



Accredited Provider
The Skills College for Development and Training (Pty)Ltd.

National Certificate: Plant Production

Qualification ID 48972– NQF 1; 120 Credits

INTRODUCTION

This qualification has been developed for the fast food and restaurant industry. It brings together elements of food and drink preparation, service and supervision. This qualification will professionalise the industry and is applicable mainly to the fast food and restaurant sector, but would be transferable to another hospitality environment. The qualification provides articulation with Gaming, Travel and other Tourism industries.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

The purpose of this qualification is to allow new entrants access to the Primary Agricultural Sector with specific reference to Plant Production. The contextualised purpose and usage of the qualification is as follows:

A learner assessed against this qualification will have the necessary competence to participate as part of a working team, performing the agricultural processes as applicable to Plant production in a closely defined context and under close supervision.

Competency will be gained in any of the specialized sub-fields of Plant Production as specified under Areas Of Specialization (i.e. Vegetables, Fruit Production, Hydroponics, etc.)

The learner will be able to take responsible decisions within a limited range based on a sound understanding of the basic principles of agri-business and good agricultural practices, in meeting the set objectives and targets within the broader farm plan which includes the economical application of general resources, agricultural production and technical knowledge and skills, all in an Plant Production context.

The Learner will be able to carry out repetitive procedures in a predictable environment and will be able to adhere to the relevant safety, quality, hygiene and technical standards as applicable within the industry.

In addition to the above, the learner will be well positioned to extend learning and practice into other sub-fields such as Plant Production and Mixed Farming, since such efforts will only require additional learning within the elective scope of other qualifications at this level.

The learner will be well positioned to progress towards higher levels of Management and Technical production practices as defined by qualifications at the next level.

Learners will be enabled to actively participate in the Primary Agricultural Sector through the production of quality agricultural products, enhancing the overall agricultural process and gain opportunities to access local, national and international agricultural markets.

Finally, this qualification will allow qualifying learners to become economically active in farming practices that will have a direct impact on Local Economic Development through the production of food, the improvement of household food security and access to mainstream agriculture.

Rationale for the qualification:

This qualification provides learners the opportunity to gain a qualification in Plant Production. The range of typical learners that will enter this qualification will vary and includes:

New entrants in farming who wish to progress to the level of Junior Labourer within farming operations in Plant Production;

New entrants that wishes to enter the sector as farmers;

Learners in possession of different levels of practical experience in farming operations, which will be assessed and RPL'ed;

Possible candidates for promotion identified by the community as leaders.

Learners may come from both genders.

The learner will engage in operational activities relevant to Plant Production.

Requests and expressions of need for this qualification, coming from the broad, but also specific farming communities (Plant Production) forms the basis for the development of this qualification.

This qualification will form the basis for learners to extend their learning into more specialised areas of plant production and provides the basis of the establishment of sustainable farming operations through the inclusion of a wide spectrum of competencies required by farmers in South Africa. Whilst technical production orientated competencies are ensured, other aspects such as agri-business and good agricultural practices are included in the range of competencies required by farmers in order to enable them to strive towards agricultural management standards and practices at higher levels.

Competent qualifying learners in this qualification will participate in the production of quality agricultural products in Plant Production whereby enhancing the overall agricultural process and gain opportunities to access local, national and international agricultural markets.

LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE

It is assumed that a learner entering a programme leading to this qualification has achieved numeracy, literacy and communication equivalent to ABET 3.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This qualification may be achieved in part or in whole through the recognition of prior learning. Credit will be given to learning, which has already been acquired, through the appropriate process of assessment.

For example:

Learners who have acquired skills and competencies in this qualification through for instance experience in the industry will be assessed against the unit standards the qualification comprises of prior to entering learning. Credits will be allocated to those unit standards and exit level outcomes in which the learner is found competent. The outstanding unit standards will then be sequenced according to an appropriate learning programme.

Should a new entrant into the industry wish to enter this learning programme, recognition will be given to all appropriate learning acquired through the schooling system.

In terms of fundamental unit standards, competencies could be acquired through life experience.

Any learner wishing to be directly assessed may arrange to do so, without attending further training or education. The assessor and learner will decide together on the most appropriate assessment route to take.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

Exit Level Outcomes are divided into five categories of competencies, namely:

Fundamental Competencies

Agri-business

Agricultural Practices

Plant Production; and

Animal Production (This component has been included to ensure that Learners at this level is exposed to a small component of animal production)

Fundamental Competencies:

1. Apply various communication skills within the agricultural environment.
2. Apply mathematical calculations within the agricultural environment.
3. Safely and accurately collect routine agricultural data by applying prescribed methods of data collection for agricultural purposes.
4. Recognise the basic concepts of sustainable farming practices and be able to perform basic tasks in applying sustainable farming practices.

Agri-business:

5. Keep record and report appropriately on inputs and resources in an agricultural environment.
6. Describe the production process in an agricultural environment.
7. Describe the importance of marketing within the agricultural production process.
8. Keep an accurate and current simple financial record keeping system in an agri-business environment.
9. Apply the basic principles of human resources management in an agricultural environment.
10. Understand the basic principles of enterprise selection and production.

Agricultural Practices:

11. Apply sound food safety principles by identifying risk factors in food contamination and applying preventative measures to ensure product safety.
12. Observe and maintain basic water quality by working with the technical systems that control quality factors in water.
13. Incorporate an understanding of the role of natural resource management in sustainable agricultural practices into existing farming activities by applying basic practices to conserve the environment, including natural resources,
14. Carry out basic physical farm layout tasks including construction of rainwater harvesting and soil conservation structures in a small farm or garden environment
15. Operate, care for and store basic tools and equipment in a safe and responsible manner.

Plant Production:

16. Demonstrate an elementary understanding of the parts of a plant and their basic functions.
17. Apply soil nutrient preparations in a safe, effective and responsible manner.
18. Assist with the propagation of plants.
19. Harvest agricultural crops by using basic harvesting tools.
20. Plant a range of crops according to correct placing, spacing and depth of the plant material.
21. Identify insects and explain the damage it can cause to crops.
22. Manipulate plants using pre-determined methods and techniques.

Animal Production:

23. Produce livestock whilst demonstrating an understanding of the environment and its relationship to sustainable livestock production.

TIME PERIOD

This Learnership can be presented over a period of 12 months

A SELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING UNIT STANDARDS WILL BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO REACH 120 CREDITS:

UNIT STANDARDS:

	ID	UNIT STANDARD TITLE	PRE-2009 NQF LEVEL	NQF LEVEL	CREDITS
Core	116158	Apply basic agricultural enterprise selection principles	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116166	Apply basic food safety practices	Level 1	NQF Level 01	1
Core	116160	Apply basic human resource management principles and practices applicable in an agricultural environment	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116172	Apply elementary farm layout and infrastructure	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116156	Collect agricultural data	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116165	Define production and understand the basic activities of production / conversion in the agri-business environment	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116199	Demonstrate a basic understanding of the structure and function of a plant in relation to its environment	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Core	116157	Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts of sustainable farming systems	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Core	116164	Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of marketing	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116206	Fertilise soil and attend to basic plant nutrition	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Core	116163	Handle inputs and stock in agri-business	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116201	Harvest agricultural crops	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Core	116159	Identify the need for capital and understand the need for the recording of the income and different costs in an agri-business	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116168	Maintain basic water quality	Level 1	NQF Level 01	1
Core	116203	Manipulate plants	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Core	116202	Operate and maintain irrigation systems	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Core	116200	Plant the crop under supervision	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Core	116205	Propagate plants	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Core	116204	Recognise pests, diseases and weeds on crops	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Core	116167	Select, use and care for hand tools and basic equipment and infrastructure	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Core	116169	Understand how sustainable farming systems conserve natural resources	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4
Fundamental	7464	Analyse cultural products and processes as representations of shape, space and time	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Fundamental	13356	Assess the influence of the environment on sustainable livestock production	Level 1	NQF Level 01	4

Fundamental	7451	Collect, analyse, use and communicate numerical data	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Fundamental	7449	Critically analyse how mathematics is used in social, political and economic relations	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Fundamental	14084	Demonstrate an understanding of and use the numbering system	Level 1	NQF Level 01	1
Fundamental	7463	Describe and represent objects and the environment in terms of shape, space, time and motion	Level 1	NQF Level 01	2
Fundamental	12462	Engage in a range of speaking and listening interactions for a variety of purposes	Level 1	NQF Level 01	6
Fundamental	12471	Explore and use a variety of strategies to learn (revised)	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Fundamental	12469	Read and respond to a range of text types	Level 1	NQF Level 01	6
Fundamental	7461	Use maps to access and communicate information concerning routes, location and direction	Level 1	NQF Level 01	1
Fundamental	7447	Working with numbers in various contexts	Level 1	NQF Level 01	6
Fundamental	12470	Write for a variety of different purposes	Level 1	NQF Level 01	6
Elective	116209	Demonstrate an understanding of agri/ecotourism as a system at micro level	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Elective	116150	Identify and explain permaculture principles	Level 1	NQF Level 01	8
Elective	116148	Perform basic routine operations in a defined hydroponic context	Level 1	NQF Level 01	5
Elective	116149	Understand organic market requirements	Level 1	NQF Level 01	3