



GDARD/NEF Agro-processing Blended finance programme

Call for proposals: Agro-processing and value-addition projects

The National Empowerment Fund (NEF), in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), invites applications from black-owned and managed agro-processing enterprises for funding support through the GDARD/NEF Agro-Processing Blended Finance Programme.



Programme Objectives

The Programme aims to:

- Promote value-addition and agroprocessing across agricultural value chains;
- Support inclusive participation of Black-owned enterprises, with preference for women, youth, and persons with disabilities;
- Facilitate market access, competitiveness, and food security; and
- Drive job creation, transformation, and localisation within Gauteng's agro-industrial ecosystem.

Funding Structure

Successful applicants will qualify for blended finance comprising:

- 30% Grant Funding (non-repayable portion provided by GDARD); and
- 70% Concessional Loan (funded by the GDARD/NEF at preferential interest rates).

Maximum combined funding: up to R10 million per project, subject to viability and due-diligence outcomes.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

- Be incorporated in South Africa under the Companies Act (2008) or Co-operatives Act (2005);
- Be at least 51% Black-owned and managed;
- Operate within the agro-processing or value-adding sector (e.g., food, beverages, grains, fruit, vegetables, meat, herbs, chilli, hemp, cannabis etc.);
- Have or secure offtake agreements with credible buyers; and
- Comply with GDARD/NEF documentation and legal requirements.
- The applicant business must be actively operating within the Gauteng Province.



Applications Window

25 November 2025 – 17 January 2026

All applications must be submitted electronically via the GDARD/NEF portal

No hard-copy submissions will be accepted.

Application link

Available at www.nefcorp.co.za or at the following GDARD social media platforms



@officialGDARD



Gauteng Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development



@official_gdard

Information Session Webinar

Interested enterprises are encouraged to attend an Information Session Webinar to gain insight into:

- Programme objectives and qualifying criteria,
- Application procedures and documentation, and
- Guidance on completing the funding application.

Date: 2 December 2025

Further details available on the GDARD/NEF Social Media pages

Attendance is strongly recommended for all potential applicants prior to submitting their proposals.



Enquires contact details: info@Nefcorp.co.za; mduduzi.ndlovu@gauteng.gov.za
and fikile.mokgadi@gauteng.gov.za

Documentary Requirements

Applicants must submit the following supporting documentation:

1. Standard Documents

- Board Resolution authorising the GDARD/NEF application and naming signatories.
- Completed GDARD/NEF Application Form.
- Signed ITC Consent, PEP Declaration, Personal Assets & Liabilities, and Income & Expenditure forms for all shareholders/directors.
- Detailed Business Plan.

2. FICA – Shareholders & Directors

- Certified ID copies and proof of residence.
- Marriage certificates / ANC agreements (if applicable).

3. Company Documents

- CIPC registration (CK, MOI, share certificates).
- Shareholders or Co-operative Agreement.
- Valid SARS Tax Clearance PIN, B-BBEE Certificate, COIDA, UIF, and Municipal Business Licence.

4. Regulatory Compliance

- Municipal approval letter and stamped building plans.
- Zoning Certificate.
- EIA Record of Decision or Waiver.
- Food Health & Safety Certificate.
- Water Rights Registration/Approval.

5. Financial Documents

- Detailed funding breakdown.
- Quotations/BOQs for items to be funded.
- Past 3-year Audited Financial Statements and 6-month Bank Statements.
- Latest Management Accounts.
- 5-Year Financial Projections with assumptions.
- Debtors/Creditors Age Analysis and agreements.

6. Technical & Market

- Production process flow diagram and description.
- Lease Agreement / Title Deed / PTO.
- Supplier and Offtake Agreements / Market Assessment Report.
- Competitive analysis (top 3 competitors and advantage).

7. Corporate Governance & HR

- Group structure and organogram (post-funding).
- CVs/profiles of shareholders, directors, and key management.
- Empowerment dividend summary (jobs retained and created).
- Payroll + 5 sample payslips.
- Projected salary and wage budget.

8. Construction & Infrastructure (if applicable)

- Municipal-approved plans (architectural, engineering, electrical).
- Bill of Materials signed by a Quantity Surveyor.
- Principal Contractor profile, B-BBEE certificate, and references.