



March 2024

CARE & GROW

Golf day provides urgent relief

The 12th annual Agrimark Supplier Golf Day was the most successful ever.

The fundraiser generated donations of over R215 000 in cash and gardening equipment valued at R110 000. In an impromptu display of compassion, never before experienced at the Golf Day, suppliers rallied around Tholeni Village, a small community in the Eastern Cape, responding to the community's plight. During the evening function, as they heard the heartbreaking stories of the mothers of Tholeni, suppliers spontaneously pledged additional products and funds to the donation already announced, underscoring the powerful platform the Agrimark Golf Day provides to leverage support for important causes.

Tholeni Village is grappling with severe malnutrition challenges aggravated by a high unemployment rate. The impact on the children



Representatives from KAL Group, Agrimark and Gift of the Givers with the product donations to the community of Tholeni Village.

of the village has been most profound, with instances of children going without food for days. This leads to impaired development and growth. In some heartbreaking cases, the near-starvation conditions have resulted in hospitalisation and even death.

When Gift of the Givers became aware of the dire situation in the community, they responded swiftly and provided food parcels to the community. With the help of Agrimark's golf day proceeds, they can now offer the community a more sustainable solution.

We hope to help 50 households with their own vegetable gardens so that the community can grow its own sustainable source of fresh and nutritious produce.

SEAN WALSH
CEO, KAL GROUP

“We were deeply moved by the plight of the people of Tholeni Village and grateful for the opportunity to contribute towards positive change in their circumstances,” says Sean Walsh, CEO, KAL Group. “We hope to help 50 households with their own vegetable gardens so that the community can grow its own sustainable source of fresh and nutritious produce.”

Agrimark’s donation included irrigation equipment and horticultural implements such

as water tanks, hoses, rakes, spades and digging forks which Gift of the Givers will use to kickstart the food garden project.

“Thank you to everyone involved in the Agrimark Golf Day for their generosity and support in helping the people of Tholeni Village,” says Corene Conradie, Coordinator at Gift of the Givers. “We hope to see a significant turnaround in their daily struggles, and we are grateful that we can make a difference in their lives.”

“The success of the Supplier Golf Day this year exemplifies the strength of the relationships we’ve cultivated with our suppliers, who demonstrated exceptional generosity and willingly devoted time to connect and strengthen these invaluable partnerships,” says Hennie Smit, Director: Supply Chain.

“This event goes beyond a day of leisure; it reflects a shared commitment to the growth of our business and making a meaningful impact. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our suppliers for their collaborative efforts toward a better, more sustainable future for the people in our communities,” reiterates Sean.

Transforming learning into action

The KAL Academy is committed to empowering new-generation farmers with skills, knowledge and experience to become successful commercial farmers.

Established in 2008, the Academy has trained over 490 graduates through impactful teaching programmes that blend academic and experiential learning.

The practical component involves farm visits where students gain first-hand experience of the important farming practices and challenges they encounter in the learning material.



Students visit Willow Green Farms, a protea farm, to gain knowledge about plant and animal production as well as learn about agricultural business practices.

KAL Academy Coordinator, Lerina Nel, organises the field visits and emphasises the profound impact they have on students’ understanding and love of agri.

“The practical exposure brings their studies to life and the students are highly engaged. I often see that spark of inspiration when they encounter something new,” she says.

“Our programmes aim to go beyond conventional training, offering a unique blend of classroom learning and in-field experiences. We have cultivated fantastic relationships with farmers who are passionate about what they do, and we are grateful to them for sharing so generously their insights, solutions and challenges.”

KAL Academy also coordinates tours to Agrimark branches for students to get an understanding of the range of agricultural inputs available to producers.

During the November 2023 practical learning sessions, the NQF2 Mixed Farming class had the valuable opportunity to visit Gelukwaarts farm in Porterville, BKB Auctions in Gouda and Dr Swarts, a veterinarian in Malmesbury, amongst others. They learned about market access and

pricing, grain handling, pig anatomy, and even assisted in activities such as cow insemination.

“After the visits the enthusiasm lingers,” says Lerina. “The students often have a newfound appreciation for the complexities and possibilities within agriculture, fuelling their determination to succeed.”

“Seeing practical, easy-to-apply solutions on the ground inspired me to implement some of these ideas on my farm immediately,” says Masego Moremtsi from Rootz Farming in Kuruman. “It was fascinating to see how simple yet innovative ideas can make a significant difference in the success of one's farming processes.”

“KAL Academy remains committed to shaping the future of agriculture by inspiring and developing new-generation farmers,” says Barend Sulvester, Senior Manager: Sustainability. “Farming is a practical discipline, and lessons cannot be grasped through textbooks alone. The field visits underscore KAL Academy's commitment to holistic education.”

Empowering employees since 2014

KAL Group is committed to empowering its people by investing in its employees' future. Recognising that people are at the heart of business growth and success, the Group has dedicated substantial resources to the development and well-being of its employees through strategic investment in the KAL Trust. Since its inception, KAL Trust has invested over R11,5 million in employee and community support initiatives, benefiting 738 beneficiaries.



The KAL Trust supported Rebecca Dikgake in 2023 with a home loan to build a three-bedroom home for her and her kids in Koster.

KAL TRUST: EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES SINCE 2014



Education

We provide financial assistance for all levels of study (from pre-primary to tertiary level), as well as various expenses to fund education, such as educational tools, textbooks and student accommodation.

R5,3 million

In support so far

300

Beneficiaries



Sports & Culture

Funding to help cover the expenses of tournaments and equipment for staff members whose children excel at sport or cultural activities. The Trust also makes funds available for community development projects.

R1,3 million

In support so far

25

Beneficiaries



Home

Employees can apply for interest-free revolving home loans, rental deposits, transfer fees and funds for security improvements and upgrades.

R4,9 million

In support so far

413

Beneficiaries



Contact us: katrust@kaapagri.co.za

From enhancing school facilities and funding children's education to providing access to interest-free home loans and transfer-fee grants, each individual application supported by the Trust has a multiplier effect. The Trust's support sustains and positively impacts not only individual KAL employees but also their

households, their broader families and the communities in which they live.

Through these initiatives, KAL aims to foster a culture of empowerment and shared success, knowing **as we CARE together, we grow together.**

Agriplas powers ahead with solar energy

KAL Group has successfully integrated rooftop solar to power the Agriplas manufacturing facility, making a significant stride towards sustainable energy practices. After one year of implementation, the initiative marks an important milestone in the Group's commitment to a sustainable environment and energy efficiency.



Over the past year, KAL Group invested R5,3 million in the renewable energy solution, including solar photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on a new factory roof for small-scale embedded power generation at Agriplas.

The strategic use of solar energy demonstrates Agriplas's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and investment in a reliable and sustainable energy source. This initiative will also help navigate the effects of loadshedding and rising costs, allowing Agriplas to continue its operations seamlessly.

"Making use of solar panels isn't just good for the environment; it's a smart move for our business," says Craig Matthew, Executive Manager: Agriplas. "The solar installation saves us money, boosts efficiency and allows us to have uninterrupted service."

Agriplas was earmarked for rooftop solar after successful solar energy trials were implemented at two Agrimark branches, one in Paarl and one in Worcester.

For the 2023 financial year, the total CO₂ offset for all three installations was 773 tonnes collectively, which equates to saving 4 638 trees! And the three installations resulted in significant savings - R291 857 at Agrimark Worcester, R268 843 at Agrimark Paarl and R774 278 at Agriplas.

Considering the Group's focus on sustainability, cost-management and compliance, executing the solar installation was an effective and responsible choice, says Werner van Zyl: Group Manager Asset Management and SHEQ.

"We are proud of Agriplas's efforts in embracing solar energy and taking on this complex installation which will assist us in rolling out

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CRAIG MATTHEW
EXECUTIVE MANAGER, AGRIPLAS

We are proud of Agriplas's efforts in embracing solar energy and taking on this complex installation which will assist us in rolling out rooftop solar to other properties within the Group.

WERNER VAN ZYL
GROUP MANAGER ASSET MANAGEMENT AND SHEQ

rooftop solar to other properties within the Group. It's also a showcase of how we can take a 'green' approach when implementing property management services."

More sites are earmarked for solar energy efficiency solutions, including extensive roll-out across TFC Group sites as part of KAL Group's energy efficiency strategy. The programme also includes an extensive monitoring system with the energy usage of 96 branches and facilities currently being monitored via a detailed dashboard by the Operations and Sustainability departments.

KAL Group's energy efficiency strategy focuses on ensuring business continuity at reduced cost and managing the Group's carbon footprint responsibly.

"We believe in responsible business practices, utilising resources conscientiously and leaving our communities enriched," confirms Tasneem Sulaiman-Bray, Director: Corporate Affairs. "In the face of undeniable climate change, businesses across the world are called upon to monitor and report on their environmental impact. As a JSE-listed company, our energy efficiency programme and investment in solar energy confirm our commitment to align our operations with sustainable practices in key focus areas. In the end, it's not just about doing business; it's about doing good business as well."

Distribution Centre drives sustainable change through recycling

KAL Group has formalised its recycling initiatives at its distribution centre (DC) in Paarl.

Recognising a critical gap in understanding the fate of waste generated at the distribution centre, KAL partnered with Pandae Green Solutions to improve the disposal of waste. Cardboard, plastics and general waste are now sorted at the DC, and then collected and recycled into more sustainable solutions.

Disposing of waste in an environmentally-friendly manner and in compliance with regulations is critical for the business. Pandae is a well-established waste-management service that supports organisations through expertise in developing the right recycling solutions and customising waste diversion to save costs, generate revenue and improve sustainability.

Thanks to this partnership with Pandae, the DC's waste is being recycled responsibly and income is generated for the DC, ultimately improving the

Beyond the environmental benefits, recycling contributes to the economy, where materials are reused, reducing the need for constant extraction and production.

TAASHA THORNE
CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT OFFICER



Victor Ntsewula from Pandae Green Solutions ensures that all the recycling material is sorted into plastics, general waste and cardboard at the Paarl Distribution Centre.

company's overall sustainability credentials.

The recycling initiative was launched in June 2023 and by the end of the 2023 financial year, 21 tonnes of waste had already been diverted from landfill.

The Agrimark Paarl branch has also joined the initiative by delivering waste, such as empty cardboard boxes, to the DC. To enable effective recycling, the DC had to implement specific waste-sorting and delivery methods.

"We're looking forward to seeing the results of our recycling efforts," says Max Botha, Executive Manager: Logistics. "It gives us peace of mind to know that our waste is not being disposed of irresponsibly and that we are doing our part to protect the environment."

The possibility of extending the recycling initiative to other branches in the Group will be explored as the initiative matures.

"Beyond the environmental benefits, recycling contributes to the economy, where materials are reused, reducing the need for constant extraction and production," says Taasha Thorne, Corporate Social Investment Officer. "It also fosters job creation in the recycling industry. Embracing recycling isn't just a responsibility; it's a collective effort towards preserving our planet for future generations, promoting resource efficiency and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Recycling brings us closer to our goal of leaving our communities better off because we exist."



We Want to Hear from You

Has your branch or department been involved in any community-based corporate social investment (CSI) projects lately? We'd love to hear all about it. Please send us your good-news stories and images to Isabel.Muller@kaapagri.co.za



Ons Hoor Graag van Jou!

Was jou tak of departement onlangs by 'n gemeenskapsprojek betrokke? Ons wil graag daarvan hoor. Stuur asseblief jou inspirasiestories en -foto's na Isabel.Muller@kaapagri.co.za