



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Your partner in **Agribusiness**



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# FOREWORD

## Head of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)



I'm pleased to present the FY24 Impact Report. This year has been a remarkable one for our group, reflecting significant achievements in our corporate social responsibility goals. Our initiatives made profound impact for our stakeholders, communities, and partnered public schools.

Building on the solid foundation laid in previous years, we have successfully expanded our footprint in alignment with our strategies.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of our internal and external strategic partners. Your dedication and partnership have been instrumental in our journey, and for that, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

*Marion Shikwinya*

## Transformation Executive



Our initiatives reflect our dedication to driving positive change and being a steward of food security. Through our collective efforts and strategic vision, we have harnessed our strengths to grow sustainably and expand our footprint, ensuring that our initiatives resonate across communities and create lasting impact.

The achievements outlined in this report are a testament to collective stakeholder efforts. Together, we are creating a future where food and water security, poverty alleviation, and education are not just goals, but realities for all, especially to our future customers.

We remain steadfast in undertaking this collaborative journey towards creating a future where everyone will thrive.

*Prudence Motseo*

# CULTIVATING SUCCESS - UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY

## Chief Executive Officer



Our success is deeply intertwined with the prosperity we actively support and generate in the communities we serve in South Africa. By maximizing both tangible and intangible resources within our subsidiaries and the communities we serve, we create a foundation for sustainable growth. As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud of the strides we have made in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Food and water security remain at the forefront of our efforts. We understand that ensuring reliable access to these essential resources not only creates and maintains jobs but also directly contributes to our sustainability goals. Through innovative agricultural practices and strategic partnerships, we have enhanced our capacity to provide sustainable solutions that support local economies, boost food production, and ensure a thriving agricultural sector.

Our commitment to poverty alleviation is unwavering. We have implemented numerous programs aimed at creating economic opportunities, improving livelihoods, and fostering resilience among vulnerable populations. The impact of these initiatives is evident in the stories of empowerment and transformation we hear from those who have benefited from our support.

These stories inspire us and reinforce our dedication to making a lasting, positive impact.

Thank you for your continued support and partnerships.

*Norman Celliers*



## Chief Operating Officer

As Chief Operating Officer, I am excited to be a part of a corporate culture, reflecting our belief in the power of collective action. This year, we witnessed a remarkable increase in volunteer hours by our employees, that amplified our impact significantly. Education remains a key pillar of our strategy. We understand that empowering individuals through knowledge and skills is essential for long-term development. This is reflected in educational initiatives that reached thousands of learners; providing them with relevant tools they need to be included and thrive in our economy.

*Jacob de Villiers*



## Chief Financial Officer

From a financial perspective, our commitment to these impact areas is reflected in our strategic investments and resource allocation. I can attest to the careful planning and stewardship that have enabled us to maximize our impact. Our financial health allows us to support a wide range of initiatives, ensuring that our efforts are sustainable and scalable. Collaboration is central to our approach, and it is through these synergistic relationships that we can achieve greater reach and effectiveness.

*Johan Geel*



## Executive: Lemang Agricultural Services



Despite the economic challenges faced from past few years, our commitment to empowering new-era black farmers has remained steadfast. The progress we have achieved is a testament to the strength of our partnerships with our stakeholder and the robust support provided by AFGRI's value chain. We have enabled farmers to overcome obstacles, gain market entry and sustain their businesses while we provide a nurturing environment through our relationship managers, mentors and service providers.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in this vital endeavour.

*Praveen Dwarika*

## General Manager: HR



We are proud to highlight the progress initiated through the groups supportive funding towards skills building. We remain committed to developing and harnessing skills development moreover. Employees are the heart of AFGRI. Skills development is the cornerstone of our talent strategy which unlocks potential and drives economic participation and inclusion. Investing in vocational training, continues to are create pathways to improve employment opportunities and foster a culture of continuous learning and development.

*Theresa van Rensburg*







# CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT



We support projects that are within 50km's radius of AFGRI operations.

## FOCUS AREAS



FOOD SECURITY



WATER SECURITY



EDUCATION  
(LEGACY PROJECTS)



POVERTY ERADICATION



EMPLOYEE  
VOLUNTEERING  
PROGRAMME

## FOOD SECURITY



**121**  
Supported  
schools

**17**  
New schools  
in the  
programme



**59 535**  
Beneficiaries



**486**  
Jobs created and  
maintained

# SCHOOL VEGETABLE GARDENS

## Job creation and maintenance



In majority of our Mpumalanga supported schools, the provincial Department of Education has acknowledged the work done in the school gardens. The department has placed garden personnel in these schools. The garden produces are reversed for the consumption of learners in the school feeding schemes.



## Capacitate persons with disabilities to generate food production

Schools for learners with special needs focus on providing practical life skills for post school life. In the school vegetable garden, a maximum of 10 learners are trained in subsistence vegetable production per school. In collaboration with our subsidiary Lemang Agricultural Services; 102 learners and 10 alumni students participated. Two vegetable gardens per school were developed, which feed the learners with fresh vegetable for the day feeding scheme and boarding school kitchen.

## Empowering local food security through collaborative community efforts



Primarily harvested vegetables are retained for school feeding schemes, allowing schools to redirect their budgets to compensating community members maintaining the gardens.



In most Limpopo supported schools, land is provided to community members for garden space, to support a sustainable township economy. This enables garden caretakers to engage in local entrepreneurship to generate and maintain their own jobs and income.



Lastly supported schools also supply grand parent and child parented households with a vegetable pack to sustain them during the weekend and school holidays.





## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS BEYOND FOOD SECURITY











### School shoes programme:

Dignity and confidence of 1599 learners was restored through the donation of school shoes and socks. The shoes are manufactured from recycled drips used at Netcare Hospitals; facilitated through a female owned NPO.



### Repairing School Property:

After a severe storm hit parts of KwaZulu-Natal, damaging properties including Isibuko High School in Winterton, AFGRI CSI repaired 11 classrooms, installing new windows, doors, ceilings, and a fresh coat of paint to ensure uninterrupted learning. Despite the challenges, the school achieved an 86.1% matric pass rate in 2023, with the improved learning environment significantly contributing to this success.







## Career Day Expo:

Following a successful high school mentorship program with four Gauteng schools, a broader initiative was launched in Senekal, Free State. In July 2023, 380 Grade 11 and 12 learners from three schools in Libertas, Senekal, and Kroonstad attended the inaugural career expo. As a result, 167 Grade 12 learners who attended the expo are now enrolled in higher education institutions for the 2024 academic year.







### Festive campaign:

AFGRI provided support to 232 children in orphanages in Vryheid (KZN), Harrismith (Free State), Bronkhorstspuit (Gauteng), Thabazimbi (Limpopo), and Brits (North-West). Each child received individual hampers containing clothes, toiletries, and toys. This initiative allowed the homes to focus on other operational needs instead of fundraising for clothing.



### Combating crime and fostering healthy mindset through sports:

In Dryden, Mpumalanga, a rural and farming community with limited resources, AFGRI donated junior and senior soccer and netball kits to the local community club. The children, who previously played on a gravel sports ground without proper gear, now have uniforms, bringing dignity and pride to their club and community.





## Joint school farewell celebration:

Grade 7 and 12 learners who participated in the subsistence vegetable garden program, and subsequently trained their peers in five schools in Bergville and Winterton, were transitioning to higher learning phases. Traditionally, schools host year-end farewell ceremonies to motivate senior learners. In recognition of their efforts, AFGRI partnered with their school governing bodies (SGBs) and the provincial Department of Arts and Culture to organize a joint fun day for 414 learners. The event included inspirational talks, games, a colour run, dancing, and cultural activities. The funds saved from individual farewell events were redirected to resources for the foundation and senior (grade 8) phases.



## Bra donation:

Donating bras during Breast Cancer Month also provides comfort and support to survivors and women in need, raising awareness while promoting self-esteem and body confidence. It's a simple gesture that makes a meaningful impact to the women raising our future leaders.







## WATER SECURITY



### Development of boreholes:

Two top-performing schools in vegetable gardening in Marble Hall (Limpopo) faced water supply issues due to municipal water shortages. Despite these challenges, the school gardens thrived, providing fresh, nutritious vegetables for the school feeding programs. The School Governing Bodies (SGB) contracted and paid eight community members at each school to maintain the gardens, sourcing water from community sellers and requesting nearby students to bring water. After two years of collaboration with Kgagatlou and Rephafogile Secondary Schools, boreholes were developed to alleviate water costs and eliminate the need for students to carry water. Now, the schools have clean drinking water and running water for their gardens and ablution blocks.



### Rainwater harvesting project:

At Mafa Max Motloun High School in Delmas, developing boreholes was not feasible due to the school's building structure. Instead, a rainwater harvesting project was implemented to secure water for the vegetable gardens. Resources for this project were installed, allowing the school to collect rainwater during the September to March rainy season. This initiative drastically reduced the school's municipal water costs as the gardens now rely solely on harvested rainwater for irrigation.



### Irrigation systems:

As part of AFGRI's school vegetable garden model, irrigation systems are provided to all partner schools. These systems ease the burden of manually carrying water and ensure efficient and effective watering. Schools are encouraged to maintain these systems, with all maintenance and repair costs being the responsibility of the schools for accountability and ownership.







# POVERTY ERADICATION



Community organizations and NPOs focusing on food security were targeted for sustainable partnerships, particularly those involving young people and women. The goal is to use the produce from these initiatives for family sustenance and income generation. AFGRI believes that with proper training, resources, and consistent support, these organizations can become self-sustaining and remunerate workers through vegetable sales.

AFGRI's support extends beyond merely providing resources, as it aims to empower community organizations and NPOs to achieve long-term sustainability and improve food security for vulnerable populations.











## Valcare Partnership: (Western Cape)

In collaboration with Orchard Africa, AFGRI supported a project in Khayelitsha (Western Cape) through Valcare. The existing vegetable garden at an Early Childhood Development (ECD) center was expanded, and due to space limitations, resources for vertical gardening were provided. This garden supplies fresh vegetables to the center.

- **Food and Agriculture Program:** This program emphasizes food security by providing meals and teaching communities to grow their own food using sustainable vertical, container, and small-scale agricultural techniques. Nutritious food and clean water help reduce illiteracy, illness, and poverty.
- **Beneficiaries:** The ECD center's daily feeding scheme reaches 3,149 beneficiaries, serving 27,513 meals.

- **Community Feeding:** Besides feeding children at the ECD, approximately 60-70 vulnerable children aged 0-18 from the surrounding community in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch, receive meals five days a week through the feeding program.
- **Home Gardens:** Six home backyard gardens have been developed, with families receiving food and agriculture training. This initiative has significantly reduced household spending on vegetables and encouraged healthy eating habits with fresh produce.







## Inspire Youth and Children in Malmesbury (Western Cape):

AFGRI donated resources for olive processing to support the production of olive oil, which generates significant income for the organization's educational and JUDO programs for children.

- **Beneficiaries:** 100 children aged 4 to 18 benefited from both programs, with 72% being farm girls and 28% males.
- **Employment Impact:** 100 women gained an additional workday per week, increasing from two days to three, due to olive oil sales.



- **Teenage Pregnancy and GBV Prevention:** No teenage pregnancies were recorded among the children, thanks to their active participation in education, JUDO, and food garden activities. Additionally, no instances of gender-based violence (GBV) or domestic violence were recorded due to the educational training provided.
- **School Attendance and Achievements:** The children achieved 100% school attendance. A 14-year-old girl became the Commonwealth JUDO champion, two girls received national colours as Springbok JUDO players, and 15 children became South African JUDO champions.

- **Vegetable Harvest and Distribution:** 1,500 tons of vegetables were harvested and distributed to 900 households on 41 farms.
- **Soup Donations:** 295 bottles of soup were donated to 295 elderly individuals on 10 farms.
- **Jam Sales:** R90,000 was raised from selling jams made from garden-grown vegetables, enabling the children to register and compete in the SA JUDO championship.





## Themba lethu Development – Tembisa (Gauteng):

AFGRI partnered with Themba lethu Development, which works to improve living conditions and livelihoods in disadvantaged communities. Young people are placed and remunerated to develop sustainable vegetable gardens. AFGRI donated garden tools to three organizations/schools in collaboration with Themba lethu Development:

- **Tembisa Self Help Association for the Disabled (TSAD):** Garden tools, seed packs, and tunnel nets were donated to extend the existing vegetable garden, ensuring efficient and effective gardening work.
- **Ecaleni ELSEN School:** Garden tools were donated to this school for learners with special needs. Interested learners receive training in the garden, which also supports the school feeding scheme. The garden is instrumental in providing hands-on practical learning for the students.







### **Amanzi WASH in Bronkhorstspuit (Gauteng)**

AFGRI partnered and supported Amanzi WASH for 2 community vegetable gardens and 8 backyard gardens, benefiting 40 direct beneficiaries. Garden tools and subsistence vegetable training were provided to promote development, sustainability, financial literacy, and market accessibility as a group.



### **LETCEE in Greytown (KwaZulu-Natal):**

In FY19, AFGRI developed two community vegetable gardens, donating garden tools and irrigation systems while providing subsistence training to 10 community members. The gardens have expanded, each now employing 12 people, leading to the creation of new gardens. AFGRI partnered with LETCEE to ensure the sustainability and profitability of these new gardens, donating garden tools and irrigation systems to three new gardens.





# EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME



## Mandela Month:

This year, Mandela Month activities saw greater participation from AFGRI employees in operations than ever before. Colleagues were enthusiastic about giving back to their communities through various initiatives, including working in school vegetable gardens, donating school shoes, and providing food packs. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all AFGRIinites who showcased the Group's spirit and commitment in the following areas:



- During the annual Mandela Month, the Group's employees packed 30,000 meal packs, each capable of feeding a family for 3-4 months, to support vulnerable grandparent and child-headed households that receive food from the feeding scheme and vegetable packs on weekends and school holidays.





These collective efforts by AFGRI employees not only supported local communities but also demonstrated our organization's dedication to social responsibility and community development.







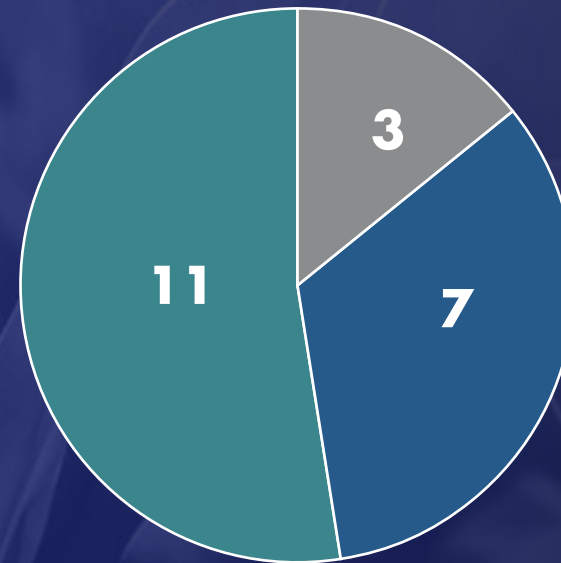
## Mentorship Programme:

The mentorship programme involves 118 Grade 10 to 12 learners from East Bank High (Alexandra), Bokgoni Technical High (Atteridgeville), Steve Tshwete Secondary (Olivenhoutbosch), and Equisweni Secondary School (Tembisa). These learners experience the life of AFGRI employees through mentorship days that include interactions, inspirational conversations, and shadowing employees. The programme features two key initiatives:

- **Raising Leaders Initiative:** This initiative focuses on boy learners, offering mentorship days to inspire and guide them.
- **Girl Power Initiative:** This initiative is tailored for girl learners, providing mentorship days to empower and support them.

## All 21 matriculants passed as follows:

Additionally, weekly sessions with Nzalo Careers are conducted, covering several topics such as career mapping, leadership and teamwork, self-awareness, decision-making, confidence building, and breaking barriers. All mentorship programme participants in the programme passed their exams, demonstrating the success and impact of the mentorship efforts, they results are as follows:



Higher Certificate	3
Diploma	7
Bachelor	11

## 10 Distinctions

In July, AFGRI employees participate in the annual Youth Month initiative, which aims to assist Grade 12 learners in applying to various institutions of higher learning. As part of this initiative, the Group covers application fees to relevant institutions. Thanks to this support, 18 learners who achieved Diploma and Bachelor passes are now enrolled in institutions of higher learning, having been guided and financially assisted in their application process.







# ENTERPRISE AND SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT



## Lemang Agricultural Services

Lemang Agricultural Services is dedicated to driving transformation through agriculture, recognizing it as a vital engine for economic change. Our mission is to empower historically disadvantaged farmers and small suppliers, enabling them to become integral players in the commercial agricultural value chain. By harnessing the potential of these farmers on their land, we aim to cultivate successful producers over time.

### Challenges and Support Needs

New era farmers possess a deep passion for agriculture, yet often face significant obstacles in the form of limited technical and financial knowledge and support. This gap can lead to elevated credit risks, making it difficult for these farmers to secure financing from banks and other institutions due to their lack of a proven track record.

### Our Mentorship Program

Mentorship stands as the cornerstone of our approach and has been pivotal to our achievements. By engaging directly with new era farmers, our mentors provide hands-on assistance throughout the farming process, helping farmers to enhance their yields. Understanding grain marketing and price hedging is essential for any profitable farming operation, and we integrate these components into our mentorship.

### Comprehensive Support and Training

We support new era farmers through AFGRI's Grain Management services, offering education on the fundamentals of the futures market. Additionally, we provide training in basic business skills to equip farmers with the necessary tools for sustainable business management.

### Access to Finance and Technology

Our training and development initiatives extend beyond education, offering financial support and exposure to innovative technology and farming best practices. This comprehensive approach ensures that new era farmers are not only knowledgeable but also equipped with the resources they need to succeed in the competitive agricultural sector.

By focusing on these critical areas, Lemang Agricultural Services aims to transform passion into sustainable business success, fostering a new generation of capable and prosperous farmers.





Soya



HA Planted

4 134



Tonnages Harvested

8 417,9

Average  
tonnage per HA

2

Tonnages  
delivered to AFGRI Silo

3 106,04



Maize

2 736

15 923,75

5,5

3 782,93





## Moniwa Badge Skosana

Moniwa Badge Skosana, a 71-year-old from Waterwal in Mpumalanga, transitioned from road construction to farming 12 years ago. Despite lacking formal qualifications, he is highly regarded for his discipline and commitment. His 28-year-old son, Andile, joined him in the farming business five years ago and is now fully involved in managing their 1,547-hectare farm in Nkangala District. Initially, Moniwa's maize yields were poor, but after joining the Lemang Agricultural Services program in 2012, he expanded his cultivation to 1,000 hectares, including 300 hectares of maize and 600 hectares of soybeans, achieving significantly improved yields. When he started farming, he was only planting 50 ha of maize with poor yields of 2 tons to 2.5 tons and in 2012 he joined Lemang Agricultural Services programme (training, mentorship, and development programme) the business has grown to planting 1 000ha that comprises of 300 ha of maize, 600 ha soybeans. Today he is harvesting 5 to 6t/ha on maize and 2 to 3t/ha on soya beans.



## Skhosana Dingazi Farming CC

Skhosana – Dingazi Farming CC is a family-owned business led by Alfred Mcondo Skhosana. Born in 1952 in Leslie, Mpumalanga, Alfred worked for Eskom before starting farming. He leased a 490-hectare farm in Kwamhlanga in 1988, later buying an 85-hectare farm in Cullinan, Gauteng. Initially, his maize yield was low, but after joining the AFGRI Lemang Agricultural Services program in 2014, he expanded to 150 hectares with improved yields of 6 tons per hectare for maize and 2.5 tons for soybeans. His 26-year-old grandson, Vusumuzi Sibiya, who grew up visiting the farm and earned a certificate in crop production in 2022, has joined him in the business, combining Alfred's experience with innovative ideas and better management skills.







## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

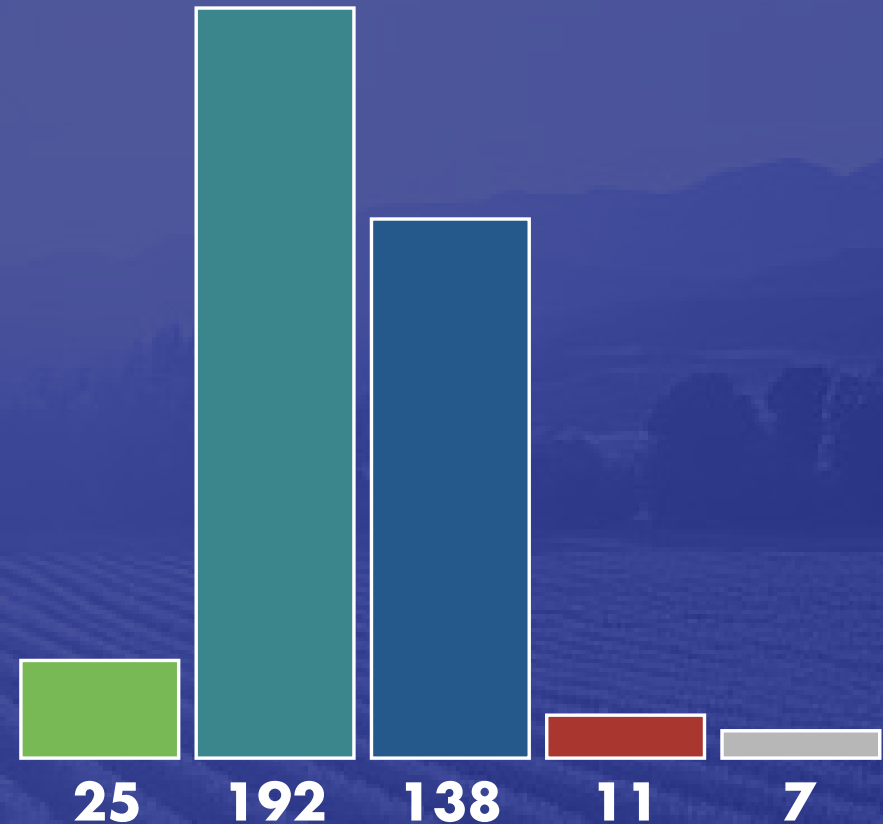
By examining the initiatives undertaken and their effects, this program seeks to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of Skills Development interventions in fostering growth and development within both business and the broader community.





## Skills Development - number of learners for programmes offered

Number of learners	Programme
25	Study assistance
192	Apprenticeships
138	Learnerships
11	Internships
7	Graduates



Through these initiatives, AFGRI demonstrates its commitment to investing in skills development not only for its own benefit but also for the empowerment and upliftment of individuals within the broader community.





### Impact on Business:

Establishing a pipeline of individuals with a comprehensive understanding of business operations is vital for addressing entry-level vacancy gaps within AFGRI. These programs serve as a platform for training, mentoring, and guiding learners, allowing them to familiarize themselves with the agricultural industry. By bridging existing skills gaps and proactively addressing potential future gaps, these initiatives ensure the sustainability and growth of AFGRI's operations.



### Impact on learners and community:

In a country grappling with high youth unemployment rates, these interventions have a significant impact on learners and their communities. By providing learners with qualifications and practical exposure in authentic work settings, these programs enhance their employability within the agricultural sector and beyond. This not only creates employment opportunities within AFGRI but also increases the likelihood of employment with other potential employers.







# THANK YOU



CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT  
FOOTPRINT



FOOD SECURITY



WATER SECURITY







EDUCATION  
(LEGACY PROJECTS)
























POVERTY ERADICATION

















EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING  
PROGRAMME

LIMPOPO	BU
Marble Hall	 
Polokwane	
Thabazimbi	

NORTH WEST	BU
Brits	 

FREE STATE	BUSINESS UNITS
Bethlehem	    
Harrismith	   
Marquard	  
Senekal	  
Libertas	  
Kroonstad	

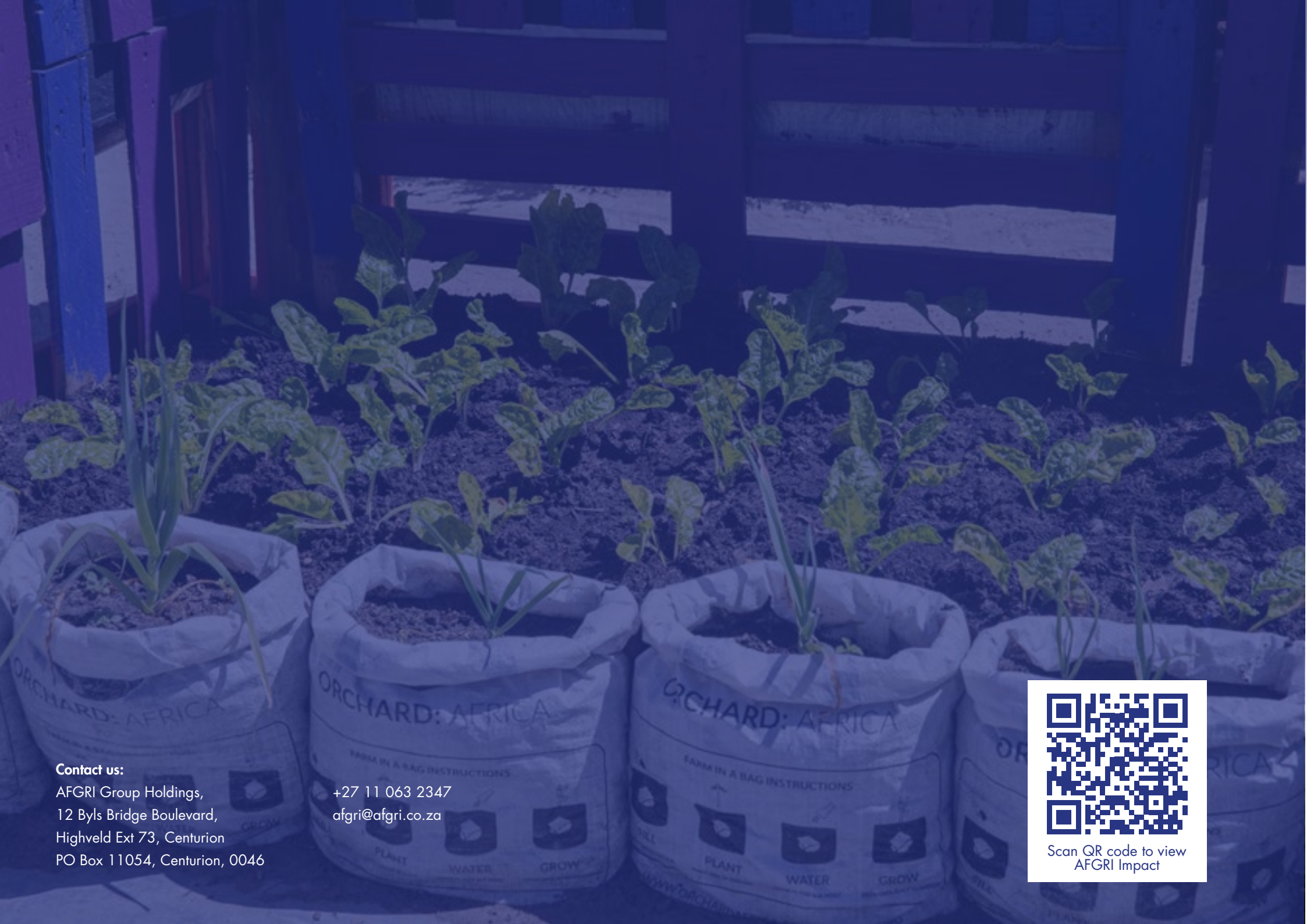
WESTERN CAPE	BU
Malmesbury	 
Worcester	
Bellville	

GAUTENG	BUSINESS UNITS
Centurion	     
Bronkhorstspuit	 
Tembisa	
Cullinan	
Pretoria West	
Devon	

MPUMALANGA	BUSINESS UNITS
Delmas	    
Middleburg	   
Standerton	   
Balfour	  
Lydenburg	 
Ogies	 
Dryden	 
Eloff	 
Harvard	
Greylingstad	
Davel	
Witbank	

KWAZULU-NATAL	BU
Dundee	  
Vryheid	  
Bergville	 
Newcastle	 
Pietermaritzburg	 
Winterton	 
Dannhauser	
Greytown	
Paulpietersburg	





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AFGRI Impact