

MARCH 2025

**AUTUMN
EDITION**

INDIMA



***The Official Newsletter of Lima Rural Development
Foundation***



OPENING UP



to those around us

36 YEARS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVES



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PUTFONTEIN FARMER ON THE
LOUIS DREYFUS PROGRAMME**

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The Social Employment Fund



A Productive Start to the New Year!

Our Social Employment Fund (SEF) participants are kicking off 2025 with purpose and heart! In January, they ran a back-to-school campaign, helping local children prepare for an exciting year ahead.

Participants lent a hand by covering schoolbooks for the kids —a small gesture that makes a big difference. Here's to empowering communities and supporting education!



World Read Aloud Day

The Goedgedacht Lima Social Employment Fund (SEF) literacy facilitators joined the celebration of World Read Aloud Day on 5 February!

Our facilitators brought stories to life as they read the Nal'ibali 2025 special story, "What is that?" by Baelesti Tsatsi, illustrated by Rico. Primary school and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kids in Onseepkans and Witbank enjoyed not only the storytelling but also interactive games and activities that made learning fun!

A big thank you to our dedicated literacy champions for inspiring young minds through the power of reading.



Support Group Session

Our Social Employment Fund (SEF) Moshate Health team hosted a support group for pregnant women, covering essential topics like nutrition, supplements, and emotional well-being during pregnancy.

These support groups are vital in bridging gaps in healthcare access, ensuring that mothers receive the knowledge and encouragement they need for a healthy pregnancy and a strong start for their babies.



National Nutrition Week

A Nixtamalisation training session organised by Grain SA was a resounding success.

Our Social Employment Fund (SEF) participants from Mareetsane were trained in Goedgevonden village, where they eagerly embraced this ancient Mesoamerican technique.

Nixtamalisation is a game-changer for our communities, enhancing the nutritional value of maize—our staple crop. By soaking and cooking maize in limewater, farmers increase its calcium content, reduce phytic acid, and make it easier to grind.

Participants got hands-on experience in extracting Masa, a nutritious maize-based ingredient, which they used to create:

- Fresh banana bread
- Delicious gingerbread
- Tasty pizza
- Homemade yoghurt

One participant summed it up best: “I had no idea maize could be so versatile!”

Why This Matters:

- Boosts food security
- Enhances nutrition
- Creates economic opportunities

With Masa, our participants can produce value-added products, from baked goods to snacks and beverages—generating income and stimulating local economies.

We’re excited to roll out Nixtamalisation training across all our SEF localities—empowering communities through skills and innovation.



Enterprise Development

The focus on the Enterprise Development component of SEF will be stimulating pathways to operational and stable local businesses. These businesses are supported through skills development, marketing support, mentorship - and the income earned through stipends.

Businesses will be selected through an application process in which the selection criteria will be set jointly with the community. The selected business owners will be provided with training, business development support and mentorship for the duration of the programme. There will also be the provision of small business grants to a selected number of enterprises (approximately 20 per site) to assist with equipment, solar/alternative energy and inputs.

The common good is realised through better access to business services and products locally within these rural areas. Supplementary training will be provided through Lima’s National Skills Fund (NSF) programme and our Street Business School (SBS) programme. Lima is an accredited service provider for this course and although not all participants will receive accreditation, the materials used in the training are accredited.



Ayanda from Ayortic Concept bought a hoover with the grant that he has received.



Musawakhe Ndelu
Owner of One Big Media
Internet Café and grass-cutting.



Musawakhe Ndelu cutting grass with the grass cutter he recently bought for his other business.



Poultry farmer at Mahwaqa raised day-old chicks and now is selling to community members and locally.



Nethezeka cleaning services cleaning the roof of one of their customers.

Eastern Cape Development Corporation Project Tour

Lima hosted a project tour across Mthatha and Dutywa, highlighting the transformative impact of the ECDC Agri-Blended Finance Programme and the Imvaba Cooperative Farmer Support Programme on local farmers. These initiatives, led by the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), are driving rural economic growth, creating employment, and strengthening food security.

Farmers supported through these programmes have seen improvements in infrastructure, access to critical resources, and technical capacity. Beyond increasing agricultural productivity, these efforts are fostering social stability and sustainable land use, ensuring long-term benefits for rural communities.

Lima plays a key role in supporting farmers throughout the process. From evaluating applications to conducting site visits and offering tailored post-investment support, Lima provides ongoing technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and training to maximise the success of each project.

These interventions are not only transforming farms but also livelihoods—demonstrating the power of collaborative investment in rural development.



De Beers Group- Farmers Day

On 27 February, Lima—together with De Beers Group —hosted a Farmers' Day at Ga-Kibi Tribal Authority Hall. The event brought together farmers, Chief Kibi and his colleagues, the ward councillor, and key agricultural organisations.

Farmers gained valuable insights from Advanta, WD Seedlings, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Blouberg Agrihub Services, who shared information on their products and services to support local agriculture.

Chief Kibi encouraged farmers to stay dedicated, work hard, and persevere in their farming journey. His words served as inspiration for all in attendance.

Farmers' Days provide a vital platform for farmers to access knowledge, resources, and networks that strengthen their businesses. These events connect farmers with industry experts, new technologies, and valuable support services—helping them improve productivity and sustainability.

By bringing communities together, we empower farmers with the tools and motivation to succeed.



Swift Action Against Army Worm

On 3 March, an outbreak of army worm was identified in Seberia village, Mareetsane site. Without hesitation, James from Lima contacted the Department of Agriculture and Disaster Management, ensuring a rapid response to protect farmers' crops.

By 5 March, a coordinated effort was underway, with the Department of Agriculture, Disaster Management, and National Migratory Pest Control stepping in to educate farmers on effective control measures. Just a day later, 400 litres of chemical treatment and 60 bags of powdered pesticide arrived, along with PPE to ensure safe application.

On 7 March, Lima met with the Provincial Crop Science Specialist team, who commended Lima's swift action and effectiveness on the ground. During the control process, farmers used their own fertiliser spreaders, which improved the application of the powdered pesticide. The department had been prepared to provide manual spreaders and mist blowers if needed.

By 11 March, Lima facilitators conducted follow-up monitoring, confirming that the treatment was successful in controlling the outbreak. This rapid response highlights the importance of collaboration and preparedness in safeguarding rural livelihoods.



Exxaro project

Lima recently visited the Luxeni village and surrounding communities, near Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape to introduce our Exxaro project. This project will include the development of a sheep shearing shed, hydroponics tunnels, a community hall and installing a borehole.

So far, the site has been fenced and the farming community of the four nearest villages has been engaged. Next steps will include the borehole installation, site levelling, and site establishment. Once the plans are finalised, construction can begin!

Training is also on the horizon, equipping farmers with skills in herd management, disease control, and wool quality production.



Thanda Primary School- TRAC

Our dedicated Lima facilitator, Snqobile (Hlengiwe) Zondo, worked on a school garden project at Thanda Primary School in Hectorspruit, Mpumalanga, last year, which was made possible through funding from Trans African Concession (TRAC).

In March, she received a heartfelt appreciation certificate and letter from the school principal, Dr. S.C. Msibi, and the School Governing Body. The school expressed gratitude for the farming skills shared with their gardener and community, enabling learners to start small gardens at home and enjoy nutritious meals from their own harvest.

Thank you to Thanda Primary for this wonderful recognition. We look forward to growing more healthy futures together.



New Lima Staff

Human Resources Manager

We are thrilled to welcome Kate Main back to Lima as our new Human Resources Manager! Kate holds a Master's degree in Industrial Psychology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Pietermaritzburg campus, earning a Bachelor of Social Science with majors in Marketing and Psychology, and pursued her postgraduate studies at Howard College in Durban.

With 13 years of experience in HR, administration, and general management, Kate brings a wealth of knowledge to her role. She previously worked at Lima from 2013 to 2017 and is excited to return to the organisation that aligns with her passion for community-driven work.

Kate is looking forward to supporting the staff and getting to know them better. She aims to create an environment where staff feel comfortable sharing their concerns and celebrating their wins. "Our staff work hard at supporting the communities, so it is my aim to support them," she says.

Outside of work, Kate has a passion for interior decorating and supporting local small businesses. She looks forward to fostering an environment where Lima's team feels heard, valued, and empowered in their mission to uplift communities. Welcome back, Kate!



Admin Clerk

We're excited to welcome Jade Wesley to the Lima team as our new Admin Clerk! Jade completed her high school education at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School in 2004 (proudly green-blooded!) and later obtained her bookkeeping qualification from ICB at Varsity College.

Born and raised in Pietermaritzburg, Jade holds a deep appreciation for her hometown. Outside of work, she enjoys art, poetry, and music, but above all, she cherishes quality time with her family, creating wholesome memories. She is also actively involved in various initiatives at her church, fulfilling a leadership role with passion and dedication.

With over 16 years in bookkeeping—15 in the electrical industry—Jade brings a wealth of experience.

Jade was struck by Lima's commitment to empowering rural communities and driving sustainable development. She saw Lima as an organisation that truly cares—an ethos that deeply resonated with her. Believing in the importance of leaving the world better than we found it, she was eager to contribute to Lima's mission and be part of a team that makes a meaningful impact. Jade is excited to grow her skills, build strong relationships, and contribute meaningfully to Lima's goals.

A highlight of Jade's career is being largely self-taught in bookkeeping. With minimal formal training, she built her career through initiative and determination. We're thrilled to have Jade on board!

