ACRONYMS
AGOA: Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
APAP: Agricultural Policy Action Plan
DAFF: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
GDARD: Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
IDP: Integrated Development Plan
IPAP: Industrial Policy Action Plan
IPCC: International Panel on Climate Change
LED: Local Economic Development
MLM: Midvaal Local Municipality
NDP: National Development Plan
NGP: New Growth Path
RWF: Rand Water Foundation
SMME: Small Micro Medium Enterprises
SONA: State of the Nation Address
SOPA: State of the Province Address

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SECTION 1

1.1 Introduction

“Agriculture has done more to reshape the natural world than anything else we humans do, both its landscapes and its fauna and flora. Our eating also constitutes a relationship with dozens of other species - plants, animals and fungi - with which we have co-evolved to the point where our fates are deeply intertwined”, Michael Pollan, The Omnivore’s Dilemma

Since the creation of man on earth, agriculture has and is playing a pivotal role in human and animal life by providing food, shelter, clothing, furniture and actually complement the ecosystem cycle. Humans survived as foragers or hunter-gatherers, gathering wild plants and hunting animals in their natural environment. From 10,000 years ago in many areas of the world, there was a shift in human endeavour from foraging to farming. With human observation and natural intellect, people discovered that: a plant can grow from a seed. That discovery made them to grow crops from home instead of looking for food in the veld. The same started with animals where certain animals were domesticated. That is seen as a major evolution of agriculture from foraging to farming. These evolution gave rise to modern farming and was termed Agricultural Revolution: domestication of plants and animals. Given the climatic conditions, cultural and religious beliefs and norms and standards various animals and plans/crops were domesticated.

Agriculture has always produced food for our societies and communities. People and animals eat to live and sustain their lives. The sector has however been dominated by subsistence farming for years. With civilization, there was a shift from subsistence farming into other means of survival being trading, manufacturing, processing and arts. That opened up an opportunity for commercial farming as the demand was high and supply low. Agriculture was then a very successful and lucrative sector of the economy. It also formed part of the educational curriculums and there were colleges and schools offering courses in agriculture. Agriculture, which includes all economic activities from the provision of farming inputs, farming and value adding, remains an important sector in the South African economy despite its small direct share of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

With the birth of secondary and tertiary activities/businesses lots and lots of people lost interest in agriculture and started to venture into other businesses and then a decline in agricultural production and food shortages. As everyone has to eat in satisfying their well-being, new methods and processes were introduced to fast track agricultural produce.

Food security and nutrition has become a pressing global challenge. The National Development Plan (NDP) and New Growth Path (NGP), has identified agriculture as a critical sector to create employment and intervene in food security challenge. It has been reported that agriculture delivers more jobs per Rand invested than any other sector, and NDP estimates that Agriculture could potentially create, 1million jobs by 2030. Government acknowledges the importance of
agriculture in the country. That is articulated in both the State of the Nation Address (SONA) and State of the Province Address (SOPA). It is now the time to invest in agricultural production and improve our communities quality of life.

Agriculture is the foundation of developing economies. As one of these economies, South Africa needs to ensure a healthy agricultural industry that contributes to the country’s GDP, food security, social welfare, job creation and ecotourism, while adding value to raw materials. Potential of the agricultural sector, however depends on the sustainability of farming methods. Farming practices must therefore not only protect the long-term productivity of the land, but must also ensure profitable yields and the well-being of farmers and farmer workers.

In ensuring that we meet food security challenges, improve the quality of life of our citizens and contributes towards being the food basket of Gauteng province, agriculture should be taken seriously and be high on the municipality’s developmental agenda, hence a strategy needs to be prepared to identify agricultural challenges and opportunities for Midvaal Local Municipality (MLM).

1.2 Purpose of the strategy
Agriculture is a “game changer” aimed at: local job creation for the unemployed, food and nutrition security, Income generation, Capacity building and skills development as well as local economic development.

The purpose of the strategy is to strengthen MLM commitment towards agricultural investment and growth. To also identify the threats and opportunities as well as small holders farmers barriers to entry in participating in mainstream agriculture. The strategy is therefore aimed at:

- Create a common vision for agriculture with key stakeholders
- Design and implement a strategic framework to guide policy and implementation of projects and programmes
- Identify programmes and projects that will facilitate agricultural growth and development
- Address issues undermining investor confidence and interest in agriculture
- Ensure increased access and participation in the sector through well-designed empowerment processes and programmes (including training centres, colleges and skills development centres)
- Combine, share and optimise the resources and benefits among the partners
- Foster global competitiveness, growth and profitability in the sector in order to attract new investment
- Ensure sustainable agricultural development
- Build lasting partnerships among public, private and community stakeholders and NGOs
- Encourage youth participation in agriculture

1.3 Methodology
The success of strategic vision and objectives is based on the methodology used to formulate the strategy. The methodology is seen as a basis for the strategy outlining the vision, role players and achievable goals. In formulating the strategy, three methods will be applied, qualitative, case
study and bench-marking. Research will be made on agriculture and what are the challenges and opportunities for MLM. Literature on best practices will be consulted to ascertain a comparative analysis of MLM in relation to other surrounding municipalities, learn from their successes and how they overcame associated challenges. In summary developing an Agricultural strategy requires that a municipality compile an analysis of an existing situation looking at opportunities for possible growth and decide on the best strategy to achieve goals. In ensuring that the strategy achieves its objectives, accurate and reliable data should be collected. Data will be collected by doing a comprehensive literature review of available reports, policies, strategies and research documents. Interviews and workshops will be arranged with community members and agricultural stakeholders for inputs into the strategy in order to compile a final strategy for MLM.

1.4 Structure of the Report
The report is looking at analysing agriculture within the context of the municipality, its challenges and opportunities and detail some key intervention in the form of programmes and projects and how they should be implemented.

1.5 Location of the Strategy
The study area is confined to Midvaal Local Municipality.
SECTION 2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

There are various legislations, policies and plans that guides development of agriculture in the country. Below are the ones relevant to Midvaal Local Municipality.

Constitution
Constitution of South Africa, comprises of the Bill of rights which enshrines the rights of all people in the country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. It is the state’s obligation to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights. However these rights are not absolute and are subject to limitations. Section 27 of the constitution, stipulate that: everybody has access to food and water. In respect of children, section 28(1) of the Constitution determines that every child has the right, amongst others: “(c) to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services. It further oblige government to use its resources, legislation and other measures in ensuring realisation of these rights.

National Development Plan
The NDP sees agriculture as having the potential to create close to 1million new jobs by 2030. In achieving this growth, local smallholder farms should be supported and new farming methods and techniques should be employed to realise maximum production, job creation and economic growth.

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013
The Act provides for relationship between spatial planning and land use management system and other kinds of planning to provide for inclusive, developmental, equitable and efficient spatial forward planning at different levels of government. The Act further advocate for uniformity in the application of land development procedures and confer land development decision to local government.

Infrastructure Development Plan 2012
The infrastructure development plan is an effort by the government to transform the economy as a platform for economic growth and job creation. The aims of the plan are to re-industrialise the industry, develop skills and introduce green principles into the economy.

New Growth Path 2012
Government adopted the New Growth Path (NGP) as the framework for economic policy and the driver of the country’s jobs strategy. The NGP is aimed at creating decent work, reducing inequality and defeating poverty through restructuring of the South African economy to improve its performance in terms of labour absorption and rate of growth. The New Growth Path sets out a range of practical measures at sectoral level to achieve these employment targets, with the following core strategy: Restructuring land reform to support smallholder schemes with comprehensive support around infrastructure, marketing, finance, extension services, etc.; upgrading employment in commercial agriculture especially through improved
worker voice; measures to support growth in commercial farming and to help address price fluctuations in maize and wheat while supporting national food security; acceleration of land claims processes and better support to new farmers following land-claims settlements; programmes to ensure competitive pricing of inputs, especially fertiliser; and support for fishing and aquaculture.

South African Agricultural Production Strategy
The strategy seeks to position primary agriculture production for the purpose of: improving the national food safety and security, agricultural economic output in a profitable and sustainable manner, qualitative and quantitative improvement of South Africa's agricultural productivity, productive efficiency, trade and regulatory environment for all commodity groups. Given the scope and nature of agriculture and by achieving the aforementioned, rural economic growth and development can be fuelled to increase rural employment, alleviate the plight of the poor, who mostly reside in rural areas and stimulate off-farm industrial development.

Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) 2014
It is a five-year plan intended to enhance food production and employment. Its vision is: An equitable, productive, competitive, profitable and sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector” growing to the benefit of all South Africans. It has 3 main objectives: Equity and Transformation, growth and competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

Municipal Systems Act, 2000
The Municipal Systems Act (MSA) of 2000 was introduced to regulate municipal organisation, planning, participatory and service delivery systems. The Act outlines certain rights and duties of the municipal councils such as:
- The use of resources for the benefit of communities;
- Fair and just government;
- Encouraging and facilitating public participation;
- Promoting equitable provision of services to communities;
- Promoting and facilitating developments in the municipality;
- Promoting gender equity; and
- Promoting a safe and healthy environment in the municipality.

The MSA further compels municipalities to prepare a five year integrated development plan and stipulates the contents thereof.

Gauteng Township Revitalisation Strategy
During the 2015 State of the Province Address, Premier of Gauteng adopted a 10 pillar programme of radical transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of Gauteng over the next five to fifteen years. The premier further announced 5 development corridors and their strategic growth objectives. Sedibeng district is aimed to be transformed from steel reliant industry to tourism and entertainment, agro-processing and logistics.
Gauteng 20 Year Food Security Plan
The Province seeks to halve the number of citizens that experience food insecurity in 2011 by 2030. This means that:
- No more than 5% of the population should experience hunger,
- No more than 10% of the population should experience inadequate access to food, and
- No more than 13% per cent should live in poverty.

Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2013/18
MLM’s vision is to be renowned for robust economic growth and a high quality of life for all. In realising this vision, one of the strategic economic development trajectory that MLM continue to pursue is to be “The food basket of Gauteng” and ultimately be the AGRI-TROPOLIS. The municipality has aligned its economic growth strategy position to realise this vision and this is evident as pronounced in the Integrated Development Plan and Spatial Development Plan. The Key Performance Area (KPA) 8 relates to economic development and Principle 2 of that KPA is to facilitate and enhance agricultural production.

Spatial Development Framework (SDF) 2015/2016
The Spatial Visioning of the municipality as guided by the IDP vision is based on the spatial development objectives and principles:
- Development objective: To optimally utilise latent high potential agricultural land for agricultural production.
- Development Principle 2 of the SDF is to facilitate and enhance agricultural production in the municipal area by actively protecting all land earmarked for agricultural purposes.

Midvaal Agricultural Policy
The main purpose of the policy is to guide development of agriculture in the municipality and protect land suitable for agricultural production. The objective for the agricultural policy is to:
- Preserve land with high conservation potential in support of the livelihoods of communities and to ensure sustainable food security;
- Preserve agricultural land in support of the livelihoods of communities and to ensure food security, especially on agricultural land with high yield potential;
- Provide a high level of certainty to landowners, decision makers and other stakeholders with regard to the status and future of agricultural land;
- Regulate and control access to agricultural land by proponents of non-agricultural development, thereby giving effect to the provisions of agricultural legislation;
- Build awareness and knowledge about the value of agricultural land and the need to preserve it and on matters pertinent to the threats that contribute to the loss of this resource;
- Promote efficiency in decision-making on applications relating to the subdivision of agricultural land and the change in use of agricultural land;
- Promote investment into alternative agricultural practices in the Midvaal area, for the benefit of the economy and to improve the quality of life.
Midvaal Economic Study Analysis
The study provides an intense analysis of Midvaal’s economy and identifies challenges and potential for growth. The agricultural sector has been identified as a sector with slow growth but with high potential if necessary interventions can be undertaken. The study identifies two projects being: commercial and urban agriculture that can be explored to promote agricultural growth and development.

Midvaal Draft LED Strategy
The draft LED strategy is being reviewed simultaneously with this study. However, what is being proposed in the current draft strategy is development pillars which encourages agricultural development, SMME development and review of regulations and by-laws. These pillars affect agriculture directly and it is so important that they can be explored in detail. It is very important that the Draft LED strategy and the Draft Agricultural Strategy be aligned to ensure sustainable agricultural growth and development.

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a United States Trade Act, enacted on 18 May 2000. The main aim of these legislation is to provide Sub Saharan countries (including South Africa) with market access to the United States. The trade provides for tariff free trade between South Africa and U.S. market and there is approximately 7,000 products including agricultural products. Trade in agricultural products has been estimated at R2, 45 billion. There are challenges with the renewal of the trade agreement with the US with the poultry industry in South Africa raising some concerns with the safety and quality of the poultry products. Both South Africa and United States are in talks to resolve the challenges.

SECTION 3 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.1 Population
The population of MLM is currently 95301 as per 2011 population census. It is an indication of 3, 94% growth rate as compared to 64271 population in 2001. 70% of the population is the youth and economically active. Given the current housing developments driven by both government and private sector, the population is expected to double within the next 10 years.

3.2 Education level
The 2011 census indicate an improvement in the education with the municipality:

- 5.2% have no formal education as compared to 11.6% in 2001,
- 32.1% have matric as compared to 25.3% in 2001
- 15.2% have a higher education degree as compared to 9.5% in 2001.

It has to be noted that there is no formal agricultural college or tertiary institution within the municipality. Though the education statistics shows an improvement in training sector, there is no guarantee that the same happened with agriculture. There is a dire need for agricultural institution or college within MLM.
3.3 Employment
There has been a decline in youth unemployment rate from 30.4% in 2001 to 25.4 in 2011. The general unemployment rate is 18.8% signifying a decrease as compared to 2001 census. The MLM economic analysis report indicates that Agriculture in MLM employs 2% of the total population. It is evident that more resources should be channelled into the agriculture sector to realise the strategy vision.

3.4 Income Level
Average income levels indicate the demand of consumers for a specific product, service or commodity. It also indicate living standards of a household. The Midvaal Economic Analysis report made the following findings:

- The dominant segment (15.9%) of households in the Midvaal LM earns an income of between R21 350 – R42 689 per annum, followed by households earning between R10 676 – R21 349 per annum (15.1%).
- A significant portion of the population in the market area earns no income at all (13.9%).
- The weighted average annual household income in the market area for 2014 amounts to R189 524 per annum, which translates into R15 794 per month (All LSM groups) and R254 234 per annum, which translates into R21 186 per month (LSM 4 to 10+)
- The income profile affirms a consumer market with a predominant demand profile for lower to lower-middle-end residential and commercial products.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Age Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population under 15</td>
<td>23.20%</td>
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<td>Population 15 to 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population over 65</td>
<td>6.30%</td>
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<td>Dependency Ratio</td>
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<td>Per 100 (15-64)</td>
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<td>Sex Ratio</td>
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<td>Males per 100 females</td>
<td>106.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per annum</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
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<td>Labour Market</td>
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<td>Unemployment rate (official)</td>
<td>18.80%</td>
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<td>Youth unemployment rate (official) 15-34</td>
<td>25.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education (aged 20 +)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No schooling</td>
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<td>Higher education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matric</td>
<td>32.10%</td>
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<td>Household Dynamics</td>
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### Household Demographics

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<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>29,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female headed households</td>
<td>26.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal dwellings</td>
<td>80.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing owned</td>
<td>42.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flush toilet connected to sewerage</td>
<td>58.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly refuse removal</td>
<td>82.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water inside dwelling</td>
<td>64.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity for lighting</td>
<td>79.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Table 1 Population Demographics Source Stats SA

#### 3.5 Spatial and Settlement patterns

The municipality is described as semi-rural. It covers 1722km² and about 93% of the land is currently agricultural. There are two main natural features that impact on the physical structure of the municipality being the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and Vaal River. There are other secondary physical features being the Vaal dam and Klipriver. There are both formal urban housing and informal settlements in the municipality.
Figure 2: Map indicating proclaimed townships v/s farms and agricultural holdings
Farms and Agricultural Holdings occupy the majority of the Midvaal land, estimated at 93%. These farm portions and agricultural holdings are used primarily for agriculture (commercial and small holder farming) and rural residential. There is a railway line that connects Midvaal to Vereniging and Germiston to Johannesburg.

Walkerville, De Deur and Henley-on-Klip are smaller rural settlement areas characterised by agricultural holdings, rural residential uses and farms. Industrial/commercial activities are clustered mainly along the main routes such as the R82 and the R59 and around existing nodes. Larger industries, such as Nampak and Everite are situated next to the main transport and railway lines in the Waterval area in the northern parts of the R59 Corridor. Several smaller order commercial and manufacturing activities are also located in the Meyerton area further to the south which can be described as the commercial hub of the Midvaal area. Mining has potential in the Midvaal area, but it has not yet been thoroughly explored. The Glen Douglas mine, situated near Randvaal, extracts dolomite and is the only operational mine in the area. Proposals for further mining in the area are being explored by mining companies such as Exxaro. The Vaal Marina area and other development areas around the Vaal Dam are developing areas which could be described as peri-urban.
Figure 4: Map showing major routes, land uses and natural features
Figure 5: Map indicating physical features and surrounding municipalities
SECTION 4 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

4.1 Overview of Agriculture in South Africa

Agriculture is the economic development catalyst of developing economies. South Africa needs to ensure a healthy agricultural industry that contributes to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), food security, social welfare, job creation and ecotourism, while adding value to raw materials. But the viability of the agricultural sector depends on the sustainability of farming methods. Farming practices must therefore not only protect the long-term productivity of the land, but must also ensure profitable yields and the well-being of farmers and farm workers.

South Africa like many other countries, is confronted with a disturbing challenge of food security. This challenge is compounded by other structural challenges such as poverty, unemployment and spatial inequality. South Africa’s population is growing at almost 2% per year. It is evident that we need to produce more in order to provide for future demands given our constrained capacity and resources. A research conducted by the Free State Food Project, revealed that 15 million South Africans go to bed hungry and not knowing where their next meal will come from. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey published in 2013 showed that 26% of the population experiences hunger and a further 28.3% of the population is at risk of experiencing hunger.

Constitution of South Africa prescribes rights to citizen in the bill of rights such as: the right to health care, food, water and social security. The Constitution further put an obligation on the government to take reasonable legislative and other steps, within the context of its available resources, to progressively realise each of these rights. Food is a constitutional right and government need to intervene in ensuring that this right is satisfied.

Food security continue to dominate socio-economic discourse. It is a thorn in strategic thinking plenary sessions, given the fact that we all need food to live and complement the eco-system. Food insecurity is caused by inadequate access to enough food (due to inadequate household production, insufficient income and weak purchasing power) to meet individual dietary requirements for active and healthy life. Food security is a constitutional right in South Africa, yet according to Statistics South Africa 2011 report, 18.5% of Gauteng’s population experiences difficulty in accessing enough food and nearly one in five individuals live in poverty and experience hunger.

South Africa has adopted a radical position in transforming its economy by shifting too much focus on industrialisation and manufacturing as primary economic development initiatives to green economy as has been articulated in the National Development Plan and New Growth Path, emphasising on agriculture as the key driver. To this extend Agriculture is now classified as a “game changer” with the aim to:

- Create jobs for the unemployed.
- Provide food and nutrition security.
- Generate income
- Ensure Capacity building and skills development.
• Promote economic development.

Provincial government has since aligned its focus in terms of strategies, policies and frameworks towards the advancement of agriculture in the province. President outlined a nine (9) point plan to ignite growth and create jobs with one of the plans being: to revitalise agriculture and the agro-processing value chain. Premier of Gauteng adopted a 10 pillar programme of radical transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of Gauteng over the next five to fifteen years. In 2015, Premier announced 5 development corridors. Sedibeng district is to be transformed from steel reliant industry to tourism and entertainment, agro-processing and logistics. It is now evident that the focus and attention on agriculture should change in order to “unlock the agricultural potential of the municipality as a future “AGRITROPOLIS”.

4.2 Agriculture in Midvaal Local Municipality

Midvaal Municipality, is one of the three municipalities making up Sedibeng District Municipality. The municipality is strategically located and measures 1722km². Agriculture is the main land use in the municipality constituting approximately 93% of the land within the entire municipal jurisdiction. Agriculture has always been high in the agenda of Midvaal LM. In strengthening its commitment towards agriculture the municipality has devised an agricultural policy and have been involved in a range of agricultural projects some completed already and some planned.

According to information obtained from Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development there is both active and inactive farmers, subsistence and commercial farmers within the municipality. Farmers are primarily small scale and farming from their individual plots/farms. In achieving agricultural growth and sustenance, it is important for MLM to focus on supporting these small scale farmers with training and appropriate expertise so that they can be self-reliance and graduate from subsistence farming to commercial farming: “AGRO-PRENEURS”. The ultimate vision is for the farmers to be able to contribute towards a regional agricultural production in MLM and extend their knowledge and expertise to other struggling farmers. MLM is a very important resource to Sedibeng and the rest of Gauteng in terms of food production.

As agriculture is not a key competency of the municipality, there has been a lack of knowledge on the status quo (strength, opportunities, weaknesses and opportunities) of agriculture in MLM. A service provider was then appointed in this regard in order to provide a turnkey management solution based on the ability to:

• Assist with the facilitation and coordination of the project infrastructure, architecture and technical design/drawings and site layouts.
• Develop selection criteria for the project beneficiaries/Cooperative
• Facilitate the process of enterprise development
• Prepare the training programme/s for business management, capacity building, financial management and other technical business skills required for the empowerment of the cooperative members.
• Develop and implement day to day activity monitoring plans/tools
• Identify appropriate technologies that will assist on processing of products.
One of the first assignments of the Service Provider was to visit farmers and investigate status of their farms and collect data to assist MLM. The objective of the investigation was to understand agriculture categories (i.e. poultry, crops, livestock, fisheries, etc), establish farmers challenges (market, infrastructure and funding), level of training, mentoring and support needed and understand different commodities being produced. From the investigation it became evident that training, mentoring and support continue to be a serious challenge for the farmers. Most of the local farmers do not realise the economic potential of their farms, crops that yield high returns and are not self-sustainable.

4.3 SWOT analysis
Agriculture in Midvaal comprises of diverse activities such as dairy, piggery, lamb, poultry, eggs, goats, crop, vegetables, fruits, animal feeds and herbs.

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<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| • Land ownership  
• Farmers already farming  
• Large available land  
• Comparative advantage | • Not adequate infrastructure (water, electricity)  
• Extension officers not enough to support all farmers  
• Youth not interested in farming  
• Lack of financial assistance and support to farmers  
• Farmers working individually  
• Farmers not linked to markets  
• Farmers lack training and expertise in farming |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Climate change impacts  
• Drought  
• Competition of agriculture and other land uses on agricultural land  
• Global food markets and inflation | • Municipality support agriculture  
• Existing agricultural initiatives  
• Population growth and demand for food  
• Provincial and National government investments  
• CWP food gardens |

Table 2 SWOT analysis
Figure 6: Map indicating current and future agricultural initiatives for MLM.
Amidst the challenges, there is potential for agriculture to grow and develop in Midvaal. The programme and projects identified in the strategy should respond to the challenges and recommend interventions in the form of programmes and projects.

### 4.4 Challenges facing farmers in Midvaal Local Municipality

There is high potential and opportunity for agriculture in the municipality. Given the current agricultural contribution to the municipality GDP of 0.7, the status can be changed if some of the challenges facing farmers can be reduced or intervened. Constraints of growth in agriculture in the municipality are different for different producers and different markets. For commercial farmers the main constraints include lack of suitable and sufficient land, too few good managers, unaffordable long-term debt and working capital, high costs in meeting the standards of international markets, and a lack of, or overly costly, infrastructure for handling either bulk (e.g. for export commodities) or perishable, high-value produce. For agribusiness processors, key constraints include a lack of reliable, high-quality supply from smallholder farmers. For smaller farmers, constraints include: a lack of irrigation infrastructure to remove the volatility associated with rain-fed farming systems and increase yields and cropping seasons; prohibitively expensive credit and a lack of collateral; poor supply chain and market information; and a loss of profit margins to middlemen and traders owing to a lack of transport or market trading and exchange centres. Below is a summary of common challenges as identified by farmers in Midvaal:

#### Infrastructure

Farmers are confronted with infrastructure challenges that hinder their capacity to produce adequately to supply market demand. Infrastructure challenges are broad and vary from roads, agricultural equipment, water, electricity, cold storage, etc. These challenges are exacerbated by the fact that most farms and agricultural plots in Midvaal are located far from current municipal infrastructure making it difficult to connect to existing municipal infrastructure. The municipality does not have sufficient financial capacity to supply all farmers with necessary infrastructure. As the municipality comprises of small holder farmers, it is difficult for them to access the market timeously due to no proper roads infrastructure. Water is also one of the main challenge as there can never be agriculture / farming without water. Most farmers still rely on their boreholes as a source of water for the crops and animals. An issue with borehole water is the water quality and the fact that if it does not rain enough, the water coming from borehole will not be enough to provide for livestock animals and crops. Farmers are still using conventional methods of farming, i.e. without proper structures and protective nets for their crops. There is a proposal by Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation to introduce borehole water meters. The objective of these initiatives is to ensure efficient use of water primarily in agriculture. Challenge will be the cost that farmers has to pay amidst the guarantee of borehole water capacity. Poor access to infrastructure services has been cited in Farmers Weekly as the greatest impediment to the growth of agribusinesses in South Africa.

#### Labour

Employment in agriculture in South Africa is declining at an alarming rate. Agriculture used to be labour intensive but of late commercial farmers follow the international practices of predominantly land-extensive agriculture, using agricultural mechanisation and modernisation resulting in lower requirement of human labour. However, small holder farmers still use labour
intensive practices relying a lot on labour. Labour in agriculture is affected by agricultural growth, food prices and food security. Labour supply, Non-farm employment and minimum wages, continue to compete with other sectors of the economy and interest in agriculture primarily from the youth has declined substantively. Given this fact, most people employed by the small holder farmers are mostly old people and uneducated. The wages are also very low and not competitive as per the Department of Labour minimum wage. Small holder farmers cannot afford to pay the minimum wages, comply with labour regulations with some farm workers not even provided with protective clothing.

**Access to markets**
Market accessibility is identified as one of the main challenges facing farmers in Midvaal. The challenge is however affecting small holder farms as compared to the commercial farmers who already have access to market with off-take agreements with major stores. Small Holder Farmers are producing for the informal markets (street traders, house-shops, selling from their own properties, etc) and their own consumption. They also don’t produce for what the market requires in terms of quantity and quality. It’s so difficult for them to enter the formal markets as they often don’t have the infrastructure to produce required quality and quantity given the size of their properties and technology. Small Holder Famers work in isolation and can never be able to meet the market demand. Everybody is producing what they deem easier as compared to combining their efforts and approach larger markets. There is no networking and collaboration amongst the farmers to share information, knowledge and resources. As alluded earlier, farmers do not have off-take agreements with the markets and do not produce what the markets requires (as per the off-take agreement), but produce what they think the market requires. They are often not aware of value crops that are in demand in the market. If farmers combine per commodity they produce, they are likely to meet market demand and commercialise their produce.

**Farmers support**
Farmer support is broad as it varies from technology, knowledge, infrastructure and on-farm management and supervision. Since agriculture is not a municipal competency, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) provide assistance to local farmers through the use of extension officers. There is limited resources both human and capital to assist farmers by the department, leaving other farmers still struggling to produce. The fact that farmers work in isolation makes the matter worse as it means they cannot share their resources, knowledge and experience. The saddening reality is that often farmers who need help tend to miss the opportunity (due to lack of information) to be assisted and the ones who are not serious about farming due to their access to information get help.

**Training and development**
Farmers need consistent training and development in order to graduate from subsistence to commercial farming. It has been noticed that farmers do not have necessary cognitive and technical skills of managing their farms. Most farmers primarily small holder farmers have limited knowledge on bookkeeping and financial management, human resources, project management and farm management. There is also lack of knowledge on latest agricultural technologies, farming methods, equipment, agricultural products and market trends. There is a need to equip farmers with information and knowledge on a regular basis.
Climate change
Climate change is an undisputable reality based on observations made, such as increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and the rising of the global average sea level. According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the consequences of climate change will vary from food and water scarcity, migration, political instabilities, economic decline, physical environment degradation and natural disasters. South Africa and other countries around the world, face a major challenge with greenhouse gas emission increases of the past 250 years. Climate change has been attributed or linked to the effects of the burning of fossil fuels primarily in the cities or towns. Climate change is a danger to the environment and if not mitigated, its consequences will also undermine the investments of Government on agricultural development and growth, poverty alleviation, equal distribution of wealth, job creation, economic growth and development, HIV and AIDS, spatial inequality and sustainable human settlements. The effects of climate change can further undermine the ability of South Africa to reach the Millennium Development Goals. There are unexpected changes in the climatic systems of the country which conflict with the farmer’s programme of production. This is witnessed by extremely hot and cold weather conditions, drought, sporadic rain and more rain resulting in floods. The latest El-Nino weather conditions (warming of sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean which influences atmospheric circulation, and consequently rainfall and temperature in specific areas around the world) has resulted in droughts, floods and extremely hot weather in South Africa. Farmers have suffered a lot with some losing their livestock and damage to crops due to severe and less rain. Farmers have uttered their dissatisfaction with the current climate condition with some indicating that they are experiencing the worst drought in decades. IPCC has concluded that the world that climate change has been exacerbated by the effects of human activities since the industrial revolution.

Financial assistance
The challenge of financial assistance is prevalent on Small Holder Farmers as commercial farmers already have the funding or relationships with the funders. Small Holder Farmers have a challenge given firstly, subsistence nature of their farm operation and secondly lack of farm management. It has been discovered that most Small Holder Farmers tend to produce for subsistence and they don’t produce for profits. They don’t keep record of their expenditures incurred when producing to ascertain the level of profitability. It is so difficult for them to access available funding streams as they don’t have the information of those and also don’t know the processes and procedures that need to be followed. Even if they know the procedures and financiers, the difficulty is also that their businesses are not legally registered and some don’t have tax certificates and bank accounts. The challenge is compounded by the fact that, they don’t have business plans with financial statements that stipulate commodity produced (quantity, market demand, price, etc), expenses, profits and future prospect of the business. This poses a challenge for financiers to assist with finance, limiting the farmers to graduate to commercial farming.
Food inflation

According to Statistics South Africa, cost of food in South Africa increased by 4.80 percent in November of 2015 over the same month in the previous year. The food inflation is expected to grow from early next year due to the latest drought experienced in some parts of South Africa.

Graph 1 Food Inflation: Source Stats SA

The reality is that food inflation does not only affect the prices of food but to a larger extend affect the production inputs for farmers. Impact is realised on the price of diesel, farming equipment, seeds, fertilizers, etc, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough products to supply the market and make profits.

Food inflation is caused by a myriad of variables ranging from interest rates, exchange rate depletion, international global market and climate change impacts (droughts and floods). It has been reported in Farmers Weekly that the depreciation of the rand has increased white maize prices to a record level of close to R5 000/t and price of meat is expected to double per kilogram.

Regulatory compliance

Farmers have expressed their frustration with regard to the regulatory requirements from both national, provincial and local government, which hinders their farming potential. In Midvaal, some of the regulations or by-laws that require compliance are: town planning schemes, National Environmental Management Act, Public Health Act, Title Deeds, National Building Regulations zoning and other requirements as determined by legislations. The requirements are onerous, costly, and lengthy. At some instances they require services of consultants which are costly for farmers. This frustrate the farmers whom in most cases have purchased their farms to farm without knowledge of the requirements. For example a farmer is not allowed to sell his or her agricultural products directly from their farm without a permission first being obtained from the municipality in the form of a town planning approval and building plans.
Summary
The challenges articulated above are not unique to Small Holder Farmers in Midvaal but some affect all the farmers be it subsistence and commercial farmers. Intervention is required by both government, private sectors and farmers to mitigate some of the impacts. The challenge is always external forces instigated by global markets and climate change that are outside farmers and government control. The strategy should therefore respond to these challenges in a proactive manner and ensure sustainable growth in agriculture.

SECTION 5 AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY PILLARS

The Swot analysis present an opportunity and strength of Midvaal to intervene in agricultural growth and development while recognising that there are threats and weaknesses in agriculture. Given the analysis there is a need to introduce pillars which will guide how the municipality should intervene and also recommend necessary facilitation of projects that can assist in improving performance of agriculture in the municipality. However it is important to outline the anticipated vision of agricultural sector for the municipality and detail development pillars of how to realise the vision.

5.1 Midvaal Agricultural Vision
In line with the MLM vision of being renowned for robust economic growth and a high quality of life for all, the vision for the agricultural strategy is to ensure that MLM becomes: AGRI-TROPOLIS, food basket of Gauteng” and support farmers to graduate from subsistence Small Holder Farmers to commercial farmers and ultimately become Agro-Preuners.

5.2 Strategy Pillars
The Pillars detail a framework of how interventions should be employed to realise agricultural growth and development in the municipality. The strategy pillars will be linked and aligned with the draft LED Strategy being reviewed.

Pillar 1: Funding
Funding for agricultural production is a challenge. Onus is therefore in the municipality to explore various sources of funding available and make the information available to farmers. Further the municipality should assist farmers where necessary with preparation of their funding applications. Below is a list of institutions currently assisting farmers with funding:

- Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA): Land Reform Empowerment Facility.
- National Empowerment Fund (NEF): Rural and Community Development Fund.
- Independent Development Trust (IDC).
- The Jobs Fund
- The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- Old Mutual: Masisizane Fund.
- Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (MAFISA).
- The Department of Trade and Industries (The DTI).
- National Development Agency (NDA)
• International Finance Cooperation
• Anglo American
• SA Breweries
• Khula Enterprise Finance Ltd.
• Eskom Development Foundation
• International Finance Cooperation
• World Bank
• Land Bank
• Development Bank of Southern Africa
• Department of Trade and Industry
• Kagiso Trust
• Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
• The Land Bank.

Pillar 2: Quantification of infrastructure
Farmers have been visited and some of their infrastructure challenges noted. There is a need to create an opportunity for other farmers to provide information on their infrastructure need to the municipality. The information will assist the municipality to quantify the needs and proportionate it to monetary value so that it can be a project, e.g, (number of farmers needing boreholes, how much does one borehole cost). The project will have to be budgeted for by the municipality where possible (subject to availability of funds) or forwarded to relevant institution for financial assistance.

Pillar 3: Establish Agricultural Forum for Midvaal.
There is no active agricultural forum for the municipality. In absence of the forum, there is a division between the municipality and farmers in terms of support, sharing information, knowledge and expertise. The Forum will therefore be a formal institutional structure that will create communication platform between the municipality, agriculture businesses and farmers. The idea is for the farmers to affiliate to the Forum so that they can share their knowledge and expertise by so doing capacitating one another. Other stakeholders, i.e, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gauteng Department of Agriculture, etc, will be part of the forum and will advice farmers on a regular basis and share information on the latest in agriculture techniques, methods and farmers support.

Pillar 4: Cluster Farmers per commodity
Farmers are working in isolation and do not collaborate and share information and knowledge. This hinders farmers in realising the full potential of their farms and the profits they can make. If farmers were clustered per commodity, then it was easier for farmers to: approach the market as a cluster, acquire necessary knowledge and expertise on their produce, collaborate and share resources when farming, assist one another to produce required market quantities and spend less on farming inputs. It will be ideal that after the Forum has been established, all farmers affiliated to be clustered per commodity they produce and assisted accordingly. It is also important where possible that different clusters register cooperative/s to formalise their cluster relationship and commitment.
Pillar 5: Skills development and training.
Farmers need to be capacitated with knowledge and information on a regular basis. Given the current challenges facing agriculture (climate change, global markets, etc), farmers need to know which technologies are available to mitigate current challenges or which commodities need to be produced as per their market performance. Training and skills need from farmers have to be identified. Skills such as financial management, bookkeeping, on-farm management, etc, are very crucial to ensure that farmers become self-sustainable and can make reasonable profits from the farms. Farmers have challenges to prepare bankable business plans to acquire necessary assistance relating to their farm production. The training should also include bankable business plan preparation to assist farmers with getting the necessary funding and support they need.

Pillar 6: Market and linkages
One of the barriers to agricultural growth in the municipality is the market. The municipality has since appointed a service provider to establish market opportunities and identify current market barriers. The findings indicated that there is market opportunities available and various markets have also been visited and off-take agreements obtained. To this extend, vegetables, poultry and piggery markets have been established with off-take agreements. There is a market feasibility study report already prepared with full details on quality and quantity preferred. The challenge is that farmers cannot supply the required quantities to the market as they produce in isolation. Clustering of farmers per commodity, is thus crucial as articulated in Pillar 4, so that farmers can be able to supply the market and grow their production potential. Below is the table of market already secured.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable Products</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
<th>Piggery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pick n Pay Evaton</td>
<td>• Boxer stores</td>
<td>• Etlin International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pick n Pay Protea Glen</td>
<td>• Nhlapo Butchery</td>
<td>• Lynca Meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pick n Pay Protea north</td>
<td>• Top Class Butchery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cambridge Foods</td>
<td>• United Butchery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Farmwise</td>
<td>• Prime Meat Butchery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• African Dynamics</td>
<td>• Meat Butchery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• RSA Agents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Russian Federation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 Agricultural Markets

Pillar 7: Climate Smart Technology
The recent climate change impacts (droughts, floods, extreme high and low temperatures) have affected farmers negatively. Some farmers have indicated that they are working at a loss having to spend too much money on production inputs. It is high time that farmers adapt to smart climate resilient technologies to curb the severe impacts of climate change. Efficient water use and solar
energy use are the immediate interventions for farmers while they need to explore more ways such as use of tunnels with effective irrigation systems, to mitigate climate change impacts.

**Pillar 8: Traceability**
Traceability means the ability to track any food, feed, food-producing animal or substance that will be used for consumption, through all stages of production, processing and distribution. It responds to potential risks that can arise from food and ensures that all food products are safe to be consumed. It is important to ensure that commodities produced in Midvaal are traceable to improve the quality of produce and also to market commodities.

**Pillar 9: Branding**
It is important to brand commodities produced in Midvaal. Farmers through the Forum to be establish, will run a competition to design a logo with a motto for agriculture in Midvaal. The logo and motto will assist in adding value to the commodities and their quality. This will further market the commodities both locally and internationally.

**Pillar 10: Regulations and Bylaws awareness workshops**
Farmers have indicated their frustration with the lengthy, costly and tedious legislative requirements that they have to abide with in maximising their agricultural production. Current compliance processes and procedures will have to be reviewed in ensuring that they are efficient and present a conducive ease of doing business environment. Similarly bylaw compliance awareness workshops will have to be conducted with farmers to ensure that they are informed of the processes and understand how to comply.

**Pillar 11: Infrastructure**
The municipality does not have sufficient budget to roll out infrastructure (water, sanitation and electricity) to all farms and agricultural holdings (as services are mainly concentrated within the Urban Development Boundary), to enable farmers to produce effectively. Active farming areas will have to be prioritised when infrastructure plans are made. Government departments will have to be approached with the quest to establish if there are other infrastructure provision alternatives available which they can assist farmers with. This will include roll-out of solar panels for electricity, boreholes for water and irrigation systems.

**Pillar 12: Agro-Preneurs**
Farmers cannot be always referred to as Small Holder Farmers or emerging farmers. They need to be assisted to migrate from emerging or Small Holder Farmers to commercial farmers. They should be seen as agricultural entrepreneurs hence the term: Agro-Preneurs. This can be achieved through individual farmers taking initiatives to better their production effort or collectively as a cooperative. The Forum together with the municipality, will play an important role in advancing farmers ambition to grow and develop.

**Pillar 13: Agro-Processing**
Agro-processing has a potential to create jobs and stimulate agricultural growth and development as articulated in the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP), New Growth Path and the National Development Plan. According to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
(DAFF), the average contribution of agro-processing to the output and value added of the manufacturing sector was 29.3% and 29.1%, respectively, during 2006-2010 and it created 31% employment. Farmers do not make enough profits from their produce solely because there is no value add into their produce. Commodities are sold or sent to markets without them being processed and bought at a lesser price as compared to if they were processed. Value add by means of agro-processing is very important to ensure good profits for the commodities. The municipality in partnership with GDARD and Rand Water Foundation (RWF), are involved with establishing an Agro-Processing centre referred to as Commercial Model Centre Farm in De Deur. The centre will be developed with pack-house, offices, ablution block, carwash and restaurant. There is a grant funding of 5 million already made by GDARD and RWF. The municipality will be donating the land and undertake rezoning and subdivision process. Once developed, farmers will bring their produce to be processed and sent to market. There centre will be managed by Sedibeng Cluster who are beneficiaries and will determine the quality of the commodities, price, etc.

Pillar 14: Consolidation of agricultural initiatives
There are agricultural initiatives within the municipality driven by the private sector, government departments and Non-Profit organisation. To mention a few: CWP food gardens, mechanisation programme, Bantu Bonke Hydro-Ponics and in the main individual farmers. The initiatives are not coordinated or managed from a central point and don’t contribute optimally towards food security within the municipality. It is therefore important that all projects are registered and administered from a central point so that all the role players can be aware of the projects and understand their challenges and contribution towards advancement of agriculture in the municipality.

Pillar 15: Agro-Industry Value Chain
It is a long term vision to have an all-inclusive agro-industry in Midvaal which will complement agricultural value-chain. Agro-industry should include manufacturing of agricultural implements and equipment, processing of raw materials into agricultural products, packaging of agricultural products for local and regional exports and transportation from the production to distribution centres. Processing and manufacturing should be done by local Agro-Preneurs which should be equipped with the necessary skills. The logistics and administration of this industries should be managed by local cooperatives or local Agro-Preneurs. This will ensure that the agricultural economy circulates within the municipality and benefit all affected role players.

Pillar 16: Agricultural Development Nodes
The Municipality has identified agricultural development nodes as indicated in Figure 6. These areas such as Doornkuil, De Deur, Bantu-Bonke and Vaal Marina, should be incorporated into the Spatial Development Framework and development other than agriculture should be discouraged. Subject to availability of funds, a proper feasibility study should be conducted to establish the potential and viability of the nodes.

SECTION 6 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
The implementation plan below indicate how the pillars should be implemented, detailing specific activities, outcomes and responsible authority. Interventions are not specific to the pillars as outlined as some of the outcomes are repetitive and interdependent. It should be noted however that there is no committed funding by the municipality to implement identified programmes and projects. The implementation will rely solely on external funding if and when received. The municipality is therefore looking out for partnerships with government departments, community members and private sector in implementing the strategy. MLM will play a facilitation role with the role players to realise the implementation of the strategy.
## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERVENTION</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>ROLE PLAYERS</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Funding                                  | • Explore different sources of funding  
• Approach funding institutions  
• Source investors and partners    | • Procure funding  
• Partnerships and joint ventures  
• Investors  
• Start-up capital.          | • MLM  
• GDARD  
• DRDLR  
• RWF  
• PRIVATE SECTOR | • To be secured by agreement |
| Structure (Forum, cooperatives and associations) | • Establish agricultural forum  
• Establish cooperatives and farmers associations  
• Assist unregistered cooperatives with registration, | • Formal constitutional forum  
• Cooperatives that are ready to be beneficiaries  
• Cooperatives that are well administered  
• Active farmers association  
• National Government to fast track their programs.  
• Do joint proposal for fundraising. | • MLM  
• FARMERS ASSOCIATION  
• COOPERATIVES  
• GDARD  
• DRDLR  
• DAFF | • To be secured by agreement |
| Skills development and Training          | • Identify and assist farmers, cooperatives and associations that need training, skills development and capacitation (implements, seeds and funding).  
• Feasibility studies               | • Assist with skills development and training.  
• Capacitate cooperatives to prepare bankable business plans, constitution and general administration of cooperative.  
• Introduce innovative agricultural methods and processes. | • MLM  
• GDARD  
• RWF  
• DRDLR | • To be secured by MLM or agreement |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Partnerships</th>
<th>Geotech investigations, water capacity and fertilizers required.</th>
<th>MLM</th>
<th>DRDLR</th>
<th>GDARD</th>
<th>PRIVATE SECTOR</th>
<th>To be secured by agreement</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify agricultural sector production demand and supply.</td>
<td>Information and expertise sharing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Establish partners that can invest, trade and capacitate farmers.</td>
<td>Open access to the local and regional markets.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Skill Development</td>
<td>Trading partners to buy or sell products in demand or over supplied.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investors and partners.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Information and expertise sharing.</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td>PRIVATE SECTOR</td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Open access to the local and regional markets.</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td>PRIVATE SECTOR</td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training partners to buy or sell products in demand or over supplied.</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td>PRIVATE SECTOR</td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Investors and partners.</td>
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<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Development Nodes</td>
<td>Conduct feasibility studies</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td>PRIVATE SECTOR</td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify current and future agricultural development nodes</td>
<td>Package nodal developments as projects (Request for Proposals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consolidate current agricultural initiatives</td>
<td>Secure funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify investors and partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure strategic linkages from production to distribution centres</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Development Nodes</td>
<td>Planning for infrastructure roll out and budget.</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Identify current and future agricultural development nodes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consolidate current agricultural initiatives</td>
<td>Partnership amongst farmers on sharing resources.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct feasibility studies</td>
<td>Link farmers to markets.</td>
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<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
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<td>• Secure funding</td>
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<td>DRDLR</td>
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<td>• Identify investors and partners</td>
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<td>• Ensure strategic linkages from production to distribution centres</td>
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<td>GDARD</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify infrastructure need and quantity thereof.</td>
<td>Acquire funding for infrastructure provision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Explore other assistance avenues.</td>
<td>Partnership amongst farmers on sharing resources.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access to markets</td>
<td>Link farmers to markets.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Renewable energy</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td></td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td></td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td></td>
<td>To be secured by agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>• Explore how renewable energy initiative can be implemented (solar panels).</td>
<td>marketing plan</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>FORUM</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
<td>DRDLR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmers to design a logo and motto for agriculture.</td>
<td>Midvaal to be renowned for agricultural produce.</td>
<td>Print, TV and radio adverts to be used to market the products.</td>
<td>Supply the country with agricultural produce.</td>
<td>MLM</td>
<td>FORUM</td>
<td>GDARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyers and pamphlets to be designed with products sold and farmers who produced.</td>
<td>• Products to be branded.</td>
<td>• Brand agricultural products.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 Implementation plan
SECTION 7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In ensuring satisfactory achievement of the strategy outcomes, the activities will have to be monitored and evaluated against time, quality and budget. Monitoring and evaluation are important management tools to track progress in the implementation of the strategy and facilitate decision making. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the strategy implementation process, will ensure effective and efficient strategy implementation process.

The municipality, Forum, Community members, private sector and governments department will form a committee that will oversee the implementation of the strategy. The committee will be a formal institution of the municipality with clear Terms of Reference approved by the municipality. The Committee will hold the monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation, identify challenges and devise solutions in ensuring successful implementation of the strategy.

The committee’s progress will also be monitored by the municipality through its committees (Section 80 or Mayoral Committee).

SECTION 8 CONCLUSION

Agriculture is the foundation of developing economies. As one of these economies, South Africa needs to ensure a healthy agricultural industry that contributes to the country’s GDP, food security, social welfare, job creation and ecotourism, while adding value to raw materials. But the health of the agricultural sector depends on the sustainability of farming methods. Farming practices must therefore not only protect the long-term productivity of the land, but must also ensure profitable yields and the well-being of farmers and farmer workers.

In ensuring that we meet the food shortage challenge, improve the quality of life of our citizens and contributes towards the food basket of the country, agriculture should be taken seriously and high on our developmental agenda.