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Food for good

GROW

LAEVELD AGROCHEM
Since 1991

Edition 2 | 2025/2026

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PLANT & PEST KNOWLEDGE

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Empowering New Farmers

Ensuring a Sustainable Future

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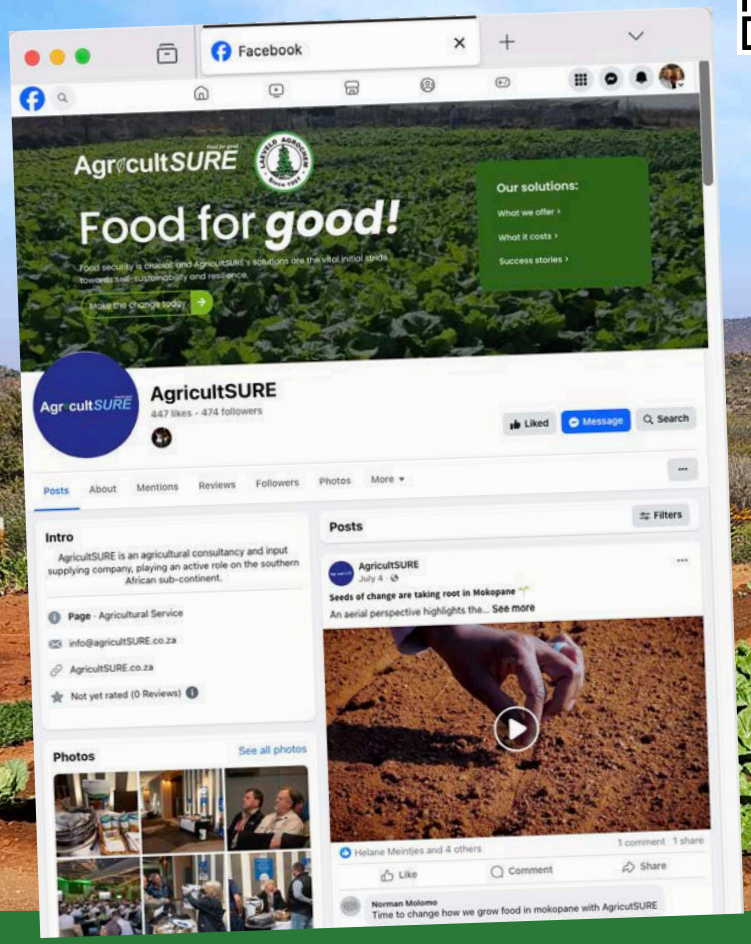

Laeveld company/laeveld-agrochem www.laeveld.co.za

GROW SMALL SCALE FARMING

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The digital revolution in farming

Kobus Hurter
MD, AgricultSURE

The digital revolution has reached even the outskirts of the farming industry, and the most remotely located small-scale farmer can also now benefit from the fruits of having access to the best crop input, online information and support.

While sustainable viable production is the key-word to all farmers, traceability and quality are keywords to off-takers, but the common fields of farming in between these posts are an open invitation to anyone, challenged by vast growing regional markets.

At AgricultSURE, we've always been committed to empowering farmers, and this magazine is more than just pages, it's a gateway to the next generation of agriculture.

We're proud to be at the forefront of this opportunity, bringing you cutting-edge technology and services designed to make your farm more efficient, profitable, and sustainable. This is not about replacing traditional knowledge, but about amplifying it with the power of modern tools.

FarmSURE aghub: Your digital agronomist in your pocket

The most significant change we're introducing is the FarmSURE aghub. We developed this digital platform to empower small-scale farmers by consolidating access to the highest quality information, products, and services. It provides a complete resource, accessible from any mobile device, to help farmers optimise their operations.

With FarmSURE, you can:

- ***Make informed decisions:*** Get real-time advice on weather conditions, crop health, soil status and pest management. No more guesswork! The aghub provides a wealth of information to help you identify problems, and apply the right solutions at the right time.
- ***Access the best products:*** The aghub links directly to our extensive product catalogue, allowing you to browse and select the best fertilisers, seeds, and crop protection solutions for your specific needs.
- ***Assist us to help you better:*** It will allow you to exchange specific requests on products and service needs, which we can then answer to address your needs more efficiently. It's about turning your frustrations into actionable data which can elevate your performance outcome.

FarmSURE is a 'work-in-progress' tool which is designed to improve your farming experience significantly as we go forward step by step.

It will help you to plan better if you are an aspiring farmer, will help you to get access to the best products and services if you are already farming, and it will assist you to increase your off-taker market if you are already producing.

FarmSURE

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Agri Koop: Your 24/7 digital warehouse

An integral piece of this modern farming puzzle is how you get the products you need, when you need them. That's where Agri Koop, our online warehouse, comes in.

Agri Koop is a user-friendly platform that offers you the incredible benefit of ordering a wide range of products on-line. You no longer have to travel to a physical store, spending valuable time and money.

With Agri Koop, you can:

- ***Order anytime, anywhere:*** Place your order from your farm, your home, or anywhere you have an internet connection.
- ***Get access to an extensive range of products:*** From seeds and other crop inputs to tools and protective gear, Agri Koop has everything you need in one place.
- ***Enjoy convenience and reliability:*** Your order is processed and delivered directly to you, saving you hassle and ensuring you have the right products for the job, exactly when you need them.

This integrated approach, from the intelligence of FarmSURE and with online accessibility to the convenience of Agri Koop, is our commitment to you. It's a new era for small-scale farming, and we're excited to partner with you on this journey. The future is here, and it's full of potential. Let's cultivate it together.

Partnering with telecommunication partners: Connecting to the future

Information is only useful if you can access it, and that's why our approach is to engage with partners in the telecommunication industry. Through this collaboration, we hope to ensure that every small-scale farmer has the hardware they need to thrive.

Android cell phones and tablets are more than just communication devices. They are powerful tools for precision farming.

The high-resolution cameras and GIS positioning function allow you to:

- ***Capture and share images:*** Take clear photos of crop diseases or pest infestations and share them directly through the FarmSURE aghub. Our agronomists can then assess the images and provide a quick, accurate diagnosis and recommendation.
- ***Utilise GIS information:*** The built-in GPS on these devices allow for accurate geographical information system (GIS) data collection. This means you can pinpoint specific problem areas in your fields, allowing for targeted intervention and a move towards a fully precision farming approach.

This isn't just about applying a solution; it's about applying the right solution, in the right place, at the right time, minimising waste and maximising effectiveness.

This partnership bridges the gap between sophisticated technology and practical, on-the-ground farming, ensuring that every farmer is connected and equipped.

AgricultSURE Food for good

LAEVELD AGROCHEM Since 1991

Growing hope, one small step at a time

Corné Liebenberg - Marketing Director, Laeveld Agrochem

We live in one of the most beautiful countries on earth, blessed with friendly people and untapped potential like few others.

But to truly unlock that potential, we must ensure that everyone moves forward, not just a privileged few. It is our responsibility, as those who have, to lift up those who don't have. Because when life improves for all, when each person has a reason to rise in the morning, and when every hand contributes even a little to the economy, this country becomes the greatest on earth.

Corné Liebenberg, Marketing Director of Laeveld Agrochem, is supporting empowerment of South Africa's new generation of farmers by driving initiatives like the Mzansi Young Farmers Indaba and many more.

Agriculture: The seed of South Africa's future
There is no quicker way to bring hope, improve well-being, and create income than through agriculture. Whether young or old, man or woman, educated or not, even without access to land or money, with the right plan, you can change your circumstances. With Nisboere and Niche Farmers, we have already seen this with more than 300 plans and success stories.

This booklet is filled with proof that it can be done. There is a saying: "*Don't tell the people who are already doing it, that it can't be done.*" AgricultSURE's vegetable seed packs deliver extraordinary yields and offer every person a real chance at success.

Mining, factories and industry all have their place, but the fight against poverty and hunger will be won in agriculture. Every small contribution counts, and we must never underestimate the value of even the smallest step forward.

Agriculture to transform lives
AgricultSURE and Laeveld Agrochem are committed to making a big impact on South Africans' wellbeing in the shortest possible time. Our focus is on the poorest of the poor, and on small-scale farmers and those with a heart of gold but an empty wallet. We start with something as simple as a full stomach, and from there, the sky is not even the limit.

If you ever feel overwhelmed by the need around us, do not spread despair. Instead, place this booklet in someone's hands. The knowledge and opportunities inside can spark a wave of hope, prosperity, and success that nothing can stop.

In the end, we do this because we believe we each have a God-given purpose, but it always begins with a full stomach, and with HOPE.

Enjoy the read, share it widely, and help us sow this good news across the land.

Agrihlula Centre - Farmer development

Dr. Gerhard Viljoen – MD, ACFFD

Established in 2024, the Agrihlula Centre for Farmer Development (ACFFD) is a not-for-profit company (NPC) focused on supporting smallholder and emerging farmers through innovations and mentorship. It plays a crucial role in promoting sustained agricultural intensification and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

Overview
Located in Mbombela, ACFFD bridges the knowledge and resource gaps in a region characterised by smallholder dominance and climatic variability. It aims to empower farmers with sustainable, profitable agricultural practices while contributing to food security and environmental well-being.

Capacity building
ACFFD provides training through workshops and field days, introducing farmers to modern agronomic techniques, improved seed varieties, and sustainable practices. Collaborative partnerships enable ACFFD to offer AgriSETA and QCTO-accredited training and mentorship.

Research and innovation
Collaborating with agricultural researchers, ACFFD adapts innovative technologies like water-efficient irrigation systems and precision agriculture to local conditions, reducing risks for farmers.

Resource access and market linkages
ACFFD addresses challenges in accessing quality inputs by developing supply chains and marketing opportunities. It also trains farmers on post-harvest handling and secures certifications for organic and sustainable products, connecting them to profitable markets.

Implementation of climate-smart agriculture
ACFFD conducts climate risk assessments to help farmers develop adaptation plans, including promoting drought-tolerant varieties and conservation agriculture. It educates farmers on the impacts of climate change, CSA benefits, and financial management.

Promotion of sustainable livelihoods
Recognising the importance of diverse income streams, ACFFD encourages integrated farming systems that combine crops, livestock, and agroforestry.

Monitoring and evaluation
ACFFD maintains protocols for monitoring the effectiveness of its interventions and collecting yield data, driving resilient, prosperous, and sustainable rural communities.

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FarmSURE

Your digital agronomist in your pocket

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JOIN THE FARMSURE AGHUB

Revolutionise your farm

AgricultSURE
Food for good

In the dynamic world of agriculture, small-scale farmers often face significant challenges, from limited access to resources and information to difficulties in reaching profitable markets. The FarmSURE aghub is a powerful new AI (artificial intelligence) programme designed to meet these challenges head-on, empowering you to farm more optimally and sustainably.

Our platform operates on a tiered structure, ensuring that you receive the exact level of support you need at every stage of your farming journey. The **Open Platform** provides a free entry point, offering foundational access to essential products like home garden packs and drip irrigation systems, along with general industry news.

For farmers ready to optimise their operations, the **Primary Platform** offers a suite of specialised services. By paying a nominal annual fee, you unlock tools for **precision soil analysis**, comprehensive farm **resource assessments,** and templates for managing **enterprise budgets**.

These resources are designed to help you make informed, data-driven decisions that can significantly boost your yields and efficiency. For those aiming to scale their business and secure their future, the **Secondary Platform** is the ultimate solution.

In addition to all the benefits of the lower tiers, this platform provides exclusive marketing opportunities. We facilitate **off-taker linkages** to connect you directly with buyers and offer templates for **standard off-taker agreements**, ensuring your hard work translates into secure, profitable transactions.

With the FarmSURE aghub, you're not just planting seeds; you're cultivating a more resilient and prosperous future for your farm. ***Join us and start your journey towards more optimal farming today.***

FarmSURE

Ready to take control of your farm's potential? Register on the FarmSURE aghub to start your journey towards more optimal farming today!

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Innovative livelihood restoration

Kobus Hurter
MD, AgricultSURE

AgricultSURE's initial livelihood restoration program was in Mokopane at a mining group, which included multiple communities and served 300 households.

As a result, some beneficiaries began supplying produce not only to themselves but also to other families and formal retailers in the greater Mokopane area. The program's effectiveness is attributed to a hands-on model that places trained staff within communities to provide daily technical skills transfer. It utilizes technology, such as taking pictures of disease symptoms, to quickly identify and correct crop issues with a network of sister companies. *This process leads to the production of high-quality crops and future plans to enhance the programme's value include establishing a fresh market hub and exploring micro-loan services as an alternative to grants.*

At its core, AgricultSURE's program provides a structured pathway for individuals to transition from potential vulnerability to becoming thriving agripreneurs. The journey commences with the establishment of manageable 15- square-meter household gardens during the first year.

This initial phase serves as an essential training ground, allowing participants to acquire foundational agricultural skills, understand basic farm management principles, and cultivate a sense of ownership and accomplishment. AgricultSURE understands that sustainable change begins with small, achievable steps.

The programme's strength lies in its progressive nature. After the initial year, approximately 40% of the most promising participants are provided the opportunity to expand their operations to 250-square-meter gardens.

This significant scaling-up introduces more complex farming techniques, increased production demands, and a greater understanding of market dynamics. Continuous mentorship and skills transfer from AgricultSURE's dedicated on-the-ground staff ensure that these emerging farmers are well-equipped to navigate these new challenges.

The culmination of this carefully designed progression occurs in the third year, where around 25% of the most successful participants further expand to 2,500-square-meter plots, transitioning into fully economic commercial growers. This crucial stage signifies a move towards self-sufficiency. Beneficiaries at this level, having demonstrated their capabilities and commitment, are no longer reliant on grants. Instead, they gain access to affordable micro-loan facilities, enabling them to invest in essential crop inputs and farming equipment, fostering true economic independence.

What truly distinguishes AgricultSURE's approach is its holistic and community-centric focus. Before any programme is implemented, AgricultSURE conducts a thorough overhead assessment, meticulously evaluating the specific demographics and natural resource availability of the target community. This proactive step ensures that the programme is tailored to local conditions, mitigating potential shortcomings and maximising the chances of success.

Furthermore, AgricultSURE actively facilitates the creation of both informal and formal off-taker hubs. Recognising that the collective produce from numerous smallholder farmers can generate substantial volumes and value, potentially reaching millions of rand and tons of crops, AgricultSURE understands the importance of establishing reliable market linkages.

By connecting growers with buyers, the programme ensures a sustainable demand for the produce, providing long-term economic stability and fostering the growth of local economies. This strategic focus on market access is a testament to AgricultSURE's long-term vision for community empowerment.

AgricultSURE's unwavering dedication, coupled with its innovative and phased approach, has yielded significant success in livelihood restoration. By embedding staff within the communities, providing continuous skills transfer and mentorship, and proactively addressing market access, AgricultSURE is not just creating individual farming enterprises; it is fostering resilient and thriving communities.

AgricultSURE stands as a true leader in this field, demonstrating a bold commitment to empowering individuals and building a more sustainable and prosperous future for all. Their initiatives serve as an inspiring example of how responsible corporate engagement can catalyse meaningful and lasting positive change.

Starter Pack products

Order online: www.agricultSURE.co.za

AgricultSURE

1 Home Garden Starter Pack

One seed pack can produce up to 200 kg of fresh vegetables on the 15 m² of main crops, along with the additional 15 m² of bonus crops, and provides quality nutrients supplementing the food intake of families of 4 to 6 members for 6 weeks and longer.

CONTENTS OF EACH SEED PACK

- 8 Vegetable varieties (seasonal).
- Illustrated instruction manual.
- Fertiliser, soil health enhancement products.
- Integrated pest management products.
- Utensils to measure plant spacing.

R305 per pack, excludes VAT and delivery.

Price correct as of September 2025.

WINTER PACK
Onions, cabbage, spinach.
Bonus crops: Radish, beetroot, carrots and turnips.

When to plant:
Feb/Mar/Apr.
Warmer areas:
Feb/Mar/Apr/May.

SUMMER PACK
Baby marrows, green beans, spinach.
Bonus crops: tomato, kale, leaf cabbage, butternut and grey skin pumpkin.

When to plant:
Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan.
Warmer areas:
Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb.

As seen on niche FARMERS TV Series

View online:
The Niche Farmers episode featuring the seed packs.
www.nichefarmers.com.

ORDER OR DONATE: Tel: 060 458 8483 www.agricultSURE.co.za

2 Drip Kit Starter Pack

Complete drip kit starter packs range from 15 m² to 250 m² and 2,500 m².

CONTENTS

- All fittings, piping and drip irrigation components required.
- Based on gravitational applications.
- Complete with valve and high- quality water filter.
- Plug and play assembling.
- Reduced water use and high yield performance.

We custom pack large orders.

Price available on request.

3 Small Farmer Starter Pack

Essential equipment to set up a precision-focused irrigation farm on a land.
Customised options available.

CONTENTS

- Drip irrigation system.
- 1 500 L water tank.
- Galvanised steel tank stand.
- 16 L solar chargeable, battery-operated crop sprayer.

OPTIONAL EXTRA (not included)

- Crop input starter packs.
- Precision hand planters.
- Precision fertiliser applicators.
- Protective clothing.
- Solar pump and solar panel for off the grit pumping.
- Hand tillers and farming equipment.
- Training and online support.

Price available on request.

TV SERIES

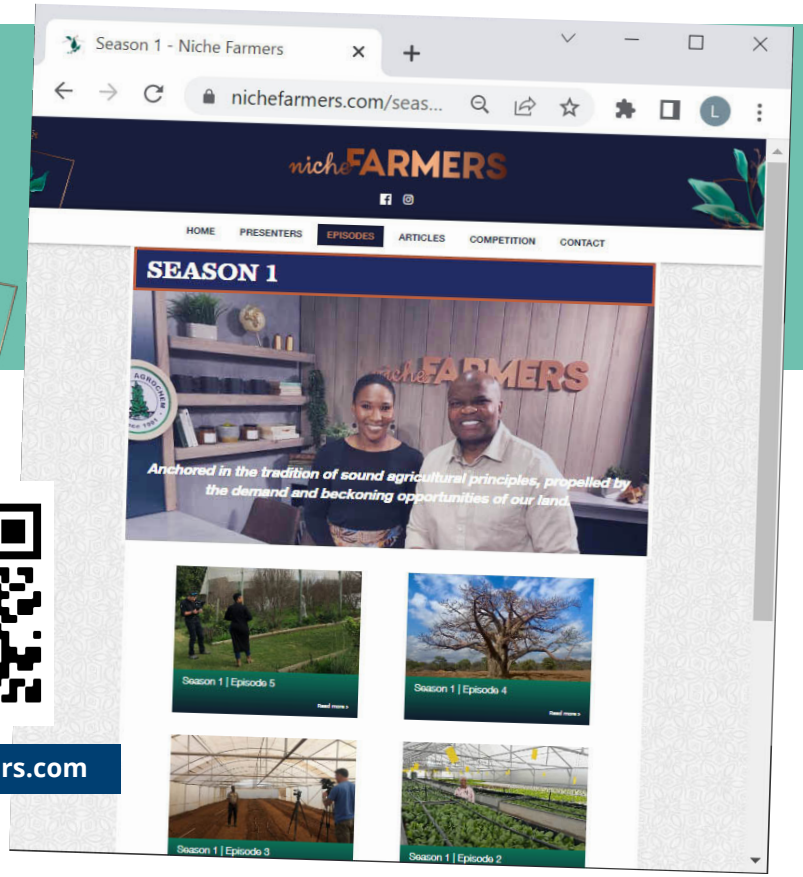
Niche Farmers

The Niche Farmers TV-show started a few years ago. Described as the first-of-its-kind TV series, the Niche Farmers show debunks many of the conventional views about agriculture.

From the executive producer of the SAFTA award-winning television magazine programme *Nisboere*, which already boasts seven seasons, Laeveld Agrochem brings you the next evolution of this ground-breaking format with the launch of Niche Farmers – estimated to attract an audience of more than a MILLION VIEWERS per episode across three different television channels.

Everyone with a little bit of space and hunger to succeed can become a niche farmer. This is the unwavering belief of Laeveld Agrochem, the crop optimisation and precision farming enterprise behind Niche Farmers, a brand-new television series.

VIEW ALL THE FREE EPISODES ONLINE ON YOUTUBE



www.nichefarmers.com

OVER 10 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Growing with you

For over a decade, Laeveld Agrochem and Agri Technovation have worked together to bring real value to South African farmers.

This long-standing partnership combines trusted products with cutting-edge farming science and technology to help commercial farmers grow more, grow better, and grow sustainably.

This partnership is now extended through AgricultSURE, a dedicated channel to small-scale farmers, allowing these solutions to reach even the most remote farming communities, ensuring that farmers of all sizes have access to the expertise, products, and support they need to thrive.

What does this mean for you as a small-scale farmer?

1. Understand your soil, grow smarter

Agri Technovation offers expert soil services, helping you understand exactly what kind of soil you're working with, and what it needs to perform optimally. When you know your soil, you can plant the right crops, apply the right nutrients, and avoid wasting money on guesswork.

2. Leaf analysis that shows what your plants really need

With leaf analysis, you can see which nutrients your crops may be lacking and apply only what's needed. This ensures stronger, healthier plants without over- or under-fertilising. It's like taking a blood sample to assess your own individual health.

3. Natural products, proven results

Agri Technovation's products are made from natural sources like kelp, organic acids, and amino acids. These biostimulants support better root development, improve nutrient absorption, and help crops deal with stress like drought or cold, meaning better yields and better soil health.

4. Hands-on support from people who care

With Laeveld Agrochem and Agri Technovation's combined teams of trained agronomists and technical experts, you're not left to figure it out on your own. You get practical advice that works on your farm, with your crops, in your conditions.
Through AgricultSURE, small-scale farmers also receive ongoing training and mentorship, helping you apply these solutions effectively in your unique environment.

A partnership that has stood the test of time

Over the past 10 years, this partnership has helped farmers across South Africa achieve better results and now, it's your turn. Whether you're farming a few hectares or looking at expanding, you deserve access to the right knowledge, tools, and support.
Together, we can help your farm grow stronger, from the soil up.
Laeveld Agrochem, Agri Technovation and AgricultSURE – are here for your growth.

Precision agriculture for small-scale and garden-size growers

Jan–Willem Boonzaaier
Commercial Head of Services, Agri Technovation

Precision agriculture is not limited to large-scale farms. The same science and data-driven methods that improve production on thousands of hectares can also make a measurable difference for smaller fields, market gardens, and intensive home vegetable plots.

By regularly measuring soil conditions, plant nutrient status, and the biological life in your soil, you can apply inputs more efficiently and address problems before they limit yields. This also helps to track improvements from season to season and prevents doing a shotgun approach.

The following services are especially relevant for smaller-scale production.

iTest™ Soil sample – Understanding your soil

Healthy crops start with healthy soil, but the fertility of soil cannot be judged by appearance alone. The iTest™ Soil service analyses your soil's chemical composition and highlights any imbalances that could hold back crop growth. For small-scale growers, one well-taken representative sample per field is usually sufficient. This analysis provides:

Lime requirement to correct soil pH
pH affects how easily plants can absorb nutrients. If the soil is too acidic, elements like phosphorus may become unavailable. If it is too alkaline, micronutrients like zinc and iron may be locked up. The test tells you exactly how much lime, if any, is needed to bring pH into the optimal range for your crop.

Fertiliser recommendations to address specific shortages
Instead of applying a general fertiliser mix, you will know precisely which nutrients are deficient and how much to apply. This reduces waste and prevents excessive levels of nutrients that can harm plants or the environment.

Assessment of salt accumulation risk
High salt levels in soil, often caused by repeated irrigation or over-application of fertilisers, can damage roots, reduce water uptake, and stunt growth. Early identification allows you to adjust irrigation and fertiliser practices to avoid yield losses.

Repeating iTest™ Soil each season allows you to see if pH adjustments are holding, whether nutrient levels are improving, and if any problems are developing. Over time, this builds a clear picture of your soil's progress.

iTest™ Leaf – Assessing plant nutrient uptake

While soil testing shows what nutrients are available, leaf analysis reveals what the plant has actually absorbed at a given growth stage. This direct measurement is essential for verifying that your fertiliser programme is effective.

The iTest™ Leaf service helps you:
Confirm fertiliser programme effectiveness
Nutrients may be present in the soil but not reaching the plant due to pH problems, root health issues, or competition from other elements. The test verifies if plants are getting what they need.

Many nutrient shortages cause yield and quality losses long before visual signs appear. Early detection allows corrective action in time to protect the harvest.

Guide corrective measures
The results indicate whether to use foliar feeding (spraying nutrients directly onto leaves for rapid uptake) or granular fertiliser (for longer-term correction through the soil).

Taking leaf samples at key stages each season, and comparing them year to year, builds a valuable record of plant performance. This history allows you to fine-tune nutrient strategies for each crop and avoid repeating past mistakes.

Value of consistent seasonal data

The real strength of these services is in repetition. A single test is useful, but when you test each season and keep the records (which are available on Agri Technovation's platform MyFarmWeb™), you create a dataset that shows how your soil and plants are responding to your management.

This allows you to:

- See measurable improvements in soil health and biology.
- Adjust fertiliser plans based on proven results.
- Detect and correct emerging problems before they become costly.
- Make informed changes that steadily improve yield and quality.

For small-scale and garden-size growers, this approach means every input is purposeful, every decision is backed by evidence, and your production system becomes more efficient and sustainable over time.

The power of Agripreneurship

Why farm management & financial records matter for smallholder farmers

Dr. G.P. Viljoen
MD of ACFFD

Unlocking new opportunities and ensuring sustainable success in modern agriculture
In today's rapidly evolving agricultural landscape, smallholder farmers are at the heart of food production and rural development. However, the challenges of unpredictable markets, climate change, rising costs, and changing consumer habits mean that success in farming now requires more than just traditional know-how. To thrive in this dynamic environment, smallholder farmers can benefit immensely from embracing agripreneurship – an approach that combines agricultural production with entrepreneurial thinking, strategic management, and sound financial practices.

This article explores the critical importance of agripreneurship, effective farm management, and accurate financial record-keeping. It is designed to empower smallholder farmers with insights and practical guidance for building more resilient, profitable, and sustainable agricultural enterprises.

What is Agripreneurship?

Agripreneurship is the fusion of agriculture and entrepreneurship. It represents a shift from seeing farming solely as a way of life, to recognising it as a business with growth and innovation potential.

An agripreneur is not just a farmer – they are an innovator, a risk-taker, and a business thinker who seeks new opportunities in the value chain to enhance productivity and income.

At its foundation, agripreneurship is built on three mutually reinforcing pillars:

1. Agricultural Knowledge and Skills: Mastery of crop cultivation, animal husbandry, soil management, and sustainable farming practices forms the backbone of agripreneurship. This expertise enables farmers to make informed decisions and adapt to changing conditions.

2. Entrepreneurial Mindset: Success requires creativity, adaptability, and the willingness to try new ideas. Agripreneurs see challenges as opportunities, identify new market trends, and are proactive in seeking solutions and partnerships.

3. Market Analysis and Business Planning: Understanding the market, analysing consumer needs, and developing robust business plans are essential for profitability and sustainability. This includes financial projections, marketing strategies, and risk assessment.

The importance of agripreneurship for smallholder farmers

For smallholder farmers, agripreneurship offers a pathway out of subsistence and vulnerability by turning farms into thriving businesses.

Here's why it matters:

- ***Increased Profitability:*** By recognising farming as a business, agripreneurs can explore new income streams, reduce losses, and maximise returns through improved production, value addition, and better market access.
- ***Resilience to Challenges:*** Entrepreneurial farmers are more adaptable to shocks such as droughts, market fluctuations, or pests. They are more likely to innovate, diversify their products, and build networks that can provide support in tough times.
- ***Empowerment and Growth:*** Agripreneurship inspires self-confidence and encourages continuous learning. It empowers farmers to negotiate better deals, access finance, and participate in decision-making processes that shape their futures.
- ***Community Development:*** Successful agripreneurs create jobs, support local economies, and contribute to food security. Their leadership can inspire others in the community to adopt modern practices and strive for excellence.
- ***Ability to apply critical business competencies.*** The agripreneur must be a critical thinker to evaluate the different options and find innovative solutions. He or she must be able to do innovative problem solving, must be able to collaborate with others and must be a lifelong learner, collecting information, evaluating it critically and applying it to suitable situations.

Effective farm management: The cornerstone of success

Efficient farm management is essential for translating agripreneurial ambition into real-world results. It involves day-to-day planning, organising, and supervising all farm activities to ensure optimal use of resources and achievement of business goals.

Key aspects of farm management include:

Planning and decision-making
Farmers should set clear objectives for their enterprises, whether it is maximising yields, reducing costs, expanding into new markets, or adopting sustainable practices. Regular planning helps anticipate potential challenges and seize opportunities as they arise.

Resource management
Effective use of land, labour, water, seeds, fertilisers, and equipment is crucial. Agripreneurs must constantly assess their resources, adopt improved technologies, and avoid wastage. This also involves maintaining healthy soils and sustainably managing natural resources to ensure long-term productivity.

Production monitoring
Keeping track of crop growth, livestock health, input usage, and output levels allows farmers to quickly identify problems and adjust their strategies. Regular monitoring leads to better yields, reduced losses, and informed decision-making throughout the production cycle.

Risk management
Risks are inherent in farming. Agripreneurs can reduce vulnerabilities by diversifying crops or livestock, purchasing insurance, and staying informed about climate patterns or pest outbreaks. Practice integrated pest management and apply climate-smart agricultural principles. Being proactive in risk management helps protect both livelihood and investment.

People and team management
For those who employ family or hired workers, effective leadership, clear communication, and fair labour practices contribute to a more productive and harmonious working environment. >>

AGRIHLULA CENTRE FOR FARMER DEVELOPMENT (ACFFD)

The Centre of choice for farmer development

We help you to defeat hunger, poverty and unemployment and support you to succeed, with agricultural training, increasing production, and assisting with market access focusing on sustainable practices. ACFFD's objectives are:

- Develop farmers to farm sustainably based on climate-smart and regenerative agricultural principles.
- Provide technical support and inputs.
- Develop markets and value chain opportunities.
- Maintain a transparent and credible organisation.
- Manage and implement projects.
- Apply integrated solutions.

Our services

- Agricultural Development projects.
- Accredited and non-accredited training in crop and animal production.
- Mentorship for crop and animal production.
- Household food security programmes.
- Agripreneurship and farm management programmes.
- Skills assessment and development.

Focus area: New farmer Development

Revitalisation of unproductive farms or projects

Household food security projects

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NPC reg no ; 2023/620600/08

The power of Agripreneurship

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The value of financial records

One of the most critical, yet often overlooked, aspects of agripreneurship and farm management is financial record-keeping. Accurate records are the foundation of any successful business.

Here's why they are indispensable:

- ***Tracking Income and Expenses:*** Recording all sales, purchases, labour payments, and input costs shows exactly where money is coming from and where it is going. This helps identify profitable activities and areas needing improvement.
- ***Access to Credit and Finance:*** Lenders and investors require proof of business viability. Well-maintained financial records make it easier to access loans, grants, or partnerships for growth.
- ***Informed Business Decisions:*** With accurate data, farmers can make better decisions, such as adjusting prices, investing in new technology, or expanding production-based on real evidence rather than guesswork.
- ***Legal & Tax Compliance:*** Keeping records simplifies interactions with authorities and ensures compliance with regulations, which is crucial for avoiding penalties or disputes.
- ***Measuring Progress:*** Reviewing financial records over time allows farmers to assess their growth, set realistic goals, and celebrate achievements.

Tips for effective farm and financial record-keeping

- Start simple – use a notebook or ledger to record every activity and transaction.
- Organise records by categories such as enterprises, crops or land records and record the activities, sales, seeds, fertilisers, crop protection, wages, and repairs.
- Set aside time each week to update your records and activities whilst reconciling totals. Use the time also to plan the next week's activities.
- When a basic record system is in place, consider digital tools or mobile apps if available and suitable for your needs.
- Keep receipts, invoices, and bank statements as evidence to support your records.

Conclusion

Farming is more than just planting seeds and harvesting crops. It is a vibrant business that, when managed well with an entrepreneurial spirit and careful planning, can deliver prosperity for smallholder farmers and their communities.

By embracing agripreneurship, honing management practices, and keeping meticulous farm and financial records, smallholder farmers can overcome challenges, unlock new opportunities, and build a brighter, more sustainable future.

Remember: every successful agripreneur started with a desire to learn and a willingness to see farming through the eyes of both a producer and a business owner. Start your journey to sustained intensification today, your farm's success story is waiting to be written.

WATERING SOLUTION

Make drip irrigation work for you

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NETAFIM™ An Orbia business.

For optimal growth, every plant in the orchard, field, greenhouse, or vineyard needs exactly the right amount of water and nutrition at exactly the right time. No matter what crop you are growing.

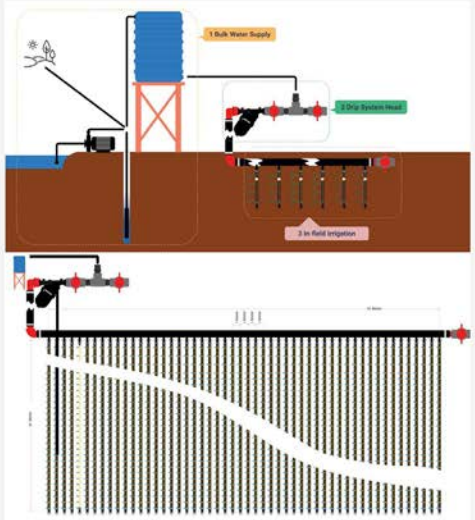
Drip irrigation is an irrigation method that delivers the precise amount of water a plant needs directly to the plant's root zone, exactly when the plant needs it. The water is fed to the plant by a dedicated dripline that has water emitters (drippers) installed at specified distances inside the dripline. In addition to supplying water, a drip irrigation system can also be adapted to apply fertiliser and other necessary substances directly to the root zone.

Drip irrigation allows the farmer to control many of the manageable aspects that physically affect the growth of a plant. Drip irrigation will help you harvest a higher yield of better quality; using less water, energy, and fertiliser.

Some benefits of drip irrigation include:

- Save up to 50% water and energy.
- Smaller pumps and pipes can be used that are more cost-effective and easier to install, maintain, manage, and run.
- Improved yield quality through better plant nutrition management when fertiliser application is incorporated into the drip system.
- Drip irrigation offers the highest level of drought resilience.
- Drip irrigation systems are easy to use. The operation of drip irrigation systems does not require physical strength or large implements.
- Drip irrigation's energy-use efficiency makes it ideal to use with natural, renewable, and sustainable energy sources.

THE THREE MAIN PARTS OF A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM



1. BULK WATER SUPPLY

- Water Source/Storage
- Pump
- Tank / Water storage dam

2. DRIP SYSTEM HEAD

- Manifold
- Filter

3. IN-FIELD IRRIGATION

- Sub-mainline/Distribution pipe
- Driplines/Laterals
- Connectors and line ends

The basic dos and don'ts of drip irrigation

DO

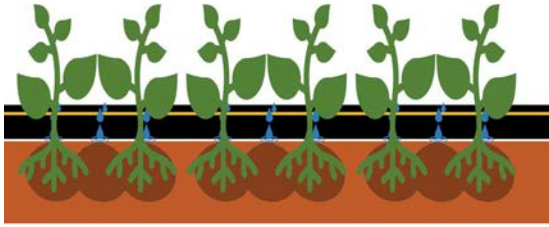
- Plan and design carefully
- Use quality components
- Optimally space emitters
- Practice regular maintenance
- Monitor soil moisture
- Ensure proper filtration
- Learn about drip irrigation

DON'T

- Over-irrigate
- Neglect maintenance
- Mix crop types inappropriately
- Ignore local climate and weather
- Use low-quality components
- Overload the system

The parts of a drip irrigation system

A drip irrigation system comprises many components, each of which plays an important part in the operation of the system. Drip irrigation systems can range from simple systems operated by the farmer in the field to very complex computer-controlled systems that automatically irrigate, clean filters, and fertilise according to crop requirements.

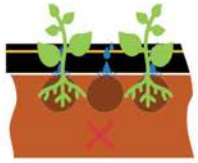


But isn't it difficult?

Some farmers believe that drip irrigation is very complicated and difficult to use. This is not the case, in fact, drip irrigation is easy to use and extremely reliable. However, successful drip irrigation must have good irrigation system management and maintenance.

Remember, too little water and the crop will not grow properly. Too much water and the crop will also not achieve optimal growth.

In addition, all excess water is lost and gives no value even though it costs the farmer money. If just the right amount of water is given, the crop grows optimally, and no resources are wasted.



Too little water – crop will not grow properly.

Correct amount of water – crop can grow optimally.

Too much water – crop will not grow properly, and all excess water is lost and gives no value even though the farmer has provided it.

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- **MIXED FARMING**
  National Certificates NQF Level 1 – 2
- **AGRI TRADE**
  National Certificates NQF Level 2 & 4
- **POULTRY**
  General Education and Training Certificate NQF Level 1, National Certificates NQF Level 2 – 3
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- **OTHER**
  Gap experience – Agritourism

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- Basic Beef Cattle
- Basic Goat Production
- Basic Pig Production (piggery)
- Basic Plant Production
- Basic Poultry Production
- Basic Sheep Production
- Basic Tractor Operator

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WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Agriculture is an important investment for the nation as well as for individuals. Your passion for animals or plants can lead to a food-secure future for yourself and your community. Dreaming big can lead to you becoming a major player in South Africa's agricultural sector.

With this in mind, we continuously add new courses to our scope and improve our practical training facility near Cullinan. Expansion is on the horizon, and something we actively strive for, and we're looking forward to the growth this year has to offer.

Agri Skills' main focus is on the National Certificate and National Diploma in Animal or Plant Production. Training is offered to individuals and corporate clients. AgriSETA accredited skills programmes and learnerships.

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AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS: AGRI KOOP

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Agri Koop is the proud partner of AgricultSURE's products and brands, where we, as a dedicated store, ensure that innovative solutions for smallholder farmers are easily accessible.

We focus on sustainable farming, quality, and convenience, learn more at www.agrikoop.co.za and order online from the comfort of your home or visit our store in Midvaal. Whether you're starting a garden or expanding your farm, Agri Koop offers everything under one roof, including products from all the main agricultural suppliers in the farming industry.

Agri Koop also manufactures and packs a wide range of starter packs for home gardens and farmers all over South Africa. We do this to promote enterprise development by enabling the availability of specially designed kits which contain essential crop and livestock inputs to elevate production performance and equip anyone to become a successful farmer. Today, you can also join thousands of fellow small-holder farmers who rely on Agri Koop for their growth and success!

AgricultSURE's total sustainable solutions

AgricultSURE offers a wide range of high-quality products designed to support small-scale farmers with efficient and sustainable farming. Complete starter packs make it easy for new farmers, since these units include all essentials from seed to basic tools.

Their "total solution" range starts with the 15 square meter vegetable home garden at entry level, which is directed at livelihood restoration projects, addressing the need of many communities across the country.

As part of this initiative, the range also includes a 250-square-meter and a 2,500-square-meter (or ¼ ha) option as stepping stones for those looking to scale up their operations and turn into sustainable and viable commercial farmers. These products are all available at Agri Koop.

Winter Vegetable Starter Pack

This Starter Pack includes seeds, fertiliser, and some handy utensils for seasonal crops. One seed pack can produce approximately 150 to 200 kg of vegetables on 15 m², ideal as a food supplement for a family of 4 to 6 for six weeks.

It contains a combination of popular winter crops:

- A variety of seeds (onions, cabbage, spinach, radish, beetroot, carrots, turnips and kale).
- An illustrated manual.
- Fertiliser.
- Guidelines.
- Basic planting utensils.

Summer Vegetable Starter Pack

This Starter Pack includes seeds, fertiliser, and some handy utensils for seasonal crops. One seed pack can produce approximately 150 to 200 kg of vegetables on 15 m², ideal as a food supplement for a family of 4 to 6 for six weeks.

It contains popular summer crops:

- A variety of seeds (baby marrow, beans, spinach, tomatoes, kale, cabbage, butternut, and grey squash).
- An illustrated manual.
- Fertiliser.
- Guidelines.
- Basic planting utensils.

Maize starter pack

Each bucket contains exactly what you need to plant 2,500 m² (¼ hectare) of maize, easy, quick, and hassle-free.

Inside your bucket:

✓ Top-quality maize seed for ¼ ha.
✓ Pre-seed treatments for a strong start.
✓ Fertiliser for healthy, rapid growth.
✓ Protective equipment (goggles, gloves, etc.).
✓ Insect monitoring kit for early pest control.

All you need is ¼ hectare of land, water during planting, and to purchase the ¼ ha Maize Starter Pack at Agri Koop.

AgricultSURE's Drip Irrigation Kits

With AgricultSURE's own product range, we focus together on smart water management. Agri Koop manufactures and distributes these kits, available in our Midvaal store.

Gravity Drip Irrigation Systems

These systems are easy to assemble and install, the operate gravitationally from a height of about 1,2 meters, and covers 15 m² (250 m² and 2,500 m² options are also available).

The system includes:

- One 25-liter bucket (when filled and applied twice a day and seven days a week offers the optimal irrigation water requirement for a bumper vegetable crop).
- Eight drip lines, each 5 meters long (spaced 400 mm apart).

Tips:

- Vegetables need about 15 to 25 mm water per week (depending on the growth stage) and during peak time in summer, about 25 mm water per week.
- A single bucket supplies about 1,7 mm, so 14 buckets well distributed (mornings and afternoons) will amount to 24 mm per week.
- Usage frequency depends on actual rainfall, season, and growth stage.

These kits save water and ensure precise irrigation – perfect for drier regions. >>

Discover the world of farming at Agri Koop
from previous page

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Agri Koop now offers, in partnership with EZ Spray, a versatile spraying solution for precise application of sprays, ideal for pest control and nutrition.

EZ Spray – 5L Backpack Sprayer

The EZ Spray is a robust, battery-operated backpack sprayer made of high-quality plastic components.

This 5-litre model is light, portable, and quiet, and very easy to set up, use, charge, maintain, and clean.

EZ Spray – 16L Backpack Sprayer (Rechargeable)

The EZ Spray 16L is a sturdy, rechargeable battery-operated backpack sprayer, also made with high-quality plastic components. The back-pack design makes it easy to carry and quick to set up, use, charge, maintain, and clean. The kit includes 5 adjustable spray nozzles for different applications.

EZ Spray 5 Nozzle Lance

This lance has 5 standard spray nozzles mounted on a comfortable, longer spray rod, allowing a wider area to be covered in one movement.

Plant Quality Seeds – Easi Seeds

Easi Seeds is a range of high-quality seeds selected for smallholder farmers, with excellent germination rates.

Categories include:

- Agronomic seeds
- Herb seeds
- Flower seeds
- Lifestyle seeds
- Pasture and lawn seeds
- Vegetable seeds

Easi Seeds are easy to plant and deliver reliable results. Available at Agri Koop.

Manage your farm with Backsaver and EZ Spray

Beyond our own range, we introduce partner brands to improve your farming. Selected products are available at Agri Koop.

Backsaver: Lightweight tools for easy farming

Backsaver Hand Planter: The famous, award-winning lightweight tool that helps you plant seeds at the same depth and spacing for a uniform crop. Saves your back and time.

Backsaver Single Shot Fertiliser Applicator: A lightweight, hand-operated device for accurate fertiliser application with a simple hand and arm movement.

Backsaver Walking Stick Grass Seed Planter: This lightweight tool allows you to plant grass seeds as you walk – ideal for pasture restoration.

Backsaver Alien Plant Herbicide Applicator: A lightweight tool for accurate herbicide application at the base of invasive plants, with minimal environmental impact.

Backsaver's innovative solutions are available at Agri Koop – your partner for ergonomic tools!

At Agri Koop, we believe that every farmer – big or small – deserves access to the best inputs at the best value. We know that smaller farmers often lack the same purchasing power or access to bulk buying, which is exactly why we offer a unique solution.

With our focus as a "house of brands"; we provide a carefully selected range of top-quality products that can grow any farm, improve harvests, and increase profits. Agri Koop is your trusted partner in agriculture – with a wide range of quality products, from seeds and fertiliser to animal feed, spraying equipment, and pest control, we offer every-thing you need for a successful harvest.

We work with top partners like AgricultSure and leading suppliers to ensure you get the best products at competitive prices.

At Agri Koop, excellent service is not just a promise – it's our way of farming. Here you get expert advice, quick support, and the right products, every time.

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Years of commitment

Food For Mzansi Young Farmers Indaba & Agric Fair

The Food For Mzansi Young Farmers Indaba & Agric Fair was held in April at the Lavender Country Market in Wonderboom. It brought together young farmers and industry leaders to share ideas, highlight opportunities, and explore ways to build a sustainable future for SA agriculture.

Community Vegetable Garden Initiative

More than 300 families in Mokopane are benefiting from a year-long initiative to establish new vegetable gardens in the community. The project, supported by Ivanplats Mine Group and AgricultSURE, is helping households grow their own produce and build towards greater food security and self-sufficiency. Alongside seed packs that can yield up to 150 kg of fresh vegetables, communities also receive practical skills training and ongoing support. A recent community competition highlighted the potential of local agriculture, with residents showcasing their thriving gardens and inspiring others to take part.

Years of commitment

AgricultSURE: Empowering communities one crop at a time!
The Tshamahansi community in Mokopane is benefiting from the Summer Vegetable Livelihood Restoration Programme (LRP). Supported by the Ivanplats mining group, this initiative provides essential farming skills and market opportunities to uplift 300 households.

Inspiring sustainable futures
At Toevlug Centre, Worchester, the AgricultSURE's training programme, implemented among ten community care centres in the greater Overberg region (which includes Bellville, De Doorns, Robertson, Durbanville, Somerset west, Wellington, Moorreesburg, Riviersonderend, Tulbagh and Worchester) and guided by the seasoned expert, Johan Marx, is sowing more than seeds, it's equipping individuals with the skills to build sustainable food sources for life. After learning how to plant and maintain their own vegetable gardens, participants gain the confidence to replicate these practices at home, supporting long-term self-sufficiency.

Connecting at agricultural events
AgricultSURE recently participated in a major agricultural expo, engaging with individuals passionate about sustainable farming and food security.

The event provided an opportunity to connect with communities, share knowledge, and highlight initiatives that support smallholder farmers.

Agri Koop was also present, and together we continue to promote growth, sustainability, and practical solutions for farmers.

Zamukele: A Journey of Gratitude
The Zamukele programme, meaning "let us be grateful" in Zulu, equips new-generation farmers with the skills and knowledge to thrive in commercial crop farming.

Supported by Schoeman Boerdery, the initiative provides mentorship, practical training, and industry insights to help farmers succeed.

AgricultSURE and Laeveld Agrochem support the Zamukele programme!

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