

PROGRAMME

Arrival & Networking

Official Opening & Welcome

Keynote addresses:

**Setting the scene: Past, Present and Future of Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering
(Globally and in South Africa) – Mr Felix Reinders**

**Educating Ag Engineers for the future: Lessons from the Past and Trends/Challenges
for the Future – Professor Umezuruike Linus Opara**

First Course

**Celebrating UKZN Agricultural Engineering – A Focus on Achievements, Research
Outputs, and Capacity Development**

UKZN Agricultural Engineering Endowment Fund

Main Course

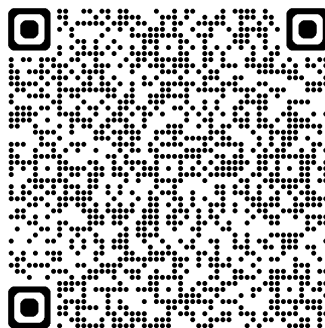
Video: Agricultural Engineering Alumni in Focus

**Curriculum Modernisation to Meet the Challenges – Value Proposition in Higher
Education**

Dessert

**Celebrating UKZN Agricultural Engineering – Focus on Alumni and Their Impact in
South Africa and Abroad**

Open session & Evaluation



Vote of Thanks & Closure

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Launch of the Agricultural Engineering @UKZN Support Endowment

The Discipline of Agricultural Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) holds a distinguished place in South Africa's academic and agricultural landscape. As the only South African university offering an accredited Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering degree, UKZN has been instrumental in shaping the profession nationally and advancing sustainable agricultural practices across the continent.

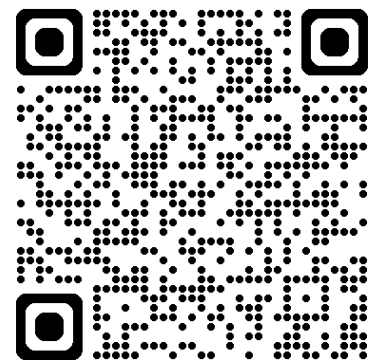
As we celebrate 75 years of the Agricultural Engineering discipline at UKZN, which has trained and graduated Agricultural Engineers for 70 of those years, we honour a legacy that has enriched communities, empowered innovation, and strengthened food systems across southern Africa. In recognition of the value our work has added to the agricultural sector over these decades, we are creating a pathway for those who have benefited from the discipline's teaching and research to contribute to its long-term sustainability.

To this end, we have established an Agricultural Engineering @UKZN Support Endowment Fund to receive donations from alumni, industry collaborators, and friends of Agricultural Engineering at UKZN. The Fund is intended to support the future of the discipline at UKZN and ensure its continued relevance and contribution to engineering excellence to sustainable agricultural production, processing, logistics, water use productivity and efficiency while sustaining and regenerating the environment for future generations.

The income generated by this endowment will be used to:

- maintain academic excellence and ECSA accreditation of the Agricultural Engineering programme at UKZN,
- grow the impact and innovation of research output from the discipline,
- develop staff and student capacity, and
- support operational activities of the discipline.

The Fund will be administered by the [UKZN Foundation](#), a SARS-approved Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation (PBO). This means taxpayers in the Republic of South Africa may deduct up to 10% of their taxable income through donations to the Fund.



Whether you are a graduate of the Agricultural Engineering programme, a stakeholder in agricultural innovation, or someone who believes in the power of engineering to solve real-world problems, your support will contribute to the training of future generations of Agricultural Engineers and research focused on critical real-world issues which support and sustain life on the planet.