

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Information Sheet and Consent to Participate in Research

Date: 24 April 2026

Dear Participant

You are invited to participate in a research study titled: “Turn-around Strategy Development for the Agriculture Division.” The purpose of this study is to gather input from academic and technical staff to inform the development of an evidence-based, inclusive, and forward-looking strategy for the Agriculture Division. The strategy is intended to guide the Division in responding proactively to current and future academic, research, and institutional challenges. The study will involve a questionnaire survey and some focus group discussions (FGDs)

What participation Involves:

i. For the questionnaire survey

- You are asked to complete an online questionnaire distributed via UKZN Staff Notices. Your questionnaire will be submitted anonymously.
- Participation is voluntary, and the questionnaire should take approximately 15–20 minutes to complete.
- You may decline to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences.
- Please sign and return the consent form to the convener.

ii. For the FGD

- Please sign and return the consent form to the convener.
- Participation in a discussion with in a group with colleagues from the Division.

Confidentiality

All information provided will be treated as strictly confidential. Responses will be anonymised and used only for research and strategic planning purposes. No individual participant will be identified in any reports or publications.

Risks and Benefits

This study poses no foreseeable risks to participants.

While there are no direct personal benefits, your input will contribute to the development of a strategy aimed at strengthening the Agriculture Division’s performance, research focus, and institutional effectiveness.

Ethical Approval

This study has been reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (Approval Number: HSSREC/00010375/2026).

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact the task team convener:

Professor Maxwell Mudhara

Tel: 084 804 3729

Email: mudhara@ukzn.ac.za

For queries regarding your rights as a participant, contact:
Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Administration
Research Office, Westville Campus

Govan Mbeki Building
Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Tel: +27 31 260 4557
Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

CONSENT

I, _____, confirm that:

- I have read and understood the information provided above.
- I understand the purpose and procedures of the study.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without penalty.
- I consent to participate in this study.

Signature of Participant:.....

Date:

.....

Return a signed copy of this form
to Mccoshp@ukzn.ac.za