

CASE STUDY

Tongaat Hulett partnership with The Jobs Fund continues to deliver significant benefits to rural communities

Tongaat Hulett has for many years invested in surrounding communities to help address pressing socio-economic challenges. A partnership between Tongaat Hulett and The Jobs Fund, managed by the Department of National Treasury of South Africa, to accelerate socio-economic transformation in rural communities, which began in 2014, has proven its worth with more than 5 800 people still benefitting from the project. It also demonstrates the importance of developing strategic partnerships that result in innovative solutions to our country's unemployment crisis.

Tongaat Hulett and The Jobs Fund partnership together invested a total of R305 million in the initiative. It resulted in almost 11 000 hectares of sugarcane being planted over four years, with education, training and food security forming critical elements of the project. A total of 1 286 local community members were trained in a range of qualifications, from multi-year tertiary qualifications and certificate courses in farm management to on-the-job training. SED initiatives included food security, education and training, access to water for communities and livestock and cattle management, implemented through a range of partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including community members, municipalities, traditional councils, the KZN Department of Education, and the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Partnerships to address skills upliftment and training included the Owen Sitole College of Agriculture, the South African Sugar Research Institute and the Mfolozi Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College.

The initiative created more than 3 000 jobs in northern KZN, an area of significant unemployment and poverty and, in addition to wage earnings, has delivered R82 million directly to beneficiaries in the past four seasons. Overall, communities have been pleased with the use of local labour, particularly with the unusually high proportion of women workers that have been engaged.

Tongaat Hulett is committed to making an ongoing contribution to social upliftment, rural development and job creation. It is now more important than ever that companies such as ours step up and play their part.

