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*The Official Newsletter of Lima Rural Development
Foundation*



A Nurturing Ecosystem



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New Incoming Managing Director

The board of Lima are proud to announce that Ms Lynette Parsons has been appointed as the incoming Candidate Managing Director as of February 2024. Lynette has a BSc in Agri-business and over 20 years of working experience at Lima, in a broad array of roles. Lynette will work in parallel with Duncan Stewart until August, after which she will take full responsibility for the NGO's executive management.

Lynette's appointment is the culmination of a three-year consultative succession-planning period. For many Lynette was considered the obvious choice, given her strong personality and dedication to the developmental cause. The Lima management team are renowned for their loyalty and long service so a strong team of dedicated colleagues will support Lynette.

Duncan will be staying on and training a support team on project design and fundraising. Duncan and the Lima team congratulate her on this achievement and wish her all the best in her new role as team leader.



Smart Start Programme Success in Mamelodi

Duncan Stewart and Ms Ntombifuthi Sibeko recently visited Mamelodi, where they connected with our team working on the Smart Start programme.

The SmartStart South Africa-Lima Rural Development Foundation partnership, which began in 2017, continues to flourish on a year-to-year basis. Lima has managed to reach a total of 776 early childhood practitioners, nurturing the development of 6366 children aged 3-5 this past financial year.

The programme is carried out by seven club coaches/facilitators and one community activator, all receiving support from the Programme Lead based in Pietermaritzburg.

This year, our remarkable team received the floating trophy, and Lima was honoured as the best franchisor of the year. Well done!



De Beers Group Partnership

Collaborating with the De Beers Group on a Short Learning (SLP) programme, Lima has made significant strides in supporting local initiatives. Semakaleng food processing cooperative, formerly the Driekoppies Peanut Butter project is led by 10 women and one man from Gedeon village under the Blouberg municipality and has a rich history of producing peanut butter using traditional methods to serve their community.

To help re-establish the cooperative's agricultural activities efficiently we have upgraded their peanut butter production potential, through the purchasing of new high-capacity machines, and diversified its activities into broiler production providing them with chicken houses, day-old chicks and broiler production cycles, offering the cooperative members an opportunity for economic sustainability and growth.

The outcomes of this project are truly transformative, positively impacting the livelihoods of the cooperative members and their community!

Similarly, the Goudyman Farming Primary Cooperative project in Eldorado, Blouberg, has succeeded in their agricultural endeavours, producing 1,200 bags of top-quality butternut on their 6-hectare farm.

10 dedicated members have planted 3 hectares of three different crops butternut, cabbage, and tomatoes at one hectare each. With Lima and De Beers on their side, Goudyman members shared their gratitude for the intervention and are happy that Lima and De Beers assisted in helping them reach their goal.



The National Skills Fund

In September 2023, Lima commenced the implementation of the Enterprise Development -Business Skills training funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF) through the Department of Higher Education and Training.

The training is targeted to reach 1365 youth within the selected municipalities in the KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga provinces. To date a total of 245 unemployed youth between the ages of 18 – 35 years have been enrolled on the programme.

This programme intends to positively contribute to youth unemployment in South Africa through the acquisition of accredited business skills training which will have a positive economic impact on the local livelihoods and economy.

Lima is proud to be a part of this journey toward a brighter, more empowered future!



Farmer Support Enterprise Development (FSED) Programme

Lima RDF has partnered with the eThekweni Municipality Business Support, Market Tourism, and Agri-Business for the Hammarsdale – KwaXimba Farmer Support Enterprise Development (FSED) Programme.

We have reached our goal of creating work opportunities for 330 unemployed individuals, providing crucial agricultural technical advice and support.

We're also focused on forging strong market linkages for farming enterprises within the selected wards of the eThekweni Outerwest Municipality.

Together, we're improving communities' social and economic livelihoods through agriculture and enterprise development!



Toyota New Harvest of the Year Competition

Meet Mr Ratsomana Petrus, a dynamic young farmer from Raditshaba village, Blouberg municipality. His agricultural journey began in 2019 when he founded Kaalbult Farming, encompassing 120 hectares, with 20 hectares actively under cultivation.

Engaging in mixed farming, Mr Petrus cultivates potatoes and sugar beans alongside managing livestock. His commitment to excellence earned him local Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, marking a significant milestone in his farming endeavours.



Mr Ratsomana Petrus with Lima representative

In a remarkable achievement, Mr Petrus is among the select few farmers producing an impressive 20 hectares of potatoes annually. His dedication caught the eye of the Toyota New Harvest of the Year competition, where he proudly represented Lima RDF through the small farmer support programme, funded by the De Beers Group

Though he narrowly missed the top honours, Mr Petrus relished the experience of being recognised as one of the country's outstanding emerging/disadvantaged farmers by Toyota South Africa. This prestigious platform not only provided acknowledgement but also served as a networking opportunity with farmers from diverse backgrounds, inspiring him to reach greater heights.

Lima congratulates Mr Ratsomana Petrus for his commendable journey thus far. We applaud his unwavering dedication and remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting and empowering farmers like him who exhibit exceptional passion and determination in agriculture.

Eastern Cape Development Corporation

In September 2023, the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) partnered with Lima RDF to undertake farm assessments and farmer support under the blended finance programme.

Over 100 prospective farming enterprises in the Eastern Cape districts have applied for the funding. The programme supports many farmers, from emerging co-ops to commercial farming enterprises.

Farm assessments establish commercial viability, demand for the product, management team capability and transformation.

Funding is aimed at developing the enterprises through infrastructure improvements, procurement of farming inputs and Agro-processing.

Lima will be providing post-investment support to successful farmers in the form of training and market linkages. In December 2023, more than 80% of applicants have undergone assessment for funding, setting the stage for a flourishing future in Eastern Cape agriculture!



Lubisi Rural Housing Project

In September 2015 Lima RDF was appointed by the Department of Human Settlements to construct 1000 low-cost houses. The services required for this project were community engagement, planning, and construction.

The project is situated in Lubisi, near Cofimvaba in the Intsika Yethu Municipality in the Eastern Cape and entailed the construction of 1000 40m² low-cost houses including foundations, wall plates, roofing and finishing off the completed units. To date, 96% of units in eight villages are complete and have been handed over to the beneficiaries and a further 40 are at various stages of completion.

Lima used local labour, artisans, and contractors to construct the units. Multiple students, aspiring project managers and construction professionals gained valuable experience by spending time on-site and being involved in the day-to-day activities. This project will be completed in the first quarter of 2024, and Lima will have left a lasting footprint in the lives of the communities around the Lubisi dam.

The construction value of the project is approximately R147 million.



Social Employment Fund

The Mahlathini Development Foundation taught the [Blouberg](#), [Musina](#), and [Maruleng](#) SEF teams about sustainable practices, agriculture, nutrition, food preservation, and how to make nutritious treats from home-grown produce and create liquid fertiliser and organic pesticides. Techniques taught included tower gardens, eco circles, trench beds and stone lines which can maximise food production in limited space.

Dietitian Ms Nokuphila Mkhize [trained facilitators](#) on malnutrition, breastfeeding, and the Road to Health book, demonstrating skills such as using mid-arm circumference tapes on children and adults and identifying oedema and potential nutritional challenges.

SEF [participants from Bognafarm visited](#) the Ithuteng Early Childhood Development Centre to help prepare facilities for the children's graduation ceremony, and in Blouberg SEF health participants [distributed a generous donation](#) from Blessman International through Subiaco Mission. The Ndunge team [distributed produce and seed donations](#) from Chief Gumede and the Ilungelo Funda Children's Foundation in Umzumbe.

In World Nutrition Week participants created informative posters and banners to educate and inspire others. They hosted events that included nutritious meals prepared by participants and donations of vegetables they grew. At the Indermark Clinic in Polokwane [SEF participants and clinic staff educated beneficiaries](#) about the essential building blocks of food and how various vegetables offer unique health benefits. In Sofaya, SEF participants [organised a support group session](#) for mothers, caregivers, and pregnant women to discuss the importance of consuming healthy and budget-friendly meals. In Musina's Masisi Clinic, the [SEF team sold fresh vegetables](#) to raise funds to purchase more seeds.

A SEF team [visited a community of individuals with disabilities](#) and prepared a wholesome breakfast to demonstrate how good food can boost quality of life. The Blouberg team [organised a Nutrition Day](#) at De Vreede Clinic, spreading vital knowledge about food nutrition to chronic patients and breastfeeding mothers and distributing fresh vegetables from their gardens. The Sofaya SEF team [held a support group](#) for pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers about nutrition, healthy eating, and habits to avoid during pregnancy and lactation.

The Metz team in Maruleng [hosted a support group](#) for expecting and breastfeeding moms covering topics like nutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the importance of a balanced diet (donating fresh vegetables from their community gardens). They [promoted Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#) by hosting a fun walk where they spoke about reducing the risk of this disease and encouraged physical activity. The team also visited households to [help children with homework](#) during school holidays.

SEF teams have prioritised vegetable production in their gardens; [The Willows SEF team's harvest](#) of Swiss chard, peppers, and tomatoes was donated to vulnerable households in their community.

A [collaboration with Quartex Technologies](#) resulted in an Android app that enables the digital capture and collection of information from the field, accessible through a central database. The Agricultural Monitoring and Evaluation Form documents the progress of home food gardens in vulnerable communities to establish over 500 household food gardens at each site and distribute the produce from the community gardens to household beneficiaries. The Matatiele agricultural team supervisors received training on using the app and Agricultural Monitoring Tool.

In Blouberg, SEF participants joined the De Beers and AfroCentric groups for [a wellness initiative at Musina Showground](#) in Limpopo, bringing health and wellness services to vulnerable communities near the Venetia mine and ensuring access to vital healthcare services and wellness screenings for community members and employees in Limpopo's Vhembe and Capricorn districts.

