



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: KZNDARD UNEMPLOYED AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

CALL FOR 2025/26 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED A TWO-YEAR TERM OF KZN-DARD UNEMPLOYED AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES PROGRAMME

PURPOSE

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) invites eligible individual or farmer associations/cooperatives of unemployed agricultural graduates who have completed the Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme to apply for project funding for the 2025/26 financial year. Unlocking agricultural potential, this initiative inspires graduates to become agripreneurs, driving innovation, job creation, and economic growth, while bridging the generational gap and combating unemployment and poverty. Any request for assistance should follow the process stipulated below and comply with the requirements stated on the checklist of the application form. Failure to comply with the requirements will automatically disqualify your application.

FUNDING

The funding is capped at a maximum of **R1 500 000.00 (R1.5 million)**.

Funding type – Non-repayable grant for project development.

Focus Area: Funding for Unemployed Agricultural Graduates that have completed the 2 year KZNDARD Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Youth Programme.

Eligible graduates can access funding for various agricultural projects, including but not limited to the following: Infrastructure development; Livestock and Poultry production; Horticulture; Crop production; Aquaculture; Agro-processing; Veterinary Medicine and Pharmaceuticals, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Submission of a comprehensive business plan proposal, including but not limited to, clear objectives and goals; Detailed production strategy; marketing plan, logistics and sales approach; financial projections and analysis; organizational structure and management; risk assessment and mitigation plan; social and economic impact assessment, etc.
2. Must have legal access to land (hold PTO, Title Deed for privately owned farms, or Valid Lease Agreements).
3. In the case of leased land, the applicant must have a lease arrangement of not less than 10 years and 20 years for infrastructure development.
4. Must have legal access to irrigation water or be willing to use recycled water (no municipal drinking water can be used for irrigation).

5. Applications must be submitted at the Local and District Department of Agriculture Offices.
6. Only one application per graduate, farmer associations/cooperatives group of graduates will be accepted.
7. Opportunity will be given to applicants who have completed the two-year KZN DARD Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme and will be required to produce a certificate of completion.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Obtain a request form from the DARD Local, District Office and the website of the department.
2. Submit the completed form to DARD Local, District Office where the project will be implemented within the required time frame accompanied by all the supporting/required compliance documentation as per the checklist in the application form. e.g. tax clearance certificate, security of tenure documentation (copy of title deed or valid lease contract), etc.
3. It is compulsory that those who are already in business are registered on the Producer/Farmer Register and that the registration reference number be quoted on the application form where indicated.
4. Those who are already in business a project visit may be done to confirm/verify information submitted as per the application form.

Applications are open from March 2025 to 30 April 2025

DISCLAIMER

If not contacted within 90 days after closing date kindly consider your application unsuccessful. All applicants must note that meeting all requirements as indicated in this advert does not constitute automatic approval for funding.

CONDITIONS TO BE ADHERED TO BY THE APPLICANT

1. The project considered for funding shall follow the DARD project approval process flow.
2. Graduates of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities who completed the KZN DARD Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme are encouraged to apply.
3. The applicant must be a South African Citizen and reside in KwaZulu Natal Province.
4. Applicants should not be Government, Municipal or SOE's employees.
5. Due to limited funds, the Department reserves the right to issue partial funding for the identified projects and not all applicants will be funded in accordance with their requests.
6. Submission of the application does not guarantee funding.
7. There shall be no right of appeal to unsuccessful applications.
8. The department reserves its right to exclude applicants whose details and information are not correctly submitted.
9. The applicants grant consent to the department to verify details and information in relation to respective applications.
10. Should you not receive any correspondence from the department within three months after the closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.
11. The applicant should reside in the District/ area where the proposed project is located. The Department will not in any way provide accommodation.
12. Submission of completed forms and all required documents should be handed in at the Agricultural Local or District Offices for the attention of UAGYP District Coordinators as indicated below.

Districts	Postal & Physical Addresses	For the attention of:
Harry Gwala	Delivery Address:- FNB Building, No. 17 Margaret Street Ixopo, 3276	Mrs. A.N.T Ndlovu: Agric. Advisor
Amajuba	Delivery Address:- No. 1 Vlam Single Crescent office park, Newcastle, 2940	Mr. S.W. Tshabalala: Agricultural Economist
Ilembe	Delivery Address:- Corner of Link and R102, Albert House KwaDukuza, 4450	Mr. M.E. Nxele: Section Head Specialist and Advisory
Umkhanyakude	Delivery Address:- Hibiscus Avenue (back of Shoprite) Mtubatuba, 3935	Mr. P.G. Shiba: Senior Economist
King Cetshwayo	Delivery Address:- Lot 11634, Velden Vlei, Richards Bay opposite uMhlathuze Sports Ground	Ms. M. Zulu: Agricultural Advisor
Zululand	Delivery Address:- King Dinuzulu Highway Old, Legislature Building, 1 st floor Zone 3	Ms. L. Nzuzo: Agricultural Scientist
Umkhanyathi	Delivery Address:- 26 Beacons Field, Dundee, 3000	Mr. S. Thungo: Agricultural Scientist
Ugu	Delivery Address:- 1 Nelson Mandela Drive Old Laxley House, Port Shepstone 4240	Ms. N. Shabane: Agricultural Economist
UThukela	Delivery Address:- 23 Murchison Street, next to Wimpy & Engine Garage	Mr. W.P. Hadebe: Agricultural Advisor
Umgungundlovu	Delivery Address:- Allerton Office, 458 Townbush Road, Cascades, 3202	Mrs. N.M. Sithole: Office Manager & Ms. B.A.N Mokoena: Agricultural Advisor
Ethekwini Metro	Delivery Address:- 40 Dr. A.B. Xuma Street (Commercial City Building), 18 th floor Office no.16, Durban 4000	Mr. S.S. Nzama: Animal Scientist

**The closing date for applications to reach
 the Local and District offices is 30 April 2025.**

Please direct your inquiries to the following: **Inspiring** New Hope

1. Mr Vuyani Dlamini

Email: Vuyani.dlamini@kzndard.gov.za

Tel: 033 355 9214

2. Mr Vulindlela Langa

Email: Vulindlela.Langa@kzndard.gov.za

Tel: 033 355 9234