

through colonisation. This is achieved by gaining control of large tracts of farmland, generally in underdeveloped foreign countries.

Agri-Vie is aiming to deliver market returns of 20% to 30% in rand terms, according to Strauss. But it also has a strong developmental mandate. "Agri-business is an important contributor to growth in the region," he says.

This is the only investment fund of its kind in SA. The 10-year fund has \$78m in unallocated funds remaining. "We are running ahead of our programme," says Strauss. "The first five years are earmarked for investment and the next five for realising our investments."

Though it has a different business model, JSE-listed speciality finance company Zeder is also firmly focused on investment in the agricultural sector.

Both sets of management have identified agriculture and agri-processing as a lucrative and essential sector as the global population grows and climate change bites.