

National Certificate: Plant Production



SAQA Qualification ID: 48972

NQF Level 01 | 120 Credits | Registered by Agri SETA

Registration Period: 2018-07-01 to 2023-06-30

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:

Team Participation

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.

Specialised Competency

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.)

Decision Making

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.

Key Competencies and Progression

Core Capabilities

- 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.

Career Advancement

- 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.



Economic Impact and Community Development

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.



Food Production

Direct contribution to local and national food supply through quality agricultural production



Food Security

Improvement of household food security and sustainable farming practices



Economic Development

Access to mainstream agriculture and local economic development opportunities

Target Learners and Qualification Rationale

Rationale: 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

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



Aspiring Farmers

New entrants that wishes to enter the sector as farmers



Experienced Practitioners

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



Community Leaders

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.