

EDEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION REPORT 2024/2025

**CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SOY PLANTING TO WARRANT SUSTAINABLE
INCOME & FOOD SECURITY**



Oil & Protein Seed Development Trust



Olie- & Proteïensade Ontwikkelingstrust

Our sponsors:

Oil & Protein Seed Development Trust



Olie- & Proteïensade Ontwikkelingstrust

The Eden Social Development Foundation (ESDF) sincerely thanks the Oil Protein Development Trust (OPDT) for its invaluable support over the past 12 years. Your contribution has been instrumental in the success of our project. ESDF remains confident that with the continued support of OPDT and other key stakeholders, the *Soy on the Move* program will reach even greater heights and achieve further impactful accomplishments.



We extend our sincere gratitude to SACTA for their valuable support over the past year and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.

Our Partnerships:



We extend our sincere gratitude to all Agricultural Advisors for their hard work and dedication in supporting farmers and their crops, even under challenging circumstances.



ESDF extends its gratitude to MBFi, a registered manufacturer and supplier of agricultural products to the global farming community, for providing a Foundation Bucket. This bucket contains all products supplied to ESDF, conveniently pre-packed in one-hectare units.

Meet the ESDF team!



HENRY DAVIES

Project manager



LIZETTE TALJAARD

Head Office management and administration.



PAUL WIGGAL

Project coordinator and advisor working in
Greytown/ Weenen/ Paul Pietersburg/
Vryheid/ Newcastle/ Dannhauser & Utrecht.



MEDI NKOSI

(Baccalaureus Agriculture (University of the Freestate))

Project coordinator and advisor working in Okhahlamba.



JERRY MAZWE

Project coordinator and advisor working in the Eastern Cape



THSEPISO MADIGWA

Bachelor of Agriculture (University of the Free State) & Baccalaureus of Agriculture Honors Rural Development (University of Pretoria)

Project coordinator and advisor working in Limpopo.



SITHEMBISO MHLANGA

National Diploma Agriculture Crop Production (Mangosuthu University of Technology) & Baccalaureus Technologies Agriculture Crop Production (Tshwane University of Technology)

Project coordinator and advisor working in Mpumalanga.



SIHLE MIYA

National Diploma Agriculture (Mangosuthu University of Technology) & Baccalaureus Technologiae Management (UNISA)

Project coordinator and advisor working in Southern KZN.

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED				TOTAL FARMER IMPACT				
Year	Amount	Total	Farmers		Ha	Tons	R/c	Total
			M	W				
2010 - 2011	R425 745,00	R425 745,00	-	-	,05	05	-	-
2011 - 2012	R310 940,00	R736 685,00	3	-	24	10	R55 450,00	R55 450,00
2012 - 2013	R663 295,00	R1 399 980,00	1	-	50	14	R70 280,00	R125 730,00
2013 - 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014 - 2015	R762 689,00	R2 162 669,00	2	-	33	40	R209 760,00	R335 490,00
2015 - 2016	R876 868,00	R3 039 537,00	2	-	2	-	-	-
2016 - 2017	R865 606,00	R3 965 143,00	3	-	16	35	R189 000,00	R524 490,00
2017 - 2018	R1 090 592,00	R4 995 736,00	41	28	124	150	R660 000,00	R1 184 490,00
2018 - 2019	R1 266 055,00	R6 261 790,00	65	21	178	268	R1 555 200,00	R2 739 690,00
2019 - 2020	R1 454 030,00	R7 715 820,00	171	122	282	255	R2 071 092,00	R4 810 728,00
2020 - 2021	R1 365 120,00	R9 080 940,00	210	161	541	554	R3 896 598,00	R8 707 380,00
2021 - 2022	R4 794 391,00	R13 875 331,00	191	215	1164	1155	R7 840 863,00	R16 548 243,00
2022 - 2023	R8 231 430,00	R22 106 761,00	728	699	1744	1296	R9 801 670,00	R26 349 913,00
2023 - 2024	R13 498 935,00	R35 605 696,00	634	417	2074	1869	R15 063 614,00	R41 413 527,00
2024 - 2025	R10 529 170,00	R46 134 866,00	238	89	1835	1221	R8 130 406,00	R49 543 933,00

Utilization and Modification of Threshers Donated by SACTA

The 10 small threshers donated by SACTA in 2024 were utilized during the 2025 harvesting season. ESDF implemented several modifications to improve their efficiency, including repositioning the V-belts between the petrol motor and the threshers, as well as adjusting the inlet opening to feed into the thresher rotor from the top. These modifications proved successful, as all 10 machines operated throughout the season without requiring V-belt replacements. Furthermore, feeding directly into the rotor significantly increased the threshers' capacity.



Foundation Bucket Contribution by MBFi

MBFi supplied products in smaller, pre-packed quantities, consolidated into a Foundation Bucket designed to meet the requirements for planting one hectare.



KwaZulu Natal Provincial Extension Co-Ordinator's Forum

ESDF attended the KwaZulu-Natal PECF quarterly Zoom meetings. Despite extensive discussions, no tangible progress has been observed at farmer level to report on.

OAC & SACTA Visit

Date: 26 & 27 February 2025

Attendees: 26 Attendees (6 Female & 20 Male attendees)

Mr. Gerhard Keun and Dr. Erhard Briedenhann from the OAC, together with Mr. Sandile Mlanga and Mr. Andrew Bennet from SACTA, visited several soybean fields in the Okhahlamba District. All advisors from the Okhahlamba Department of Agriculture involved in the ESDF project also participated in these visits.



Soybean Information Day and Farmer Visit with the Department of Agriculture

Date: 19 – 20 March 2025

Venue: Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, Harry Gwala District

Attendees: 42 (20 Female & 22 Male)



UBuhlebezwe Local Office *Equips farmers through information sharing sessions*

On Thursday, 20 March 2025, KZN DARD, in partnership with the **EDEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**, held a harmonious soya production information sharing session in the Kwa-Thathani area, Ward 10, Harry Gwala District.

Proceedings of the day commenced with visits to Buningham and Chartwell farms, which are local soybean producers. The main objective of this visit was to assess the performance of plants and farm management, as these two aspects impact expected yields.

The **EDEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION** is a non-profit organisation which provides mainly soya seeds, agrochemicals and mentorship to our soybean producers. Representatives from **Dard Soil Sciences, Research** and **RASET** were present to educate and elaborate to farmers on services, programmes and opportunities put in place to elevate our small-scale farmers into commercial producers.



Soybean Information Day and Farmer Visit with the Department of Agriculture

Date: 25 March 2025

Venue: Umzumbe Municipality, Ugu District

Attendees: 40 (19 Female & 21 Male)

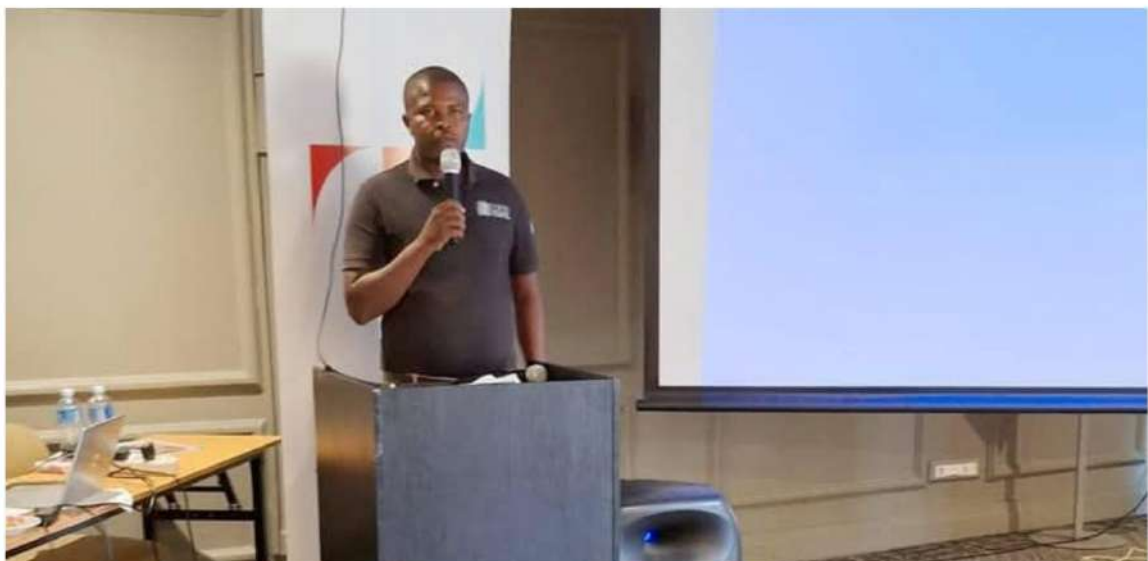


Stakeholders Meeting

Date: 15 May 2025

Venue: Mthatha Municipality, OR Tambo District, Eastern Cape

A meeting was convened between the Eden Social Development Foundation and Tanager (Imbewu Farmer Development Project – www.tanager.com). The parties are considering potential collaboration opportunities within the OR Tambo District.



Vhembe District Municipality Agriculture Forum Meeting

Date: 29 May 2025

Attendees: 21 Attendees

During the meeting, it was noted that the Municipality would support the farmers' project by incorporating soy. However, no feedback has been received on this matter to date.



Department of Agriculture Landcare Project and Agriculture Research Council (ARC)

Date: 3 June 2025

Venue: ESDF Premises, Bergville, Okhahlamba Municipality

Attendees: 45 Attendees (13 Female & 32 Male attendees)

Through the Department of Agriculture's Land Care project, in collaboration with the ARC, three BPI soy and maize threshers were donated for use in the Okhahlamba, Newcastle, and Paul Pietersburg areas. ESDF, in partnership with ARC, facilitated a Farmers' Day focused on Conservation Agriculture mechanization. During this event, BPI conducted demonstrations and provided training on the proper use of the threshing machines for soy processing



Executive Summary: Soy Information Day

During October and November 2024, the Eden Social Development Foundation (ESDF) facilitated several Soybean Training and Information Days across four provinces: Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. These sessions aimed to equip farmers, agricultural advisors, and other stakeholders with essential knowledge and practical skills for sustainable soybean production.

The events were well attended and highlighted strong farmer engagement, peer-to-peer learning, and departmental support. Key challenges included manual harvesting, pest outbreaks, weather disruptions, and limited equipment. Across provinces, enthusiasm to expand soybean production was evident, with both new and returning farmers demonstrating commitment. Inputs have been distributed, and preparations are underway for the 2024/25 planting season.

Date	Mentor	Where	Attendees	
			M	F
Southern Natal				
03/10/2024	Sihle Miya	Emazabekweni Ubuhlebezwe	8	13
Mpumalanga				
08/10/2024	Sithembiso Mhlanga	Mzinti Nkomazi	16	21
Eastern Cape				
23/10/2024	Lwazi Mazwi	Zixholosini Ngqeleni	24	19
Limpopo				
05/11/2024	Tshepiso Madiga	Makwarela Vhembe	10	7
		TOTAL:	58	60

Soybean Information Day Report: South Coast

Date: 3 October 2024

Venue: Emazabekweni Area, Ward 12, Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality

Attendees: 21 (8 Female & 13 Male)

Background

In previous seasons, Eden Social Development Foundation (ESDF) conducted training sessions for farmers and agricultural advisors to build capacity in soybean production. For the 2024/2025 season, ESDF introduced a Soybean Information Day to bring together all stakeholders—including experienced farmers, aspiring farmers, and agricultural advisors—to strengthen collaboration and improve production outcomes.

Attendance & Participation

The event was well-attended, with only a few apologies due to health or other commitments.

Farmers, advisors, and officials participated actively throughout the programme.

The session began on time and was marked by strong eagerness and concentration.

Programme Highlights

- Presentation by Eden Mentor: Overview of ESDF, programme objectives, and background on soybean production.
- Interactive Question Session:
- Farmers led the discussions by sharing experiences and asking questions.
- Advisors and officials responded to technical and departmental matters.

Experience Sharing:

Experienced farmers highlighted their successes and challenges, offering practical guidance to new farmers. Discussions covered challenges faced last season and mitigation strategies.

Visual Learning: The Mentor presented photos illustrating both good and poor practices to sharpen farmers' understanding for the new season.

Collaboration: Agricultural Advisors assisted in planning, transporting farmers, and responding to queries. They also committed to following up on old harvesting machinery.

Challenges Identified:

- Absence of Harvesting Contractor: No representative attended to provide guidance on successful harvesting practices.
- Limited Hectares: Eden Mentor was allocated 67 hectares, but farmers requested an increase to 70 hectares.
- Harvesting Tools: Shortage of appropriate harvesting tools continues to hinder expansion and efficiency.

Outcome:

The Information Day was a success, achieving its goals of equipping farmers with knowledge, encouraging peer-to-peer learning, and fostering stronger collaboration among all stakeholders. Farmers left with improved awareness and practical insights to strengthen soybean production in the 2024/2025 season.

Soybean Information Day Report: Mpumalanga

Date: 08 November 2024

Venue: Mzinti Training Centre, Nkomazi

Attendees: 37 participants (21 males, 16 females)

Background:

The Information Day was organized for both new and returning farmers in the Nkomazi and Mbombela soybean production project. Its main objective was to introduce new farmers to soybean production and refresh returning farmers' knowledge. Training was delivered in Zulu, with manuals provided in English. Meals (breakfast and lunch) were provided.

Programme Progress

The one-day training ran from 09h00 to 16h30, including tea and lunch breaks.

Farmers and officials demonstrated high engagement, asking many relevant questions throughout the day.

Core topics covered:

- Planting date and field preparation
- Inoculation and planting methods
- Weed control
- Fertilization and nutrient requirements
- Harvesting practices

Participation

Farmers actively engaged in discussions, asking questions and sharing experiences.

Agricultural officials also contributed by responding to technical queries and supporting knowledge-sharing. The interactive format encouraged peer learning among farmers.

Challenges Identified:

- Harvesting difficulties raised by returning farmers.
- Bollworm attacks and heat waves, which negatively affected yields in the past season.

Progress Plan (Way Forward):

All farmers must complete land preparation as inputs have already been distributed.

Farmers will commence planting once the rains arrive, ensuring timely crop establishment.

Soybean Information Day Report: Eastern Cape

Date: 23 October 2025

Venue: Zixholosini, Ngqeleni

Attendees: 43 (24 Female & 19 Male)

The Information Day was successfully held at Zixholosini location, Ngqeleni with strong attendance from all targeted farmers who will be planting in the upcoming season.

Key Discussions:

- Reviewed the province's poor performance in the last season.
- Introduced measures to improve yields, with a particular focus on improved trashing practices, identified as a major cause of reduced harvests.
- Farmers shared their experiences and challenges, which included:
 - Heavy rains and storms from the previous season.
 - The ongoing difficulty of manual harvesting.

Participation

Farmers actively participated, filled in forms, and provided input for the new season.

Agricultural Advisors supported the event by transporting farmers, attending sessions, and outlining strategies to improve yields this season.

Challenges Identified

Manual harvesting remains the primary challenge, contributing significantly to reduced efficiency and low productivity.

Overall Outcome

The Information Day was a success, strengthening collaboration between farmers and advisors while laying the groundwork for improved yields in the new season.

Soybean Information Day Report: Limpopo Province

Date: 05 November 2024

Venue: Apostolic Unit Church, Tshilapfene Mungindini, Thohoyandou (Vhembe District)

Attendance: 17 participants (7 Female & 10 Male)

Background:

The training day was hosted with the objective of equipping farmers and officials with essential knowledge for successful soybean production. Training was delivered in Sepedi, English, and TshiVenda to accommodate participants' language needs.

Programme Progress:

The session began with strong participation, including a friendly debate on planting times and pre-emergence herbicides. Farmers and officials actively exchanged information, with ongoing Q&A contributing to high knowledge transfer in a short time.

Key topics included:

- Soybean production practices.
- Explanation of input packages and their role in production.
- Case studies with photos showing good and poor practices from previous seasons.

Processing Presentation:

Mrs. Mokgadi Ramoroka (Capricorn District Advisor) had prepared a session on soya yoghurt and okara snacks. In her absence, Dr. Masindeni-Ndou presented and facilitated a tasting session (flavours: plain and banana). Plain yoghurt was the most popular.

Participation

All attendees, including farmers and advisors, actively participated and asked questions. Farmers Mr. Makweaba Rector, Mr. T.A. Shokane, and Mr. M. Neluonde shared personal testimonies from the previous season, motivating new participants. The yoghurt tasting was especially well-received and highlighted opportunities in soybean value addition.

Challenges Identified:

- Low attendance compared to expectations.
- Clashes with other events: Some farmers could not attend due to scheduling conflicts.
- Transport constraints prevented Moletete CPA representatives from attending.
- Language barriers: Delivering in multiple languages made explaining technical terms more difficult.

Progress Plan (Way Forward):

Farmers from Capricorn, Mopani, and Vhembe Districts were briefed on their responsibilities for the new season. Fields must be prepared as inputs have already been delivered. Growing interest in soybean cultivation in Limpopo suggests the potential to identify more capable producers and expand overall production.

Soybean Information Day



2024/2025 Planting Season Summary

Uthukela: Okhahlamba, Bergville

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
	4	SM Mtshali	3	1		77	104	87,159	0,635	R589 102,84
	15	Bongi Luvuno	14	1		222	258	212,819	0,887	R1 481 779,95
	7	X P Fakude	5	2		23	23	9,333	0,54	R62 523,33
	17	Carol Kubone	14	3		120	138	172,166	1,13	R1 182 373,58
	4	L M Khumalo	4	-		26	24	36,831	1,508	R246 473,41
	8	T Makhathini	6	2		45	57	46,082	1,092	R320 426,47
	5	TPS Sithole	3	2		14	4	1,71	0,57	R11 480,30
	26	S G Madlala	38	22		143	134	102,866	0,659	R655 311,78
Total:	86	8	87	33	650	670	742	668,966	0,902	R4 549 471,66

Key Challenges: Dry spells, excessive rain, slow threshers & flooded fields.

Progress Plan: Continue with current farmers, reduce the hectares & focus on yield per hectare.

Uthukela: Okhahlamba, Loskop

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	27	4	25	4	228	171	140	56,447	0,403	R384 487,50

Key Challenges: Outdated equipment, lack of storage & mold due to delayed rains.

Progress Plan: Support existing farmers only and improve yield per hectare.

Inkosi Langalibalele, Estcourt

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	24	1	18	9	66	57	54	14,181	0,278	R95 686,44

Key Challenges: Extreme weather conditions.

Progress Plan: Support existing farmers only and improve yield per hectare.

Amajuba Newcastle

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	24	8	20	4	233	234	228	117,408	0,515	R753 153,34

Key Challenges: Heatwave, flooding, spraying & harvesting delays.

Progress Plan: No expansion & improve yield/ha.

Amajuba: Dannhauser

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	9	4	7	2	81	81	81	75,378	0,931	R498 125,37

Key Challenges: Extreme weather, manual harvesting & Equipment breakdowns

Progress Plan: Work only with farmers delivering to ESDF & focus on yield/ha

Amajuba: Utrecht

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	3	3	3	-	44	44	44	13,131	0,298	R88 844,38

Key Challenges: Flooding, waterlogging and manual harvesting.

Progress Plan: Focus on yield/ha

Zululand

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield/ Ha	Income
Greytown/Dundee										
	8	4	16	6	45	95	90	75,486	0,839	R505 532,94
Paul Pietersburg/ Vryheid										
	20	9	17	3	262	261	209	59,932	0,284	R394 000,55
Total:	28	13	33	9	307	356	299	135,418	0,562	R899 533,49

Key Challenges: Heavy rains, downgraded soybeans & reliance on rented harvesters.

Progress Plan: Expand hectares for strong farmers. No new farmers.

South Coast

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Harry Gwala										
	7	6	6	1	72	72	82	85,77	1,046	R488 049,04
Ugu										
	2	3	3	-	3	3	3	1,2	0,4	R5 584,88
Total:	9	9	9	1	75	75	85	86,97	1,023	R493 633,92

Key Challenges: Poor germination due to inefficient planting by contractor, soy rust & old mechanization tools.

Progress Plan: Focus on yield/ha & pilot 20ha in Kokstad.

Eastern Cape

Areas		Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield /ha	Income
OR Thambo										
	11	12	16	11	45	45	44	23,034	0,524	R155 490,45
Amathole										
	4	4	5	1	5	5	5	1,028	0,206	R6 946,20
Total:	15	16	21	12	50	50	49	24,062	0,491	R162 436,65

Key Challenges: Heavy rains, outdated equipment and weak advisor participation.

Progress Plan: No planting next season. Need Department of Agriculture's involvement.

Mpumalanga

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Nkomazi										
	11	6	3	8	25	25	23	3,453	0,150	R23 762,14
Mbombela										
	12	5	11	1	25	25	23	4,696	0,204	R32 309,17
Total:	23	11	14	9	50	50	46	8,149	0,162	R56 071,31

Key Challenges: Heatwaves, delayed rains, lack of equipment and pod shattering.

Progress Plan: Discontinue soy production in Mpumalanga.

Limpopo

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
	11	8	19	15	38	38	38	35,291	0,989	R244 648,53
Total:	11	8	19	15	38	38	38	35,291	0,989	R244 648,53

Key Challenges: Unreliable farmers, poor germination from unsuitable planters & no threshers.

Progress Plan: No ESDF facilitation next season.

Project Total 2024 – 2025 season

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	260	84	256	98	1842	1833	1810	1235.95	0,585	R8 226 092,59

KwaZulu Natal remains the strongest performing province, particularly Okhahlamba with yields above 0,9 ton/ha and income exceeding R4.5 million. Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga showed very low yields and will not continue next season due to farmer reliability, outdated equipment, weak Departmental Support and Funding cuts. South Coast achieved positive results with an average yield of 1.023ton/ha. A new 20ha pilot in Kokstad is planned. Common challenges across the regions include extreme weather (heatwave, Floods), lack of suitable equipment and lack of Department of Agriculture support. ESDF's strategy moving forward is to consolidate efforts, reduce hectares where necessary and focus on maximizing yields where necessary.

Planting Okhahlamba 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Uthukela

Local Municipality: Okhahlamba

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
	4	SM Mtshali	3	1		77	104	87,159	0,635	R589 102,84
	15	Bongi Luvuno	14	1		222	258	212,819	0,887	R1 481 779,95
	7	X P Fakude	5	2		23	23	9,333	0,54	R62 523,33
	17	Carol Kubone	14	3		120	138	172,166	1,13	R1 182 373,58
	4	L M Khumalo	4320	-		26	24	36,831	1,508	R246 473,41
	8	T Makhathini	6	2		45	57	46,082	1,092	R320 426,47
	5	TPS Sithole	3	2		14	4	1,71	0,57	R11 480,30
	26	S G Madlala	38	22		143	134	102,866	0,659	R655 311,78
Total:	86	8	87	33	650	670	742	668,966	0,902	R4 549 471,66

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The majority of advisors in the Okhahlamba area consistently exceed expectations in their roles and demonstrate exemplary commitment.

Provincial & National:

Mr. Bright Masinga, a soil scientist based in Cedara, is collaborating with the ESDF to support local farmers in implementing Conservation Agriculture practices. The farmers have received threshers and planters provided by the Department of Agriculture's Landcare Projects.

General

Farmers:

Farmers who have continuously cultivated soybeans with ESDF over the past four years are achieving higher yields, even under extreme weather conditions.

Crop:

The dry spell in November and elevated temperatures during the October planting period led to suboptimal germination rates. Additionally, excessive rainfall resulted in waterlogged fields, preventing farmers from accessing their land during critical periods. Crop yields are notably lower in areas where planting occurred in low-lying fields.

Equipment:

Threshers operate at a slow pace, allowing only one farmer to utilize each machine per season. Additional threshers are required to meet demand.



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Harvesting:

Combine harvesters became immobilized in the fields, leading harvesting contractors to withdraw from areas they could not reach. Farmers utilized threshers in locations inaccessible to the combines. While threshers proved beneficial, their slow capacity extended the harvesting period until the end of August.

Challenges:

Harvesting operations were complicated by flooded fields resulting from extreme weather conditions.

Progress Plan:

We will continue to collaborate with the same group of farmers in the upcoming season, cultivating fewer hectares while concentrating on maximizing yields.

Okhahlamba



Okhahlamba



Planting Loskop 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Uthukela

Local Municipality: Okhahlamba - Loskop

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	27	4	25	4	228	171	140	56,447	0,403	R384 487,50

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The Advisors were involved in the project.

Provincial & National:

Mr. J. Mdluli exceeded expectations in providing mentorship for the identified planting areas.

General

Farmers:

Farmers engaged actively in their soybean fields. This area served as a pilot region for experimentation to reevaluate the current project operating framework.

Crop:

The farmers received support to properly prepare their fields, including the application of lime and soil ripping to address various soil issues. Where these corrective measures were implemented, average yields exceeded typical levels.

Equipment:

A shortage of equipment has hindered proper field preparation, with outdated planters causing germination challenges. The Department of Agriculture provided one No-Till Planter for use in the upcoming season.

Harvesting:

Harvesting is predominantly performed manually, and losses are incurred during threshing due to the slow process.

Challenges:

Heavy rainfall, extreme heat, and insufficient suitable equipment continue to present significant obstacles.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will collaborate with existing farmers for the next planting season. The total planted hectares will be reduced for improved manageability, with an emphasis on increasing yield per hectare.

Loskop



Loskop



Planting Estcourt 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Uthukela

Local Municipality: Inkosi Langalibalele (Estcourt)

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	24	1	18	9	66	57	54	14,181	0,278	R95 686,44

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

Currently, Advisor Mr. GG Mabaso is the sole representative for the area, collaborating with ESDF, and he is performing his responsibilities exceptionally well.

Provincial & National:

The farmers received no help from Provincial and National Department of Agriculture.

General

Farmers:

Many farmers did not plant this season; however, we successfully recovered the raw materials. Those who did plant made commendable efforts, despite facing a challenging season.

Crop:

The crop yield was average. There was insufficient support provided by the Department of Agriculture.

Equipment:

While all farmers possess equipment, it is outdated and requires significant maintenance, leading to frequent breakdowns during planting and spraying operations. The farmers urgently require resources to repair and maintain their equipment.

Harvesting:

All harvesting was performed manually with the use of a thresher, a process that is labor-intensive and time-consuming.

Challenges:

Farmers currently lack adequate storage facilities for harvested soybeans. Additionally, delayed rainfall resulted in significant crop damage and increased the incidence of mold in the soybeans.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will not be onboarding new farmers at this time; support will be provided exclusively to those who have planted during the past season. The primary objective will be to enhance yield per hectare.

Estcourt



Estcourt



Planting Newcastle 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Amajuba

Local Municipality: Newcastle

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	24	8	20	4	233	234	228	117,408	0,515	R753 153,34

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The advisors are actively engaging and coordinating with their respective farmers and the ESDF. The Department of Agriculture has provided a moisture tester to assess soybean moisture levels prior to harvest.

Provincial & National:

The Department of Agriculture did not provide any inputs to the farmers. The Landcare Project supplied one new no-till planter and one threshing machine.

General

Farmers:

The farmers took part in the project. However, a few participants lost interest during the planting period, citing insufficient equipment and delays caused by contractors not arriving as scheduled.

Crop:

Certain areas required replanting due to an unseasonal heatwave in November. Subsequently, heavy rainfall later in the season created challenges for spraying and harvesting operations. Some fields experienced significant washout, resulting in crop loss.

Equipment:

This region experiences fewer equipment-related challenges compared to others. Larger farming operations often provide planting and harvesting services under contract for smaller producers.

Harvesting:

Adverse wet conditions impeded access to certain fields by the combine harvester. As a result, farmers resorted to manual picking of soybeans, subsequently utilizing the combine for threshing.

Challenges:

Extreme weather conditions and shortages of harvesting equipment.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will not be accepting new farmers or expanding the hectares allocated to existing farmers in the upcoming season. The focus will instead be on enhancing yield per hectare.

Newcastle



Newcastle



Planting Dannhauser 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Amajuba

Local Municipality: Dannhauser

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	9	4	7	2	81	81	81	75,378	0,931	R498 125,37

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The advisors actively participate in the project by accompanying the ESDF mentor during farmer field visits, as well as conducting independent field assessments. They subsequently provide updates and report their findings within the WhatsApp group.

Provincial & National:

The Department of Agriculture did not provide fertilizer to the farmers.

General

Farmers:

Farmers are improving their soybean cultivation techniques and are adapting to optimize outcomes despite challenging weather conditions.

Crop:

Germination rates declined following a heatwave in November. Significant rainfall during October and December disrupted both planting and field spraying operations. Root rot developed later in the season, while excessive precipitation resulted in mold affecting Grade 2 soybeans.

Equipment:

The farmer hires equipment from neighboring farmers; however, this machinery frequently requires maintenance. Numerous breakdowns occurred.

Harvesting:

Many hectares were manually harvested and then threshed because the field conditions were too wet for a combine to access.

Challenges:

Extreme weather conditions; heatwave, excessive rainfalls and high winds later in the season.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will collaborate exclusively with farmers who have supplied their soybeans to ESDF. Farmers who have not delivered soy to ESDF will no longer participate in the project. The focus will shift towards achieving improved yields per hectare.

Dannhauser



Dannhauser



Planting Utrecht 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Amajuba

Local Municipality: Emadlangeni (Utrecht)

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Total:	3	3	3	-	44	44	44	13,131	0,298	R88 844,38

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The Advisors are actively engaged and collaborate effectively with the ESDF mentor.

Provincial & National:

The farmers did not receive fertilizer or any additional support.

General

Farmers:

The farmers initially expressed support; however, subsequent flooding and crop losses led to negative sentiments as the season progressed.

Crop:

The crops sustained significant water damage, and farmers were unable to access their fields. Crop losses occurred as a result of soybean seed shedding. Additionally, fields remained too wet for harvesting operations.

Equipment:

The equipment in this area requires maintenance and repairs. Insufficient funding for these efforts presents a challenge.

Harvesting:

Due to excessively wet field conditions, combine harvesters could not be utilized. As a result, much of the harvest was conducted manually by pulling the plants, followed by threshing. This process is highly time-consuming.

Challenges:

Extreme weather conditions.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will be supporting the same number of farmers. The focus will shift toward enhancing yield per hectare.

Utrecht



Utrecht



Planting Zululand, Greytown 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Zululand, Umzinyathi

Local Municipality: EnDumbe- Paul Pietersburg, Abaqululusi - Vryheid, Edumeni- Dundee, Umvoti - Greytown

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield/ Ha	Income
	Greytown/Dundee									
	8	4	16	6	45	95	90	75,486	0,839	R505 532,94
	Paul Pietersburg/ Vryheid									
	20	9	17	3	262	261	209	59,932	0,284	R394 000,55
Total:	28	13	33	9	307	356	299	135,418	0,562	R899 533,49

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

Dundee and Greytown Advisors are not participating in the current initiatives. Paul Pietersburg and Vryheid Advisors are actively involved, consistently demonstrating high standards of performance.

Provincial & National:

There has been no support received from either the Provincial or National government.

General

Farmers:

The new cohort of farmers has exhibited enthusiasm and strong motivation to engage in planting activities.

Crop:

The season was marked by excessive rainfall, resulting in crop yields that were below average.

Equipment:

Farmers possess the necessary equipment for planting operations.

Harvesting:

Farmers are required to rent harvesters and threshers for the harvesting phase.

Challenges:

Significant challenges included high winds and persistent wet conditions, which led to water-damaged soybeans. As a result, Grade 2 soya could not be delivered to the silo.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will expand the allocated hectares for those farmers who achieved good yields this season and plans to add several new farmers in the upcoming season.

Zululand



Zululand



Greytown



Greytown



Planting South Coast 2024/2025

Province: KwaZulu Natal

District Municipality: Ugu, Harry Gwala

Local Municipality: Umzumbe, Ubuhlebezwe

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
<u>Harry Gwala; Ubuhlebeswe</u>										
	7	6	6	1	72	72	82	85,77	1,046	R488 049,04
<u>Ugu; Umzumbe</u>										
	2	3	3	-	3	3	3	1,2	0,4	R5 584,88
Total:	9	9	9	1	75	75	85	86,97	1,023	R493 633,92

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

Few Advisors contribute well and maintain effective collaboration with both farmers and the ESDF Mentor.

Provincial & National:

Some agricultural equipment was supplied. Farmers participating in the Department of Agriculture's PES program received fertilizer allocations.

General

Farmers:

Farmers are demonstrating increased optimism regarding soy cultivation, as they experience improved yields and greater financial returns.

Crop:

The contractor responsible for planting on behalf of the farmers did not exercise adequate care during the process, resulting in poor germination rates. Insufficient seeds were sown per row, and the seed depth was inconsistent—some were planted too shallowly while others were placed too deep.

Equipment:

The ageing of mechanization tools impacts operational efficiency as a result of increased equipment failures.

Harvesting:

The majority of the areas were harvested by a contractor using a combine, while some sections continued to be harvested manually.



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Challenges:

Elevated rainfall, temperature, and humidity levels contributed to the occurrence of Soy Rust in certain regions; however, farmers implemented effective control measures to manage the issue.

Progress Plan:

ESDF will not be onboarding new farmers in the current regions but will instead concentrate on enhancing yield per hectare. As a pilot project, ESDF is planning to cultivate 20 hectares in Kokstad to assess opportunities for future collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and local farmers.

South Coast



South Coast



Planting Eastern Cape 2024/2025

Province: Eastern Cape

District Municipality: OR Thambo

Local Municipality: Mhlontlo, King Sabata Dalinyebo(KSD), Nyandeni, Ngquza Hill, Mnquma, Mbashe

Areas		Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield /ha	Income
OR Thambo										
	11	12	16	11	45	45	44	23,034	0,524	R155 490,45
Amathole										
	4	4	5	1	5	5	5	1,028	0,206	R6 946,20
Total:	15	16	21	12	50	50	49	24,062	0,491	R162 436,65

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

There are currently more advisors associated with the project than farmers; however, advisors are not directly participating in project activities.

Provincial & National:

Farmers have not received support or assistance from either the Provincial or National Government.

General

Farmers:

Farmers continue their planting efforts but face significant and ongoing challenges.

Crop:

A small number of farmers reported successful harvests, while the majority experienced yields that were well below average, largely due to heavy rainfall in the region.

Equipment:

The available agricultural equipment is outdated and prone to frequent breakdowns.

Harvesting:

Harvesting posed considerable difficulties, exacerbated by late rains and extensive weed contamination in soya crops.

Challenges:

There is an insufficient level of support from the Department of Agriculture.

Progress Plan:

Although the Eastern Cape remains one of the provinces most in need of assistance, particularly given the widespread low income and resulting child malnutrition, ESDF will not proceed with planting in the Eastern Cape for the upcoming season. Enhanced involvement from the Department of Agriculture is essential before future planting initiatives can resume in this region.

Eastern Cape



Eastern Cape



Planting Limpopo 2024/2025

Province: Limpopo

District Municipality: Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Mopani

Local Municipality: Capricorn

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
	11	8	19	15	38	38	38	35,291	0,989	R244 648,53
Total:	11	8	19	15	38	38	38	35,291	0,989	R244 648,53

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

The advisors' participation in the project has been limited.

Provincial & National:

Provincial officers remain engaged with the project.

General

Farmers:

The farmers are unreliable. A small number discontinued their involvement in the project after receiving initial inputs.

Crop:

The average yield per hectare was low. Suboptimal germination resulted from the use of planters not designed for soy cultivation. The region experienced a heatwave, followed by a dry spell, and subsequently higher than normal rainfall later in the season. This increased rainfall contributed to an above-average incidence of insect infestation.

Equipment:

In most areas, farmers mainly grow vegetables. However, the equipment they use is not well-adapted for planting soybeans.

Harvesting:

The absence of threshers or harvesters has contributed to crop losses.

Challenges:

Limited engagement from Department of Agriculture advisors and varying levels of commitment among farmers have presented challenges.

Progress Plan:

Eden Social Development Foundation will not be involved in facilitating soybean planting in the upcoming season.

Limpopo



Limpopo



Planting Mpumalanga 2024/2025

Province: Mpumalanga

District Municipality: Nkomazi, Mbombela

Local Municipality: Komatipoort, Barberton

	Areas	Advisors	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Application Ha	Planned Ha	Planted Ha	Yield Ton	Yield Ha	Income
Nkomazi										
	11	6	3	8	25	25	23	3,453	0,150	R23 762,14
Mbombela										
	12	5	11	1	25	25	23	4,696	0,204	R32 309,17
Total:	23	11	14	9	50	50	46	8,149	0,162	R56 071,31

Department of Agriculture

Advisors:

Some advisors remain engaged while other advisors' overall participation has declined. Interest in soy cultivation diminished until the commencement of the harvesting period.

Provincial & National:

The Department of Agriculture provided support by supplying planters and fertilizers in the Nkomazi area.

General

Farmers:

Farmers are participating; however, challenges such as limited equipment and insufficient weed control are impacting productivity.

Crop:

Delayed rainfall and severe heatwaves early in the season adversely affected soy germination.

Equipment:

There is a significant need for equipment suitable for planting grain and legume crops.

Harvesting:

Manual harvesting continues to present difficulties. Pod shattering and inadequate undercover storage during threshing are resulting in crop losses.

Challenges:

Heatwaves occurred in both November and February, with the latter accompanied by a dry spell, contributing to reduced yields.

Progress Plan:

Given the consistently low crop yields over the past three years, ESDF will discontinue involvement in soy production in Mpumalanga for the upcoming season.

Mpumalanga



Mpumalanga



Challenges

Heavy rain & Flooding



Storage of soy before threshing, late rains led to mouldy soy



Harvesting and threshing by hand.



Challenges

Cutting soy before threshing leads to crop losses.



One row harvesting is time consuming and soy starts shedding before harvesting is completed.



Fields were too wet for harvesters to enter and threshing only happened on the sides of the fields.



Challenges

Wet conditions led to green and mouldy soy, harvests had be hand cleaned by picking out defective seeds one by one.



Extreme wet weather created the ideal conditions for soy rust. Soybeans were harvested with Soy rust.



Animals gain access to and damage fields.

