

SOY ON THE MOVE · 2025/26 SEASON REPORT

Rooted in people. *Growing together.*

Our 2025/26 season with the farmers of KwaZulu-Natal, and how we plan to support them in 2026/27.

KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA · 16 OCTOBER 2026 · REVIEW DRAFT 6

Our commitment to farmers

At the Eden Social Development Foundation our work begins with people: the farmer preparing a field, the advisor helping to solve a problem, the mentor who comes back when conditions change, and the household that depends on the crop. Soy on the Move connects soybean production with skills, income and food security.

The 2025/2026 season was a hard one. Hail, heavy rain, difficult harvesting conditions, equipment shortages and crop-quality problems affected different areas in different ways. Our farmers did not give up. They replanted after damage, improved their crop management, shared what they had learned and worked with mentors and agricultural advisors to get their crops to market.

In these pages we tell you what happened this season and what we learned from it. We also introduce the next step in our support. We will keep doing what the programme was built on: practical help, partnerships and personal relationships. Through UmlimiLink we are starting to bring that support closer to each farmer, field, advisor and mentor.

Our purpose has not changed. We help farmers build the knowledge, confidence and practical capacity to sustain their livelihoods. To our funders, partners, agricultural advisors, mentors, community members and farmers: thank you. Your commitment makes this work possible.

Eden Social Development Foundation
Soy on the Move



A close look at the growing crop.



Threshing the harvest.

The 2025/26 season at a glance

We worked with farmers in nine areas of KwaZulu-Natal through a season of hail, heavy rain and difficult harvesting.

1,419	1,226.2	R7.63m	202
Planted hectares	Recorded tonnes	Recorded income	Farmer / group entries

This season we worked in KwaZulu-Natal and concentrated on the farmers we already know. In earlier seasons we saw that we needed better results per hectare and stronger practical support before taking on more farmers. This season confirmed it.

Together they planted 1,419 hectares and recorded 1,226 tonnes and R7,625,516 in income.

Our records show 202 farmer or group entries, of which 184 planted. They list 197 men and 75 women. Some entries are groups, so this is not a count of individual farmers.



An MBFI Foundation Pack among the growing soybeans.



Checking the rows.

Where the programme comes from

Soy on the Move goes back to the 2010/2011 season. Since then we have supported farmers through changing production conditions, with more partners and new groups of farmers joining over the years. That history is the foundation of this year's work.

Since 2010/2011 the programme has received R51,142,832 in funding, including R5,007,966 for the 2025/2026 season. The table at the back shows every season, with planting and Soy in Food side by side.

Along the way came practical improvements that still shape the programme: ten SACTA threshers were adapted, MBFi supplied foundation buckets pre-packed for one hectare, we held conservation-agriculture mechanisation demonstrations, and our information days brought farmers and advisors together.

Thank you to our partners

We sincerely thank the Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust (OPDT) for its long-standing support, and SACTA for its contribution to the programme's development. Your support over the years is the foundation on which we continue to build.

We thank the agricultural advisors and the Department of Agriculture teams for their time, their technical guidance and their work alongside farmers. We thank MBFi, the Agricultural Research Council and our LandCare partners for their earlier support with inputs and mechanisation. First National Bank Business sponsored the financial and Soy in Food training held at Eden in April 2026.

Above all we thank our farmers. They bring the labour, the preparation, equipment, additional inputs and transport, and they keep going and keep learning. The programme works because they carry their share.

LONG-STANDING PROGRAMME SUPPORTERS



PARTNERS IN PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND LEARNING



The people behind the programme

Henry Davies

Project management



Lizette Taljaard

Head-office management and administration



Mncedisi Nkosi

Mentor · Bergville and Okhahlamba



Paul Wiggill

Mentor · Newcastle, Dannhauser, Utrecht, Umzinyati and Zululand



Sihle Miya

Mentor · South Coast



Jabu Mdluli

Department of Agriculture advisor · Loskop



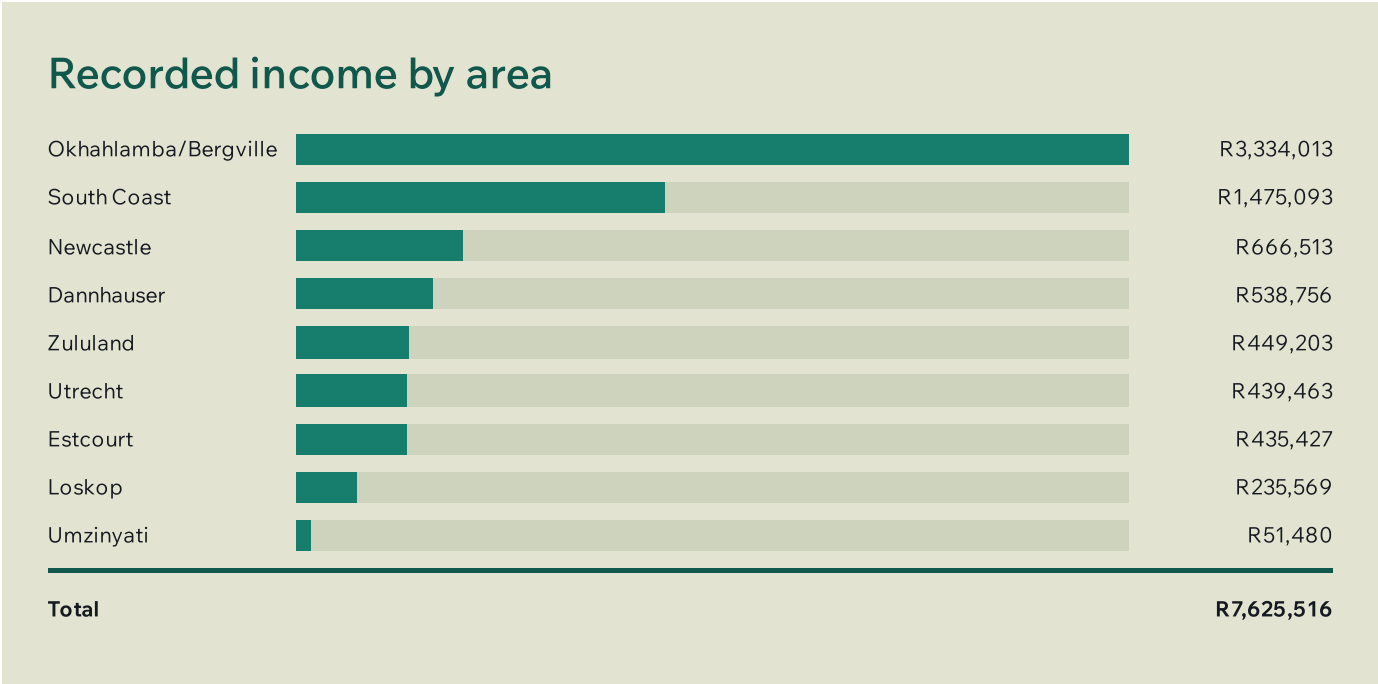
GG Mabaso

Department of Agriculture advisor · Estcourt



Area by area

Each area had its own season: recovering after hail, finding the right harvesting equipment, improving crop quality or following up a delivery.



Checking the roots of a soybean plant.

Okhahlamba / Bergville

Better support before more hectares

611.5

PLANTED HA

531.775

RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R3,334,012.67



A field discussion among the growing soybeans. Shared through the Bergville group, March 2026.

We started the season with farmer and advisor meetings about planning and improving results per hectare. Our mentors explained that we had to work within the funding available and concentrate our support. Farmers shared the problems they had met in earlier seasons and how they solved them.

At harvest time the roads, the terrain and access to the fields decided what each farmer could use: a combine, a tractor-drawn machine, a small thresher or hand harvesting. By May more farmers were using machinery, but hand harvesting continued in the areas that are hard to reach. Our priority for next season is to plan the harvesting method before planting.



Spraying the crop.

Loskop

Good fields and losses side by side

6337.379

PLANTED HARECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R235,568.93



Threshing the season's crop. Shared through the Loskop group, May 2026.

In Loskop some fields produced well and other entries have no recorded deliveries. In individual cases livestock damaged the crop. The total for the area hides these differences.

Our priority is to follow up with each farmer concerned on field protection, harvesting arrangements and deliveries. We need to know whether a crop was lost or whether a delivery was late or not recorded, so that the farmer and advisor can plan the next step.



A field discussion in the growing crop.

Estcourt

A few strong results, many with no harvest recorded

6570.129

PLANTED HARECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R435,426.80



Walking the crop together. Shared through the Estcourt group, February 2026.

In Estcourt a small number of entries produced most of the area's crop, while many have no recorded tonnes. An average for the area would hide this.

Next season our support must start with those differences: confirm each farmer's result, understand what held them back and agree practical preparations with the local advisor. We are also still confirming the planted-area total for Estcourt.



Checking harvested soybeans.

Newcastle

Strong support from the Department of Agriculture

113.5 **115.648**

PLANTED HA RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R666,512.97



A field visit as the crop matures. Shared through the Newcastle group, April 2026.

The Department of Agriculture was closely involved in Newcastle, especially in helping farmers during harvesting and in meeting with Eden. Farmers were not all equally ready: in some cases land preparation or planting did not go ahead.

The lesson is to strengthen preparation and to agree who is responsible for what before inputs are allocated. The mentor and advisor need to know each farmer's readiness, equipment access and support needs so that they put their effort where it will help.



Loading inputs for delivery.

Dannhauser

A local partnership that works

125 **93.237**

PLANTED HA RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R538,756.11



A field-side discussion, with soybean plants in hand. Shared through the Dannhauser group, March 2026.

Farmers in Dannhauser took part well, and the agricultural advisory team worked closely with us through the season. In some cases a late change of planting land affected the results.

We learned that suitable fields must be chosen early and that visits should be arranged around clear local responsibilities. Keeping farmers, fields and advisors correctly linked makes our support more consistent and cuts avoidable travel.



Walking the maturing crop.

Utrecht

Replanting after hail

8169.440

PLANTED HARVESTED RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R439,462.81



Mature soybean rows approaching harvest. Shared through the Utrecht group, May 2026.

Hail hit Utrecht hard. Farmers replanted late, and some still went on to harvest. Results differ a great deal from one entry to the next, and several record losses from hail.

The farmers persevered, but there are limits to what they can recover from. In future we need to record when the damage happened and how bad it was, look at replanting options with the advisors and follow the recovery through the rest of the season. We are still confirming exactly which farmers were affected and how shared deliveries were allocated.



Setting up the planter.

Umzinyati

Rethinking how we work here

259.175

PLANTED HARVESTED RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R51,480.06



Checking plants in the field. Shared by the uMzinyathi mentor, March 2026.

Umzinyati had excessive rain, and in some places crops were abandoned. The area is large and it was difficult to give farmers enough advisor coverage. Our mentor recommends that we reconsider how the programme works here and build on the farming relationships that are strongest.

Before we decide on next season we will look at each farmer's experience and at the support available locally. What we need is an arrangement that works between farmer, mentor and advisor, with a clear record of field conditions and follow-up.



Planting.

Zululand

From harvest to a crop that sells

173

PLANTED HA

73.256

RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R449,202.51



Threshing soybeans and collecting the harvest. Shared through the Zululand group, May 2026.

By July some soybeans in Zululand were still being dried or cleaned, and some were sold to other buyers after being rejected at the intended market. Weather damage and crop quality made it harder to turn the harvest into income.

Our mentor’s direction is to work closely with the existing farmers and improve their results before adding new ones. Earlier harvesting arrangements, attention to quality and better records of deliveries to all buyers will make next season’s support more useful.



Checking the crop as it matures.

South Coast

A good crop, and a quality problem to solve

162 226.123

PLANTED HA RECORDED TONNES

Recorded income: R1,475,092.71



The season's harvested soybeans. Shared through the South Coast Ugu group, May 2026.

On the South Coast we worked in Ubuhlebezwe, Umzumbe and Greater Kokstad. Our mentors were active in the fields and worked well with the advisors, and farmers were willing to put in extra effort and inputs. The tonnage recorded here is an encouraging result in a difficult season.

Production quality needs attention. Moisture, morning glory, rejection by buyers, transport costs and delayed payments all affected farmers after harvest. To build on this result we must improve both the crop and the way it gets to market, and plan planting, harvesting and buyer requirements together.



A field visit in the growing crop.

05 EDUCATION, NUTRITION AND OPPORTUNITY

Training: from the field to the household

Learning has always been part of our work. This season we combined production skills with money skills and practical food preparation.

On 22 and 23 April 2026 we hosted financial training and Soy in Food training at Eden, sponsored by FNB Business. Agricultural advisors and interns took part as well.

The financial session covered budgeting, tracking expenses, saving, planning and making responsible decisions. In the Soy in Food sessions we showed simple ways to make soy milk, yoghurt, soy nuts and biscuits using okara, and covered healthy eating and food hygiene. Participants practised, tasted what they had made and took soybeans home to carry on.

Women took part strongly in the food sessions. This training links the crop in the field with food on the table, affordable protein and a possible small business.



Financial training at Eden · April 2026.



Soy in Food: cooking together.



Soy in Food: practical preparation together · April 2026.

22–23 APRIL 2026 · SPONSORED BY FNB BUSINESS



Attendance

43

Financial training

20 men · 19 women · 4 youth
22 April 2026

39

Soy in Food · day one

10 men · 24 women · 5 youth
22 April 2026

31

Soy in Food · day two

10 men · 19 women · 2 youth
23 April 2026

Soy is more than a crop to sell. It is skills, food on the table and the confidence to keep learning.

What we learned this season

01

Plan the whole season before planting

Land preparation, planting, crop protection, harvesting, storage and transport all depend on one another. We must discuss equipment and contractors early, with an alternative that suits each field.

02

Protect the value of the harvest

Tonnes are not the whole story. Moisture, weeds, cleaning, storage, buyer requirements and late payments decide how much money reaches the farmer. Harvest planning must include market quality and delivery arrangements.

03

Keep farmer, advisor and mentor working together

Our mentors mention strong cooperation between farmers, advisors and mentors again and again. Clear responsibilities, quick communication and reliable follow-up keep it going between visits.

04

Record what happened on each field

Hail damage, livestock in the field, late machinery and a missing delivery record each need a different response. A better history of each farmer and field will show our mentors what is needed and where to spend their time.



A tractor-powered thresher at work.



A tractor and planter working prepared land.

2026/27 OUTLOOK · PROGRESS AS AT OCTOBER 2026

Closer support for every farmer

UmlimiLink builds on the work we already do, with more regular communication, practical learning and better field information. The farmer, advisor and mentor stay at the centre.



What UmlimiLink is

UmlimiLink is the communication and record system we are building for Soy on the Move. Farmers receive short updates and learning on WhatsApp, in their own language. Mentors walk each field with their phone to map its boundary, and record their visits as voice notes that become a written record for that farmer and field. Each farmer's fields, visits, concerns and follow-up are kept in one place, so the next visit starts where the last one ended.

Every field we map can also be followed by satellite. The Sentinel-2 satellites pass over KwaZulu-Natal every few days, and from their images we can see how green each field is through the season. Next to the mentor's visits, this shows when a crop came up, when it struggled and when it was harvested, even in a week when nobody could reach the field.

By October 2026 we had started onboarding farmers and sending weekly updates. This is the next stage of our support for the season ahead; it is not part of the 2025/2026 results.

We start by reaching farmers on channels they already use, including WhatsApp. Short, clear information supports the conversation between visits: what was seen, what needs attention, what to discuss with the advisor and what follow-up is still outstanding.

For advisors and mentors we want a clearer view of each farmer's fields, progress through the season, earlier concerns and support needs. Weather information, field observations and satellite information all help, but they must always be checked against local knowledge and the field itself.

Education runs through all of this. Onboarding helps people use the support that is available, and practical learning builds their farming skills. We want short lessons, discussion and follow-up to match the decisions farmers face through the season.

One farmer's record, as UmlimiLink holds it

Sicelo Stanley Hadebe

Ubuhlebezwe · KwaZulu-Natal

Preparing to plant

MENTOR	CROP	FIELDS WALKED	VISIT REPORTS	FIELD PHOTOS
Sihle Miya	Soya, 2026/27	5, on 19 September 2026	6 voice notes, written up	9

ON THE GROUND, 19 SEP

FROM SPACE, 11 OCT

GREENNESS, 11 OCT

Field 1

6.3 ha



Field 5

14.3 ha



Fields walked

19 Sep 2026

Planting window

1 Nov – 31 Dec

Expected harvest

11 Mar – 30 May 2027

"This field is approximately 4.89 hectares, and then this area is also not done anything yet, but was planted soybean last season."

Sihle Miya, voice note at Field 4, 19 September 2026

Sicelo Stanley Hadebe farms five fields in Ubuhlebezwe, and his mentor walked all five in September. Fields 1 and 5 are shown. Each row shows the field from the ground, from space inside the walked boundary, and how green it is: green where plants are growing, orange to red where the soil is bare. These images were taken before planting, so the green is grass and weeds, not a crop; through the season the same view follows the soya. Planting and harvest dates are the district calendar until a planting date is recorded. Satellite images: Copernicus Sentinel-2, sharpened from 10 m with ESA OpenSR; greenness is measured on the original 10 m pixels. Shown with the farmer's consent.

01

Observe

Bring field observations, farmer questions and seasonal information together.

02

Review

Let the mentor or advisor interpret what matters in the local context.

03

Explain

Share a useful update and practical explanation through accessible channels.

04

Follow up

Keep the conversation going and record the response or support still needed.



Soybeans fresh from the pod.

Five commitments

Regenerative agriculture	We will build practical learning around soil condition, soil cover, crop rotation and water management, with advice that suits each area. We will record what farmers adopt before we claim any change in soil health or carbon.
Global warming and a changing climate	We will help farmers prepare for heat, dry spells, intense rain and fields they cannot reach. We will combine updated seasonal guidance with what we see locally and with practical contingency plans, and explain clearly how uncertain a forecast is.
Conservation agriculture	We will continue the programme’s learning and partnerships in conservation agriculture, and help farmers look at soil protection, crop sequences and suitable equipment for their own fields and resources.
Food security	We will link more reliable production and market quality with food skills in the household, and extend Soy in Food training and follow-up so that the nutritional value of soy stays part of our purpose.
Women and children in agriculture	We will support women’s participation in production, learning and household food decisions. The wellbeing of children remains part of our food-security purpose.

The farmer, advisor and mentor stay at the centre.
Better information helps them work together through
the whole season.

Preparing for an El Niño season

On 8 October 2026 NOAA confirmed an established and strengthening El Niño. South Africa’s Department of Agriculture has called for moisture conservation, careful production decisions and attention to early warnings. This makes timely, local support even more important. A seasonal outlook cannot tell us what will happen on any one farm.

Sources: NOAA, 8 October 2026 · Department of Agriculture, 2 September 2026. Long-term warming and El Niño variability are distinct; both inform preparedness.

What we undertake

We undertake to keep this programme going where it already has people on the ground, to keep the support farmers value, to help advisors and mentors respond more precisely, and to show our partners more clearly what that support achieves.

01 Keep one clear record for each farmer

We will agree a practical record of each farmer or group, their fields, advisor, mentor and current season. We will link observations and follow-up to that record, and protect personal information.

02 Make communication useful and easy to understand

We will develop clear weekly information and short learning material suited to farmers' language and access needs. We will check that messages are understood, and give farmers a way to ask questions and reach a person.

03 Prepare for difficult conditions

We will go through planting and harvesting readiness, equipment access, weather risks and market requirements with farmers, and use updated guidance as conditions change.

04 Measure what happens after support

We will track the support delivered, the issues followed up, who takes part in learning and what farmers change in practice. We will keep the definitions of production, deliveries and income the same from season to season so that progress can be shown clearly.

05 Grow only as fast as evidence and capacity allow

We will consolidate the early work, learn from farmers and mentors, and agree with our partners the people, operating resources and funding needed for wider use. A costed plan for the next phase will follow those decisions.

Funding for the future

What your support makes possible

Mentor time and field visits. Practical learning material. Communication farmers can reach. Field records and weather information that have been reviewed. Better preparation for harvesting and markets. These are the basics of a support service farmers can depend on.



Growing soybean fields beneath the hills.

How we will show progress

We will track the farmers we actually reach, the support delivered, the issues followed up, participation in learning and documented changes in practice. We will set these beside agreed production and income measures, bearing in mind the effect of weather, machinery and markets.

THANK YOU

Standing with farmers. Season after season.

We invite our partners to walk the next season with us: keep the human relationships, strengthen practical learning and make our support fit each farmer's circumstances.

office@edenfoundation.org.za



Spraying by hand.

Season figures and notes

2025/26 figures by area

Area	Entries	Men	Women	Planned ha	Planted ha	Tonnes	Income R
Okhahlamba/Bergville	71	66	21	594	611.5	531.775	3,334,012.67
Estcourt	16	12	4	54	65	70.129	435,426.80
Loskop	12	11	3	63	63	37.379	235,568.93
Newcastle	26	25	9	128	113.5	115.648	666,512.97
Dannhauser	13	11	2	125	125	93.237	538,756.11
Utrecht	15	12	3	81	81	69.440	439,462.81
Zululand	29	34	29	183	173	73.256	449,202.51
Umzinyati	4	8	1	35	25	9.175	51,480.06
South Coast	16	18	3	184	162	226.123	1,475,092.71
Total	202	197	75	1,447	1,419	1,226.162	7,625,515.57

2025/26 figures by mentor, advisor and area

#	Name / area	Entries	Men	Women	Planned ha	Planted ha	Tonnes	Income R
Okhahlamba Mncedisi Nkosi, ESDF Mentor								
1	Bongiwe Luvuno Advisor, Department of Agriculture	12	11	1	197	192	191.458	1,226,676.33
2	LM Khumalo Advisor, Department of Agriculture	4	4	0	33	33	24.235	154,840.87
3	SG Madlala Advisor, Department of Agriculture	23	26	13	121	136.5	106.007	629,207.77
4	Thabisile Makhathini Advisor, Department of Agriculture	3	3	0	33	29	9.317	54,971.70
5	XP Fakude Advisor, Department of Agriculture	6	4	2	20	19	10.091	63,775.15
6	Carol Kubone Advisor, Department of Agriculture	18	14	4	126	143	169.324	1,066,678.54
7	SM Mtshali Advisor, Department of Agriculture	5	4	1	64	59	21.343	137,862.31
Other areas Advisors and mentors by area								
8	Estcourt · GG Mabaso Advisor, Department of Agriculture	16	12	4	54	65	70.129	435,426.80
9	Loskop · Jabu Mdluli Soil Scientist, Department of Agriculture	12	11	3	63	63	37.379	235,568.93
10	Newcastle Paul Wiggill, ESDF Mentor	26	25	9	128	113.5	115.648	666,512.97
11	Dannhauser Paul Wiggill, ESDF Mentor	13	11	2	125	125	93.237	538,756.11
12	Utrecht Paul Wiggill, ESDF Mentor	15	12	3	81	81	69.440	439,462.81
13	Zululand Paul Wiggill, ESDF Mentor	29	34	29	183	173	73.256	449,202.51
14	Umzinyati Paul Wiggill, ESDF Mentor	4	8	1	35	25	9.175	51,480.06
15	South Coast · Kokstad Sihle Miya, ESDF Mentor	5	4	1	25	17	20.156	125,324.73
16	South Coast · Ubuhlebezwe Sihle Miya, ESDF Mentor	8	11	2	153	139	204.071	1,338,960.80
17	South Coast · UguUmzumbe Sihle Miya, ESDF Mentor	3	3	0	6	6	1.896	10,807.18

The programme since 2010/11

Annual figures · Planting and Soy in Food

Season		Funding R	Men	Women	Hectares	Tonnes	Income R
2010/11	Planting	425,745	—	—	—	—	—
	Soy in Food	—	45	61	—	—	—
2011/12	Planting	310,940	3	—	24	10	55,450
	Soy in Food	—	25	53	—	—	—
2012/13	Planting	663,295	1	—	50	14	70,280
	Soy in Food	—	15	30	—	—	—
2013/14	Planting	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Soy in Food	—	—	—	—	—	—
2014/15	Planting	762,689	2	—	33	40	209,760
	Soy in Food	—	26	184	—	—	—
2015/16	Planting	876,868	2	—	2	—	—
	Soy in Food	—	17	79	—	—	—
2016/17	Planting	865,606	3	—	16	35	189,000
	Soy in Food	—	31	331	—	—	—
2017/18	Planting	1,090,592	41	28	124	150	660,000
	Soy in Food	—	8	671	—	—	—
2018/19	Planting	1,266,055	65	21	178	268	1,555,200
	Soy in Food	—	23	67	—	—	—
2019/20	Planting	1,454,030	171	122	282	255	2,071,092
	Soy in Food	—	29	366	—	—	—
2020/21	Planting	1,365,120	210	161	541	554	3,896,598
	Soy in Food	—	45	540	—	—	—
2021/22	Planting	4,794,391	191	215	1,164	1,155	7,840,863
	Soy in Food	—	257	327	—	—	—
2022/23	Planting	8,231,430	728	699	1,744	1,296	9,801,670
2023/24	Planting	13,498,935	634	417	2,074	1,869	15,063,614

Season		Funding R	Men	Women	Hectares	Tonnes	Income R
2024/25	Planting	10,529,170	238	89	1,835	1,221	8,130,406
2025/26	Planting	5,007,966	197	75	1,419	1,226	7,625,516
	Soy in Food	—	20	23	—	—	—
Total		51,142,832	3,027	4,559	9,486	8,093	57,169,449



A farmer in his field.



Pods filling on the plant.



Walking a crop ready for harvest.