

Media Statement

FarmSol celebrates 5 years of supporting and developing the future farmers of South Africa.

Photo: Aron Kole is the Managing Director at FarmSol.

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Developing future-fit farmers for South Africa.

To develop a farm, one has to start somewhere. And the way to start is by creating partnerships, linking your dreams to the barren land. Initially, the partnerships will be few and far between, but then as they slowly increase in number and impact, the dots start to connect to create what would hopefully be a sustainable enterprise for the farmer, employees and the nation. After all, food production and food security are basic human rights for all.

FarmSol is celebrating 5 years of supporting new farmers this October! I have been steering the ship at FarmSol for the past 3 years, in which we faced several challenges, including droughts, flooding and the Covid-19 pandemic. What an exciting journey it has been!

At FarmSol, we are particularly proud of the contribution of each one of our farmers and the FarmSol team has made to the South African agricultural landscape. It's been nothing less than hard work, dedication, commitment and effort. Our farmers also showed incredible resilience to keep their heads up against all odds, and keep on doing what all farmers do, namely get up, put up with their challenges, grow crops and keep doing their best to produce food for the nation.

FarmSol is one of South Africa's largest private sector led grain farmer development companies, focused on bringing sustainable empowerment solutions linking customers in the food and beverage sector with emerging growers as their raw material suppliers.

Partnerships and collaborations.

In the 2021 summer crop season alone, FarmSol paid over R18 million in profits to smallholder farmers participating in our scheme, making a meaningful contribution to poverty alleviation, raising incomes and improving food security for South Africa's rural communities and farmers.

This has been made possible by our partnership with the South African Breweries; which has continued to partner with us to support hundreds of smallholder farmers across South Africa with production loan funding, mentorship and access to markets. We also remain positive that our 2021 winter crop farmers will also experience a successful winter crop.

In 2021, three new partners joined hands with FarmSol to support other crops. These partnerships and collaborations will enable us to increase our impact and support many more capable emerging farmers across South Africa.

We are also proud to have been appointed as implementing agent of the Siqalo Grower Empowerment Programme. Through this program, participating emerging growers will have an opportunity to produce high oil content sunflowers for the manufacturing of famous household brands such as Rama, Stork Margarine and Rondo.

The past 5 years have taught us at FarmSol that the challenge in transformation is not the farmers, nor the market, but often a way of connecting these two with one another. FarmSol is playing this crucial role, and we will continue doing so to build a strong South Africa.