



**A REPORT BY THE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL ON THE
STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS IN SOUTH AFRICA**



2025 SURVEY

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*Promoting **market
access** for South
African **Agriculture***

ABOUT NAMC

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) was established in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act No. 47 of 1996, as amended by Act No 59 of 1997 and Act No. 52 of 2001. We are a statutory body reporting to the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Our mandate is captured in our three core divisions namely; Agribusiness Development, Agricultural Regulatory Measures and the Markets and Economic Research Centre (MERC).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Each year, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC), in collaboration with Trust administrators, compiles a detailed report on the development of Agricultural Industry Trusts. The administrators provide the required information by completing the Council's questionnaire.

We sincerely thank them for their timely and consistent submission of data. This document draws on data submitted to the NAMC and verified by the Trust Administrators.



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LIST OF **ACRONYMS**

ACRONYM	FULL DESCRIPTION
AAMP	Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
BFAP	Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy
BWC	Bursary Working Committee
CIT	Citrus Industry Trust
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DAG	Directly Affected Groups
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DFIDT	Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust
GFADA	Grain Farmer Development Association
MET	Mohair Empowerment Trust
MIT	Meat Industry Trust
MT	Maize Trust
MSc	Master of Science
NAMC	National Agricultural Marketing Council
NWGA	National Wool Growers Association
NLT	National Lucerne Trust
OPDT	Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust
PGP	Phahama Grain Phakama
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PIDT	Potato Industry Development Trust
PSA	SA Potatoes South Africa, South Africa
SACTA	South Africa Cultivar & Technology Agency
SAWCIA	South African Winter Cereal Industry Agency
SAGL	Southern African Grain Laboratories
SAGRA	South African Grain Farmers Association
SAGIS	South African Grain Information Service
SANSOR	South African National Seed Organization
SLA	Service Level Agreement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of this report is to provide the Minister of Agriculture and the Directly Affected Groups (DAG) with an update on the status of all agricultural trusts. These trusts were established under Section 26 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996. It also outlines the operational activities of the Agricultural Industry Trusts. The trusts' founding mandate is to preserve asset value on an evergreen basis and to deploy investment returns to finance cross-cutting industry initiatives. Accordingly, the report details key aspects of the trusts' operations and compares them with the previous reporting period. These aspects include the actions each trust has undertaken to operate effectively, their governance structures, and the performance of trust assets. The report also covers the industry bodies that collaborate closely with the trusts to advance their objectives.

During the reporting period, the Ethics and Governance Workshop, held on 29 July 2025, equipped ministerial trustees with knowledge of their legal duties, governance responsibilities, ethical leadership, and risk management. The session was supported by practical case studies and King V principles. The following day, the Agricultural Industry Trusts reviewed portfolio performance for 2023/24, noting combined assets of around R2.60 billion and increased transformation spending of R86 million, while also strengthening alignment with the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP). Lastly, the Minister appointed Prof. Jan Willem Swanepoel as the new trustee of the Wool Trust. The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) conducted an induction session to familiarise him with the NAMC's mandate and the Wool Trust's oversight role and sector responsibilities.

The Agricultural Industry Trusts' assets showed mixed performance between 2023/24 and 2024/25: most recorded increases, while three experienced declines in asset value. During the reporting period, total Trust assets increased from R2.60 billion in 2023/24 to R2.76 billion in 2024/25, representing a net growth of approximately R154 million (5.91 %). The Maize Trust recorded the largest increase, rising by approximately R120 million (11.11 %). It was followed by the Mohair Trust, which grew by R29 million (9.15 %), and the Meat Industry Trust, which rose by R5 million (7.46 %). The National Lucerne Trust achieved the highest percentage growth at approximately 21.51 %, although from a relatively small base, increasing by R434 000. On the downside, the Wool Trust declined by R8 million (-1.11 %), while the Potato Industry Development Trust decreased by R737 000 (-2.87 %). The Sorghum Trust recorded the largest decline, dropping from R30.7 million in 2023/24 to R25.7 million in 2024/25, representing a contraction of around R4.9 million (16.03 %) in value. Overall, the trend remains positive for most trusts, principally driven by expansion in the major commodity portfolios.



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*The Maize Trust
recorded the **largest**
increase, rising by
approximately
R120 million (11.11 %)
in 2024/25*

SECTION ONE:

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL** WITH REGARD TO **AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS**

1.1. Background

Section 1 outlines the activities undertaken by the National Agricultural Marketing Council's (NAMC) Agricultural Regulatory Measures Division concerning the Agricultural Industry Trusts during the reporting period. Section 1 also highlights the coordination efforts between the Agricultural Industry Trusts and the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister, Mr John Steenhuisen, was briefed on key initiatives (as noted in the most recent Status Report).

1.2. Highlights of the activities performed during the reporting period.

1.2.1. Agricultural Industry Trusts workshop

The Agricultural Industry Trusts Workshop was held on 30 July 2025 at the Agricultural Research Council (VIMP Campus) in Roodeplaatt, Pretoria. It brought together trustees, administrators, and stakeholders to review the progress and impact of agricultural industry trusts. The event assessed the performance of trusts during 2023/24, when combined assets reached approximately R2.6 billion with notable growth in several trusts and an increase in transformation spending to R86 million. Presentations highlighted how trusts support the sector through research, farmer training, transformation initiatives, bursaries, and market development across livestock, horticulture, and field crop industries. Discussions also focused on aligning trust programmes with the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP) to strengthen partnerships between government and industry, improve coordination, and ensure measurable transformation outcomes. Despite challenges such as fiscal constraints, market pressures, and climate-related risks, the workshop reaffirmed the important role of trusts in supporting innovation, sector competitiveness, and inclusive growth in South African agriculture.



Picture 2: The Trust workshop

1.2.2 Ethics and governance workshop

The Ethics and Governance Workshop took place on 29 July 2025 at the ARC Roodeplaat Campus and was attended by the Ministerial Trustees of all Agricultural Industry Trusts. The workshop aimed to equip trustees with knowledge of their legal, regulatory, and ethical responsibilities to strengthen accountability and sustainability among the Trusts. Key topics included trustees' legal duties under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (1996), the Trust Property Control Act (1988), and related legislation, as well as directors' obligations under the Companies Act and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The session further addressed risk management and compliance, focusing on preventing fraud and corruption, managing conflicts of interest, and resolving ethical dilemmas, supported by case studies, including the Steinhoff matter. Trustees were also introduced to the Draft King V Code on Corporate Governance, ethical leadership principles, sustainable value creation, reporting standards, and international best practice frameworks to promote sound oversight and responsible decision-making.



** The Ministerial Trustees, facilitator and NAMC officials at the Ethics Workshop*

1.2.3. Appointment of ministerial trustees

The Minister appointed Prof. Jan Willem Swanepoel as the new ministerial trustee of the Wool Trust, replacing Dr Linda Makuleni-Tomson. The administrator was notified of the change, and the onboarding process was conducted successfully.

1.2.4. Induction of Ministerial Trustees

The NAMC and the Wool Trust jointly welcomed Prof. Jan Willem Swanepoel and conducted an orientation session to familiarise him with the NAMC's mandate and the Wool Trust's role and responsibilities. The orientation provided a comprehensive overview of the NAMC's institutional mandate, supported by presentations delivered by all four core divisions of the Council. Of particular importance was a detailed presentation on the current status of the Agricultural Industry Trusts, including key developments and ongoing transformation initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive growth in the agricultural sector.

In addition, the Wool Trust presented its institutional mandate, drawing on the provisions of the Trust Deed. This presentation covered the origins and establishment of the Wool Trust, its strategic objectives, investment history and performance, governance structures, and the key programmes and activities undertaken to support the wool industry. The session further strengthened Prof. Swanepoel's understanding of the Trust's operations and its contribution to research, development, and transformation in the sector.

The session concluded with consensus on the way forward, including the signing of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the NAMC and Prof. Swanepoel. The SLA, together with the Trust Deed, had been shared with him prior to the meeting to allow sufficient time for review and familiarisation.



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*During the period under review, total **Trust assets** increased from R2.64 billion in 2023/24 to R2.80 billion in 2024/25, representing a net growth of approximately R157.2 million (5.95%)*

TRUST ADMINISTRATORS

LIVESTOCK



FIELD CROPS



HORTICULTURE



Deciduous
Fruit Industry
Development
Trust



For more information, contact:
Tel: (012) 341 1115 | Email: info@namc.co.za



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SECTION TWO:

GENERAL TRUST INFORMATION

2.1. Background

Section 2 provides information on the governance of the Agricultural Industry Trusts, in accordance with the relevant Trust Deeds and the Trust Property Control Act. It outlines the administrative structures and the composition of the Boards of Trustees, which consist of **61 members: 40** representing industry stakeholders and **21** appointed by the Minister. Table 1 presents general information on each Trust, including administration details, board membership, and industry board representation.

2.2. Governance of the Trusts

The replacement of Ministerial Trustees whose terms expired during the reporting period was delayed, pending resolution of matters under the Minister's consideration.

Table 1: Representation within the boards of the Agricultural Industry Trusts

Trust Category	Name of the Trust and Administrator	Administrator	Trust Age (years)	Board of Trustees
Horticulture	Citrus Industry Trust (Fruit South Africa)	Ms F. Ratshitanga	27 (1999)	Industry representatives: Mr J Brand (Vice Chairperson), Ms P Dempsey, Mr M Maqoma Ministerial representatives: Dr H Lefophane (Chairperson) Dr F Thovhogi Mrs H Makhuvha
	Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust (HORTGRO)	Ms K. Bezuidenhout	27 (1999)	Industry representatives: Mr N Dicey (Chairperson) Ms L Visagie Ministerial representatives: Ms N Williams Dr E Blancquaert Ms W Petersen Mr J Mthombeni
	Potato Industry Development Trust (Potatoes South Africa)	Mr J. van Deventer	22 (2004)	Industry representatives: Dr Ben Jacobus Pieterse (Chairperson) Ms Murray Thompson Mr Deon Haar van Zyl Mr Wynand Marthinus Fourie Ministerial representatives: Ms Nokhanyo Maceba

Trust Category	Name of the Trust and Administrator	Administrator	Trust Age (years)	Board of Trustees
Field Crops	The Maize Trust [Agri Manage Solutions (Pty) Ltd]	Mrs B. De Witt	28 (1998)	Industry representatives: Mr B.C. Schoonwinkel (Vice-chairperson), Mr D.J.M. Mathews, Mr B. Mokgatle Ministerial representatives: Mr Z. Ngejane (Chairperson), Mr G.S. Mafuleka, Mr M.K. Thamaga (Outgoing)
	The Sorghum Trust [Viridis AFC (Pty) Ltd]	Mr G. Kok	28 (1998)	Industry representatives: Mr W.J. Groothof (Chairperson), Mr D. Beets (Vice Chairperson), Mr R.E. Pholo Ministerial representatives: Ms T. Moagi (outgoing)
	Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust.	Mr G. Keun	29 (1997)	Industry representatives: Mr A. Moosa (Chairperson), Dr A. van der Vyver; Ms J. Tselentis; Mr R.E Pholo; Mr G. Roos; Mr D. Schutte Ministerial representatives: Mr S. Shandu, Ms D.R Mosehla
Livestock	Wool Trust	Mr A.W. van de Venter	29 (1997)	Industry representatives: Mr F.P.R. van Wyk (Chairman), Mr I.G. Whittal, Mr R.A. Kirsten, Mr L.I.M. Maduna, Dr A. Moore, and Mr A.R. Kidson Ministerial representatives: Dr Linda Makuleni-Tomson (Outgoing) Prof. Jan Willem Swanepoel (Incoming)
	Mohair Trust (Mohair South Africa)	Mr M. Coetzee	29 (1997)	Industry representatives: Mr A. Kirsten (Chairman), Mr J. Louw, Mr D.G. Short, Mr D. Pringle Ministerial representatives: Mr A. Dladla
	National Lucerne Trust	Mr FP. Ruppig	30 (1996)	Industry representatives: Mr D.E. Malan (Chairperson), Mr J.J.A. Potgieter, Mr R.H. Roselt, Mr H.B. Megaw, Mr A. Beyers, Mr G.Ivan. Ministerial representatives: Mr C.S. Bhiya
	Agricultural Levy Services (Pty) Ltd	Ms Carolien Viviers	29 (1997)	Industry representatives: Mr D. Olivier, Mr W. Clack, Dr F. Nherera-Chokuda Ministerial representatives: Ms. U. Speirs (Chairperson), Dr Z. Majokweni – Qwalela, Ms. N. Sekhoto
	Agricultural Levy Services (Pty) Ltd	Ms Carolien Viviers	28 (1998)	Industry representatives: Mr D. Olivier, Mr W. Clack, Dr F. Nherera-Chokuda Ministerial representatives: Dr Z. Majokweni-Qwalela (Chairperson), Ms. U. Speirs, Ms. N. Sekhoto

SECTION THREE:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

3.1. Background

Each Trust is governed by a Trust Deed and administered by a Board of Trustees, comprising industry representatives and ministerial appointees. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding and growing the value of Trust assets and for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the funds in line with the “evergreen” principle. They also utilise investment returns to support industry initiatives such as research and development, transformation programmes, and market growth activities.

3.2. Trusts asset performance for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years

Overall, the table below shows mixed performance across the Agricultural Industry Trusts between 2023/24 and 2024/25, with most Trusts recording increases, while a few experienced declines. Between the two reporting periods, total Trust assets increased from R2.60 billion in 2023/24 to R2.76 billion in 2024/25, representing an increase of R154 million or 5.91 %. The Maize Trust recorded the largest nominal increase, rising by approximately R120 million (11.11 %). It was followed by the Mohair Trust, which increased by R29 million (9.15 %), and the Meat Industry Trust, which grew by R5 million (7.46 %). The National Lucerne Trust recorded the highest percentage growth at approximately 21.51 %, increasing by R434 000. On the downside, the Wool Trust’s assets decreased by R8 million, representing a 1.11 % decline. The Potato Industry Development Trust decreased by R737 000, equivalent to a 2.87 % decrease. Notably, the Sorghum Trust recorded the largest decline, decreasing from R30.7 million in 2023/24 to R25.7 million in 2024/25. This represents a decline of R4.9 million, equivalent to 16.03 % of asset value.

Table 2: Trusts’ asset bases for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years

Trust Name	2023/24 (R' 000)	2024/25 (R' 000)	Change (R' 000)	Change (%)
Citrus Industry Trust	R19 282	R20 680	R1 398	7%
Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust	R22 952	R24 090	R1 138	5%
Potato Industry Development Trust	R25 659	R24 922	- R736	-2.87%
Wool Trust	R725 843	R717 769	- R8 073	-1.11%
Mohair Trust	R317 487	R346 542	R29 054	9.15%
National Lucerne Trust	R 2 018	R2 452	R433	21.48%
Meat Industry Trust	R67 000	R72 000	R5 000	7.46%
The Maize Trust	R 1 080 000	R1 200 000	R120 000	11.11%
Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust	R319 000	R330 000	R11 300	3.45%
The Sorghum Trust	R30 714	R25 791	- R4 922	-16.03 %
Total	R2 609 955	R2 764 246	R154 291	5.91%

Source: Trusts’ balance sheets and own calculations (2025)

3.2. The outlook on the trust assets' performance

3.1.1. Horticultural trusts

- › **Citrus Industry Trust:** The Trust's asset value increased from R19.3 million in 2023/24 to R20.7 million in 2024/25, representing an increase of approximately R1.4 million, attributable to strong investment performance. Allan Gray manages the Trust's assets.
- › **Potato Industry Development Trust:** The asset value of the Potato Industry Development Trust (PIDT) decreased by R737 816, representing a three per cent decline. It fell from R25.7 million in 2023/24 to R24.9 million in 2024/25. The PIDT holds only Non-Current Assets as its main assets, while its Current Assets consist primarily of cash and receivables. The balance of cash and receivables may fluctuate annually, depending on the Trust's operational activities and income at year-end. ABSA manages the Trust's investments.
- › **Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust:** The Trust's asset value increased from R22.9 million in 2023/24 to R24.1 million in 2024/25, an increase of R1.2 million. The growth was driven by the appreciation of Old Mutual investments – the firm that also manages its assets.

3.2.2. Livestock trusts

- › **Wool Trust:** The Trust's assets amounted to R717.7 million, representing a decrease of R8 million (1.11 %) compared with the previous financial year. Fundhouse Investment Advisors (Pty) Ltd and Zakly Investments One (Pty) Ltd provide financial advisory services, while Landman van Rensburg Accountants serves as the Trust's accountant.
- › **Mohair Trust:** The Trust's assets stood at R346.5 million, representing an increase of R29 million from the previous financial year. The growth in the value of the assets was mainly attributable to an increase in financial assets, with investments rising by three per cent (net of withdrawals) during the period. The Trust continues to handle its own financial records, while Old Mutual is responsible for managing the investment portfolio.
- › **National Lucerne Trust:** The Trust's total assets amounted to R2.4 million. Asset value rose by R433 677 in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24, primarily due to higher receivables. Asset policies and composition remained unchanged. The Trust does not use an external investment portfolio manager. Accounting and financial audit functions are performed by Acker & Maloney Incorporated, Chartered Accountants (SA) and Registered Auditors.
- › **Red Meat Research and Development Trust:** The Red Meat Research and Development Trust (RMRDT) has been non-functional for more than six years. During this period it has operated under a limited caretaker arrangement managed by only two trustees. According to Agricultural Levy Services (ALS), the outgoing administrator, the prolonged delays were largely attributable to administrative challenges at the Master of the High Court. These included the repeated misplacement of documentation required for the registration and appointment of new trustees, causing significant delays in reconstituting a fully functional Board.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) subsequently received confirmation from the administrator that, in May 2025, the outstanding trustee registrations were finalised. A full Board of Trustees was registered, consisting of six members: three industry representatives and three ministerial appointees. Following this development, a meeting was convened to formally constitute the Board during which Ms U. Spiers, a Ministerial Trustee, was elected Chairperson.

The Trust currently holds assets totalling approximately R36 million. The NAMC will include the RMRDT in the next reporting cycle and will conduct a full survey of the Trust. The survey will assess its current standing, operational readiness, and progress, with findings to be reported in the next Status Report.

The assets are invested through Old Mutual Investments, with Old Mutual Wealth managing the portfolio. The increase was mainly due to sound investment strategies that performed well despite challenging and volatile market conditions. This growth strengthened the Trust's financial capacity to support its operations and programmes. Financial administration is managed by Agricultural Levy Services (Pty) Ltd, while the annual audit is conducted by Chapu Chartered Accountants.

- › **Meat Industry Trust:** The Trust's total assets amounted to R72 million, representing an increase of R5 million from the previous financial year. Assets are managed through Old Mutual Investments, with Old Mutual Wealth overseeing the portfolio. The growth in asset value was largely attributable to effective investment strategies despite volatile market conditions, which enhanced the Trust's ability to fund its operations and initiatives. Bookkeeping is handled by Agricultural Levy Services (Pty) Ltd, while the financial audit is conducted by Chapu Chartered Accountants.

3.2.3. Field crops trusts

- › **The Maize Trust (MT):** Strong market returns boosted the Maize Trust's assets by approximately R120 million. Total assets climbed from R1.08 billion in 2023/24 to R1.2 billion in 2024/25. The Maize Trust's asset value changes affect its ability to fund research activities, and its status remains as an evergreen Trust. The Maize Trust's investments are managed by Allan Gray, Coronation, and Ninety-One Asset Managers, with investment advice from Willis Towers Watson.
- › **Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust (OPDT):** The main objective of the OPDT is to promote and develop the oilseeds industry in South Africa. During the reporting period, the total asset value of the Trust increased from R319 million in 2023/24 to R330 million in 2024/25, representing an increase of approximately R11.3 million.
- › **Sorghum Trust (ST):** Nedbank Private Wealth manages the Trust's investment portfolio. The Trust recorded a decrease of R600 692 in its investment portfolio, mainly due to funds released for operational purposes. The decrease in Current Assets of R4.9 million is due to the funds that are held on behalf of the Sorghum Cluster Initiative being disbursed during 2024/25.

SECTION FOUR:

OUTLINE OF INDUSTRY STRUCTURES

4.1. Introduction

Section 4 outlines the entities that work directly with the Trusts to fulfil their mandates, providing a brief overview of each organisation's remit.

4.2. Horticulture Trusts

Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust (DFIDT): The Trust is governed by six (6) trustees with four appointed by the Minister and two (2) appointed by the industry. The DFIDT Board of Trustees receives reports directly from funded projects. The Trust ensures transparency and accountability through annually audited financial statements, two trustee meetings a year, and continuous project reporting aligned with service level agreements. Strategic alignment is further reinforced through planning sessions, such as the one held in November 2025 to develop DFIDT's strategy.

Potato Industry Development Trust (PIDT): The Trust is governed by a Board of five trustees, comprising four industry representatives and one Ministerial representative. The PIDT operates through Potatoes SA, which serves as the Trust's administrator and is the recognised producer representative organisation in the potato industry. Potatoes SA plays a key role in advocating for producers, coordinating stakeholder engagement, and promoting collaboration across the value chain through various forums and committees. To maintain financial oversight, the Trust submits detailed monthly management statements to the trustees and the Risk and Audit Committee, supported by interim and annual external audits.

Citrus Industry Trust: The Trust is governed by a Board of six trustees, equally represented by industry and Ministerial representatives. The Citrus Industry Trust works with two primary beneficiary structures that report directly to it: the CGA Grower Development Company (CGA-GDC) and the Citrus Academy. Both serve as transformation vehicles in the citrus industry. The Citrus Academy focuses on human resource development by addressing skills shortages, promoting employment equity, and strengthening capacity building in the citrus industry. The CGA-GDC supports black citrus growers through enterprise development, technical and business support services, advancing inclusive participation across the value chain. Governance standards are upheld through the biannual trustee meetings, where financial and administrative documentation is presented, as well as progress reports submitted annually by beneficiaries and structured decision-making processes for funding allocations. The Trust is further subject to annual external audits to ensure compliance. Trustee communication is also maintained through beneficiary progress reports and biannual administrative updates, with additional engagement as required. No significant changes in industry structures were recorded during the reporting period that affected the Trust's operations.

4.3. Livestock trusts

Wool Trust: The Trust has seven board members, six representing the industry and one appointed by the Minister. Cape Wools SA is the sole beneficiary of the Wool Trust and the only organisation reporting to it. As the official representative body of the South African wool industry, it represents producers, buyers, processors, brokers, traders, breeders, labour, and the wool testing group. The organisation promotes the interests of the industry both locally and internationally, working with other major wool-producing countries. However, the Trust faces administrative challenges due to delays in appointments by the Master of the High Court and industry processes involving the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC).

Mohair Trust: The board of trustees of the Mohair Trust is made up of five members with four representing the industry and one appointed by the Minister. Two beneficiary organisations serve the mohair industry, namely, Mohair South Africa, which promotes the industry locally and internationally, and the Mohair Empowerment Trust, which focuses on transformation and empowerment. The Trust maintains accountability through annual audits and general meetings, and regular communication with stakeholders via events and newsletters.

National Lucerne Trust (NLT): The Board of Trustees of the NLT comprises between four and seven trustees. One trustee represents the Minister of Agriculture. The remaining six (6) represent specific lucerne industry sectors: seed producers, seed cleaners, seed merchants, hay producers, hay merchants, processors and smallholder farmers. All core functions are funded only by statutory levy income. The NLT does not have any investment funds.

Red Meat Research and Development Trust: The Trust is governed by a Board of six trustees, equally represented by industry and Ministerial representatives. The Trust has a simple structure with one supporting body, the Project Committee, which reports directly to the Board of Trustees. The Committee evaluates funding proposals, monitors project progress, and provides technical and strategic guidance. It also ensures that research results are shared with the industry and that projects support innovation, transformation, and growth in the red meat sector.

Meat Industry Trust: Six trustees govern the Meat Industry Trust — three drawn from industry and three ministerially appointed. Two structures report to the Trust. The Bursary Working Committee awards bursaries to MSc and PhD students. Geju Holdings (Pty) Ltd implements livestock development initiatives linked to the Trust's transformation projects.

4.4. Field Crops Trusts

The Maize Trust (MT): The Trust is governed by a Board of six trustees, equally represented by industry and Ministerial representatives. The Trust funds a range of industry bodies. These include: South African Grain Laboratory (SAGL), South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS), Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Grain SA, Phahama Grain Phakama NPC (PGP), VKB Agriculture, AGDA

- **Grain SA Farmer Development Programme:** Training, mentoring, and developing emerging farmers into self-sustaining commercial farmers.
- **ARC:** Research and technology transfer activities focus on benefiting emerging farmers and addressing their specific needs.
- **The Maize Trust Bursary Scheme:** Building the capacity of highly skilled personnel in South Africa's grain industry.
- **Grain SA Schools Programme:** Informing previously disadvantaged learners about agriculture and career opportunities.
- **Industry beneficiaries:** Improving maize quality, yield, and resistance to diseases and pests maintains the competitiveness of South African farmers in the international marketplace.

Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust (OPDT): The Trust is governed by a Board of eight trustees: six representing industry and two appointed by the Minister. The oilseeds industry structures comprise the Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust (OPDT), the Oilseeds Advisory Committee (OAC), the SA Groundnut Forum, the Sunflower, Soybean and Soyfood Forum, and the Research Priority Committee. Funded entities include ARC-GCI, SAGL, NAMC, WCDA, SAGIS, FABI, and the University of Pretoria. Other grantees include BFAP, Eden Social Development Foundation, University of the Free State, Grain SA, FarmSol, Stellenbosch University, and the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

Sorghum Trust (ST): The Trust is governed by a Board of four trustees, comprising three industry representatives and one Ministerial representative. All grantees submit biannual reports on the progress and results of the projects funded. Structures and grantees include:

- **ARC:** Research and technology transfer activities focus on benefiting emerging farmers and addressing their specific needs.
- **Grain SA Scholarship Scheme:** Cultivating skilled professionals in South Africa's grain industry.
- **Industry beneficiaries:** Improving sorghum quality, yield, and resistance to diseases and pests maintains the competitiveness of South African farmers in the international marketplace. The Sorghum Trust does not administer statutory levies, but its transformation programme follows NAMC's guidelines. The Trust funds Grain SA annually for transformation activities such as training, technology transfer, and farmer skills enhancement. Furthermore, the Trust supports the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in research and technology transfer on emerging farming practices and needs.]

To promote sorghum production and consumption, the Sorghum Trust has established the Sorghum Cluster Initiative (Pty) Ltd (SCI). The SCI serves as the implementation mechanism to drive various initiatives to support and enhance the competitiveness of the sorghum industry in South Africa.



SECTION FIVE:

| CONCLUSION

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the performance and operations of the ten Agricultural Industry Trusts during the 2024/25 reporting period. Performance across the Agricultural Industry Trusts between 2023/24 and 2024/25 was broadly positive: most Trusts recorded increases, while three experienced declines. Total Trust assets increased from R2.60 billion in 2023/24 to R2.76 billion in 2024/25, representing a rise of approximately R154 million (5.91 %). This growth was driven mainly by the Maize Trust, Mohair Trust, and Meat Industry Trust. On the downside, the Wool Trust and Potato Industry Development Trust recorded moderate declines, while the Sorghum Trust experienced the largest decrease of approximately R4.9 million (-16.03 %).

The findings confirm that Agricultural Industry Trusts continue to play a vital role in supporting the agricultural sector. This role is fulfilled through sound governance, sustainable asset management, and strategic investment of returns into priority industry initiatives such as research and development, transformation, and market expansion. Despite some declines recorded in a few Trusts, the overall asset base of the Trusts grew, demonstrating resilience and effective financial management across most commodity sectors. Furthermore, continued coordination between the National Agricultural Marketing Council, Trust administrators, industry structures, and the Minister of Agriculture remains essential. Such coordination is key to ensuring accountability, improved stakeholder collaboration, and alignment with national agricultural priorities such as the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP). Moving forward, strengthening governance, enhancing ethical leadership, and ensuring that Trust programmes deliver measurable development impact will remain critical in advancing inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural industry.

ANNEXURE ONE:

CONTACT DETAILS OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS ADMINISTRATORS

Table 3: Contact Details of Agricultural Industry Trusts Administrators

TRUST NAME	ADMINISTRATOR	CONTACT DETAILS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Citrus Industry Trust	Fruit SA	Tel: +27 12 007 1150 Mobile: +27 82 411 4464 Email: fhumulani@fruitsa.co.za	Ms Fhumulani Ratshitanga
Deciduous Fruit Industry Development	Hortgro	Tel: +27 21 870 2900 Email: karien@hortgro.co.za	Ms Karien Bezuidenhout
Maize Trust	Agri Manage Solutions	Mobile: +27 72 015 8118 Tel: +27 12 807 3958 / 4191 Email: beatrix@agrimanage.co.za	Ms Beatrix de Witt
Meat Industry Trust and Red Meat Research Development Trust	Agricultural Levy Services (Pty) Ltd Yedwa Consultancy	Tel: 012 348 7572 Email: carolien@agrilevy.co.za. Email: cosec@yedwa.co.za	Ms Carolien Viviers (outgoing) Yedwa (Incoming)
Mohair Trust	Mohair SA	Mobile : +27 73 648 8935 Tel : +27 41 581 1681 Email marco@mohair.co.za	Mr Macro Coetzee
National Lucerne Trust	National Lucerne Trust	Tel: 082 823 7201 Email: fritz@lusern.org	Mr Fritz Ruppung
Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust	Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust	Tel: 011 234 3400 Mobile : +27 82 321 7845 Email: oliesade@opot.co.za	Mr Gert Keun
Potato Industry Development Trust	Potatoes SA	Tel: +27 12 349 1906 Email: Willie@potatoes.co.za	Mr Wille Jacobs
Sorghum Trust	CFO, Viridis AFC (Pty) Ltd	Mobile : +27 83 395 6959 Email: cosec@viridisafc.co.za	Mr Gert Kok
Wool Trust	Wool Trust	Tel : +27 41 484 4307 Email: andre@wooltrust.co.za	Mr Andre van de Venter

ANNEXURE ONE:

| AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS QUESTIONNAIRE

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS QUESTIONNAIRE – 2025 SURVEY

To:

Agricultural Trusts Administrators/CEOs

Status Report on Agricultural Industry Trusts (2024)

For:

The Minister of Agriculture

The rationale of the survey

This questionnaire is circulated to the Agricultural Industry Trusts to gather an update on their operations, which will be compiled and presented to the Minister. The Minister is mainly interested in whether the assets are increasing or decreasing (and associated reasons), as well as getting a clear indication of the activities funded by the Trusts. More specifically, it seeks to assess each Trust's work aimed at redressing historical imbalances through transformation initiatives. The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) will use the responses to compile the "Status Report on Agricultural Trusts – 2025 Survey". The report covers the previous year to accommodate auditing requirements. The Trusts Administrators/CEOs are requested to provide the NAMC with the following information:

A) TRUST BACKGROUND

- a. Who (person and company) is the administrator of the Trust?
- b. Where is the location of the Trust in terms of the Local Municipality/District?
- c. How many personnel are employed by the administrator and what are the demographics of the employees (e.g., gender, age, race)?
- d. When was the Trust established?
- e. Who are the current members of the Board of Trustees and their representation?
- f. Who is the Chairperson of the Trust?
- g. What is the duration of the current serving Chairperson?
- h. Has there been any significant change in the leadership of the Trust in the past year?
- i. What is the Trust's main area of focus or sector within the agriculture industry?

B) TRUST ASSET(S)

- a. How much is the current value of all assets?
- b. List the names, locations, and values of each asset.
- c. By how much did it increase or decrease from the previous financial year?
- d. What are the reasons for the changes in the value of assets?
 - i. If there was a decrease, what measures have been put in place to address it?
 - ii. If there was an increase, what were the contributing factors? Does the change affect the Trust's ability to fund its operations/activities?
- e. Which firm manages the Trust's investment portfolio?
- f. Which company is responsible for the Trust's bookkeeping?
- g. Which firm conducts the Trust's annual financial audit?

C) INDUSTRY FUNDING

- a. How many industry bodies are funded by the Trust, their role and amount spent? Please list them.
- b. Does the Trust also implement any activities?
 - i. If yes, do these activities link developing farmers to the markets?
 - ii. Based on the answer above, how many developing farmers have been linked to the markets?
- c. What are the areas of focus for the Trust's budget?
- d. Can you provide a budget breakdown of the activities funded by the Trust or through the Trust funding?
- e. Please specify the benefit(s) of the activities funded by the Trust towards the entire industry. Please elaborate.
- f. What is the impact of the work funded?
- g. How does the Trust determine funding allocations — through pre-set amounts or in response to budgets submitted by beneficiary institutions?
- h. Are there any new or emerging areas where the Trust plans to allocate funding? If yes, please provide details.
- i. How does the Trust assess the performance of the industry bodies and projects it funds?

D) DEED OF TRUST

- a. Please attach the latest copy of the Trust Deed.
- b. Was the Deed of Trust amended in 2024/25?
 - i. If "Yes", please provide details and the date of the amendments.
 - ii. If "No", when was the last amendment made (year and date)?
 - iii. Are there any plans to amend it or is the process already unfolding (if yes, how far)?
- c. Was there any legal advice sought on matters pertaining to its operations during the reporting period?
- d. Does the Trust have any plans to change its mandate or scope in the near future? If yes, please provide details.

E) INDUSTRY STRUCTURES

- a. How many industry structures (organisations/committees) report to the Trust? Please list them.
- b. What is the role of each of these structures?
- c. Does the Trust experience any challenges in running its affairs, regarding the Master of High Court and/or industry? If yes, how would you like the NAMC to intervene?
- d. How does the Trust ensure transparency and accountability in its operations?
- e. Are there regular reports or updates provided to stakeholders? If yes, how often? Specify the reports provided.
- f. Have there been any significant changes in the industry structures that could affect the Trust's operations?

F) TRANSFORMATION

- How much has been spent on transformation by the Trust during the reporting period?
- What transformation activities are currently funded by the Trust? Please include the budget breakdown per activity.
- How is the implementation of transformation structured within the Trust?
- What partnerships have been formed with different organisations in the implementation of transformation activities?
- What are the challenges faced by these transformation projects?
- Should the NAMC and or government do more in terms of assisting Trusts with transformation? If yes, how?
- How is the employment equity of the Trust administrator? Please highlight race and gender.
- Is there any impact on the transformation funded by the Trusts?
 - If yes, what are the success stories from the transformation activities funded?
 - If not, what are the potential reasons?
- Does the Trust have strategies and targets in terms of transformation? Please provide brief details.

G) MARKET ACCESS

- How many farmers were linked with markets by the Trust during the reporting period?
- For how many years have these farmers been supplying the market?
- How sustainable are the current market linkages, and what plans are in place for long-term support?
- What are the challenges faced by the farmers in supplying the markets?

H) AGRICULTURE AND AGROPROCESSING MASTER PLAN (AAMP)

The AAMP was signed by the social partners in the agriculture and agro-processing sectors in South Africa as a social compact and strategy for inclusivity and economic growth. Please use the table below to indicate the various programmes that are currently implemented by the Trust and align them to the specified six pillars of the AAMP.

AAMP Pillars	Activities	Target timeline	Responsible stakeholder	Budget
Resolving policy ambiguities and creating an investment-friendly environment				
Investing in and maintaining enabling infrastructure				
Providing comprehensive farmer support, developmental finance, R&D, and extension services				
Improving food security, increasing production and employment, and ensuring decent work and inclusivity				
Facilitating market expansion, improving market access, promoting trade				
Improving localised food production, reducing imports, and expanding agro-processing exports.				

Please note: Agricultural Industry Trusts are also required to submit financial statements for the financial year corresponding to the information provided in this questionnaire.

Thank you for your co-operation in providing this important information for the compilation of the “Status Report on Agricultural Trusts – 2025 Survey.” Your contribution is valuable for assessing the industry’s progress and informing policy decisions.

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