



# VEGETABLE & FODDER FARM

Lutzville

“When Namaqua Sands started mining on the West Coast, there was an excitement among the people of Lutzville, as it seemed that finally they would be able to find some work, but unfortunately this did not happen,” says Willem Cloete,

Firstly their requirements are too high. We do not have highly educated young people in Lutzville. Namaqua Sand’s minimum requirement is Standard 8 or Grade 10, or they require you to be a trained operator.” The result is many

### Project Objectives:

- Soil Preparation.
- Installation of irrigation system.
- Crop production.
- Harvest and sell.

### Project Timeframe

12 months

### Long Term Goals:

- Plant a vineyard.
- Create employment opportunities.

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who grew up in Lutzville. Cloete is a lay preacher and the project coordinator for the Lutzville Emerging Farmers Association. He explains: “Namaqua Sands was unsuccessful in making a difference in our community,

workers at Namaqua Sands are “imported” from other provinces. Poverty and unemployment still remain high and since the area produces large volumes of cheap wine, alcohol abuse is very common.





## Water for Resource Limited Farmers and Reform



The Lutzville Emerging Farmers Association was established in 2004 and initially many people joined. Currently the group consists of only eight people. “It seems that the youth are not really interested in farming and are very negative, but we hope to change that soon,” Cloete says.

Initially the project was in a partnership with “Up to Date”, a local company. After negotiating five hectares of water from the Lower Olifants River Water User Association (LORWUA), “Up to Date” supplied the land necessary to growing tomatoes and other vegetables. However, the Lutzville farmers did not receive the support they had hoped for and the agreement was cancelled. “Projects like this need proper planning. We counted on inputs and advice but did not receive enough,” Cloete says.

Since then the group has managed to secure access to about 50 hectares of land from the Matzikama Municipality, and have succeeded in obtaining water rights to six hectares from the LORWUA. However, they will have to pay for this water and it is quite a burden at current market prices. “The group also has access to treated effluent water from the Lutzville Cellars. This waste water can be used to irrigate fodder crops.” says Cloete.

The project aims to produce vegetables and create employment opportunities. To achieve this, the group intends growing cash crops to create a quick income. They have already secured a contract with Tiger Brands to deliver 120 tons of tomatoes. Depending on the agreement negotiated with the municipality, they also plan to grow grapes. “A vineyard is less labour intensive and brings about a more sustainable income,” Cloete says.

