



1. Farm Diversification Award

Description:

This award celebrates farmers who have successfully broadened their business beyond traditional farming. It recognises individuals or cooperatives who have introduced new products, services, or income streams that strengthen their main agricultural activities. The goal is to showcase those who have adapted creatively to market changes and found new ways to sustain and grow their farms.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Visible evidence of diversified farming activities (different crops, products, or services).
• Proof that diversification improved production or income.
• Evidence that the new venture is sustainable and adds long-term value through documentation, photos and/or video
• Demonstrated innovation in farming or business approach.
• Documentation/photos showing different crops, livestock, or products currently in operation.

2. Sustainable Initiative Award

Description:

This category recognises farmers, organisations, or projects that actively protect the environment and manage land or resources in a sustainable way. It celebrates those who adopt eco-friendly practices such as soil conservation, water management, renewable energy use, and waste reduction to ensure that their farms benefit both people and the planet.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.



Criteria:

• Evidence of sustainable resource management (e.g., water, soil, or land).
• Use of renewable energy, recycling, or waste reduction methods.
• Documentation showing improved soil health or reduced environmental impact.
• Proof of fair and socially responsible practices benefiting workers or communities.
• Demonstration that the initiative can continue long-term and inspire others.

3. Small-Stock Farmer of the Year

Description:

This award honours small-scale livestock farmers who have achieved excellence in managing and caring for animals such as sheep, goats, pigs, or rabbits. It celebrates those who maintain high standards of productivity, animal health, and welfare while running ethical and sustainable operations that support local food systems.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of strong animal care (vet reports, vaccination records, feeding routines).
• Proof of effective breeding and management practices.
• Documentation showing contribution to local food supply or market sales.
• Evidence of ethical, cruelty-free, and sustainable farming methods.
• Records showing consistent productivity or growth over several years.



4. Young Farmer of the Year

Description:

This category celebrates young farm owners aged 35 and under who are shaping the future of South African agriculture through innovation, resilience, and leadership. It highlights individuals who are passionate about modern, sustainable farming and are making a positive difference in their communities and the broader agri-economy.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Prerequisite: Documentation showing ownership of the farm

Criteria:

• ID showing the entrant is 35 years or younger.
• Evidence of using modern or sustainable farming methods.
• Proof of measurable growth in production or profitability.
• Documentation of involvement in agricultural projects, mentorship, or events.
• Evidence of empowering or supporting other young farmers.

5. Rural Transformative Farmer of the Year

Description:

This category recognises individuals or cooperatives making a strong positive impact in rural agriculture. It highlights those driving rural development through innovative projects, community empowerment, and sustainable farming practices.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Farm or project located in a rural area.
• Evidence of rural community development projects.
• Documentation showing economic, social, or environmental impact.
• Proof of transformative and scalable practices.
• Involvement in community upliftment or education.



6. Accessibility in Agriculture

Description:

This award celebrates farmers who achieve excellence in agriculture while living with disabilities or creating inclusive opportunities for others. It honours resilience, innovation, and commitment to accessibility and equality in farming.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Proof of disability (doctor's note) or inclusive employment practices.
• Evidence of accessible facilities, tools, or farm design.
• Documentation of inclusive agricultural programs.
• Proof of education or advocacy for inclusivity in farming.
• Demonstrated reduction of barriers for people with disabilities.

7. Innovation in Agriculture

Description:

This award recognises forward-thinking farmers or businesses using creativity to solve farming challenges. It celebrates innovations that improve productivity, sustainability, and the well-being of farmers and workers.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Use of new technology, product, or service.
• Proof of improved efficiency or reduced costs.
• Evidence of better production or profitability.
• Documentation of research, trials, or validation.
• Proof of positive influence on other farmers.



8. Farmer of the Year

Description:

This award honours farmers who demonstrate excellence across all aspects of farming namely: productivity, sustainability, leadership, and innovation. It celebrates those who set an example for others and positively impact their community.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of quality produce or livestock.
• Use of advanced, sustainable farming methods.
• Proof of overcoming farming challenges.
• Community engagement or contribution to local food systems.
• Business profitability and long-term success.

9. Upcoming Farmer

Description:

Recognising new and upcoming farmers who have shown strong potential in developing sustainable and profitable farms. This award highlights commitment to learning, innovation, and community impact.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Prerequisite: Upcoming farmers have to be farming for a maximum of three years

Criteria:

• Proof of business structure and viability.
• Use of modern and innovative farming practices.
• Positive community or local impact.
• Evidence of consistent, high-quality produce.
• Participation in training, workshops, or mentorships.



10. Agri-Based Beverages Excellence

Description:

This category recognises beverage producers using locally grown agricultural ingredients. It celebrates innovation, sustainability, and promotion of South African-sourced products.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Use of local farm ingredients (plants, spices, cocoa, etc.).
• Proof of ethical and sustainable sourcing.
• Direct links or partnerships with farmers.
• Products available to market for at least 6 months.
• Evidence of innovation or unique product value.

11. Agri-Based Fermented Products Excellence

Description:

Honouring producers of wines and alcoholic beverages such as beer, cider, or wine that are made using locally grown agricultural ingredients. This award recognises sustainable sourcing and innovation in fermentation.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Registered distillery, brewery, or cooperative.
• Use of South African-grown ingredients.
• Ethical, sustainable production methods.
• Partnerships with local farms or cooperatives.
• Products in the market for 6 months or longer.



12. Best Provincial Farmer

Description:

This award recognises exceptional agricultural performance within **Gauteng**. It celebrates farmers who have achieved outstanding productivity, innovation, and leadership in the province.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Proof of high production levels.
• Use of best practices in farming or livestock management.
• Compliance with agricultural regulations.
• Active participation in provincial agri-events.
• Evidence of resilience and progress despite challenges.

13. Excellence in Forestry

Description:

This award recognises individuals or groups excelling in sustainable forestry or agroforestry. It celebrates environmental protection, innovation, and community involvement in forest management.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Active involvement in forestry or woodlot management.
• Sustainable harvesting and conservation practices.
• Evidence of tree planting or erosion control.
• Integration of trees with crops or livestock.
• Proof of community education or participation.



14. Legacy Grower Award

Description:

This award honours hardworking individuals who have preserved traditional farming knowledge and contributed to their communities without formal training. It's a tribute to dedication, skill, and generational wisdom.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of consistent farming or gardening work.
• Use of indigenous or traditional methods.
• Proof of community contribution or mentorship.
• Demonstrated resilience through hardships.
• Recognition or respect from the community.

15. Doctors in Agriculture

Description:

Recognising medical professionals who promote health and agriculture together. This award celebrates doctors advancing nutrition, sustainable food systems, and community wellness through farming initiatives.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Registered medical doctor with HPCSA.
• Active promotion of healthy eating or food security.
• Direct involvement in agriculture projects or research.
• Innovative link between medicine and farming.
• Evidence of leadership or mentorship in the field.

16. Agricultural Influencer

Description:

Celebrating individuals using media or social platforms to promote agriculture, inspire farmers, and educate the public. This award recognises voices driving awareness and positive change in the agri-sector.



Proof Required: Screenshots, links, and/or videos.

Criteria:

• Active online or media presence.
• Engagement with followers through education or discussion.
• Proof of influence on public opinion or farming trends.
• Collaborations with agricultural brands or initiatives.
• Growth in reach, impact, or awareness.

17. Student of the Year in Agriculture

Description:

This category recognises outstanding agricultural students who excel academically and actively contribute to their field through research, leadership, or community involvement.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Academic transcripts or results.
• Participation in agricultural clubs or societies.
• Proof of research, projects, or internships.
• Evidence of leadership and teamwork.
• Community impact through agricultural initiatives.

18. Best Higher Learning Agri Empowerment Program

Description:

Recognising higher learning institutions and colleges that contribute to agriculture through impactful research, community partnerships, and innovative learning programs.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.



Criteria:

• Accreditation and compliance with DHET/SETA standards.
• Proven student success.
• Positive impact on local agriculture or communities.
• Active community involvement and outreach.
• Published research or reports.

19. Best School Agricultural Project

Description:

Awarded to a school project that teaches agriculture in a creative way and benefits students and the community.

Proof Needed:

Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Creative ways of teaching agriculture.
• Positive impact on students and community.
• Plan to keep the project going.
• Proof of registration.

20. Culinary Excellence Award

Description:

This award celebrates rising chefs or restaurants who use creativity, skill, and local ingredients to create unique, high-quality South African dishes.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Creative and innovative dishes.
• Strong culinary technique and presentation.
• Use of local, seasonal ingredients.
• Balanced flavour and originality.



21. Agricultural Development & Community Empowerment Award

Description:

This category highlights NGOs or organisations empowering communities through sustainable agriculture, education, and food security initiatives.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of measurable community impact.
• Evidence of community participation within the project.
• Reporting and tracking of the project.
• Focus on youth, women, and/or food security.

22. Unsung Hero

Description:

Honouring individuals or groups who selflessly volunteer their time and skills to improve rural communities through agricultural or community service efforts.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Nominated by another person or organisation (attach nomination letter with a reference and their details)
• Evidence of impactful volunteer or public service work in agriculture.
• Proof of assisting individuals or institutions.
• Volunteer work not paid for.
• Inspiration or motivation of others within the agricultural space.

23. Top Performing TVET and CET in Agriculture

Description:

This award honours TVET and CET colleges that demonstrate excellence in agricultural training, innovation, and graduate success, preparing youth for real agricultural careers.



Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Curriculum aligned to industry needs.
• High student success and placement rates.
• Innovative teaching and learning in agriculture.
• Community or industry collaboration.
• Promotion of youth in agriculture.

24.Bee & Pollinator Conservation Award

Description:

Celebrating farmers, beekeepers, or organisations protecting bees and pollinators critical to food production and biodiversity.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of active beekeeping or pollinator habitats.
• Proof of reduced pesticide use or natural pest control.
• Education or awareness initiatives.
• Partnerships supporting pollinator health.
• Measurable improvement in biodiversity or crop yield.

25.Farm Worker Excellence Award

Description:

Honours farm workers who demonstrate dedication, skill, and commitment to the success of their workplace. It recognises individuals whose hard work upholds the excellence of the agricultural sector.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Prerequisite: Working on the farm must be the applicant's primary occupation.



Criteria:

• Proof of consistent performance and recognition by employer.
• Evidence of skill or specialised expertise.
• Positive testimonials or references.
• Commitment to safety, teamwork, and quality work.
• Contribution to community or farm growth.

26. Agri-Tech Innovation Award

Description:

This category recognises the creative use of technology to improve agriculture. It celebrates individuals, startups, or organisations that use digital tools, apps, drones, or automation to increase productivity, efficiency, and sustainability in farming.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.

Criteria:

• Evidence of a new or improved technological solution.
• Demonstrated results (increased yield, efficiency, or cost savings).
• Adoption or use by other farmers or partners.
• Environmental benefits or reduced resource use.
• Innovation that enhances data-driven farming or market access.

27. Commercial Farmer

Description:

This award celebrates large-scale commercial farmers who demonstrate exceptional productivity, innovation, and business management. It honours those who contribute significantly to food security, employment, and sustainable agricultural growth in South Africa, while maintaining high operational standards and community engagement.

Proof Required: Photos, videos, and/or documents.



Criteria:

• Evidence of large-scale, efficient farm operations.
• Proof of business profitability or growth(shown through documentation).
• Use of advanced technology and modern management systems.
• Sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.
• Job creation and contribution to the local economy.

Notes:

- Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they meet the required criteria.
- Photos and videos submitted must be an accurate representation of the applicant's work. Editing or the use of AI-generated content is not permitted.
- To be considered for an award, applicants must meet at least 50% of the stated criteria.

28. Private Training Provider Excellence Award in Agricultural Skills Development

Description:

The Private Training Provider Excellence Award in Agricultural Skills Development recognises outstanding private training providers (Accredited by AgriSETA) that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to building skills, improving employability, and supporting transformation within the agricultural sector.

This award celebrates providers who consistently deliver high-quality, industry-relevant training that meets the needs of both learners and the agricultural economy. It places strong emphasis on measurable impact, innovation in skills development, and adherence to regulatory and quality standards.



Proof Required: Completion reports, training POE, approval letter, contract, documentation showing learner enrolment.

Criteria:

Evidence of the number of learners successfully completed over the 2024 to 2025 period.

Valid accreditation and compliance with recognised quality standards (e.g. AgriSETA or relevant authority certificates).
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29. Employer Excellence in Agriculture Skills Development Award

The **Employer Excellence in Agriculture Skills Development Award** recognises agricultural employers who demonstrate exceptional commitment to developing their workforce through structured training, skills transfer, and inclusive development practices.

This category celebrates organisations that actively invest in building internal capacity, creating opportunities for career growth, and contributing to a skilled and sustainable agricultural sector. It highlights employers who go beyond compliance to embed skills development as a core part of their business strategy.

Proof Required: Documentation showing: Workplace AgriSETA approval, Workplace learning opportunities provided, WSP/ATR submission compliant, Approval letter and Contract

Criteria:

Number of work place opportunities provided

Documentation showing representation of youth, women, and persons with disabilities within the workforce.

30. Women Excellence in Agriculture Skills Development and Leadership Excellence Award

The Women Excellence in Agriculture Skills Development and Leadership Excellence Award recognises outstanding women who have made significant contributions to skills development and demonstrated exceptional leadership within the agricultural sector. This category celebrates women who are driving

SA Agricultural Awards



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change, empowering others, and playing a pivotal role in advancing agricultural productivity, innovation, and transformation. It acknowledges both their professional achievements and their commitment to uplifting communities through mentorship, training, and inclusive development initiatives.

Proof Required: Proof Required: Documentation showing: Learner enrolment, Training POE, Ownership documents, organisation structure, Approval letter and Contract

Criteria:

• Number of the 2025 skills development programme(s) / initiative(s) the organisation were involved in targeting women.
• Number of women beneficiaries benefitted from the programmes implemented in 2025.
• Proof of the number of women learners trained and successfully completed programmes over 2024 to 2025 period.
• Evidence of women ownership and leadership within the enterprise.