



Grain SA is a voluntary, farmer-led industry organisation representing over **7,852 commercial members** and **5,891 emerging grain producer members**. Grain SA serves the interests of grain and oilseed producers across South Africa growing **maize, wheat, sunflower, soybeans, barley, canola, groundnuts, oats, lupines and sorghum**.

Founded in **1999** through the unification of major commodity bodies, Grain SA operates through **33 regions**, commodity working groups, and key entities including **Phahama Grain Phakama NPC (PGP)** for farmer development, **NAMPO (Pty) Ltd** for innovation and technology showcase operations, and the **Commercial Producers Trust** for research investment.

Mission

Grain SA's strategic mission is to promote the **profitability, resilience, and inclusivity** of South African grain producers. Through evidence-based advocacy, innovation, and strategic partnerships, Grain SA works to create an enabling environment that ensures sustainable grain production, drives economic growth, and secures national food security while fostering transformation and rural development. Grain SA operates across the entire grain value chain and engages actively with all three spheres of government, regulatory agencies, and national lobbying platforms to influence policy, safeguard producer interests, and strengthen the sector's long-term viability.

Our mission is not only to react to change, but to drive it - to the benefit of every grain producer and grain value stakeholder, large or small.

Strategic Intent

Grain SA's intent is to enable a **sustainable, profitable, inclusive and competitive grain sector** that delivers enduring value to society. Through its work, Grain SA contributes to:

- **Food security** by ensuring access to affordable, nutritious, and safe grains;
- **Rural upliftment** through skills, employment, and infrastructure;
- **Environmental resilience** through sustainable farming and stewardship;
- **Economic growth** by strengthening domestic and export-oriented agriculture;
- **Social cohesion** through transformation, equity, and opportunity.

Grain producers are central to South Africa's food system, economic landscape, and social fabric. By supporting them, we secure the country's future.

Strategic Focus Areas

1. Farm Profitability

Grain SA works to improve the income and resilience of producers through:

- Transparent monitoring of **input costs, output prices, and tariff regimes**;
- Policy advocacy on issues like **access to and the safe use of chemicals, diesel rebates, import duties, crop insurance and legislation**;
- Tools and data that improve **decision-making and financial sustainability**;
- Profitability comparisons across cultivars, farming systems, regions and countries.

2. Technology to Ensure Competitiveness

In a fast-evolving sector, Grain SA champions:

- Widespread **adoption of precision agriculture**, mechanisation, and climate-smart practices;
- Development of **NAMPO-Tech** and artisan training for the future workforce;
- Research into **next-generation cultivars** (and other methodologies & technologies), drought tolerance, and pest resistance;
- Support for producer-driven **innovation ecosystems** and field trials.
- Availability of new technology to South African producers.

3. Market Access

Grain SA facilitates efficient, fair markets by:

- Advocating for **free and transparent grain markets**;
- Improving **export logistics**, port efficiency, and biosecurity;
- Opening **new export markets**; keeping current export markets and protecting the local market against unfair competition;
- Participating in JSE commodity reforms and **tariff frameworks**;
- Ensuring **access to quality inputs** and resolving member **disputes** in the value chain.

4. Transformed and Inclusive Food System

Transformation is not a programme - it is the strategy. Grain SA promotes:

- Commercialisation of **new-era black producers** and poverty support through the **Beyond Abundance Programme**;
- Access to **land, capital, mentorship, and training** for previously excluded and next generation farmers;
- Youth and women inclusion across the grain value chain;
- A diverse and credible member base that reflects the sector's future.

5. Farming for the Future, Today

Sustainability is woven into every priority:

- Environmental stewardship through **soil health, biodiversity, and safe chemical use**;
- A proactive **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) roadmap** to align with evolving global and consumer expectations;
- Research consortia for **climate resilience**, agronomic innovation, and conservation agriculture;
- Advocacy for **balanced climate policy** that protects producer viability.

CURRENT STRATEGIC ACTIONS & PRIORITIES (2026)

Economics & Advocacy:

- Implementation of the new Plant Breeders Rights Act and implications for SACTA levy;
- Bio-fuels – Ministerial Task Team;
- Focus on maize and soybean exports;
- Lobbying for wheat, groundnut (including peanut butter) and sorghum tariffs i.e. a higher international reference price & an automated publishing system, also lobbying for a reduction in an import tariff of tractor tyres.
- Agro-Chemical derogations – to motivate the importance of certain products to remain available for grain producers, and to promote the safe use thereof.
- Developing with SARS a diesel rebate automated logbook.
- Input into the implementation of the new diesel rebate for April 2026 & implementation of the online rebate system for September / October 2026.
- Import and Export intentions for wheat (✓). Lobbying the same for sunflower and soybeans.
- Agro-Chemicals regulation navigation & influence (1A/1B products & restricted use products).
- Pest Control Operator
 - course for Grain SA members only – cost benefit.
 - Re-negotiating regulations regarding use of restricted remedies (court case won by CropLife gives window of opportunity)
 - New: busy negotiating a proposal for members only to write an evaluation for a certain certification to be able to purchase and use Highly Hazardous Pesticides.
- Addressing grading disputes and biosecurity enforcement (GMO, current grading issues).
- Big win – Leaf has been revoked by die Minister of Agriculture
- Presenting trade submissions (JSE contract changes, PRA market access, protect SA market against unfair trade).
- Request to JSE to change soy contract size to 50 ton;
- Barometer data release and crop conditions reporting.
- Alternative differential investigation for soybeans, and winter grains.
- Focus on profitability of wheat and maize industries.
- Fertiliser, lime and diesel price and quality monitoring.
- New wheat varieties on its way – including white wheat varieties – very promising pipeline and some conditional approvals.

Farmer Development (Phahama Grain Phakama - PGP):

- Provide training and capacity building for farmers of all sizes.
- Assist farmers to apply for production loans.
- Pre and Post Investment support services as a Business Development Service provider to funders
- Assist farmers to access markets.
- Manage production finance for various institutions.
- Mentor loan and grant funded farmers.
- Facilitate access to mechanization
- Create opportunities for women and youth to participate in agriculture.
- Supporting over 1,100 farmers with mechanisation and inputs (R10m+).
- Operating 150+ study groups across 6 provinces.
- Rolling out Advanced Farmer Programme and BA expansion (1,600+ ha).
- Enhancing youth, women and entrepreneurship integration in farming.

Research, Agronomy & Innovation:

- Coordinate grain research consortia to deliver impactful, producer-aligned outcomes.
- Implement research projects addressing producer needs and sector sustainability within Plant Health, Climate Resilience, Crop Improvement, Food and Nutrition Security and Human Capital Development consortia.
- Strengthen plant health diagnostics, surveillance and national disease monitoring platforms. Expand climate resilience research, modelling and climate-smart decision-support tools.
- Modernise cultivar evaluation trials to support improved on-farm decision making.
- Lead herbicide resistance monitoring, molecular diagnostics and Herbicide Action and Resistance Platform (HARP)-aligned research.
- Advance soil health, microbiome and agro-biological innovation across grain systems.
- Strengthen partnerships through the National Grain Research Platform and industry bodies.
- Improve research communication, data management and producer-focused information delivery.
- Build departmental and national research capacity through skills development and recruitment.
- Develop a grain research prioritisation process to empirically assess impactful research options.

NAMPO-Tech:

- Establishing a dedicated agricultural skills development academy for the grain sector.