BUHLE
FARMERS' ACADEMY



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND ENTERPRISE GROWTH

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NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON 2025

Dr. Bonile Jack-Pama



Agriculture in South Africa has never been for the faint hearted. Farming demands strength, patience, and the ability to adapt, often under pressure that would test any enterprise. Rising costs, climate volatility, and economic strain continue to shape how farmers plan and produce. Energy remains expensive, water increasingly unpredictable, and margins tight and yet, farmers continue.

What gives me confidence as we reflect on the year behind us is not the absence of challenges, but the way smallholder farmers are responding to them. Across the sector, farmers are planning better, working smarter, and building enterprises that can endure change rather than be undone by it. Reduced load shedding during the year created space to recover, but it is the determination and ingenuity of farmers that keep food moving from fields to communities.

Power is shifting back into the hands of those who work the land. Energy decisions have become business decisions. Climate smart practices are no longer optional; they are essential tools of survival and growth. Farmers are learning to protect their soil, manage resources carefully, and think long term, even when conditions demand immediate solutions.

There is opportunity in this moment. Global attention on regenerative agriculture and climate solutions have opened new conversations about the value farmers hold, not only as food producers, but as custodians of land and contributors to environmental resilience. With the right understanding and support, these opportunities can strengthen farms rather than distract from their core purpose. Buhle Farmers' Academy helps farmers navigate these emerging possibilities with clarity, ensuring that participation in broader value chains and environmental programmes enhances, rather than complicates, their farming enterprises.

Buhle Farmers' Academy exists for this exact reason: to stand with farmers as they recognise their own power and use it well. The work reflected in this report shows what becomes possible when training, support, and belief come together. It is a celebration of progress, learning, and resilience built step by step.

None of this is possible without partnership. We are deeply grateful to our funders, donors, and strategic partners whose continued investment and belief in smallholder farmers make this work sustainable. Their commitment is not simply financial; it is a shared conviction that agriculture holds the key to food security, economic inclusion, and a more equitable South Africa. We honour that trust by ensuring every resource reaches the farmer, every programme delivers lasting value, and every result is measurable, meaningful, and real.

During the year under review, the Board undertook an important governance strengthening process to ensure that Buhle Farmers' Academy remains a trusted and accountable development partner. Recognising that sustainable impact depends on strong governance, the Board expanded its collective expertise through the appointment of independent professionals with specialist experience in finance and human resources.

These appointments enabled the establishment of two dedicated governance committees: the Finance and Audit Committee and the Human Resources Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee, provides enhanced oversight over financial management, risk, internal controls and organisational sustainability. The Human Resources Committee brings strategic oversight to organisational culture, leadership development, performance management and people practices.

These governance enhancements strengthen the Board's ability to provide effective oversight, improve accountability and support sound decision-making. More importantly, they reinforce our commitment to ensuring that every investment entrusted to Buhle is managed responsibly, transparently and in pursuit of measurable development impact.

As you read these pages, you will encounter evidence of farmers who refuse to give up on production, on growth, or on their communities. They remind us that agriculture's true strength lies not in perfect conditions, but in people who continue to plant, adapt, and lead, no matter the circumstances. To our funders, partners, and supporters: thank you for standing with us and with the farmers whose stories fill these pages. Your belief in this work strengthens every harvest, every enterprise, and every future being built from the ground up.

> "Power is shifting back into the hands of those who work the land

CEO's NOTE 2025

Kingsley Nkwane



A nation that is food secure is resilient. Farmers are the force behind that resilience.

Over the past year, smallholder farmers continued to produce under conditions that demand more from them each season, more planning, more discipline, more creativity. Climate uncertainty, rising input costs, and energy constraints have become part of everyday decision making. Still, farmers continue to show up, tend their enterprises, and supply food to their communities. At Buhle Farmers' Academy, we are inspired daily by this commitment.

We are equally grateful to our funders and partners, whose sustained investment makes this work possible. Without their confidence in Buhle's model and their commitment to smallholder agriculture, the scale of impact reflected in this report would not be achievable. Funder support enables us to go beyond training, to walk alongside farmers through implementation, to absorb risk on their behalf, and to build the kind of long-term relationships that turn knowledge into enterprise. We honour this partnership by ensuring that every rand invested delivers measurable, lasting impact in the lives of farming families and their communities.

Our work is practical and grounded. We focus on what farmers face on the ground and how knowledge translates into action. Throughout the year, we have seen farmers strengthen their enterprises by making informed choices, improving planning, managing risk more deliberately, and scaling at a pace that protects sustainability rather than chasing rapid expansion.



Agility has become a defining strength. Farmers are refining systems, diversifying income sources, and learning to respond quickly without losing sight of long term goals. Our training and support model continues to evolve alongside this reality, with strong emphasis on enterprise thinking, financial awareness, and real world problem solving.

Technology is increasingly part of this journey. Farmers are blending experience with innovation, using digital tools, peer learning, and experimentation to adapt faster and work more efficiently. Learning no longer happens only in classrooms; it happens every day on farms where choices matter.

At Buhle's working farm, diversification remains central to our own resilience. The production of seedlings, day-old chicks, and eggs, alongside hands-on training in vegetable production, grain crops including soya, sweet corn, and peas, and livestock production, does more than generate income; it creates living examples of how farming enterprises can balance food security with financial sustainability. Each enterprise on the farm is a working classroom, demonstrating to smallholder farmers what disciplined, diversified production looks like in practice. These are the kinds of solutions farmers relate to, replicate, and build upon as they grow their own operations.

This report reflects collective effort and shared success. Every enterprise strengthened, every harvest stabilised, and every job created matters. Together, these achievements build food secure communities and a more resilient agricultural sector. We invite you to read this report with pride, pride in farmers, pride in progress, and confidence in what is still to come. And to our funders, whose partnership underpins every programme and every farmer we serve: this report is as much yours as it is ours. Thank you for choosing to invest where it counts most.

Strengthening Governance and Accountability

Strong governance is fundamental to achieving sustainable development impact. **During the year under review, Buhle Farmers' Academy implemented significant governance improvements designed to strengthen accountability, enhance strategic oversight and position the organisation for long-term growth**.

To broaden the Board's expertise, Buhle appointed additional independent professionals with specialist skills in finance and human resources. This enabled the establishment of two standing Board committees that provide focused oversight over key organisational functions.



The Finance and Audit Committee, provides oversight of financial management, budgeting, risk management, internal controls, compliance and audit processes. The committee supports the Board in ensuring that resources are managed prudently and that financial reporting remains accurate, transparent and aligned with the expectations of donors, regulators and other stakeholders.

The newly established Human Resources Committee provides strategic oversight of people management, organisational culture, executive performance, succession planning and human capital development. The committee supports the organisation in attracting, developing and retaining the talent required to deliver on its mission.



Together, these governance improvements demonstrate Buhle's commitment to continuous institutional strengthening. By investing in robust governance systems, the organisation is better positioned to manage risk, improve organisational performance and provide funders, partners and beneficiaries with confidence that their investment is protected through responsible leadership and effective oversight.

Buhle's Approach to Farmer Support and Enterprise Growth

In its early years, Buhle Farmers' Academy focused on training and technical farmer support. At the time, this support was largely advisory, helping farmers improve production practices and farm management while they navigated their own resource constraints. This work built important skills and confidence, but for many farmers, limited access to capital and infrastructure slowed enterprise growth.

Over time, it became clear that training alone is not enough.

In response, Buhle has deliberately evolved its model to better reflect the realities smallholder farmers face. Through partnership driven and farmer funded initiatives, the Academy now integrates training with access to start up capital, infrastructure development, and sustained mentorship.



This approach recognises that knowledge must be matched with practical means if farmers are to build viable, sustainable agribusinesses.

Today, Buhle supports farmers across the full enterprise journey. From foundational training and production planning to access to inputs, infrastructure, and ongoing guidance from Farmer Support Officers, farmers are supported to move beyond subsistence activity and into structured, income generating enterprises with clear growth pathways.

Collective enterprise development has become a key strength of this approach. Community based and cooperative farming models allow farmers to grow together, sharing learning, coordinating production, procuring inputs collectively, and holding one another accountable. These models strengthen both enterprise performance and resilience, while reinforcing the value of collaboration. As a result, Buhle's role has grown beyond that of an advisor. The Academy now acts as a facilitator and connector, bringing together training, funding, and mentorship to support farmers as they transition from learning environments into operational and scalable agribusinesses.

This evolution reflects Buhle's continued commitment to empowering farmers not only with knowledge, but with the practical tools, partnerships, and support systems required to turn knowledge into lasting enterprise growth.

While we continue investing in innovative programmes for farmers, we have also invested in strengthening the institution itself. During the year, Buhle enhanced its governance structures by establishing dedicated Board committees responsible for financial oversight, audit, human resources and organisational performance. These governance improvements ensure that our operational growth is matched by stronger accountability, prudent financial stewardship and sound organisational leadership. As we continue to scale our programmes and partnerships, stakeholders can be confident that Buhle is building an institution capable of managing growth with integrity and excellence.



Rebranding and Growing a New Vision

During the year under review, **Buhle Farmers' Academy unveiled a refreshed corporate identity that reflects both our heritage and our future ambitions.** The rebranding represents more than a visual change—it is a renewed expression of who we are, what we stand for and where we are going as an organisation.

Our new identity has been designed around the journey of growth.

The logo begins with a seed, symbolising the beginning of every farmer's journey and Buhle's role in nurturing potential through knowledge, opportunity and support. As the seed germinates into a leaf, it represents transformation, enterprise development and sustainable growth.

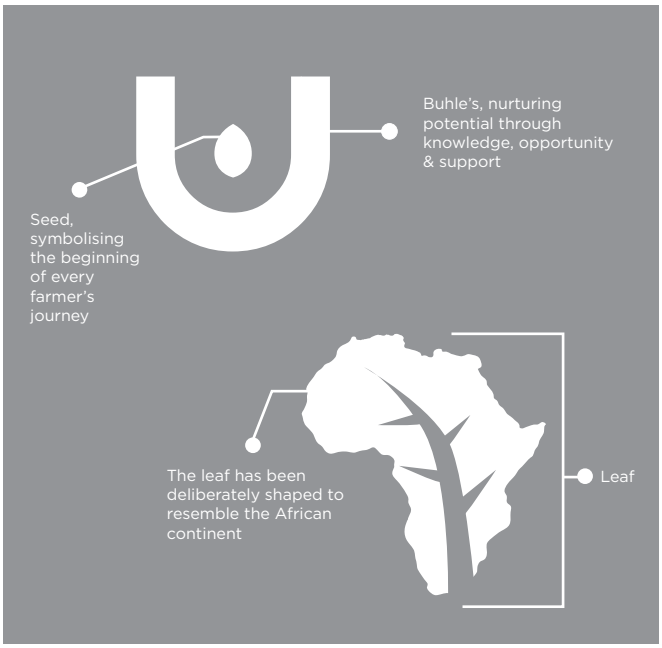
The leaf has been deliberately shaped to resemble the African continent, reflecting Buhle's long-term vision of expanding its impact beyond South Africa and contributing to agricultural development across Africa. While our roots remain firmly planted in South African communities, our ambition is to become a recognised African centre of excellence in farmer development, agricultural skills training and enterprise support.

The colour palette reinforces this vision. Green symbolises nature, renewal and sustainable growth, while the earthy brown reflects fertile soil, resilience and the life-giving foundation upon which agriculture depends.

The refreshed identity signals an organisation that continues to evolve while remaining true to its purpose. It reflects Buhle's commitment to innovation, professionalism and long-term partnerships that create lasting impact for farmers, communities and the agricultural sector.

For our stakeholders, the new brand represents an organisation that is growing with confidence, strengthening its institutional capacity and preparing for the next chapter of impact across the African continent.

> Resilient farmers are built through knowledge, support, and the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the economy



BUHLE
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Strengthening Resilience and Enterprise Growth

In 2025, Buhle Farmers' Academy continued to strengthen its focus on building resilient smallholder enterprises able to operate and grow under increasingly difficult conditions. While access to markets remains important, this year reinforced a broader truth: sustainable enterprises are built through sound planning, adaptability, and reliable support structures, alongside strong production.

Across the communities where Buhle works, farmers continue to navigate interconnected challenges. **Rising input costs, infrastructure gaps, logistical constraints, and uneven access to finance all shape enterprise decisions.** These challenges are often most visible in rural and remote areas, where land availability may be high, but **access to services, transport, and consistent support remains limited.** As a result, many farmers produce well, yet struggle to convert that potential into steady enterprise growth.

During the year under review, Buhle trained 445 farmers through its accredited training programmes, while a further 205 farmers received ongoing support through structured farmer support initiatives. This support extended beyond technical guidance to include enterprise planning and sustained mentorship by Farmer Support Officers. 65,5% of trained farmers were youth, reinforcing Buhle's commitment to the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs, while 54,6% were women, reflecting continued progress toward inclusive participation in the sector.

445 farmers trained through its accredited training programmes

205 farmers received ongoing support through structured farmer support initiatives.

Throughout the year, training and support **focused on enabling farmers to make informed decisions under constraint.**

Emphasis was placed on enterprise planning, financial management, risk awareness, and operational efficiency, equipping farmers to stabilise their businesses and grow deliberately, even where access to capital, infrastructure, or markets remains limited.

Partnership driven, farmer funded projects continued to play a critical role in this work. Through these initiatives, farmers were supported not only with skills but with access to inputs, infrastructure, and coordinated support systems that enable enterprises to grow collectively and sustainably. These models reduce individual risk while strengthening shared accountability and resilience.

The year's progress confirms that farmer resilience is not built through training alone. It is developed through consistent support, enabling partnerships, and systems that allow farmers to apply knowledge in real and often challenging environments. **Through its evolving approach, Buhle Farmers' Academy remains committed to strengthening smallholder enterprises that contribute to food security, create employment, and support more resilient rural economies across South Africa.**

65.5% YOUTH FARMERS TRAINED

54.6% WOMEN FARMERS TRAINED

Farmer Stories – 2025

REBUILDING AN ENTERPRISE THROUGH ADAPTATION AND PERSISTENCE

Siyanqoba Nkosi

Location: Bronkhorstspruit, Gauteng
Training: Poultry Production (2022)
Enterprise: Grain production (soya beans and white beans)

> After the loss, I had to slow down, plan properly, and start again

Siyanqoba Nkosi's farming journey has been shaped by early exposure to agriculture, significant setbacks, and the ability to adapt with purpose. Raised on his family's farm in Bronkhorstspruit, he gained practical farming experience from a young age, working alongside his father and learning the realities of production on the ground.

After completing poultry training at Buhle Farmers' Academy in 2022, Siyanqoba entered broiler production with 500 chickens. Shortly afterwards, an outbreak of avian flu resulted in severe losses, forcing him to reassess both his enterprise model and risk exposure.

Rather than leaving farming altogether, Siyanqoba made a strategic shift. After taking ownership of his family's 8.5 hectare farm and securing additional rented land, **he redirected his efforts towards crop production, investing in soya beans and later white beans.** While water constraints affected yields on his home plot, production on the additional fields proved more consistent, with harvesting continuing through the 2024/2025 season.

With ongoing support from Buhle's Farmer Support Officers, Siyanqoba strengthened his production planning, improved soil preparation, and began addressing water infrastructure challenges more systematically. **This support enabled him to make informed operational decisions, manage risk incrementally, and stabilise his enterprise following significant loss.**

Today, Siyanqoba's grain enterprise supports **six permanent employees and approximately 140 seasonal workers during peak harvesting periods, highlighting the scale of its contribution to local livelihoods.** As infrastructure limitations are progressively addressed, the enterprise continues to expand and diversify. His journey illustrates how access to training, consistent support, and adaptive planning can enable farmers not only to recover from enterprise shocks, but to rebuild stronger, more resilient agricultural businesses that contribute meaningfully to food production and rural economies.



Farmer Stories – 2025

GROWING A POULTRY ENTERPRISE, THROUGH DISCIPLINE AND REINVESTMENT

Andria Timana

Location: Pretoria, Gauteng
Training: Poultry Production (2021)
Enterprise: Hatchery and broiler production – ANT Farm Enterprise

> I stepped back, saved what I could, and rebuilt properly

Andria Timana's entry into agriculture followed a major personal turning point. **After a traumatic injury brought her career as a chemical engineering graduate to an abrupt halt, she was forced to reconsider her future and sources of income.** Rather than stepping away from work altogether, she combined **baking and poultry production as dual income streams**, laying the foundation for enterprise development.

Following poultry training at Buhle Farmers' Academy in 2021, Andria established ANT Farm Enterprise, beginning with small scale backyard production. As her confidence and experience grew, she reinvested steadily into her poultry operations, expanding into broiler and hatchery production through early partnerships and hands on learning.

Growth was not without disruption. Energy constraints and load shedding placed significant pressure on hatchery operations, requiring difficult and strategic decisions. When ongoing power interruptions affected viability, **Andria chose to pause hatchery activities, conserve capital, and restructure her business rather than risk unsustainable losses. This period of reassessment proved critical in strengthening her long term enterprise planning**.

With continued training and enterprise planning support from Buhle, Andria strengthened her decision making around production efficiency, flock management, and market positioning. This support enabled her to scale her operations in a measured and sustainable way, while maintaining strong financial discipline across her business activities.

By 2024, Andria secured farmland in Gauteng and reinvested profits from her bakery business into modern hatchery equipment and improved production infrastructure. **Her enterprise now operates at a significantly larger scale, supplying broiler chicks and fertile eggs to small scale poultry farmers and local markets. ANT Farm Enterprise currently supports two permanent employees and six seasonal workers, with employment expanding in line with production cycles.**

Her journey demonstrates how practical training, disciplined reinvestment, and clear enterprise planning can turn disruption into growth and support the development of resilient, farmer led businesses.



Her enterprise now operates at a significantly larger scale, supplying broiler chicks and fertile eggs to small scale poultry farmers and local markets.

Farmer Stories – 2025

STRENGTHENING ENTERPRISE THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION

Nwamavhuza Primary Cooperative

Location: Giyani, Limpopo
Enterprise: Vegetable production
Land under production: 2 ha (of 8 ha available)

Nwamavhuza Primary Cooperative is a family based farming enterprise led by agricultural science graduate Nkateko Myambo. After completing a series of public sector internships, Nkateko made the decision to invest her own savings into farming. She used these funds to establish the cooperative and put basic infrastructure in place, including fencing, borehole drilling, and initial production inputs.

Although the family had access to land and water, limited infrastructure made it difficult to farm at scale. To move forward, the family formalised a cooperative structure, bringing together labour, skills, and shared responsibility to begin producing tomatoes, okra, and mustard spinach. **Working collectively allowed them to make better use of available resources while applying the knowledge gained through training and practical experience.**

Partial support from agricultural partners made it possible to install drip irrigation systems and access fertiliser, **while Buhle Farmers' Academy provided technical guidance and enterprise support. These interventions helped stabilise production and improve day to day operations on the farm.**

As production became more consistent, demand from local retailers began to exceed what the cooperative could currently supply. **Today, Nwamavhuza supports five permanent employees and two seasonal workers, contributing directly to local employment.** The family is now focused on strengthening financial management, improving production planning, and expanding infrastructure so that more land can be brought into production.

Nwamavhuza's journey shows how **working together, supported by training and partnerships, can help smallholder farmers build stronger enterprises**, create jobs, and participate more meaningfully in local markets.

> "Everyone brings something to the farm, and we learn from one another





Statement of financial position

Buhle Farmers' Academy (2004/016680/08)

Association Incorporated in terms of Section 21

Statement Of Financial Position

	2025/12/31	2024/12/31
Assets		
Non- Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipmennt	6 354 171	6 427 902
Investment In Subsidiaries	100	100
Investments	350 140	50
Loans recievable	300 000	250 000
	7 004 411	**6 678 052**
Current Assets		
Inventories	143 050	54 900
Other current asset		
Trade and other receivables	466 226	269 597
Cash and cash equivalents	2 489 304	1 690 174
	3 098 580	**2 014 671**
Total Assets	**10 102 991**	**8 692 723**
Reserves and Liabilities		
Reserves		
Retained earnings	7 890 457	3 653 080
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2 212 534	4 879 643
Borrowings	0	160 000
	2 212 534	**5 039 643**
Total Reserves and Liabilities	**10 102 991**	**8 692 723**

Statement of cash flow

Buhle Farmers‘ Academy (2004/016680/08)

Association Incorporated in terms of Section 21

Statement Of Cash Flows

	2025/12/31	2024/12/31
Cash flows from operatig activities		
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	4 237 377	-6 837 593
Adjustments for:		
Finance costs	6 000	168 306
Depreciation of tangible assets	385 166	403 097
Investment income	-1 939	-20 956
Operating cash flow before working capital changes	4 626 604	-6 287 146
Working capital changes		
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	-88 150	288 592
Increase in trade and other receivables	-196 629	-28 830
(Increase) / Decrease in short term loans	-160 000	160 000
(Decrease) / Increase in trade and other payables	-2 667 109	4 586 979
Net cash flow from operations	1 514 716	-1 280 405
Investment income	1 939	20 956
Finance costs	-6 000	-168 306
Net cash flows from operating activities	**1 510 655**	**-1 427 755**
Cash flows used in investing activities		
Property, plant and equipment acquired	-311 437	-20 001
Fair Value Gain	-350 088	
Movement in other current asset	0	0
Net cash flow used in investing activities	**-661 525**	**-20 001**
Cash flow used in financing activities		
Loan to operational company	-50 000	0
Other	0	-2
Net cash flow used in financing activities	-50 000	-2
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and equivalents	799 130	-1 447 758
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	1 690 174	3 137 932
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	**2 489 304**	**1 690 174**

Statement of comprehensive inco

Audited Financial Statements
Buhle Farmers ' Academy (2004/016680/08)
Association Incorporated in terms of Section 21
Statement Of Comprehensive Income

	2025/12/31	2024/12/31
Revenue	22 864 157	13 698 605
Cost of sales	-1 962 448	-1 674 765
Gross surplus	20 901 709	12 023 840
Operating costs	-17 010 361	-18 714 083
Other gains and loses	350 090	0
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**4 241 438**	**-6 690 243**
Finance income	1 939	20 956
Finance costs	-6 000	-168 306
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	**4 237 377**	**-6 837 593**

Our funders & partners



Contact Us

We look forward to partnering with you, in supporting and training people in the business of **farming.**

Get in touch with us today!

Address

Delmas Campus
Plot IR 202 Leeupoort road
Delmas
Mpumalanga

Pretoria Support Office
Plot 146, Luiperd Street
Tierpoort Pretoria East
Gauteng

Phone
Tel: (+27) 12 811 7310
Phone: +27 10 001 4320

Online
Email: info@buhle.org.za
Website: buhle.org.za

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE
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