the drought worsened in 2015, the agricultural sector was hard hit. Without adequate water supply, crops and livestock were dying. Government thus swiftly devised a relief programme of which DRDLR was given the livestock portfolio. The Department then introduced lucerne and yellow maize into the Ndumo B scheme. Lucerne is currently grown by approximately two thirds of the farmers. The two crops are being sold to local farmers, game reserves and animal fodder suppliers for animal feed.

According to Kathy Pitout, one of the LIMA team members, Lucerne is mostly grown in the North West Province so growing it in KZN is a great business opportunity for the local farmers. She added that, although there have been some teething problems with growing the crops, farmers have seen the fruits of growing it as a bale of lucerne has recently been selling for over R100 in the current drought climate.

**NDUMO FARMERS  
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:**



rural development  
& land reform

Department:  
Rural Development and Land Reform  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# ABALIMI PHAMBILI PROGRAMME

## COCO PEAT: IDEAL GROWTH MEDIUM FOR PLANTS



**ABOVE:** Thulani Letuka (APP farmer) conducted a trial session, where smallholder farmers in Matatiele assisted to plant 200 pots of spinach and 200 pots of cabbages.



Pierre Van Heerden from PAG/Crop Supplies SA approached Meghan Ellis, the Agricultural Manager in the Eastern Cape about a year ago regarding a growth medium commonly called Coco Peat. This product, he believed, is a product that LIMA should be promoting to further the farming efforts of the smallholder farmers who benefit from LIMA's [Smallholder Farmer Support Programme](#), co-funded by Jobs Fund.

Coco Peat is a renewable resource (a by-product of coconut processing) and is essentially the processed husk and fibres of coconut. This product has a very high water holding capacity, absorbing water like a sponge, and is a sterile medium (no diseases or seed contaminants) which make it ideal as a growth medium for plants.

The "Grow-Bag" system - a Crop Supplies SA product - was recommended to the programme farmers. LIMA worked closely with Crop Supplies SA, to adapt the system to better suit the conditions under which the smallholder farmers work, in order to be both economically viable and farmer friendly.

Trial sessions were conducted in Matatiele, where farmers with limited planting space learnt that the design of the "Grow-Bag" allows one to significantly fit more plants per area. Farmers can now increase their production potential and develop sustainable agricultural enterprises more readily, despite space concerns.

Two farmers on the Smallholder Farmers Support programme in Matatiele were selected to conduct these trials. Daniel Tsholele received the inputs for the production of 400 cabbages and Thulani Letuka received the inputs to produce 200 cabbages and 200 spinach.

The farmers' feedback over a period of three months will be an integral part of this assessment and will allow the trials to be deemed as a success or failure. LIMA staff are excited to see how this system could potentially impact on the livelihoods of subsistence farmers going forward.



**ABOVE:** Smallholder farmers were assisted by Daniel Tsholele (APP farmer) who conducted a trial session of planting 400 cabbages.

# ABALIMI PHAMBILI: RCL FOODS

## UPLIFTING MALELANE VIA FARMING AND POULTRY



**ABOVE:** A broiler production business run by one of the farmers in Malelane.

Following government's discovery of the dire state of poverty in Nkomazi Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, [RCL FOODS](#), as the area's major employer and food producer, partnered with [The Jobs Fund](#), the [Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs](#) and other partners in working towards uplifting the communities under this municipality.

LIMA was appointed to employ its existing farmer support programme (Abalimi Phambili Programme) to effect changes on the agricultural front in Malelane. The organisation started running the programme in November 2015, with a focus on job creation and the upliftment of small scale farmers - taking them from subsistence farming to semi-commercial or commercial farming.

The three-year implementation period was divided into two phases. The first year has been dedicated to conducting a site survey and introducing the programme.

The remaining two years will be solely for farmer support, focusing on extension support, market and input linkages, training and loan facilitation as well as building and maintaining relations with growers and stakeholder engagement.

Farmers will also gradually move from low cost and low risk produce (vegetable farming) to high risk and high return enterprises such as poultry farming.

Agricultural Facilitator Sibusiso Fakude said the first year of the project has yielded positive results.

"Three of our loan recipients have been able to increase their production area. We've also had multiple growers entering into formal contracts with major pack houses like Fruitspot, Simply Salads and Lowveld sugar," he added.



**ABOVE:** Pictured are Abalimi Phambili Programme revolving credit loan recipients planting tomatoes.

# COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME

## NANCY TSOTETSI: CWP EARLY LITERACY ADVOCATE



If you take the N5 west out of Harrismith, you will reach Makholokweng in about 40 minutes. It lies to the left of the highway – a vast collection of one-story brick houses organised around wide, unpaved roads, dotted with potholes. Although the electricity poles are a new addition, as is much of the water delivery infrastructure, Makholokweng has been around for years.

Nancy Tsotetsi grew up here and she loved it. She still does. “We have tradition here. We respect the elders. People know their neighbours and more importantly, they care about them.”

Nancy, who turned 26 this year, was one of the few graduates of her matric class to go onto university. As soon as she completed her undergraduate social work degree in Durban, she came home.

Nancy says she studied social work because she wants to improve her community but, despite her best efforts, she hasn't been able to find a social work post in Makholokweng; or any other work, for that matter. Makholokweng is remote and fairly residential, with no industries or commercial farms close by. Jobs are scarce, and most people rely on social grants. Unwilling to leave her home and look for work elsewhere, Nancy signed up as a participant of the [Community Work Programme](#).

The Community Work Programme, or CWP, is a poverty alleviation initiative of the [Department of Cooperative Governance](#) (DCoG), where participants are paid a stipend by government to work part time, usually two days a week, doing useful work in their communities such as cleaning and tending to food gardens.

In 2015, a few months into CWP, Nancy was invited to join [Nal'ibali](#), a national reading for enjoyment campaign which trains CWP participants to do their useful work by promoting early literacy in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and schools.

“Nal’ibali uses interactive storytelling to get children to enjoy reading from a very early age,” says Sithembiso Nhlapo, a Literacy Mentor at Nal’ibali. Sithembiso trained Nancy at the start of the programme, and has continued to support her and other CWP participants running Nal’ibali groups in Makhlokweg through monthly visits and follow-up training.

“Joining forces with the CWP has meant that we have been able to reach 5 073 children aged 3 to 5 in the Free State. We couldn’t have achieved that alone,” he adds.

Public-private partnerships, like the one with Nal’ibali, are core to the success of CWP. “Our private partners provide the skills transfer, which enables the participants to do useful work,” says Fortunate Makhubu, DCoG’s CWP Partnerships Manager. The relationship between Nal’ibali and DCoG is facilitated by LIMA.

“LIMA works with DCOG and local leaders to identify the needs of the community. We then assist in the implementation of projects which meet those needs,” explains Nontokoza Kunene, who oversees the Nal’ibali project in the Free State on behalf of LIMA.

“The partnership is supported by the [DG Murray Trust](#), which also works with CWP in rolling out early learning playgroups in the North West – another innovative application of CWP to ECD. We believe these projects have big potential for ECD service delivery in South Africa going forward,” she adds.

For Nancy, Nal’ibali means an opportunity to improve education outcomes in her community by addressing literacy problems at the source – during the early years. The complex brain networks responsible for language and reading begin forming before birth. The more spoken language young children hear, the better these networks develop. Storytelling exposes children to spoken language and encourages the understanding of words.

*This edited publication was produced by Ilifa Labantwana. For the full version please [click here](#)*



**ABOVE LEFT:** Through her involvement in Nal’ibali, Nancy Tsotetsi has become an early literacy advocate in her community.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Nal’ibali Story Play incorporates song and dance into storytelling.

In this photo, Malifu Moloji, leads the children at Khayaletu Edu Care in Vrede.

## THE CWP NAL’IBALI PROGRAMME IS A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN:



# COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME

## CWP FREE STATE SHOWCASES AT THE EPWP SUMMIT



**ABOVE:** Pictured are participants of The White House Multi-purpose Centre with LIMA representative Naledi Hlefane and Tholwana e Molemo representative Carl Maluleka.

Four [Community Work Programme](#) (CWP) participants who form part of the home based care, agricultural, baking and sewing groups at The White House Multi-purpose Centre in Maluti-A-Phofung Municipality were recently selected to exhibit their various works at the 5th Biennial [Expanded Public Works Programme](#) (EPWP) Summit.

The three-day conference took place mid-November in Pretoria, where delegates from different municipalities, government departments and non-governmental organisations gathered to discuss critical issues around the implementation of phase three of EPWP.

This phase has, since its launch in 2014, been dedicated to driving public employment programmes (PEPs). Considered one of the best examples of this drive, so far, the multi-purpose centre in Maluti-A-Phofung, alongside other CWP and EPWP groups, was thus invited to exhibit during the conference.

Here, the participants showcased uniform samples, muffins, dried vegetables (which served as an example of how surplus vegetables can be preserved in every household) and conducted home based care tasks such as HIV education. This calibre of work impressed not only the summit attendees but Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa too, who visited each of the exhibitors' stalls, ahead of delivering his opening speech.

The participants were accompanied by representatives of LIMA and Tholwana e Molemo, the joint implementing agents of CWP in the Free State Province.

### THE CWP IN THE FREE STATE IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:



cooperative governance

Department:  
Cooperative Governance  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



cooperative governance  
and traditional affairs

Department of Cooperative Governance  
and Traditional Affairs  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

cwp

community  
work  
programme



# SOLIDARIDAD

## VEGETABLE GROWERS LEARN TO FORMALISE BUSINESS



**ABOVE:** Khumalo farm, based in Tarlton area, under the Midrand cluster produces a wide variety of vegetables both undercover and open land.

In January 2016, [Solidaridad Southern Africa](#) (Solidaridad) embarked on a pilot that involved clustering and supporting emerging vegetable farmers in various parts of the Gauteng Province.

The pilot received funding from the [Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorates-General for International Cooperation](#) (DGIS) programme Practice for Change (DDE), to undertake preparatory work for a possible longer intervention with clusters of farmers from 2017 to 2020.

The project specifically targeted farmers based in the West Rand and around Midrand, North of Johannesburg, with the primary objective to assist farmers formalise their businesses and enhance the quality and quantity of their output through technical support acquired from various stakeholders.

Through the formation and formalisation of clusters which would, in turn, be linked to a formal market, farmers would then be able to aggregate their produce and supply the market collectively as a cluster.

LIMA, due to its experience with institution building and technical support, was appointed by Solidaridad to collaborate as an implementing partner on the project, providing fieldwork and professional services, undertaking market linkage facilitation, co-funding as well as contributing to the development and submission of the final proposal. Lesetja Peter Chuene is the agricultural facilitator on the project and Mompati Baiphethi manages the programme, while Duncan Stewart and David Cooper provide strategic direction and guidance.

The preparatory phase (DDE bridge) initially ran from February to June 2016. It was later extended to December 2016. The results of the model are to feed into the development of a proposal for a four-year programme of intensive technical and market linkage support to a larger number of farmer clusters, across a number of provinces in South Africa. The formal market outlets targeted are retail chains such as [Food Lovers Market](#), which has shown strong interest and some of the farmers have already been supplying individual stores, as well as SPAR, which is currently sourcing from some of the farmers, though through informal agreements.



**ABOVE:** Pictured is Agricultural Facilitator Peter Chuene during a visit to Krout Sprout farm in Elandsfontein area under Zuurbekom cluster. A bulk of the farm produce supplies the local Spar and Pick' n Pay and any excess is sold to the Jo'burg Fresh Produce Market.

## LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT: PHASE 2

LIMA and [Thaha Projects](#), who formed a joint venture (JV) late in 2015, are implementing phase two of the longstanding [Lesotho Highlands Water Project](#) (LHWP).

A multi-disciplinary, multi-phase, bi-national project, the LHWP is undertaken by the governments of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa (SA) in accordance with a treaty signed between the two countries in 1986. It includes large scale civil engineering, socio-economic and environmental components.

Following the completion of the first phase in 2003, phase 2 commenced in September 2016 and will continue right into March 2022. It comprises the construction of a dam, transfer tunnel, advanced infrastructure (including roads and major bridges) and associated environmental, health and social studies. The latter will culminate in permanent land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.

The role of the LIMA-Thaha JV is to plan and implement resettlement and compensation of persons, households and other entities displaced by land acquisition requirements of both site establishment and reservoir inundation areas.

Frank Snijder, who is leading the 21 member team executing this project, has confirmed that resettlement planning (the first of 16 tasks to be completed on the project) is currently underway. This will be followed by the resettlement implementation stage.

On the impact of LHWP, Snijder counted job creation (for both Lesotho and SA citizens), infrastructural development in Mokhotlong district as a whole and its local villages as well as the improvement of local communities' livelihoods, among other areas.

## BERGVILLE FARMERS AWAKEN TO OPPORTUNITY

During the second quarter of 2016, LIMA was appointed by [Philakahle](#) (under the Masisukume Sakhe Project [MSP]) to implement the Abalimi Phambili Programme in Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal.

The objective is to support smallholder farmers in the area with irrigation equipment, infrastructure, loan financing, local market linkages and agricultural trainings, areas where a huge gap is said to currently exist.

In working towards achieving the latter, programme facilitator Mukelani Buthelezi said the mentality of the targeted farmers had to first be altered because, according to an analysis made by MSP, the farmers currently treat farming as a hobby and not a business.

Prior to LIMA's appointment, MSP conducted Asset Based Community Development training sessions which challenge farmers to see the potential in their communities and use the community assets to improve their lives and the community as a whole.

From these training sessions, the organisation created a database of farmers in the area. Buthelezi is supporting all the farmers in this database and is progressively meeting the programme targets. The programme was initially set to run for six months, starting from May, but was recently extended by a further six months.



**ABOVE:** Sgananda Co-operative, a broiler production business in Dukuza village, is among the farmers supported by Mukelani Buthelezi (wearing red shirt) through the Abalimi Phambili Programme.



## SUNFLOWER DAY AT LIMA: HOPE BEGINS WITH YOU



ABOVE: LIMA staff showed their support on Sunflower Day.

LIMA staff members showed their support on 16 September 2016, a day annually celebrated as Sunflower Day by The Sunflower Fund and its supporters.

The Sunflower Fund, a National Non-Profit Company (NPC), is dedicated to creating awareness, educating the public and handling the registration process for people to join the South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR). The Sunflower Fund pays for the test cost of people joining the SABMR.

By increasing the number of donors listed on the national database, this offers hope to those diagnosed with leukaemia and other life-threatening blood disorders.

Higher numbers on the Registry increase their chance of finding matching stem cell donors in order to undergo life-saving stem cell transplants.

Through the support gathered from purchasing bandannas or “Tubes of Hope –Tope”, the funds raised go towards covering the recruitment costs to grow an effective, ethnically diverse South African Bone Marrow Registry of healthy, committed donors. Please visit [www.sunflowerfund.org.za](http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za) for more information.

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