

# AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

**The African Perspective - Achieving Food Security through Skills Development.**

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# FOOD SECURITY




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# FOOD SECURITY

- 21st century challenge - increasing demand on food from a growing population, and climate change.
- Increases Social and Economic responsibility of the sector - needs to continuously reinvent itself.
- Agriculture remains a crucial sector and a key driver of economic growth and development.
- In SA - Industry delivers more jobs per rand than any other productive industry.
- Accounts for about 3% of GDP and is tasked with ensuring the country's food security.



A woman wearing a white lab coat and a white hairnet is seen from behind, looking out over a vast field of green plants in a large, modern greenhouse. The greenhouse has a high, arched ceiling with a grid of white structural beams. The plants are arranged in neat rows, and the overall atmosphere is bright and clean.

# Women and Agriculture



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# WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

- Emphasis on women development to redress past injustices.
- Women are key contributors to economic growth and global food security.
- A significant % of agricultural production comes from small farmers, most of whom are rural women.
- Women continue to face challenges in the sector such as lack of resources and gaps in skills and information.
- Opportunities in Agri-business lie in understanding the challenges and positioning such role players to meet these challenges.



A photograph of two young piglets grazing in a green field. The piglets are light pink with some darker spots. The background is a soft-focus field of grass and trees.

# YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE



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# YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE

- Young population - opportunity to stimulate rapid growth.
- *Pool of candidates* - next generations of employees will be under 30.
- $\frac{1}{3}$  unemployed nor in any institution of education & training.
- Equip with skills needed - build a competitive and resilient sector.
- Address the skills shortage and help build capacity.
- SD an investment to serve strategic aspirations of the sector.
- Maximize value added and transfer of skills to coming generations.





# AGRICULTURAL SKILLS



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# AGRICULTURAL SKILLS

- The development of HR or capacity - essential for food security in Africa.
- As farming becomes more complex paired with,
- Greater crop yields required to feed more people,
- Farmers' knowledge and information - constantly needs upgrading.
- Enhances the use of new farming knowledge and technologies - increasing agricultural productivity.



# AGRICULTURAL SKILLS (Conti)

- Critical - farmers are effectively trained and acquire the skills necessary.
- Natural resource base maintained for FUTURE.
- Sustainable Agri depends less on material inputs (e.g., seeds and fertilizer) than HR.
- Should ensure parallel investments - material and people in agricultural production.



# JOB CREATION IN AGRICULTURE

- Primary goal of **New Growth Path** is job creation.
- Agri one of the key areas identified as part of the program.
- To create jobs, the industry must continue to develop - but specific skills are needed.
- In SA, identified as an industry with a shortage of scarce skills.
- Education sector is slow in producing a new wave of Farmers and Agriculturalists.
- More opportunities, less people to exploit them.



# FARMING

## Training Providers



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# TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Urgent and tangible actions to equip youth for future roles in the Agri-industry.
- Focus on building capacities and skills to engage successfully with the entire value chain.
- Increase exposure to modern agricultural practices.
- Increase practical exposure and experience.
- Enhanced readiness for work.
- Creating strategic partnering with stakeholders - continuous improvement.



# AGRICOLLEGES INTERNATIONAL

- A modern e-learning institution using cloud-based technology to deliver education in the field of Agriculture.
- Internal capacity building and upskilling to deliver on objectives.
- Courses designed to equip students with knowledge and competencies - bridge the existing skills gaps.
- Chronic youth un/underemployment and poverty can be attributed in part to limited access to SD opportunities.
- E-learning platform, access to blended and shared learning opportunities.
- Removes barriers such as distance, time and accessibility.



# AGRICOLLEGES INTERNATIONAL



- E-learning - suited to distance learning.
- However, understand the need to put theory into practice.
- Practical Destinations - facilitate practical learning as part of the blended and shared learning programme.
- Pleas to increase access to education.
- Online Model - significantly lower infrastructure and maintenance costs.
- Allows College to offer more affordable Course costs.
- One of objectives - support those learners most in need with bursaries & scholarships.



A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, cupping a small, vibrant green seedling with several leaves. The seedling is growing out of a small mound of dark, rich soil. The hands are positioned to support the plant, symbolizing care, growth, and investment in agriculture. The background is dark, making the hands and the plant stand out.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Demands being placed on sector requires that we step up to help grow the skills pool, reduce unemployment, promote economic development and drive improved food security in the decades to come.
- At ACI we aim to tackle these issues by revolutionizing the teaching and training of Agriculture-related subjects.



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