



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

National Certificate: Plant Production

Qualification ID 49052– NQF 3; 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

A learner assessed as competent against this qualification will have the necessary competence to supervise and lead a working team performing the agricultural processes as applicable to plant husbandry. Furthermore, the learner will be able to take responsible decisions 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. The learner will also be able to adhere to and implement according to the level of supervision as well as the relevant quality, safety and hygiene standards as applicable within the industry.

In addition they will be well positioned to extend their learning and practice into other areas of agricultural commodities within a context of either agronomy, or horticulture as applicable to the agricultural commodity, or to strive towards agricultural management standards and practice at higher levels.

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

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:

Farm operators who wish to progress to the level of supervisor within farming operations in Plant Production;

Farm owners, in possession of an equivalent qualification at NQF 2;

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 supervision and 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 oversee 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 NQF 2 and technical skills pertaining to agricultural activities equivalent to NQF 2.

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 four categories of competencies, namely:

Fundamental Competencies

Agri-business

Good Agricultural Practices

Plant Production

Fundamental Competencies

1. Communication.
2. Maths Literacy.
3. Recognise, interpret and report on a range of deviations during the data collection process.
4. Incorporate basic concepts of sustainable farming systems into practical farm activities.

Agri-business

5. Maintain stores and agro-inputs in stores.
6. Participate in the production planning process on a day-to-day basis.
7. Apply the components of the marketing cycle in an alternative agricultural marketing environment.
8. Determine viability of agri-business.
9. Assist with the management of human resources in an agricultural environment.
10. Interpret the factors influencing agricultural enterprises and enterprise selection and production, and of planning accordingly.

Agricultural Practices

11. Monitor and supervise the implementation of food safety and quality, production, environmental and social practices, and awareness within the agricultural supply chain.
12. Apply the principles of water quality management and adjust systems to ensure appropriate levels of quality.
13. Apply a routine maintenance and servicing plan.
14. Monitor practices to conserve the environment, including natural resources whereby ensuring optimal utilization of national resources on the farm.
15. Decide on appropriate land capability options for a given field.

Plant Production

16. Identify and describe the physiological processes and anatomical structures of a plant.
17. Soil nutrient preparations are performed in a safe, effective and responsible manner for the benefit of plant/crop growth with consideration to the environment.
18. Plants are propagated in a limited range of conditions
19. Apply basic control measures for insects, plant diseases and common weeds.
20. Monitor and co-ordinate the harvesting of crops.
21. Monitor and supervise the manipulation of plants by applying a broad range of techniques..

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	116125	Apply crop protection and animal health products effectively and responsibly	Level 2	NQF Level 02	4
Core	116275	Apply routine maintenance and servicing plans and procedures	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3

Core	116274	Assist in farm planning and layout for conservation and rainwater harvesting	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116272	Demonstrate a basic understanding of the physiological functioning of the anatomical structures of the plant	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4
Core	116259	Explain application of marketing principles within an alternative and dynamic agricultural marketing environment	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116237	Explain costing and the viability of an agri-business	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116257	Explain human resource policies and procedures	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116240	Explain store inputs categories, labeling and storage methods	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116218	Explain the planning and scheduling of tasks in a production environment	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116220	Explain the propagation of plants	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4
Core	116214	Interpret factors influencing agricultural enterprises and plan accordingly	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116212	Maintain water quality parameters	Level 3	NQF Level 03	2
Core	116267	Manage soil fertility and plant nutrition	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Core	116268	Monitor and co-ordinate the harvesting of agricultural products	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4
Core	116271	Monitor and supervise a food safety and quality management system in the agricultural supply chain	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116263	Monitor natural resource management practices	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4
Core	116265	Monitor pests, diseases and weeds on crops	Level 3	NQF Level 03	2
Core	116264	Monitor plant manipulation	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Core	116266	Monitor the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems	Level 3	NQF Level 03	3
Fundamental	8968	Accommodate audience and context needs in oral communication	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	9010	Demonstrate an understanding of the use of different number bases and measurement units and an awareness of error in the context of relevant calculations	Level 3	NQF Level 03	2
Fundamental	9013	Describe, apply, analyse and calculate shape and motion in 2-and 3-dimensional space in different contexts	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4

Fundamental	116222	Incorporate basic concepts of sustainable farming systems into practical farm activities	Level 3	NQF Level 03	7
Fundamental	8969	Interpret and use information from texts	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	9012	Investigate life and work related problems using data and probabilities	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	116269	Supervise the collection of agricultural data	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	8973	Use language and communication in occupational learning programmes	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	7456	Use mathematics to investigate and monitor the financial aspects of personal, business and national issues	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Fundamental	8970	Write texts for a range of communicative contexts	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Elective	116258	Communicate agri/ecotourism principles and concepts effectively and adapt to needs	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Elective	116261	Introduction to organic certification and internal control systems	Level 3	NQF Level 03	4
Elective	116262	Maintain and support sustainable wild flower harvesting practices	Level 3	NQF Level 03	5
Elective	116221	Identify and apply permaculture principles	Level 4	NQF Level 04	5
Elective	116314	Produce crop in a hydroponic system	Level 4	NQF Level 04	4