

SUMMER
EDITION

INDIMA



*The Official Newsletter of Lima Rural Development
Foundation*



OPENING UP



to those around us

35 YEARS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVES



PICTURE SUPPLIED FROM:
KOPANO PRIMARY DISABLED CO-
OPERATIVE (CITRUS FARMING)

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Social Employment Fund

Together, we're creating jobs and transforming lives in rural South Africa! The Social Employment Fund (SEF), with 37 dedicated partners and 1,500 community organisations, has already created over 117,000 jobs nationwide—helping communities build a brighter future.

Lima has proudly trained 2,160 young people across nine municipalities to improve their skills and give back.

We're now in the third phase of this impactful program with 3,700 vulnerable households identified and supported through programme activities.

Here's what we're working on together:

- **Food Security:** Beneficiaries are trained in developing sustainable, organic community gardens and home gardens that help provide fresh produce to vulnerable and nutritionally poor households and improve community nutrition.
- **Maternal & Early Childhood Health:** We're equipping beneficiaries to support their communities with knowledge on the Road to Health programme -focusing on early childhood and maternal nutrition and supporting the households in applications for identity documents and birth certificates.
- **Vulnerable community member support:** Training and equipping beneficiaries on how to support the elderly, disabled, and chronically ill in health, nutrition, and social needs, including support in grant applications.

Our beneficiaries uplift their communities every day through home visits, support groups, and assistance to vulnerable families.



National Nutrition Week

Our Lorraine SEF Health team proudly celebrated National Nutrition Week with the children at Mpyaafe Crèche. As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, we prepared nutritious fruit platters to inspire healthy eating habits from a young age.

The children and staff were thrilled by the gesture, and we were equally overjoyed to share this special day with them. Seeing their smiles reminded us of the positive impact we can make in our communities!

Through this initiative, we promoted healthy eating habits and supported the local community.



Our SEF health team partnered with Gift of the Givers to deliver much-needed mobility aids to vulnerable households in Mathulini Ward 18 and Turton Ward 10. Three elderly women, and two young girls, aged 14-15, were gifted wheelchairs to help improve their quality of life. The women are stroke survivors, while the girls suffer from different conditions, including a twisted leg and other special needs.



Working alongside Ward 18 social worker Slindokuhle Nkomo, our Mathulini Health and Turton teams identified these deserving beneficiaries and collaborated with Gift of the Givers to provide support. The joy on the recipients' faces was truly heartwarming, and we were especially touched by Gift of the Givers' swift response in replacing a wheelchair that wasn't suitable for one of the girls.

We are grateful for the continued partnership with Gift of the Givers, and we are proud to serve our communities by making lives more accessible!

SEF Participants

Starting as a Social Employment Fund (SEF) supervisor, Queen saw her community's urgent need for early childhood education and took decisive action. With the training and support she received from SEF, she's now a driving force for positive change in her village.

Queen's journey began while she was studying Farming Management at her local TVET College. When Lima launched Phase 2 of SEF, she was appointed as a supervisor, where she quickly discovered her passion for helping children in her community. Driehoek Village faces significant challenges, with no schools or clinics and a single struggling crèche. Recognising the need, Queen took the initiative to rally local elders and restore the crèche. Her work with SEF highlighted young children's difficulties due to limited resources. This inspired her to enroll in an Early Childhood Development course at Kgakagolo Education Institution. She also received Department of Education training in teaching young children—skills she's now using to transform lives in her community.

Queen's story is a testament to the power of SEF in empowering individuals to uplift their communities and create lasting change.



Meet Muvhi Kwinda, an agriculture supervisor with big dreams! Starting with a passion for farming, Muvhi joined the Social Employment Fund (SEF) to expand his skills and give back to his community.

"Since joining, I've learned invaluable skills such as using organic manure for crop production and making my own pesticides.

Training has also taught me which crops thrive best in our environment, and I've even started my own okra farm. The monthly stipend helps me cover essentials and maintain my small business. Now, I'm able to support myself and bring fresh, locally grown produce to my community.

Being a supervisor has boosted my confidence, and I've gained leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Through the SEF program, I've not only grown as a farmer but as a leader in my community"



De Beers: Social and Labour Plan

Lima recently visited Mr Ramutla Selokela, aka "The Chilli Guy," at his thriving farm in Lethaleng. Since joining our Smallholder Farmer Support programme in 2022 funded by De Beers Group Managed Operations South Africa, Mr Selokela has grown from planting butternut and tomatoes to expanding his production into chillies all year round!

He now proudly cultivates two hectares of Serano and one hectare of Habanero chillies, supplying his harvest to Goseame wholesalers in Polokwane. We're excited to witness his journey and look forward to supporting more smallholder farmers like him!



Eastern Cape Development Corporation

Nobubele Nzima, a young farmer from uMthatha, followed her dreams from retail to rural roots! Inspired to make a change, she left her manager position in 2019 and turned her backyard into a broiler production business with her mother's help

Now, Bellarosa Poultry Production operates on a one-hectare site, rearing 500 layers and 200 broilers per cycle. Nobubele has created jobs for five young locals, four full-time and one seasonal worker, and is actively expanding her business. With support from Social Development and her own savings, she's built two poultry structures, plus she's received resources through Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC's) blended finance, including 400 additional layers and vital feed.

Through Lima's training and guidance, Nobubele has sharpened her poultry skills and taken her business to new heights, winning awards such as the 2024 Women Entrepreneur Smallholder Producer Award in the OR Tambo District, Iwisa Community Champion, and runner-up at the Provincial level.

She aims to build a third structure to meet the growing demand for eggs, serving clients from hospitals to bakeries.



Empowering Growth: The Seku Ka Jola Macadamia Project

In 2012, Sindile Seku initiated the Seku Ka Jola Macadamia project, aiming to transform unused land in his community. Working collaboratively, he set up a 10-year lease agreement with local families, prioritising their employment on the project.

With mentorship from Mr. Quinten and guidance from the Southern Natal Macadamia Association, Seku has been growing macadamia on 22 hectares and bananas on two hectares. His dedication has created eight permanent jobs, enhancing local livelihoods.

Recently, Lima partnered with him to provide assessment support, finance applications, and a production management workshop. Despite irrigation challenges, Seku harvested an impressive two tons per hectare, exporting the crop with the help of a South Broom market agent.

Sindile Seku's journey embodies the spirit of collaboration, resilience, and innovation in rural development!



Louis Dreyfus Foundation

Lima's Smallholder Farmer Support Program, funded by the Louis Dreyfus Foundation, is transforming sunflower and maize production in the North West Province.

At the programme's start, farmers faced challenges with poor plant populations, uncalibrated equipment, and uncertainty about safe chemical applications.

Calibration trainings and small group support are now offered every planting season to address these gaps, ensuring farmers continue to learn and share best practices.

Key Interventions:

- Mechanisation Audit: Equipment inventory guided targeted training and calculated production capacity.
- Calibration Training: Practical workshops, supported by the Agricultural Research Council, taught farmers to optimise planting and input application.
- Small Group Support: Interactive sessions at planting time reinforced skills and promoted peer learning.

Farmers now confidently optimise plant populations, apply inputs safely, and achieve better yields!



Young Farmers Podcast

We had the incredible opportunity to feature on the Young Farmer Podcast! Our Zone Manager, Siphakamise, shared insights about how we're supporting smallholder farmers, and was joined by Cynthia, one of the incredible farmers on this programme.

Cynthia shared her personal journey and the positive impact of our support on her farming experience, Matome Potatoes Farmer. Tune in to hear more about how we empower small-scale farmers and transform rural communities!

Watch the full episode on the YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVDXXAX06GQ&t=71s&ab_channel=YoungFarmer



Government's big agriculture plan

Together, we're driving sustainable agricultural growth across South Africa! Lima was featured in an article in Business Tech about the essential contributions of public-private partnerships to drive inclusive and sustainable growth in the country's agricultural sector.

"Neither the government nor the private sector can solve these challenges alone – public-private partnerships are the way forward to sustainable and effective growth," said Phosa.

He cited promising initiatives such as the Lima agricultural initiative that De Beers implemented in Blouberg municipality, close to its Venetia Mine.

[Read more](#)

New Financial Manager

Meet our new Financial Manager, Dhiraj Karamchand!

Born and raised in Pietermaritzburg, Dhiraj attended Raisethorpe Secondary School, where he laid the foundation for his career in accounting. He then pursued a degree in Accounting at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg. Following graduation, he completed his SAIPA (South African Institute of Professional Accountants) articles at Moore Midlands, earning his qualifications as a Professional Accountant.

Dhiraj's journey in finance began at Moore Midlands, where he gained exposure to sectors including engineering, property, and chemicals. His work involved compiling financial statements, tax planning, and bookkeeping for corporations, individuals, and trusts. After passing the SAIPA board exam, he joined Ignition Group as an Assistant Financial Controller. During his five-and-a-half years there, he managed budgets, monthly reporting, audits, and tax planning within the telecommunications sector, further strengthening his corporate finance expertise.

Dhiraj transitioned to Servworx in the manufacturing and laundry sectors, joining after the 2021 riots. As Financial Manager, he worked closely with the CFO to reorganise records and streamline operations. His role also involved strategic planning, decision-making, and managing stakeholder relationships, with occasional travel to Johannesburg and Polokwane. Here, he developed new skills, including insights into the export industry.

Although Dhiraj's previous roles were primarily in corporate sectors, he was drawn to the Lima by the opportunity to broaden his experience in the nonprofit world. He sees this as a chance to enhance his skills and take on new challenges in a field he has yet to explore.

Dhiraj is excited to join the Lima team. He's looking forward to supporting the organisations financial health and becoming actively involved in projects that uplift the communities Lima serves.

We're thrilled to welcome Dhiraj and look forward to his contributions to Lima Rural Development Foundation!



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from all of us at Lima Rural Development Foundation!

2024 has been a year of celebration and change within the Lima family. We have reflected on the past 35 years of Lima's impact on our beautiful communities, lead with passion from the front by Duncan Stewart, and seen the change of Lima's management team as Duncan steps into a new position making way for our new Managing Director, Lynette Parsons, to continue leading Lima into the future. As we continue to face the economic struggles of our country, and the pressure it puts onto organisations such as Lima to continue to service the poor and marginalised, we are blessed to have the commitment of our Lima staff and long-standing clients and donors who make what we do possible.

2024 has been a year of growth, challenges, and inspiring stories of transformation. This holiday season, we celebrate you—our extended Lima family. Thank you for being part of our journey and for sharing in our vision of building strong, sustainable communities.

May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and time spent with loved ones. We look forward to another year of collaboration and shared success in 2025!

