



A R400-million agri-processing plant was launched in 2019 in the OR Tambo Special Economic Zone. The SEZ is located at OR Tambo International Airport and is intended to encourage exports of high-value goods.

The Provincial Government of Gauteng has set up Action Labs to focus on agriculture and agri-processing with a focus on land tenure issues and improving food security. If food producers can be linked to the value chain then township economies can benefit.

Communities around a DRDGold tailings plant near Boksburg are growing and selling agricultural produce as part of a programme that was started in 2015. The gold recovery company teamed up with Umsizi Sustainable Social Solutions to pass on skills to small-scale farmers in Daveyton, Geluksdal and Tsakane. By the end of 2018, some 90 enterprises were selling their products and the City of Johannesburg has expressed interest in expanding the programme.

The Urban Agriculture Initiative of the Minerals Council South Africa was launched in 2017. The roofs of buildings are used as agricultural land, hosting various crops cultivated by aquaponics and hydroponics. A pilot project on the top of the Chamber's building is producing basil. First National Bank's canteen is supplied with vegetables by its own rooftop farm. The Johannesburg Inner City Partnership is driving the initiative.

The Fresh Produce Market in Johannesburg is South Africa's biggest market. The region's other two metropolitan areas, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni, also have large markets to cater for the region's large population. The Springs Fresh Produce Market accounts for 3% of South African market share which it intends increasing as it expands.

Gauteng's agricultural sector is concentrated on producing

## SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Mining companies are promoting small-scale farming.

vegetables. There is commercial farming in the southern sector of the province (part of South Africa's maize triangle) and the farming of cotton, groundnuts and sorghum is undertaken in areas near Bronkhorstspuit (east) and Heidelberg (in the south).

The province is home to some of South Africa's biggest agricultural companies, including AFGRI. Africa's largest feedlot for cattle is located in Heidelberg: Karan Beef's facility can accommodate 120 000 cattle. The feedmill processes 1 400 tons per day and the associated abattoir in Balfour in neighbouring Mpumalanga sometimes deals with 1 800 head of cattle per day.

The Kanhym Agrimill in Vereeniging is one of three in the company's portfolio, which collectively processes 250 000 tons of animal feed annually. Kanhym Estates is the largest producer of pigs in the country. There are many poultry farm and production facilities in Gauteng. Companies include Astral Foods, RCL Foods and Daybreak Farms. ■

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Agricultural Research Council: [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za)

AgriSA: [www.agriinfo.co.za](http://www.agriinfo.co.za)

Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: [www.gdard.gpg.gov.za](http://www.gdard.gpg.gov.za)

South African Poultry Association: [www.sapoultry.co.za](http://www.sapoultry.co.za)