

PRESS RELEASE

Peritum Agri Institute Celebrates 25 Years of Agricultural Skills Development, Announces New Partnership with Bo-Karoo Opleiding

Bloemfontein — Peritum Agri Institute, a leading educational institute committed to strengthening South Africa's agricultural workforce, today marks 25 years of training individuals who advance agriculture in South Africa.

Over the past 25 years, Peritum has built a reputation as a trusted partner to the agricultural sector, supporting students, established commercial farmers, agribusinesses and emerging farmers alike through a structured, lifelong learning pathway.

In addition to celebrating the quarter century milestone, today also earmark another significant strategic step-ahead with Peritum Agri Institute announcing a partnership with Bo-Karoo Opleiding (BKO), based in Orania. The cooperation between the two organizations will see two accredited National Diplomas - Animal Production and Plant Production - offered at the BKO campus as from 2027.

The partnership brings together Peritum's vocational educational expertise and accredited curriculum with BKO's hands-on, community-based training model, and reflects a shared commitment to preparing the next generation of agricultural professionals for the practical realities of the sector.

A New Chapter in Practical Agricultural Training

The two NQF Level 5 qualifications are accredited by AgriSETA and will give prospective students the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills for a career in the primary agricultural sector.

The two-year, full-time programmes will be presented on BKO's Orania campus as part of its "campus without walls" model, with a strong practical component on the 22-hectare Leer-My-Hoe training farm. Students will be able to apply theoretical knowledge in a real agricultural environment, and will be assessed continuously as they build a comprehensive portfolio of work over the two years.

"This partnership combines Peritum Agri Institute's proven curriculum with BKO's practical, community-based training model," said Marcel Badenhorst-Nieuwoudt, Head of BKO's Agriculture Department. "It is an important step forward for practical agricultural training. By building partnerships of this calibre, we are not only creating opportunities for individual students, but investing directly in the long-term food security, sustainability and economic growth of the agricultural sector."

Admission requirements are a matric certificate or equivalent qualification, with a minimum of 40% in Mathematics, Technical Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy. No prior agricultural subjects are required.

Peritum Agri Institute is provisionally registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training until the date determined by the registrar as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997. Provisional registration certificate nr: 2025/HE07/010

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Beyond the curriculum, students enrolled in the diploma programmes will benefit from continuous, portfolio-based assessment that tracks their development over the full two years of study, ensuring that graduates leave with a demonstrable body of practical work alongside their formal qualification. This model is designed to produce graduates who are not only academically capable, but who are able to step confidently into farm management, agribusiness and related roles from day one.

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About Bo-Karoo Opleiding (BKO)

Founded in 2019 with just five students, BKO now has more than 250 students, four residences, two day houses, 30 mission-driven staff members, the 22-hectare Leer-My-Hoe training farm, and Techika, BKO's technical campus. The expansion of the training farm and the institution's growing agricultural offering form part of BKO's broader Snelrat 800 plan, which aims to create a study home for more than 800 students by 2028.

About Peritum Agri Institute

Peritum Agri Institute serves as a gateway to comprehensive solutions for developing and strengthening a resilient workforce committed to transforming the agricultural sector and building a sustainable future. As a registered higher education institute, Peritum is committed to training individuals who advance agriculture in South Africa. Its community includes young farmers pursuing practical agricultural qualifications, agribusiness corporations, established commercial farmers and their employees, emerging farmers, and other participants across related agricultural industries.

The PERITUM PATHWAY represents a lifelong journey of learning and development for individuals and their organisations, offering a structured learning trajectory that helps participants build sustainable careers in agriculture while supporting organisations committed to continuous improvement.

‘One could expect : rooted in practical training, community, and collaboration across the sector.

‘At Peritum Agri we cultivate young agricultural leaders, able to respond to the rapid transformation in the industry. A quarter-century of service to South African agriculture, leaves us more determined than ever to educate and skill a work-ready workforce to enter the agricultural sector,’ says Belinda Louw, Director at Peritum Agri. ‘It is through partnerships, such as with BKO, that we are able to expand our reach and cultivate young minds that will find new ways to solve the planet's most urgent food security challenges in real time.’

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From left to right: Belinda Louw: Director, Peritum Agri ; Paul Vogel: Chief Executive Officer, BKO ; Emmie Pietersen: Director, Peritum Agri

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