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GRAIN SA GROUP OF ENTITIES

The Grain SA Group of Entities' mission is to ensure and grow a credible and sustainable voluntary and inclusive grain producers' organisation that drives the mandated strategic actions.

By striving to build trust and relationships through respectful interaction, we create an enabling and caring environment for passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable individuals to grow and enjoy serving the organisation and influence the broader food chain.

The following position is available for a **dynamic, versatile, and creative professional** to strengthen our team:

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY INTERN

Purpose of the role:

This internship is ideal for a **science graduate** who wants to use their technical knowledge to **tell the real story of grain farmers** and support **evidence-based advocacy** on issues such as climate resilience, plant protection, soil health, biotechnology, markets and food security.

Science communicators help translate complex research and field realities into clear, engaging messages for farmers, media, policymakers and the public, and support better, evidence-based decisions in society

You will work closely with Grain SA's communication, research, farmer-development and policy teams to bridge what happens **in the lands and silos** with what is discussed **in the media, community meetings and Parliament**.

This is a 12 month **fixed-term internship** with strong mentoring and exposure to the grain value chain

MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Science-based Communication & Storytelling

- Translate technical information (e.g. climate impacts, cultivar performance, plant protection, input costs, conservation agriculture) into **accessible stories, articles and explainer pieces** for grain producers and broader audiences.
- Draft and edit **member communications, newsletters, website content and fact sheets** grounded in sound science and real farm data.
- Assist with **press releases, opinion pieces and media briefs** on scientific and economic issues affecting grain producers.
- Help gather content by **interviewing farmers, researchers and experts** and turning their insights into compelling narratives.

2. Evidence-based Advocacy Support

- Work with Grain SA's policy and research staff to convert **research reports, statistics and field trial results** into:
 - short policy briefs
 - infographics and slide decks
 - talking points for meetings, media and presentations.
- Support **myth-busting and clarification** where grain farming is misunderstood (e.g. pesticides, fertilisers, GM/NBTs, water use, climate).
- Assist in preparing **submissions, presentations and background documents** for engagements with government, value-chain partners and the media.

3. Digital, Multimedia & Online Platforms

- Support content planning, drafting and scheduling for **social media** (e.g. X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube/short-form video).
- Contribute to **short videos, animations or simple data visualisations** that explain key issues facing grain producers.
- Help with updates and content management on Grain SA's **websites (WordPress)**.
- Assist with basic **analytics and reporting** on which messages and platforms are reaching farmers and the public.

4. Events, Field Engagement & Campaigns

- Support coverage of **major industry events** such as NAMPO, Congress, NAMPO Cape, NAMPO ALFA and farmer-days.
- Assist with:
 - preparation of communication materials and visual content
 - media centres and briefing packs
 - capturing content (photography, short interviews, video clips, social media updates).
- Contribute to campaigns that highlight **the contribution of grain farmers** to food security, rural jobs and the wider economy.

5. Brand, Media & Stakeholder Support

- Help maintain **consistent messaging and visual identity** across all science-related content.
- Assist with **media monitoring**: tracking where grain-related issues appear in the media and flagging risks and opportunities for response.
- Maintain and update **media and stakeholder contact lists** relevant to agricultural and science reporting.
- Support the coordination of **interviews, media visits, farm visits and media days**.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN / BE EXPOSED TO

- How **science, economics and policy** interact in the grain sector.
- Practical **science communication techniques** – from writing and interviewing to visual storytelling and digital content.
- How a national commodity organisation advocates for producers in **policy, trade, environmental and regulatory debates**.
- Real-world exposure to **farmer realities**, including field visits, farmer-days and NAMPO events.
- Mentoring from experienced communicators, economists, researchers and farmer leaders..

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Essential:

- A **Bachelor's degree (BSc or similar)** in one of the following or related fields:
 - Agricultural Sciences (e.g. Agronomy, Plant Production, Soil Science, Agricultural Economics)
 - Environmental Science / Ecology
 - Food Science
 - Engineering
 - Biological / Life Sciences.
- Demonstrated **aptitude for writing and communication** – for example:
 - student or campus publications
 - blogs, newsletters or social media threads
 - science-writing assignments or projects.
- Strong computer literacy (Microsoft Office) and **willingness to learn** design and digital tools (e.g. Canva, basic video-editing, or Adobe Suite).
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in **English and Afrikaans**. Additional South African languages will be an advantage.

Advantageous (but not required):

- Previous experience in **student media, debate, science communication, social media management**, or similar.
- Basic familiarity with **WordPress** or other content-management systems.
- Prior exposure to **farming or the grain industry** (family farm, research project, vacation work, etc.).

Key Attributes:

- Strong **scientific literacy** and curiosity – comfortable reading research, asking questions, and checking sources.
- Excellent **writing and editing skills**, with the ability to simplify complex ideas without losing accuracy.
- Interest in **policy, sustainability, and rural development**, and how they affect grain producers.
- Creative mindset with an eye for **visual communication** (infographics, photos, short videos, layouts).
- Ability to **listen well**, work across disciplines and respect different viewpoints.
- Organised and reliable – able to manage deadlines and multiple tasks.
- Enthusiasm for **agriculture, innovation and communication**.
- Willing to work occasional overtime (including some weekends during key events).
- Willing and able to **travel occasionally** and be away from home for short periods.
- Valid driver's licence and own transport will be a strong advantage.

Remuneration: The organization will offer a competitive salary in exchange for the services of the successful candidate. All remuneration packages are calculated according to the "cost to company" method.

Candidates for this position will be recruited according to the Employment Equity policy for Grain SA.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please send a detailed CV indicating qualifications as well as experience and two recent written references as well as certified copies of ID and qualifications not later than 30 April 2026 for attention: Lizzy Mosehla – HR & Corporate Services Administrator : lizzy@grainsa.co.za Kindly clearly indicate in your subject heading which position you are applying for.

Please also submit with your application:

- a **short motivation letter** (max. 1 page) explaining why you want to work at the interface of **science, communication and grain farming**, and
- **1–3 short writing samples** (e.g. article, blog post, science explainer, op-ed, or similar – can be from your studies).

Applications without the required documentation will not be considered

All applications will be treated as confidential. If you have not been contacted within 14 days of the closing date of your application, please consider your application as unsuccessful.