



From the Chief Executive Officer Desk

The achievements of **Casidra** over the past year serve as a powerful reminder of what is possible when purpose, partnership, and commitment come together. Our progress has never been the work of a single organisation, but rather the result of the collective efforts of our clients, service providers, beneficiaries, and the communities we are proud to serve.

Guided by the leadership and strategic oversight of our Board of Directors, we are honoured to have once again achieved an unqualified audit. This achievement affirms our continued dedication to integrity, accountability, excellence, and strong governance.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners, and in particular to our Executive Authority, Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, as well as the Head of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Dr Mogale Sebopetsa, for their continued support and collaboration.

Their confidence in **Casidra** enables us to support the delivery of key agricultural and rural development initiatives across the Province.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the exceptional **Casidra** team. Their professionalism, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service delivery, across community and household food security programmes, farmer support initiatives, disaster relief efforts, and environmental sustainability interventions, continue to bring hope and tangible change to communities. Their work exemplifies the very best of public service and reflects our shared commitment to improving lives.

During the past year, our teams have further strengthened their focus on environmental sustainability. Through our partnership with CapeNature and other stakeholders, we have supported the implementation of projects aimed at protecting and restoring the Western Cape's natural resources. We sincerely appreciate CapeNature's trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to safeguarding the environment while supporting communities where conservation and livelihoods intersect.



Dr Keith du Plessis
Chief Executive Officer

For more than two decades, **Casidra** has consistently delivered more with less, providing value-for-money project management support while maintaining fees well below typical market-related rates. This approach ensures that the greatest possible benefit flows directly to communities and beneficiaries.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support. We look forward to building on this year's momentum as we work together to create meaningful and lasting impact in the year ahead.

I wish all our stakeholders, a great year ahead.

Casidra hosted Delegation from KwaZulu-Natal



Casidra recently hosted a delegation from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Agribusiness Development Agency as part of a benchmarking initiative aimed at sharing best practice in project delivery and implementation. Led by **Casidra's** Chief Executive Officer, Dr Keith du Plessis, the two-day programme highlighted **Casidra's** proven project management expertise and its impactful approach to rural infrastructure development and community upliftment. The delegation participated in a site tour that offered first-hand insight into **Casidra's** innovative delivery models and on-the-ground support.

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The Nuweberg footbridge in Hottentots-Holland Nature Reserve is nearing completion



The Nuweberg footbridge located in the Hottentots-Holland Nature Reserve is nearing completion, bringing the community of Viljoen's Pass one step closer to regaining safe and reliable pedestrian access. Led by **Casidra** Project Manager Ridaa Kearns, construction began in May 2025 to replace the previous structure, which was destroyed during severe floods.

"We are very excited that this project is now 90% complete and receiving well-deserved recognition, especially as safety remains our top priority. Built with modular steel sections and reinforced foundations, the bridge is designed for long-term durability with minimal environmental impact. This structure will restore essential connectivity, enhance safety, and strengthen daily mobility for residents, a true milestone in supporting rural communities," said Kearns.

Casidra CEO, Dr Keith du Plessis, also expressed his appreciation to the project funder, CapeNature, for their trust and partnership; "We extend our sincere gratitude to CapeNature for believing in **Casidra's** project management capabilities and entrusting us with the rollout of this important rehabilitation project. Your confidence in us is deeply valued.

I also want to commend our Environmental Sustainability team for their professionalism, commitment, and exceptional delivery in implementing the project to ensure is on time or even ahead of schedule in terms delivery. This success reflects the dedication and expertise within our organisation."





Baviaans River Erosion Protection Project Strengthens Flood Resilience in Genadendal

Casidra's Baviaans River Erosion Protection Project is steadily advancing, bringing crucial protection to the Genadendal community against flooding and riverbank erosion. Launched on 3 July 2025 and scheduled for completion by 26 February 2026, the initiative forms a key component of **Casidra's** commitment to environmental sustainability and community safety.

The project spans an 11-kilometre stretch of the Baviaans River, where 11 gabion structures, also known as groynes, are being constructed to stabilise vulnerable sections of the riverbank. These installations help slow water flow, reduce erosion, and strengthen the river's resilience during heavy rainfall events.

The project is currently making significant headway towards completion of Phase 2. This stage focuses on the strategic placement and construction of the remaining gabion structures, each designed to withstand intense water pressure while preserving the natural ecosystem.

"Together, these efforts support sustainable river management and environmental protection. Construction teams on the ground are working meticulously to uphold the highest engineering and environmental standards," says our Project Manager: Technical, Farzaad Khatieb, from **Casidra's** Environmental Sustainability Unit.

Upon completion, the project will not only mitigate immediate flood risks but will also bolster the long-term ecological health of the Baviaans River, ensuring greater security and stability for the Genadendal community. Stay tuned as **Casidra** continues to deliver project management excellence.



Hex River Erosion Protection Structures Successfully Completed



Casidra has successfully completed a vital flood-mitigation initiative along a 300-metre section of the Hex River in De Doorns, Western Cape. The project, which ran from 1 July to 11 December, involved the construction of gabion erosion protection structures, commonly known as groynes, as well as a stabilising weir. These interventions were designed to curb erosion, protect surrounding ecosystems, and enhance the resilience of local communities facing recurrent flood risks.

The Hex River has historically been prone to seasonal flooding and significant riverbank erosion, posing threats to agricultural lands, critical infrastructure, and natural habitats. In response, **Casidra** installed a series of robust gabion groynes: rock-filled wire structures engineered to extend into the river and redirect water flow, thereby reducing pressure on the banks. The newly constructed weir further regulates water movement and aids in sediment control, contributing to long-term river stability and erosion prevention.

Together, these structures represent a strategic and environmentally conscious intervention. They not only mitigate immediate flood hazards but also reinforce the ecological health of the river system. By supporting natural hydrological processes, the project bolsters biodiversity and advances sustainable resource management in the region.

Project Manager: Technical, Farzaad Khatieb, underscores the broader intent behind the initiative and says, "This is part of the flood disaster risk reduction projects for the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, aimed at safeguarding communities and strengthening resilience against future floods." This project was executed to rigorous technical and environmental standards, contributing meaningfully to the province's climate-adaptation objectives.



Early Completion Achieved in Rehabilitation of Klein Morgenwagcht Dam



Casidra is proud to announce the early and successful completion of the R5.1 million rehabilitation project at the Klein Morgenwagcht Dam near Malmesbury, delivered ahead of schedule and to an exceptional standard. What was originally planned as a four-month project has concluded with welcome relief and enthusiasm from all stakeholders.

The rehabilitation works, including the repair of the embankment, the enlargement and reshaping of the spillway, and the restoration of the instream dam, were carried out along an unnamed tributary of the Diep River catchment, approximately 14 km south of Malmesbury on the R302 in the Western Cape.

The project commenced on 14 July 2025 and was scheduled for completion by 18 November 2025. Thanks to efficient planning, strong teamwork, and favourable site conditions, the project reached full completion on 13 November 2025, five days early, marking a moment of celebration for the Environmental Sustainability team.

Casidra's Project Manager: Technical, Farzaad Khatieb, emphasised the importance of the intervention, "The repair and upgrade works

are essential to protect downstream farmland, infrastructure, and the lives of those living and working in the area. This will help the farm safeguard water resources and prevent future flood damage. These are durable and efficient solutions that support the farm's long-term operations."

Casidra CEO, Dr Keith du Plessis extends heartfelt thanks to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for making disaster funding available for this project. "Their support forms a crucial part of ongoing efforts to empower and strengthen the farming community, especially in the face of climate-related risks. I also want to commend our Environmental Sustainability team for their professionalism, commitment, and exceptional delivery in completing the project on time, and even ahead of schedule. This success reflects the dedication and expertise within our organisation." Du Plessis concluded.

With construction now finalised, the dam stands reinforced, resilient, and ready to withstand future flood events, bringing reassurance to surrounding communities, safeguarding the natural environment, and securing vital water resources for years to come.

LET'S CONNECT, COLLABORATE & FORM PARTNERSHIPS

Casidra invites funding partners, investors, corporates, development agencies, and CSI/ESD stakeholders to partner with us in empowering local enterprises and communities across the Western Cape.



Our focus areas include:

- Agriculture and farmer development,
- Small business and enterprise support,
- Environmental sustainability and green energy,
- Socio-economic development,
- Food security and nutrition,
- Entrepreneur funding, and
- Market access.



Scan to visit casidra.co.za

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IMPORTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE



We are migrating to the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD) System.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

All Request for Quotations (RFQs) below R1,000,000 will be issued exclusively via the CSD RFQ Functionality System.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- 1 February 2026: Transition Starts (Phased approach)
- 1 April 2026: MANDATORY GO-LIVE (Manual RFQs discontinued)

SUPPLIER CHECKLIST:

- Register/Update your profile on the National Treasury CSD.
- Verify your contact details and commodities are correct.
- Prepare to submit all quotations electronically.

NEED HELP?

Look out for our Virtual Supplier Awareness Sessions coming in Feb & March 2026.

For more information, contact: Supply Chain Officer, Amia Oosthuizen.

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The Chicken Coop Project Boosts Emerging Farmers in Moorreesburg



Dennis and Cornelia van Schalkwyk have been farming in Moorreesburg, in the Swartland District, for the past three years. What began as a modest sheep-meat operation has steadily expanded into a promising poultry enterprise, now bolstered by the support of the Chicken Coop Project.

Implemented by **Casidra** on behalf of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA), the initiative was funded through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and managed by **Casidra's** Project Manager for Food Security, Mulalo Mukona. The project was officially signed off on 3 December, marking a significant milestone for the Van Schalkwyk family.



As beneficiaries, the couple received a comprehensive suite of farming inputs aimed at accelerating the growth of their poultry business. This included 200 chickens, a hummer mill, an incubator, a grower package for chicks, and a fertiliser tester.

Cornelia expressed deep appreciation for the assistance provided by **Casidra** and the WCDoA, noting that she is impressed by the consistent support and grateful for **Casidra's** readiness to help whenever needed. The couple remains highly motivated about the road ahead. Dennis summed up their ambition simply and said, *"I want to go commercial, and I have big goals for the future."*

With strong institutional backing and their own determination, the Chicken Coop Project is not only helping the Van Schalkwyks scale up their operations, it is empowering them to dream bigger and build a sustainable agricultural enterprise.

State-of-the-Art Construction for the Lesley Morrison Project

Casidra is making significant progress on the construction of two new chicken houses, an upgraded access road, and 600 metres of fencing for Lesley Morrison's white-meat production enterprise in Hopefield, located in the West Coast region.

The project commenced on 1 October 2025 and is scheduled for completion on 2 February 2026, spanning a four-month period with a contract value of R2, 5 million.

According to **Casidra** Project Managers John de Wee and Andre Otto, construction is advancing smoothly and remains on schedule. "By constructing these two chicken houses, we're helping the beneficiary establish a solid foundation for growth, efficiency, and long-term profitability. Our goal is to ensure that this poultry operation thrives for years to come," said De Wee.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue delivering dedicated and effective project management.



Growing Futures Together for FS Human Boerdery



Among the most pressing were access to seedlings, damage caused by birds, and harsh winter conditions such as snow. These obstacles placed a strain on the farm's productivity and profitability.

"Thanks to grant funding from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and project implementation support from **Casidra**, the farm has recently taken a significant step forward. The funds were used to procure and erect a new shadenet structure, which enabled us to produce our own seedlings and protect vulnerable crops from bird damage. The shadenet also creates a more controlled environment for growing vegetables, improving both yield and quality", say Human.

As a result, FS Human Boerdery now delivers higher-quality produce to the local market and is in a stronger position to secure better prices for its vegetables. This progress not only strengthens the farm's sustainability but also contributes to greater food security within the community.

This milestone was made possible through the collaborative efforts of WCDa, **Casidra's** Project Manager, Yandisa Ndongeni, and the farm manager, Kroos Human. Their commitment and teamwork have ensured that this long-standing food security project continues to thrive and support the people of Haarlem.

Located in Haarlem, a settlement in the Garden Route District Municipality, is the FS Human Boerdery, a food security project that has been cultivating a variety of vegetables for more than 15 years. Under the dedicated management of Kroos Human, the project continues to play an important role in supporting local food production and contributing to the fight against food insecurity.

Over the years, the project faced several challenges that limited its ability to produce sufficient quantities of quality vegetables.

Moorreesburg High School's Thriving Vegetable Garden: Growing Minds and Meals



Learning has taken root in a whole new way through a vibrant vegetable garden at Moorreesburg High School in the Swartland District. This followed after the school's receipt of funding for infrastructure and production inputs from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDa), in partnership with **Casidra**.

The garden not only provides fresh, healthy produce to nourish learners but also teaches them valuable skills in growing their own food. The initiative has become a hub of hands-on learning, responsibility, and curiosity for students.

The project is lovingly overseen by Ashwill Kettledas, the school's dedicated caretaker, who ensures that every seed planted and every row tended thrives under careful supervision. With a variety of vegetables growing in the garden, students have the opportunity to see firsthand how food is produced, fostering both responsibility



and curiosity. Ashwill also shares his knowledge with other schools hoping to start similar projects, advising, "Only plant what you need; don't plant vegetables that the school is not going to make use of."

After months of dedication and teamwork among all stakeholders, including the WCDa Extension Officer, Rebecca Mathobela, and **Casidra** Project Manager, Mulalo Mukona, the project reached a significant milestone when it was officially signed off on 11 December 2025. By then, the garden had already become more than just a source of vegetables; it had grown into a centre of learning, development, and community pride.

The Moorreesburg High School vegetable garden stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when vision, community, and dedicated support come together.



Mila Tiya Project Builds a Sustainable Future Through Goat Farming



The Mila Tiya Project, a goat farming initiative based in Moorreesburg in the Swartland District, is emerging as a model of sustainable agriculture and rural empowerment. The project received vital support from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA), in partnership with **Casidra**, beginning in March 2025. Implementation was successfully completed and officially signed off in October 2025 by **Casidra**.

The project was overseen by Food Security Project Implementer Nkateko Hlatshwayo, who described the experience as deeply rewarding. "I am overwhelmed to have played a role in the implementation of this project and to contribute to meaningful change as part of our commitment to food security and sustainability," said Hlatshwayo.

Project beneficiary Nomfundo Amelia Wojie credited **Casidra** and the WCDoA for providing critical support that enabled the project's success. She explained that assistance included infrastructure development, equipment, animal feed, and medication. "I am very grateful for the support, which has contributed significantly to the growth of my farming operation," Wojie said.

Nomfundo began her farming journey with just 18 goats, driven by a strong passion for livestock farming and a determination to succeed. Through hard work, dedication, and a willingness to learn, she has expanded her herd to an impressive 97 goats. She speaks with pride about her progress and remains enthusiastic about the future.

Committed to uplifting others, Nomfundo welcomes aspiring farmers and community members to visit her farm, learn from her experiences, and be inspired by what can be achieved through perseverance, partnership, and sustainable farming practices.





Hyper Birds: A Family Legacy Growing Strong in Moorreesburg

What began as a simple shared interest between Juan-Pierre Vannel and Wayne Dryden has grown into one of Moorreesburg’s most inspiring small agricultural ventures. Under the banner of Hyper Birds, this family duo has steadily built a project that blends broiler production with a thriving new vegetable garden, proving how determination, teamwork, and passion can turn an idea into a flourishing family enterprise.

Their journey began three years ago when Wayne started working with broilers, learning the skills, discipline, and daily dedication required to manage healthy, fast-growing chickens. Over time, his confidence grew, and so did his dream to expand. Just three months ago, the pair took an exciting new step by introducing a variety of vegetables into their operation, including cabbage and spinach. This addition marked the beginning of a family-driven vegetable garden project that now complements their broiler work beautifully. Together, they combine knowledge, enthusiasm, and hard work, each learning from the other as their project continues to grow.

Juan-Pierre speaks with deep gratitude about the support that helped bring their vision to life. *“We have been receiving unwavering support from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) and Casidra which has been very helpful in getting to where we are now. I can’t say thank you enough to the WCDoA for funding support and Casidra for excellent project implementation. My advice to emerging farmers is, start with what you have and grow from there. This philosophy has not only guided their progress but has become a testament to what is possible when determination meets opportunity”, says Juan Pierre.*

According to the Casidra’s Project Manager, Mulalo Mukona, Hyper Birds project in Moorreesburg stands as a shining example of family collaboration, community support, and sustainable growth. *“From broilers to beautiful rows of vegetables, Juan-Pierre and Wayne are proving that with patience, passion, and the right guidance, even the smallest beginnings can flourish into something remarkable”, Mukona concluded.*



Diepspoort Growing a Sustainable Livestock Farming Future in Riverlands



Stephanus Ballie, a livestock farmer of Diepspoort farm based in Riverlands in the Swartland District, is steadily building a sustainable farming future rooted in family tradition. Following in his father’s footsteps, Ballie entered the agricultural sector 17 years ago, initially farming with pigs and maintaining a vegetable garden. Over time, his operation evolved to include goats and sheep, before he refined his focus to sheep, goats, and chickens.

As part of its food security initiatives, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA), in partnership with Casidra, provided support to strengthen Ballie’s farming enterprise.

While encouraged by the progress he has made, Ballie remains focused on his long-term goal of achieving full sustainability. *“I am not there yet, but that is what I am working towards,”* he said.

With ongoing support from the WCDoA and Casidra, Ballie expressed satisfaction with the milestones he has achieved so far. The project reached an important milestone when it was officially signed off on 11 December 2025 by Casidra’s Food Security Project Manager, Mulalo Mukona.

Ballie also encourages aspiring farmers to invest in proper research and training before entering the sector. He credits the training he received from the Department of Agriculture with significantly improving his farming practices. *“After completing the courses, I now know exactly what to do in my farming operation,”* he explained.

Stephanus Ballie’s journey reflects how experience, education, and targeted support can empower small-scale farmers to build resilient and sustainable livelihoods, contributing meaningfully to local food security.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & QUATERLY HIGHLIGHTS



Strategic Collaboration for Sustainable Growth and Vision for 2026



Casidra hosted its final stakeholder engagement for 2025, reaffirming our shared commitment to economic development and community upliftment across the Western Cape.

“This year, we not only achieved our 36th consecutive Unqualified Financial Audit, but also reached significant milestones in empowering emerging farmers, rural entrepreneurs, and small businesses through innovative support mechanisms and collaborative initiatives. These efforts have strengthened resilience, fostered inclusivity, and created sustainable opportunities for growth,” said **Casidra** CEO, Dr Keith du Plessis.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus remains on deepening strategic partnerships, driving impactful programmes, and unlocking long-term value for communities. Together with our diverse network of stakeholders, including major banks and private investors, we are committed to building a thriving, sustainable economy that benefits all.

Tumelo Tlhapi, ABSA Business Banking Enterprise & Supply Chain Development, closed on a high note, stating, “As per our slogan, *your stories matter*, and **Casidra**’s stories are truly inspiring. The envisaged Enterprise Development partnership with **Casidra** aims to create a structured public-private collaboration that accelerates SME development in the Western Cape, leveraging **Casidra**’s mandate and Absa’s financial ecosystem.

Our core objective is to transition high-potential SMEs from grant dependency to sustainable banking solutions, driving inclusive economic growth and job creation.”

Casidra’s Chief Programme Officer, David Nefdt, emphasised that, “As an implementation engine for inclusive growth, **Casidra** will translate investment commitments into real, on-the-ground projects through expert project management, agricultural support, enterprise development, and infrastructure implementation, ensuring that investments materialise into jobs, improved productivity, and thriving rural economies.”

By building a pipeline of investment-ready enterprises and projects, strengthening smallholder farmers, emerging agribusinesses, and rural SMEs through technical support, mentorship, market access, and compliance readiness, **Casidra** will ensure the Western Cape remains a competitive, investment-ready province where rural communities directly benefit from opportunities unlocked at this Stakeholder Engagement.

Here’s to continued collaboration and shared success in the year ahead

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & QUATERLY HIGHLIGHTS



African Agri Investment Indaba 2025 (AII2025) Setting the Tone for Trade and Investment Growth

We're proud to join leaders, innovators, and investors from across the continent at Africa's premier agriculture investment event. Together, we're exploring sustainable solutions, unlocking new opportunities, and driving agricultural growth that empowers farmers and strengthens rural economies.

As the implementing company of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, **Casidra** remains committed to fostering partnerships that build resilient, inclusive, and future-focused agri value chains. The Day Two of the African Agri Investment Indaba 2025 opened with strong strategic direction as delegates gathered to explore the macro-economic levers needed to build a self-sufficient African agricultural economy.

High-level keynote addresses by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former Nigerian Head of State and AU Special Envoy, and Hon. Thoko Didiza, Speaker of the South African National Assembly, set the agenda for aligning policy, investment, and partnerships to transform the agri-food sector.

A central message dominated the day: Africa's ability to scale agricultural production depends on efficient trade corridors and reliable logistics. FAO Senior Economist Roble Sabrie demonstrated that intra-African agrifood trade remains low only 16–18% due to fragmented transport systems. Using the Lobito Corridor as an example, he showed how coordinated infrastructure can cut costs, reduce losses, and attract private investment.

Furthermore, sessions provided insights into Financing Africa's Agricultural Transformation, featuring banks, DFIs, and agribusiness leaders; Country Spotlight: Mozambique, with direct investment insights from the Minister of Agriculture; and South Africa's Agro-Processing Master Plan, examining pathways to agro-industrial development. The exhibition area featuring over 40 exhibitors and national pavilions, buzzed with networking and deal-making as industry leaders explored partnership opportunities.

As discussions closed, the focus shifted firmly to building the financial, logistical, and policy systems required to realise a self-sufficient African food economy. The Indaba concluded with a strong focus on climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems and the **Casidra** CEO, Dr Keith du Plessis wrapped up the day by leading a panel on innovative financing for climate-smart agriculture, setting the stage for practical solutions to drive sustainable growth across the continent.

Here's to collaboration, innovation, and a thriving agricultural future for Africa!





Agrimark Shows That Every Meal Counts on World Food Day

When communities face food shortages, every meal matters. This year, Agrimark joined the global community in commemorating World Food Day under the theme; “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future.” This annual observance, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to ensure food security for all.

As part of its broader sustainability strategy to help fight hunger, Agrimark made a meaningful contribution of R50,000 to support the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDa) and **Casidra**’s 2025 World Food Day celebrations in Moorreesburg. The event marked the culmination of a series of impactful food security initiatives rolled out across the Swartland region throughout October, which is also celebrated as South Africa’s Food Security Month.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Mayor of Swartland Municipality, Ms Anet de Beer, said; *“It is our goal to ensure that every household in the Swartland Municipality has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food. This is not only a development goal but the cornerstone of social and economic stability. Partnerships and united community initiatives will play a critical role in addressing the challenge of food insecurity.”*

Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, emphasised that World Food Day reminds us that the right to food is not a privilege but a fundamental human right. *“Through our partnerships and community-driven initiatives, we are working hand in hand to ensure that no household, no child, and no community is left behind in our pursuit of a food-secure Western Cape,”* he said.

At the heart of Agrimark’s strategy is the Harvesting Hope initiative. Launched to reduce food waste and strengthen local food systems, the programme rescues surplus produce from commercial and small-scale farms and channels it to households in need. Since its inception, Harvesting Hope has rescued hundreds of tonnes of fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste, provided over 2.6 million meals to vulnerable communities, and supported small-scale farmers by connecting them with reliable markets and fair opportunities.

“Agrimark’s support allows us to reach more families and make a real difference in the communities we serve.”

By working together, we’re not just strengthening agriculture, we’re strengthening people’s lives. In the Western Cape, World Food Day is more than a symbolic gesture; it is a call to action,” says Dr Mogale Sebopetsa, Head of Department: Agriculture, Western Cape.

Tasneem Sulaiman-Bray, Director: Corporate Affairs at KAL Group, adds, *“Harvesting Hope shows that what might be surplus for some can be life-changing for others. It’s about turning opportunity into impact, for farmers, for communities, and for the food system as a whole.”*

By partnering with WCDa and **Casidra**, Agrimark demonstrates that combining resources, expertise, and a shared vision ensures that nutritious meals reach the communities that need them most.

“World Food Day is about more than raising awareness; it’s about action. Agrimark’s support allows us to reach more families and demonstrates that partnerships in the fight against food insecurity can directly contribute to hunger relief efforts in communities,” says Dr Keith du Plessis, CEO of **Casidra**.

Sulaiman-Bray further reflects on Agrimark’s long-term commitment, *“Agrimark’s commitment extends far beyond donations. Every initiative, every partnership, and every rescued meal reflects our deeper purpose: powering growth from farm to fork while nurturing resilient, food-secure communities. As we continue to expand Harvesting Hope and work with partners across the agricultural sector, the impact grows reaching more farmers, more communities, and more tables where nutritious food truly makes a difference. Supporting World Food Day is more than a contribution; it’s a reminder that we can all play a role in building stronger, healthier communities.”*

Minister Meyer concluded, *“Food security begins at home, and this October, we have seen the power of local action. From household gardens to school competitions, our communities are growing not just food, but hope, resilience, and opportunity. As we commemorate World Food Day and Food Security Month, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture reaffirms its commitment to building resilient communities, empowering households, and ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against hunger. We recognise the vital role each of you plays in this mission, and we thank you for your continued support and dedication.”*



KLEIN GOEDERUST

Historic Milestone: First Black-Owned Wine Cellar Opens in South Africa



The Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Dr Ivan Meyer, recently celebrated a landmark achievement in South Africa’s wine industry, the official opening of Klein Goederust Wine Cellar, the country’s first Black-owned wine cellar, located in Franschhoek.

Speaking at the event, Minister Meyer hailed the opening as *“a triumph for real transformation and inclusive growth in one of South Africa’s most iconic sectors.”* He emphasised that this milestone demonstrates what is possible when government, industry, and entrepreneurs work together.

Acquired in 2019 by owner Paul Siguqa, Klein Goederust has been transformed from a neglected farm into a thriving boutique winery and tourism destination.

“This is the classic case of farm workers who gave their children a vision of the future. They did not only dream, they worked hard, invested their own resources, and partnered with industry to turn that vision into reality,” Meyer added.

The wine industry contributes over R56 billion to GDP and supports more than 290,000 jobs, with 98% of wine cellars located in the Western Cape. Through programmes such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), the Western Cape Department of Agriculture provided funding for vineyard establishment, equipment, and production inputs.

“This project aligns with my four ministerial priorities: Agricultural Support, Food Security, Market Access, and Business Support,” said Meyer. These interventions ensure that success is not reserved for a few but shared across communities, creating pathways for growth and dignity.

Driving Growth Through Agriculture

The initiative also aligns with the Western Cape’s Growth for Jobs (G4J) strategy, which aims to achieve breakout economic growth of 4%-6% by leveraging high-potential sectors such as agriculture and agri-processing. Klein Goederust integrates farming, tourism, and hospitality, creating jobs and celebrating cultural heritage.

Minister Meyer: *“98% of all wine cellars are based in the Western Cape, creating thousands of jobs. Growing the economy and creating jobs are the Western Cape Government’s top priorities. The opening of Klein Goederust Wine Cellar in Franschhoek will contribute to economic growth and job creation.”*

The owner’s hard work, compassion, and perseverance led to the opening of this wine cellar. Both the owner, Paul Siguqa, and the wine Rodney Zimba are children of farm workers. This is the classic case of farm workers who gave their children a vision of the future. They did not only dream, but put hard work and their own resources, and their support from many in the industry into their vision, from farmer to farm owner, and now the owner of a wine cellar is a success story in the Western Cape”.

“Klein Goederust is a beacon of hope and excellence. It shows that genuine transformation is not only necessary, it is achievable and sustainable,” Minister Meyer concluded.

Fond Farewell to one of Our Stalwarts

The biggest highlight of this week was **Casidra's** celebration of the retirement of one of its stalwarts, Chief Financial Officer, Freek van Zyl, marking the conclusion of a distinguished career spanning more than three decades of service.

Van Zyl's journey with the organisation began in 1994, just after **Casidra** was established in 1993 under its former name, Lanok. Since then, he has played a pivotal role in shaping **Casidra's** financial governance framework and ensuring the organisation's reputation for accountability, transparency, and fiscal discipline.

Over the course of his tenure, Van Zyl served under eight Chief Executive Officers and, on several occasions, stepped in as Acting CEO, providing stability and leadership during times of organisational transition. His deep institutional knowledge and commitment to good governance have made him a cornerstone of **Casidra's** management team.

A highlight of Van Zyl's career has been his instrumental contribution to **Casidra's** 36 consecutive unqualified financial audits, a record that stands as a testament to the organisation's sound financial management and governance standards. This achievement reflects **Casidra's** ongoing value proposition as a trusted implementing business enterprise of the Western Cape Government, responsible for delivering agricultural and rural development projects that make a tangible difference in people's lives.

"Mr. van Zyl's contribution to **Casidra** has been truly exceptional," said Dr. Keith du Plessis, Chief Executive Officer of **Casidra**. "He has been part of this organisation from its inception and has guided it with unwavering integrity and professionalism. His leadership and financial stewardship have set a benchmark for excellence that will continue to shape **Casidra's** future," Du Plessis concluded.

Throughout his career, Van Zyl has been recognised not only for his financial expertise but also for his principled approach to leadership. His belief that sound financial governance is central to effective service delivery has underpinned **Casidra's** mission and success for more than three decades.

As he enters retirement, Van Zyl looks forward to spending more time with his family and pursuing personal interests, including rugby, fishing, family camping and braai, cooking and baking, community church service, and travelling. His calm presence, institutional wisdom, and quiet humour will be deeply missed by colleagues and partners alike. During the retirement celebration, many of them shared experiences, lessons, and memories that will be cherished forever.

In his own words of appreciation, Freek van Zyl thanked **Casidra** for everything they had done to make his retirement day so special. "I wish we could have counted all the people who literally had food put on their tables because of our involvement," he said. "Success is also when you have empowered someone to take on a better job."

We've invested in our own personnel, throughout all levels, from farmworkers to managers, and when someone offers them a better opportunity, we are truly grateful. I wish this organisation the best growth, to continue changing the lives of the people."

Casidra extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Freek van Zyl for his outstanding service, leadership, and dedication over the past 31 years. His legacy of integrity, professionalism, and excellence will remain an enduring part of **Casidra's** identity.



CELEBRATING OUR TEAM

Honouring Years of Dedication and Commitment

Our CEO, Dr. Keith du Plessis, together with Team **Casidra**, celebrated the remarkable milestones of our colleagues who have dedicated many years of service to the organisation. He congratulated and thanked the recipients for their loyalty and hard work. "Each of you has played a unique role in shaping **Casidra's** journey, and your commitment and passion shine through in everything you do. Thank you for being part of the **Casidra** family and for helping us make a difference in the lives of needy communities every day," Dr. Du Plessis concluded.

THE LONG-SERVICE AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS:

5 Years of service:



Nyaniso Tsama



Jacquile Arnoldus



Reesher Kearns



Gavin van Wyk



John De Wee

10 Years of service:



Justin Janse



Constance Makhuvha



Loinice Seconds



Yandisa Ndongeni



Warren Marcus

15 Years of service:



Andrea Pretorius



IMPORTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

We are migrating to the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD) System.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

All Request for Quotations (RFQs) below R1,000,000 will be issued exclusively via the CSD RFQ Functionality System.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

1 February 2026: Transition Starts (Phased approach)

1 April 2026: MANDATORY GO-LIVE (Manual RFQs discontinued)

SUPPLIER CHECKLIST:

Register/Update your profile on the National Treasury CSD.

Verify your contact details and commodities are correct.

Prepare to submit all quotations electronically.

NEED HELP?

Look out for our Virtual Supplier Awareness Sessions coming in Feb & March 2026.

For more information, contact: Supply Chain Officer, Amia Oosthuizen:
info@casidra.co.za | +27 (0)21 863 5000

Follow us:     



Scan for dates.

LET'S CONNECT, COLLABORATE & FORM PARTNERSHIPS



Casidra invites funding partners, investors, corporates, development agencies, and CSI/ESD stakeholders to partner with us in empowering local enterprises and communities across the Western Cape.

Our focus areas include:

- Agriculture and farmer development,
- Small business and enterprise support,
- Environmental sustainability and green energy,
- Socio-economic development,
- Food security and nutrition,
- Entrepreneur funding, and
- Market access.



Scan to visit
casidra.co.za

For more information, contact: Public Relations & Communications Manager, Experience Matshediso:

info@casidra.co.za | +27 (0)21 863 5000

Follow us:     




THE EDITOR

As we strive to make a difference through effective and efficient project management at Casidra, follow us on our Social Media Platforms. We also would like to hear from you, kindly send us your thoughts and suggestions to: Experience Matshediso



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