



# AFRICA

# AGRIBUSINESS

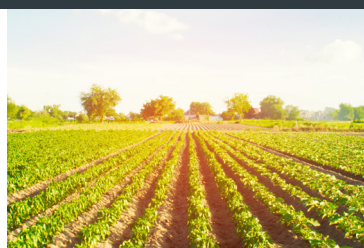
# QUALIFICATION (AAQ)

There remains a disparity between the nutritional needs of Africa's ever-growing population, the vast opportunities available in the agricultural sector, and our ability to leverage on them.

How can we ensure that Africa has safe, sustainable production systems in place to feed our population? One of the largest challenges hindering agricultural development in Africa is inadequate skills and knowledge. The fact that Africa's young population is continuing to grow, with over 60% being under the age of 35 in most African countries, calls for a change in narrative to encourage young people to embrace agriculture. This can be achieved by building their capability to leverage on the available agribusiness opportunities to generate sustainable incomes, create sustainable economies and achieve food security.

We must ensure that our resources including soils, biodiversity and environments are well protected as we strive to achieve high quality outputs and efficiency in production. We can achieve this by equipping talented young individuals with the right range of skills and attitudes to drive impactful growth in the Agricultural sector.

For this reason, a skills development initiative driven by AGCO in Africa, and funded by the AGCO Agriculture Foundation (AAF) under its strategic pillar "Advancement in Agricultural Education", is set to take the African agricultural sector to new heights by providing a unique platform to impart the skills the industry needs to move forward.



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# ABOUT AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS QUALIFICATION (AAQ)

A deliberate strategy to address skills development in the African agricultural sector for posterity and sustainability has seen the AGCO Agriculture Foundation, together with AGCO Corp. in Africa, offering the AAQ program through the listed educational/technical institutions – Gordon Institute of Business Science and Harper Adam University.

The AAQ program includes an accredited management qualification (NQF4) and, aims to empower and provide quality agro-industry training, technical training, sales skills and leadership development, agro-entrepreneurship management and work experience to emerging African leaders. Ideal program beneficiaries are passionate about food security, nutrition, and agribusiness value chain enterprise, and want to contribute to Africa's growth and development by building sustainable and commercial agriculture-based enterprises and agro-industry.

The program is targeted at young Africans who are enthusiastic about contributing to Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 of the United Nations. **The AAQ program will contribute to the achievement of the following SDGs: Goal 1 – No Poverty, Goal 2 - Zero Hunger, Goal 4 - Quality Education, Goal 5 – Gender Equality and Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth.**

## OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the AAQ-2 Program is to empower the participants with management and agribusiness skills and opportunities within the industry, needed to create a robust agribusiness sector for Africa.

The specific objectives of this program are to:

- Empower participants with the best in class innovative farming practices, technical training, sales skill, and enterprise management and leadership skills.
- Integrate mechanization, technology and agronomy to promote best practice in Agriculture.
- Train participants on agricultural policies and commercial agriculture to address the food security needs of Africa and the World.
- Educate and build the capacity of the program participants on solutions that are in line with the vision – "Farmer-focused solutions to sustainably feed our world"
- Equip the participants with practical experience through demonstrations that will enable them to implement these innovative and technology driven solutions at farm level.
- Support the program participants in achieving their personal and professional goals.



# STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY

The AAQ program is a one-year part-time accelerated program targeting participants from across the continent. The program activities will be hosted in South Africa and include virtual lectures (theory), field training (practical) and workplace experience. The 12-month programme will be delivered in six modules as follows:

CORE		
Module 1	<b>Ethical Leadership, Personal Development &amp; Introduction to Business</b>	GIBS (Online delivery)
Module 2	<b>Enterprise, Marketing &amp; Business Skills</b>	GIBS (Online delivery)
Module 3	<b>Farm Business Management and Policy</b>	GIBS (Online delivery)
Module 4	<b>Crop Production Systems, Nutrition &amp; Protection</b>	Harper Adams University (Online delivery)
Module 5	<b>Agricultural Science</b>	Harper Adams University (Online delivery)
Module 6	<b>Introduction to Digital &amp; Precision Agriculture</b>	Cerealis Technology Institute (Residential)
ELECTIVES		
SALES TRAINING		
Module 1	<b>Sales and Customer Service</b>	Harper Adams University, AGCO (Online & Residential)
TECHNICAL TRAINING		
Module 1	<b>Hydraulic Power for Agricultural Machines</b>	Harper Adams University, AGCO (Online & Residential)
Module 2	<b>Electrical Power for Agricultural Machines</b>	Harper Adams University, AGCO (Online & Residential)

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants who meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply for the program:

- ✓ Minimum Matric or equivalent (NQF Level 4) with a proficiency in English and maths, and computer literacy.
- ✓ Must hold a South African ID or Work Permit.
- ✓ Minimum of 3 years work experience in Agricultural or allied industry.
- ✓ Work experience within a sales or technical environment will be an advantage.
- ✓ Commitment to the part-time one-year program.

# SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

The AAQ program is fully funded by the AGCO Agriculture Foundation, a private foundation initiated by AGCO Corporation in 2018 with the commitment to end hunger through sustainable agriculture development. The Foundation has a precise purpose, vision and mission which is as follows:

**PURPOSE:** Build needed agricultural infrastructure to meet increasing nutrition needs.

**VISION:** Holistic approach to the prevention and relief of hunger.

**MISSION:** Initiate impactful programs to support food security and sustainable agricultural development in communities.

The Foundation in partnership with AGCO Corp. in Africa will work with two educational institutions - Gordon Institute of Business Science and Harper Adam University. The AAQ program will also receive technical support from Cerealis Technology Institute.

In order to extend the coverage of the AAQ program and enable access to more young people, AGCO Agriculture Foundation and AGCO Corp. in Africa are pleased to invite organizations and stakeholders in the agri-food value chains to support, collaborate and contribute to this program.

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*“AGCO, through the AAQ program, has not only built my competence in agribusiness but also given me the opportunity to effectively revolutionize agriculture, in particular Africa’s agricultural sector. Through this program, I have been contributing towards achieving food security in Africa in line with the UN’s second sustainable development goal; Zero Hunger.” - Sharon Waswa, AAQ Cohort 1 Graduate*

## PROGRAM TIMELINE

Applications Close:	11 June 2021
Notifications of Shortlist:	25 June 2021
Interviews with Selection Committee:	28 June to 16 July 2021
Send out Letters of Acceptance:	19 July 2021
Confirmation of Acceptance:	30 July 2021
Program Start Date:	1 September 2021
Graduation Date:	August 2022

## CONTACT

For more enquiries about the Africa Agribusiness Qualification (AAQ) program, contact us at

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Learn more about the AGCO Agriculture Foundation (AAF) -

<https://www.agcofoundation.org>