

Annual Report



2020

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This report outlines the 2020 accomplishments of Learning Academy Worldwide South Africa (operating its vocational training program as Agracademy).

Learning Academy Worldwide South Africa (Agracademy) Annual Accomplishment Report: 2020

I. Major Accomplishments and Activities (2020)

The 2020 financial year was characterized by the foundational execution of the **Agracademy** vocational training project, focusing on a unique, technology-assisted, and wisdom-driven curriculum for future leaders in agricultural policy and practice.

1. Foundational Project Work and Strategy Implementation

- **Groundwork for Vocational Training School:** LAW dedicated the majority of 2020 to laying the conceptual, structural, and logistical groundwork required for the physical establishment of a vocational training school in rural South Africa, fulfilling its core organizational objective.
- **Mission Focus:** The organization centered its efforts on preparing to build comprehensive competence, character, and wisdom into South Africa's future leadership in the agricultural sector.

2. Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development

Learning Academy Worldwide provided direct mentorship and material support to young leaders identified through its programs, fostering entrepreneurship and job creation:

- **Case Study: Tania Phillips (Agricultural Enterprise)**
 - **Activity:** LAW supported Tania Phillips, a participant in its 2019 Agri-Camp, throughout 2020 as she established her own agricultural enterprise in Haarlem.
 - **Support Provided:** This included securing a lease for **500m² of land** at a greatly

reduced price from a local agriculturalist (Mr. Leon October), providing **funding for input costs** (seeds), and offering continuous business **coaching**.

- **Case Study: Gurshwin Damons (Technology and Media Business)**
 - **Activity:** LAW supported Gurshwin Damons in establishing a media and communication business specializing in video editing, streaming, and subtitling/transcribing services.
 - **Support Provided:** LAW provided **training and consultancy support**, along with the use of dedicated **office space** at its George training center for Gurshwin to refine his business model and value proposition. He also took on responsibility for the operational activities of the LAW office in George, sharpening his business management and communications skills.
- **Business Skills Training:** Both Tania and Gurshwin were enrolled in a **short-course on business fundamentals** to develop the acumen required to make their respective enterprises profitable and sustainable.

3. Adaptations to the COVID-19 Crisis and Community Support

The organization demonstrated adaptability and community responsiveness during the pandemic:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Recognizing the heightened need for digital communication platforms due to lockdown restrictions, Tania Phillips leveraged her familiarity with platforms like Zoom and Skype to provide crucial **communications services** to her community, despite lacking electricity at her own home (a need LAW addressed by providing her with office space).
- **Supporting Faith Communities:** Gurshwin Damons' media business was strategically focused on assisting **churches** who were forced to develop an online presence due to COVID-19, offering essential services like transcribing and subtitling in both Afrikaans and English to ensure equitable access to media content.

II. Key Personnel and Public Presence

- **Founding Leadership:** The organization is publicly led by **Theophilus van Rensburg Lindzter**, who is cited as the Founder of Learning Academy Worldwide, Kylie Janssens,

Terrence Martin and Leon October.

- **Social Media Activity:** Based on public online posts (including reports from www.global.agracademy.farm), the organization maintained a public presence documenting its activities and youth success stories throughout 2020, consistent with the transparency expected of an NPO. Further details would be found on the requested handles (@acumen4life, @emubuntu) and Lindzter's LinkedIn posts (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/theophilus-van-reensburg-lindzter-221a67a/>).

III. International Engagement and Partnerships

Connection with FarmTech Society (FTS)

Learning Academy Worldwide has established a key international connection with the **FarmTech Society (FTS)**, an international non-profit industry association for the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) sector.

- **Nature of Connection:** LAW's connection with FTS is demonstrated through its participation as a South African partner (Learning Academy Worldwide NPC) in the subsequent **SEED4AFRICA** project (Smart Entrepreneurial Education and training for Digital Farming in Africa).
- **Relevance to 2020:** This partnership reflects the organization's commitment, already evident in its 2020 focus on advanced vocational training in agriculture (Agracademy), to connecting its South African students with globally recognized modern farming solutions and international networks, including those focused on technology, sustainability, and Controlled Environment Agriculture—the core mission of FTS.

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