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*The Official Newsletter of Lima Rural Development
Foundation*



A Nurturing Ecosystem

35 YEARS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVES



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35th Anniversary

Lima Rural Development Foundation celebrates our 35th anniversary in 2024!

For 35 years, we've been dedicated to developing communities and changing lives. It's been a privilege to collaborate with individuals from diverse backgrounds, empowering communities and fostering positive change.

Thank you for being part of our journey! Here's to many more years of impactful work together.



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LIMA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



Ripples of Change

Varsity College in Pietermaritzburg hosted its inaugural Ripples for Change conference on Friday, March 15 to rally support for practical steps to arrest the decline of water quality in the city and hoped to galvanise schools into action to redress the plight of Pietermaritzburg's watercourses.

The panel discussion was led by Dr Mathew Burnett of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Institute of Natural Resources, Ms Futhi Vilakazi of uMgeni-uThukela Water, and DUCT CEO Ms Faye Brownell to explore sustainable solutions.

Lima exhibited at the event and engaged with other attendees on the issue of sustainable water resources management and had the opportunity to explain its legacy in Pietermaritzburg and its pioneering, nation-wide work in agriculture, rural development, environmental rehabilitation, engineering, and more.



The Social Employment Fund

Lima RDF was one of the NGOs nominated to help with the East Coast Radio Big Favour!

ER24 EMS (Pty), Mediclinic, and Rise Against Hunger (RAH) Africa planned to assemble and deliver 50,000 nutritious food hampers to various NGOs across KwaZulu-Natal to celebrate World Food Day last year.

Our Social Employment Fund (SEF) teams handed out approximately 1000 food hampers across four districts in KZN to the most vulnerable households who were extremely grateful for the donation. Thank you to all who were involved in donating and distributing!



Meet some of our incredible SEF team members as they roll up their sleeves in their communities!

They're not just working hard; they're learning invaluable skills through their SEF employment and making a tangible impact, from tackling food insecurity to promoting health and nutrition across nine sites. Read more on [Facebook](#)

Agriculture team in Umlalazi with Project Manager, Jackie Saaiman



Supervisor Xolani Khanyile with site facilitator Nokubonga Shezi at one of the home gardens supported in Empangeni



Nokuphila Mkhize, Lima's dietitian being measured with a MUAC Tape by one of the participants



Lima site facilitator Nhlakanipho addressing health participants in Eshowe

BTE Renewables/ENGIE

Lima hosted an Alternative to Violence Programme (AVP) in Onseepkans. The participants who attended were predominantly youth from Melkbosrand and Viljoendraai where they engaged in a four-day workshop.

An additional session focusing on toxic masculinity was held, attended by male participants from the community.

Everyone who took part felt that the workshop had a significant impact and committed to consciously seeking non-violent ways to address conflicts. The core idea of AVP is always to strive for a win-win situation in any challenging scenario.



Scatec

In the last quarter of 2023, Lima, in collaboration with renewable energy company Scatec, embarked on the construction of two Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the Burgersdorp area of the Eastern Cape.

The first centre in the Eureka neighbourhood is a two-classroom building set to accommodate 40 children. The second centre, situated in the Thembisa neighbourhood, is a three-classroom building to house 60 children. These buildings are designed to provide classrooms and essential amenities such as bathrooms, a kitchen with a scullery, storerooms, and administrative offices.

The two-classroom ECD centre already has a roof, and the walls of the three-classroom facility are nearing completion.

With a steadfast commitment to timely completion, the aim is to finalise both ECD centres in the coming months. Efforts are underway to supply the principals and teachers with all necessary educational materials, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve the community to their fullest potential.



Louis Dreyfus Foundation

Lima has developed an Advanced Business Development Support Programme as an extension to the Louis Dreyfus Farmers Livelihood Project with the rural Sunflower and Maize farmers in the Lichtenburg area (North West Province).

The programme aims to enable farmers to be self-reliant when applying for financial support and provide a means for them to apply for commercial assistance, with a higher likelihood of success. Farmers will be better equipped to operate their businesses efficiently and be eligible to apply for commercial-level funding in the future.

In addition to formal training, the farmers will be invited to attend support groups where skills learned will be transferred to practical application – such as recording financials, tax workshops, and production planning and budgeting.

This programme requires specialised support in managing the farming businesses beyond the standard Business Management & Development Training available to Limas' smallholder farmer support programmes. It is led by our expert facilitator, Emmanuel Maokoane, with a diploma in Crop Science, a BSc in Agricultural Economics, and several years of experience in supporting rural farmers in their business and economic development.



LDF Funders Tour

Lima embarked on a funders tour in Lichtenburg alongside delegates from Switzerland, the US, and Sandton Johannesburg to assess the impact of the Louis Dreyfus Foundation programme, which focuses on the development and support of sunflower and maize farmers.

Meeting with the dedicated team and engaging with stakeholders and farmers on the ground was enlightening as they witnessed improved production standards among the farmers since the programme started in 2021.

Their dedication and hard work, coupled with Lima's support, have undoubtedly transformed the agricultural landscape in Lichtenburg.



Smallholder Farmer Support Programme

The Smallholder Farmer Support Programme, implemented by Lima in partnership with De Beers Venetia Mine and Anglo American, addresses challenges smallholder farmers face in accessing resources and markets, resulting in increased costs and reliance on uncertified inputs, while large-scale commercial farmers dominate markets. This exclusion leads to a lack of high-quality, locally produced food, increased food insecurity, and dependence on distant food sources. Access to credit is limited, with high interest rates further hindering farm growth.

Lima's Farmer Support Programme has been a game-changer for over 25 years! By providing integrated services including access to inputs, credit, mechanisation, advice, and market linkages, the programme empowers farmers to thrive as entrepreneurs. Special focus is placed on uplifting women and youth in agriculture, fostering direct relationships between farmers, markets, and service providers.

The programme has increased production, job creation, improved food security and food quality and contributed to community nutrition and well-being. Its core elements include technical training, mentorship, market access development, linkages with input suppliers, and provision of production loans. Partnerships with organisations like De Beers and Anglo American have further enhanced the programme's success, with tangible outcomes in near mining communities.

One farmer, Mrs Molly Mashothola, has achieved remarkable success as a small farmer on this programme. Recently, she harvested over seven bakkie loads of watermelon from her farm to sell. With the proceeds, she invested in a new water pump for her borehole, ensuring improved irrigation for future crops.

She is currently working with the Lima team to develop her production plan for 2024, ready for further growth!



In memory of Kwazi Mbhele

Lima suffered the tragic loss of Kwazi Mbhele in January – he was a member of the Lima family since January 2012. He was a valued employee, friend, and mentor to many, and his absence is sorely felt throughout Lima.

