

FAWU Wins Organisational Rights At Hexwal Farm

On 20 August 2025, a nearly three- year struggle to gain organizational rights for hundreds of agriculture workers finally came to a halt. Pierre van Der Merwe, the Director of Hexwal Boerdery in Rawsonville, a rural farm in the Western Cape area, declared that the company agrees that the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU) finally had the right to organize and service workers on the farm who desperately wanted the union to campaign and fight for them.

This not only meant a victory for the union but more importantly, a victory for vulnerable agricultural workers who rely on trade unions to defend and advance their worker rights.

The declaration signed in August 2025 had the following positive outcomes:

- Hundreds of workers now finally had a voice and a real medium through which they could raise grievances and concerns;
- Workers' right to freedom of association as contained in the South African constitution was upheld restoring the dignity of workers at Hexwal Boerdery;
- Tensions among workers subsided as workers recognized the beginning of a positive working relationship between FAWU and farm management;
- Important shop stewards meetings could now take place freely and openly on a regular basis on company premises;
- Confidence in the union was restored and union membership grew as a result of FAWU gaining recognition rights. Workers now see FAWU as a vehicle that can effect positive change.

FAWU extends its gratitude towards the IUF for its unwavering support throughout the battle for freedom of association at this farm. We are looking forward to future collaborative efforts in order to speed up transformation for agricultural workers.