

Over R5.5 Million Investment in community led Agri-Projects



Page 06 & 07
Food Security Beneficiaries
received goats, seedlings,
indigenous chickens, fruit trees
& Garden equipment



Page 08
Farming Methods and Practices
Enhancing Food Security



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Another UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
for the North West Province

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Credits

Chief Editor : Emelda Setlhako

Editor : Tsholofelo Dintwe

Assistant Editor : Thebe Itumeleng

Writers : Mandisa Dawn Mti, Hectious Bodigelo, Tshagofatso Leepile, Mary Nkgomotsang Mokgosi, Kgalalelo Mashomo, Kagiso Mbatha, Jabulani Gwagwa, Tsholofelo Dintwe & Thebe Itumeleng

Photographers : Orapeleng Gaonewe, Motsepe Nkoliswa, Paballo Oliphant, Kagiso Mbatha , Hectious Bodigelo & Charel Bezuidenhout

Graphics : Tshepo Selaledi (Communication Services)

Editorial Comment



Editorial: Emelda Sethako

Letsema originates from the African tradition of volunteering one's labour to community projects. It is also linked to African adages which say: "Two heads are better than one and a single finger cannot remove a fluff".

In terms of the African communal model, development is seen as the movement or progression of the community, group or individual from their current socio economic status to the desired one. Development, it is said, is the responsibility of a leader who will then be supported by a group or a community.

The North West Provincial Government is striving for such development and further progression of its people and continues to bring forward leaders who assist to drive and strengthen it. Towards the end of 2018, we welcomed Mme Desbo Mohono in our midst as the department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Member of Executive Council. A seasoned leader in her own right, Mme Mohono has served in this portfolio before. And because of her rich knowledge of the sector she did hit the ground running since the beginning of this year.

The management of the Department led by MEC Mohono have rounded the four districts of the Province to meet various stakeholders and MEC is delighted that she has managed to get first-hand information from the farmers as the key recipients of the departmental service offerings. This exercise was in an effort to ensure improved relations with stakeholders, public participation and promoting accountability as well as transparency in government.

Through these conversations, key decisions were made and many farmers are in line for more sustained support from the Department. The Department is indeed in action. MEC Mohono is dedicated towards improving the lives of farmers for better and Team READ is behind her all the way. She has highlighted that deepening relations between all partners remain vital ingredient towards the ultimate and effective development of agriculture, rural and environmental sectors.

Lokwalo kgang lono lwa Letsema le go leretse dikgang tsa loeto lwa rona mo tirong ya lefapha gangwe le gape. Re amogela gore babadi ba lone ba o e leng batsaya-karolo mo tirong ya lefapha ba ka buisana le rona gangwe le gape. Re rata go bona puisano eo e tlhagelela mo go lone. Phitlhelo ke e ntsi thata mo dikgang tsa temothuo, tikologo le tsa metse-magae.

Our stories in this edition demonstrate the extent to which the department is working with its stakeholders and continuously impacting positively on the lives of ordinary citizens.

Dintlha tse re go leretseng tsone mo lokwalong-kgang lo ke tsa phitlhelo ya Lefapha. Mme jaaka Letsema tota, tsotlhe tse ke phitlhelelo ka kantlha ya tshwaragano ya lefapha le batsaa-karolo botlhe mme rare a re tsweleng go tshwara ka natla Ma Afrika.

Keep reading letsema

Re a leboga

Emelda

Motsamaisi wa tsa Tlhaeletsano



CALL FOR FARMER REGISTER ON DEPARTMENTAL DATA BASE



read

Department:
Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) invites all farmers within the province to register on the departmental data base.

The purpose of this registration is to establish an up-to-date statistics of all agricultural products in the province and enable the department to have an accurate statistics of existing subsistence, small holder and commercial producers in the province.

Registration forms can be collected from:

Ngaka Modiri Molema District

Mahikeng LAO (Ms Seipei Maphage : 0727842436) . Ditsobotla LAO (Ms Cynthia Gonyane : 0829494381)
Ratlou LAO (Mr Timothy Molema : 0727843210 . Ramotshere Moiloa LAO (Mr Daniel Moote : 0829487064)
Tswaing LAO (Mr Jarius Metswamere : 0727852555)

Bojanala Platinum District

Rustenburg/Kgetleng LAO (Ms Dineo Mokgatle : 0728042146) . Madibeng LAO (Mr Solly Molebalwa : 0728155485)
Moretele LAO (Mr David Sebidi : 0728086784) . Moses Kotane (Mr Mphikelele Shabangu : 0727791351)

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

Matlosana LAO (Ms Salome Modise : 0728116971) . Maquassi LAO (Mr Dirk Seolwane : 0728071900)
JB Marks LAO (Ms Betty Matebesi : 0727805964)

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District

Naledi LAO (Mr Tshetlo Makhwana : 0727950434) . Kagisano Molopo LAO (Mr Robert Gasealahwe : 0727938058)

FROM her Desk



The livelihood of millions of South Africans is largely dependent on agricultural production and trade that will translate to reliable supplies of safe, healthy and nutritious food.

The task at hand for the North West Department of Rural Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) is to bring all stakeholders to the common-goal of ensuring that food production has to increase in a sustainable manner.

This has put the need for equal emphasis on the responsibility and needs of the agricultural sector, taking into consideration that the nature of agricultural production system in South Africa is very diverse.

It is through the far-sighted vision of the Premier Tebogo Job Makgoro, that the North West Province is fast becoming a model for balanced conservation and utilization of the natural resources for food production.

The province, with a population of 3.5 million people, has a task to make agriculture a substantial economic contributor through job creation, food production and biodiversity protection.

The vehicle for achieving this goal will include shifting cultivation to intensive crop farming, from rain-fed to intensive-irrigated field, from vegetables mix farming to monoculture industrial plantations, from subsistence small-scale farming to large-scale commercial plantation and from subsistence livestock rearing to commercial ranches.

We started 2019 on a high note as indications from the economic review of South Africa state that agriculture in South Africa increased to R70.6 billion in the third quarter of 2018 from R69.5 billion in the second quarter of the same year. We have an enormous task to maintain the growth trend. Hence we will need all stakeholders to work with us to achieve this.

Our province is working collectively to ensure full participation of designated groups in all programmes. Core to these efforts is the inherent need for the province to empower women, youth and people living with disabilities so they can also contribute to the socio economic goals of employment creation and poverty eradication.

The economic stimulus and recovery plan announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa has challenged stakeholders within the agriculture sector to roll sleeves and play a potent role to boost the country's economy.

We cannot afford to waver but there is a need to unleash the many agriculture initiatives for the purpose of stimulating our economy.

Bagaetsho lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae, Tikologo le Temothuo le ikaletse go matlafatsa kamano ya lone le batsaa-karolo botlhe. Tiro ya lefapha mo maphateng otlhe a lone e ntse e tsepame. Fa re ya kwa bokhutlong jwa karolo ya botlhano ya puso kakaretso go bothokwa thata go lekola leeto la rona le batsaa-karolo mme le go dirisa tshono eno go tiisa dithuso tsa rona mo setshabeng.

Re rata gore tekanyetso kabo ya rona ya lefapha e dirisiwe yotlhe jaaka re rulagantse mme dithuso di ye kwa setshabeng jaaka re tshepitsitse. Re fetsa go thankgolola lenane la go lwantsha tlala e le go bontsha gore re matlafatsa leano la rona la go isa diporojeke kwa setshabeng. Re rata go bona batho ba itirela, ba tlhola ditiro mme ba bula dikgwebo gore ba kgone go iphedisa go ya pele.

We take the relations with stakeholders in a serious light. As we keep it we hope to promote accountability as well as transparency in government. We trust that as we continue to engage that we will get the much needed feedback so as to create and ascertain a foundation on which we need to better people's lives.

Re a leboga

MEC: Desbo Mohono

OVER R5.5 MILLION

INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY LED AGRI-PROJECTS

The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development has invested an amount of R5.5 million in 200 agri-projects across the province, supporting new ways to help people break the cycle of poverty, increase food security, creating job opportunities, enhancing household income and advancement of rural communities.

The food security projects were handed to indigent families from the four districts of the province in February this year in Robega village outside Rustenburg town.

Beneficiaries have amongst others received seedlings, garden structures, indigenous chickens, fruit trees; small stock (goats) as well as feed as starter kits so they can seriously engage in agricultural activities and contribute to poverty reduction at household and national level.

Delivering keynote address on behalf of MEC Desbo Mohono, the acting MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane said through this initiative, the provincial Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development realises its constitutional mandate concerning the right to food and the freedom charter clause which advocates for food to be plentiful for all. "Food insecurity remains a pervasive and serious problem. Too many North West residents especially those residing in the rural areas still regularly find themselves living in poverty and without sufficient access to affordable and nutritious food.

"When a household is unable to buy the food they need, they may seek out charitable food assistance in the form of food hamper programs. However, the limitations of these programs in addressing food insecurity are well-documented; hence as government we have decided to come up with these agri-projects to eliminate poverty. We are helping our people to help themselves. We don't want to create a society that is depending on government only.

"Today's occasion also reaffirms the commitment we made a very long time ago as government that food should become a human right for all, and that everyone should have access to safe and nutritious food which is consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger," MEC Motlhabane said.

Accompanied by Head of Department Dr Poncho Mokaila and some of senior departmental management team, Dr Mpho Motlhabane visited some of the projects in Robega and Chaneng.

One of those projects is of Ms Mpho Seabelo in Robega. She received from the READ Department forty (40) indigenous chickens/fouls for Africa, fruit trees and vegetable seedlings. "I am extremely happy for what the department has done for me today. Thank you so much," said Mme Mpho Seabelo, a single parent of two children.

For sustainability and growth purposes, MEC Mpho Motlhabane said the department will further assist to provide infrastructure for all projects. Each project will be allocated an extension officer to offer continuous extension and advisory services to ensure growth and sustainability.

MEC also visited Esibayeni Community Home Based Care Centre in Chaneng. The centre is amongst others taking care of abused women and children and providing after care and support to orphans and vulnerable children from Chaneng, Robega and Rasimone villages.

The centre manager, Mme Olga Sipiwe Mokwena welcomed MEC's visit to the centre and requested that the centre be assisted with garden tools, seedlings and stationery for her office.

MEC Motlhabane promised that the department will assist and send an Extension Officer for advisory services.

The majority of beneficiaries for the projects are youth, single parents and women with passion for agriculture.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng



READ Acting MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane, Head of Department Dr Poncho Mokaila and some of the beneficiaries.

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Farming METHODS

AND PRACTICES ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY



In the face of an increasingly variable climate in the country, more and more farmers in the North West province are showing interest in converting to conservation agriculture (CA) as a sustainable farming method and for the enhancement of food security efforts.

Conservation Agriculture is a farming system which promotes maintenance of permanent soil cover, minimum soil disturbance (i.e no tillage) and diversification of plant species. In addition, it enhances biodiversity and natural biological processes above and below the ground surface, which contributes to the increase of water and nutrition use efficiency and to improve sustainable crop production. This method of farming has been explored successfully by countries such as India and Zambia.

As a start, fifty (50) hectares of land was planted at Kgora Farmer Training Centre with sunflower seedlings which is expected to grow and harvested according to the same period as conventional agriculture.

Rural Environment and Agricultural Development's Director for the Sustainable Resource Management, Wally Mmutle said the department aims to convert as many farmers to conservation agriculture and is determined to help farmers to ensure resilience.

"Climate change has become a challenge, with the recent drought experienced in the province, farmers need to adapt to new methods that will ensure the sustainability of the industry as well as to continuously contribute to food security and tackle the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment," Mmutle said.

One of the farmers who have attended conservation agriculture demonstration is Thabo Maseka owner of Schaapplaats Farm in Lichtenburg.

He started farming in 2003, however, converted to Conservation Agriculture in 2013.

Maseka is positive about this sustainable method of farming.

"I learned about the benefits of conservation agriculture from conferences and workshops conducted by Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Department and I encourage farmers to explore this method of farming because with it, you use less resources like diesel, time and machinery efficiency. Most of all, it prevents soil erosion which will have a negative impact on generations that will follow after us" said Maseka.

Best Landcare 2016 Award winning North West farmer, Boitumelo Shole who converted to CA alongside Maseka expressed his gratitude towards the department for the continuous support.

"READ assisted me with a No Tillage planter, which made the transition from conventional to conservation agriculture easier. As a maize and sunflower farmer, I have realised the increased crop yields while reducing input costs. Farmers should venture into this sustainable method as it will ensure profit increase in addition to the other benefits of CA," said Shole.

Conservation Agriculture has been considered as the future of farming in North West.

Article by: Tshagofatso leepile



EMERGING FARMERS

FARMERS HAIL MEC MOHONO'S MOVE WITH SPEED APPROACH IN ADDRESSING CHALLENGES FACED BY EMERGING FARMERS

Moving with speed in addressing farmers challenges, empowering people involved in agriculture, prioritising the needs of emerging farmers were some of the commitments made by MEC Desbo Mohono during her string of meetings with farmers across the province early in January.

These meetings with farmers were part of MEC Mohono's plans to improve stakeholder engagement, public participation and to promote accountability as well as transparency in government.

Farmers raised concerns to MEC Desbo Mohono about access to land for farming purposes, mechanisation, and shortage of water for farming and visibility of extension officers in various areas of Bojanala District.

George Moatshe a fish farmer from Madibeng asked MEC Mohono and the department to make an arrangement for them to be trained and equipped with skills to farm fish and create necessary job opportunity for people in the Madibeng area.

"We need training MEC! We don't need money, only training on aquaculture," pleaded Moatshe.

Youth who were in majority on the day, agricultural formations and farmer associations welcomed MEC Mohono's visit to Bojanala.

Speaking on behalf of AFASA in Bojanala, Chairperson Mr K.K Motsosi said they welcome Mohono's appointment to the Rural Environment and Agricultural Development Department.

"We do welcome MEC Desbo Mohono and we hope that we will have a good working relationship with her. We also wish to commend her initiative of visiting farmers on her first few weeks after her deployment to READ department," Motsosi said.

In her response, MEC Mohono said not everything will be resolved in short period of time but her department will do everything possible to assist farmers in the province with production inputs.

"We would not know the challenges you are facing as farmers unless we engage with you. I have heard your complaints and suggestions. Some of your complaints will be attended to as a matter of urgency as I have said I want to move with speed. I must also say that your contributions will help us as a department to make informed decisions and proper plans.

With regard to shortage of agricultural technicians, MEC Mohono said her department has taken a decision to employ and increase number of Extension Officers and Veterinarians in the province whom will be attached to farmers at community level.

When responding to issue of access to land, MEC Mohono said discussions between READ and the Department of Rural Development

and Land Reform will take place in not distant future to assist those in need of land for purpose of food production.

Mohono further indicated that for this academic year, at least fourteen (14) needy and determined students are currently supported financially by her department to further their studies in two state-owned agricultural colleges found in the North West Province.

She challenged the youth to fight for their space in the agricultural and environment sector. "Let's all put our hands on deck and make our communities better. There are opportunities in the agricultural sector and in the sector of environment," MEC Mohono said.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng



North West farmers welcomed MEC Mohono's commitment to assist those who are still struggling.





BLACK FARMERS PAVE THEIR WAY INTO THE NICHE QUAIL BIRD MARKET

Quails are small sized poultry birds which have several health benefits. Quail meat is a niche product and a delicacy that South Africans are slowly discovering. Consequently, the market for quail meat and eggs is steadily growing.

Ventersdorp farmer, Matilda Diphoko started developing interest in quails early this year after she discovered more than 25 health benefits that quail eggs and meat provide in humans. She started farming with 500 Japanese quail birds and through her mentor she was able to penetrate the niche market. Currently she supplies meat and eggs to neighbouring countries Botswana, local communities, restaurants in Gauteng, some retail shops including Woolworths and Pick n Pay stores in Vanderbijlpark Park.

Diphoko's enthusiasm about quail farming has led to her encouraging youth and women to take part in the niche market. "The market quail meat and eggs is rapidly growing and I won't be able to supply alone, therefore I want to train people and have them start their own businesses" she said.

Her keenness to empower youth has resulted in her working closely with 24 year old Free State born, Mahlomola David Marobe who started his own business which is located in Vryhoek, Potchefstroom. "I started quail farming three months ago and already the rewards are satisfying. I have clients varying from retail food stores, restaurants in Gauteng and the Free State" he said.

"My profit margins will increase as I continue to build my client base as there is a high demand for quail birds" said Marobe. His product list includes: fresh quail eggs: 6, 12 & 18 Tray. Pickled eggs: brine, beetroot, cinnamon, immune boost, white wine flavour & chili. Farm fresh quail meat: whole & deboned. Quail bones. Quail egg shells: pill & powder form.

Both Marobe and Diphoko are currently renovating a leased abattoir in Ventersdorp which they will use to slaughter their quail. In addition, they will be packaging and distributing their produce as the market for quail continues to grow.

"South Africa is also turning to healthy diet alternatives to combat the disease burden that our country is faced with. The eggs are a healthy source of protein and fats. The eggs shells have high calcium contents that are easily digestible by adults and babies. They can be induced in pill or powder form, Thus the market is vast and expansive, the playing field is big enough for a lot more farmers who follow sustainable growing practices" Marobe explained.

Farming of the Japanese birds is still not a very popular enterprise in South Africa and farming requires relatively little capital, less risk and guarantees high return on investment. With adequate feeding, proper care and vaccination, a farmer will have mature quails, ready for laying eggs within 5

to 6 weeks and under artificial lighting, they lay an egg a day which takes about 16 days to hatch.

As Marobe and Diphoko expand their businesses they also aim to create a network of farmers who supply the different markets with quail products by educating communities about the opportunities the venture holds.

Article by: Tshegofatso Leepile

Quail Bird Farming



Quail bird farmer, Matilda Diphoko started developing interest in quails early in 2018.



Farmer sowing seeds of Hard work

South Africa does have an active beekeeping industry, however, there are few major players. The majority are hobbyist beekeepers. Currently there are no recent market size figures available but based on old statistics, a lot of our honey still comes from countries such as China and Argentina while we also contribute very little to the global consumption.

This is an industry that many farmers in the North West province have identified an economic opportunity in and are pursuing it with their might. One of such is Mpho Bogatsu of Gola Bogatsu Project.

Noting her sustainable efforts Dawn Mti of Letsema visited the project and Mpho Mpho Bogatsu shares her story of successful beekeeping farming.

The challenges of being an entrepreneur and sustaining a business are part of the history that Gola Bogatsu project have learned to appreciate. The beekeeping business started in 2005 as a group of seven called Sheila Bee club, trained by Department of Agriculture through Agricultural Research Council (ARC). In 2007 the group was divided and eventually went apart. With a passion and being a bee fanatic, Mpho Bogatsu the remaining company member with the company later renamed it to Gola Bogatsu aiming to use her skills to move from strength to strength.

Key to her project was to provide organic honey, propolis from tree residues, wax and pollen. She currently focuses mainly on honey production, processing and packaging, and targets the local and provincial marketing.

To sustain honey production, Bogatsu currently has 35 bee hives in neighbouring farms. She started with traditional bee hives at the backyard by producing fewer yields per harvest as traditional methods wasted a lot of honey.

The Department of READ assists her with the conventional beehives where the average yield obtained from a langstroth/conventional hive per season or harvest in the surveyed area increases to 15kg. The prize of one kg differs from one area to another and ranges from R85 to R90. She further sells straws honey in the village and neighboring schools and honey candle per order from different departments and churches.

On honey processing, currently she produces and bottles the honey from her bee production and buy from other companies to beef up her market. The Department of READ has also her bought extracting machine and settling tank making it more effective and efficient to package.

Through her efforts, Gola Bogatsu has contributed positively to reducing unemployment by hiring workers from the local village and neighboring communities and share workload with her family and only trained workers.

She believes that her business is thriving and attributes that to the opportunities she has been afforded to showcase at various Exhibitions. Recently she participated during the BRICS summit in Potchefstroom to market the honey production. She has also participated and since the inception of the Bokone Bophirima Agricultural Growth and Investment Shows. Most significant was when she won a Honey Testing Competition in Durban, KZN Province.

The application funding for beekeeping in the Department of READ is the same as other farmers to fill forms at the Local Area Office for projects fund. Subsequently, the Extension Officers will do the project profile that would guide the funding process.

Article by: Dawn Mti



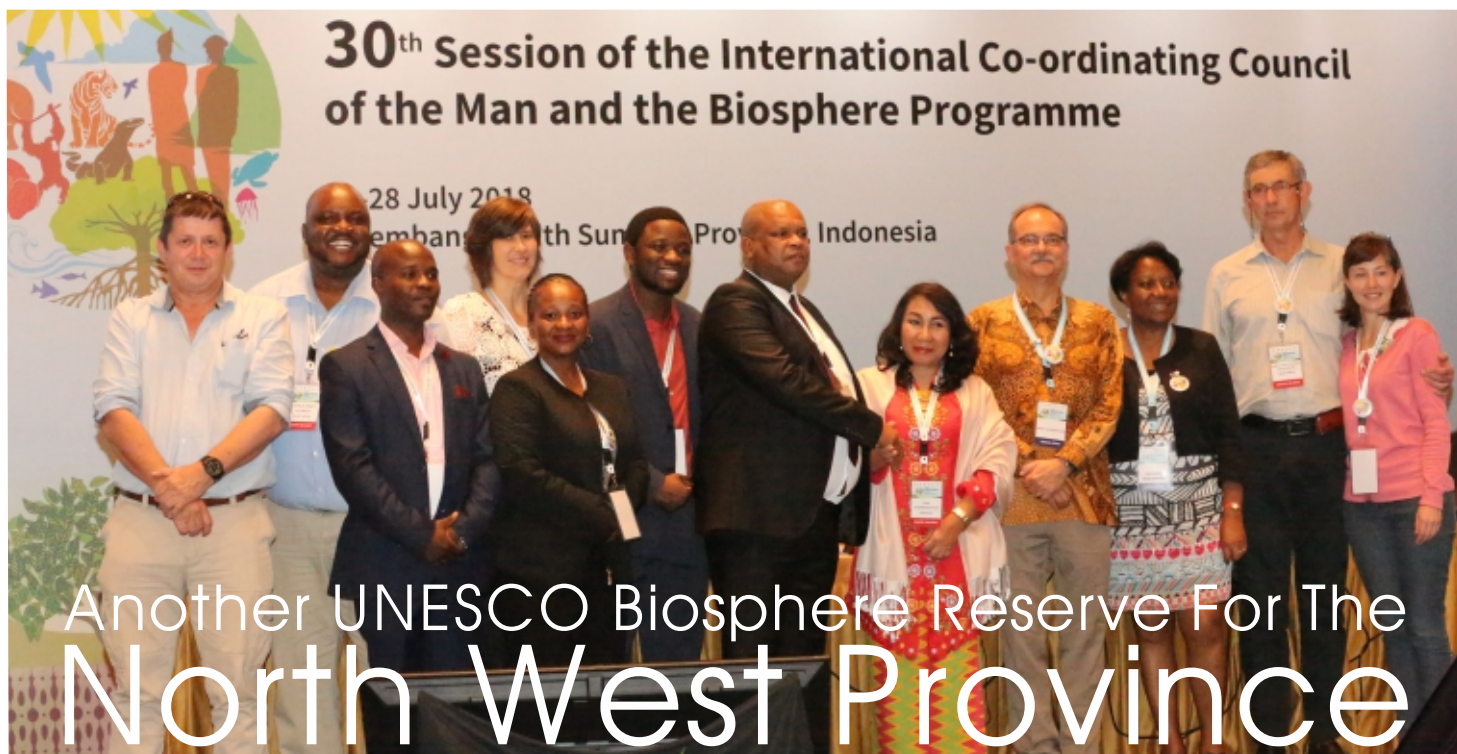
Mpho Bogatsu share the story of successful beekeeping farming



Bee equipment and Processed honey for community to buy the product.



beekeeping equipment of smoker, bee brush, hive tool and uncapping fork



Another UNESCO Biosphere Reserve For The North West Province

Following the official announcement of listing of Marico as a Biosphere through the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation made at the 30th International Coordinating Council (ICC) sessions of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme recently, plans are afoot for the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) to reposition the environmental function that will help to improve capacity and resources for supporting biosphere management and implementation. This would be followed by the establishment of the management authority for the Marico Biosphere as outlined in the application document. It would also include the appointment of board members and the development of a Terms of Reference for the Board.

The Marico-Biosphere announcement took place as part of the six days sitting of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisations' MAB programme in Indonesia at the end of July 2018. The programme seeks to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.

Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an intergovernmental scientific programme, launched in 1971 by UNESCO that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.

Its work engages fully with the international development agenda - specially with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda - and addresses challenges linked to scientific, environmental, societal and development issues in diverse ecosystems; from mountain regions to marine, coastal and island areas; from tropical forests to drylands and urban areas. It combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.

The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) has been on an intensive process application to ensure the listing. Speaking during the acceptance session Dr Poncho Mokaila said the road to secure the honour was not easy. "The public engagement process, the development of the management plan and the compilation of the biosphere nomination dossier for the listing of the unique freshwater system was commissioned three years ago but we had to use the lessons learnt from Magaliesberg Biosphere nomination application to our advantage and to ensure that we get our facts right away," Dr Mokaila highlighted.

In South Africa there are 10 biosphere reserves (of which 2 are in North West Province).

What you need to know about Biosphere Reserves What is a Biosphere?

Biosphere reserves are areas that have been identified by UNESCO to help promote their conservation and its sustainable use. Areas that are designated as biosphere reserves comprise of terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems, which are "Science for Sustainability Sites." Biospheres are internationally recognized but are suggested by the national government and managed by the state in which they are located. These are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's "Human and the Biosphere" (MAB) Programme.

What is Biosphere Made Of?

Biosphere reserves are made up of three interconnected zones. These zones have complementary and mutually supportive functions, namely conservation, development and logistic support. These zones are: The Core Area – an ecosystem that is strictly protected, and contributes to the conservation of ecosystems, species, landscapes and genetic variation.

The Buffer Zone – this either surrounds or adjoins the core areas. In it, ecologically sound activities that reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education are carried out.

The Transition Area – this the part of the biosphere reserve in which the most activity takes place. It helps to encourage human and economic development that is sustainable both ecologically and socio-culturally.

Why are Biosphere Reserves Important?

- Biosphere reserves help ensure the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the region, by encouraging wise use of natural and human resources.
- They provide practical ways to resolve land use conflicts and to protect biological diversity.
- A biosphere reserve area gains access to information, expertise, support and funding through national and international networks.
- Biosphere reserves encourage diverse local economies to revitalize rural areas.
- The biosphere concept can be used as a framework to guide and reinforce projects that enhance people's livelihoods.
- Biosphere reserves attract academic and government research activity that addresses local issues and problems.
- Biosphere reserves serve as learning sites to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development providing lessons which can be applied elsewhere.
- Biosphere reserves highlight the distinctiveness of the area and help foster a sense of place amongst residents and visitors.
- Designation of a biosphere reserve can raise awareness among local people, citizens, and government authorities on environmental and development issues.

Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe

Biosphere Reserve



In South Africa there are 10 biosphere reserves
(of which 2 are in North West Province).



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B86C! ?C@@; 9'DCH7<9: GHFCCA
?<C@HG<9'M5'H9ACH<I C'M5'DCH7<9: GHFCCA



Potchefstroom College of Agriculture Graduations

1st Class Pass



Potchefstroom College of Agriculture celebrate graduates

The 22 year old Keabetswe Jiyane, the first class reward recipient and a graduate from the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture (PCA) plans to face the world and explore her passion for agriculture. Jiyane is one of the 49 students who have successfully completed a three year diploma in mixed agriculture during the PCA graduations recently.

Reflecting on her journey, Jiyane said her love for land and farming started early in high school and she never looked back. Although her parents did not understand her passion, they did not stand in her way. "It's a bit difficult to explain especially for people who really understand that we have life because there is agriculture. I wanted to discover the mystery behind the significance of soil and what it can produce. I pursued my studies because through the knowledge one discovers that the potential in this industry cannot be compared with any," Jiyane remarked passionately.

She has been a top performer since starting her studies at PCA and she was the first class in her second year. She said she owned it to herself to beat all odds and work hard. "It was not easy with all the work, but I persevered. I kept the courage and I also wanted other female students to believe that we can also do better than our male counterparts.

Jiyane said she was never intimidated by life after graduations as she was aware of a myriad of opportunities in the agriculture sector. She wants to further be in animal health production to fulfil her love for animals otherwise she sees herself as an entrepreneur in the agricultural sector.

About four students from PCA have shared the reward with Keabetswe Jiyane and passed their third year with First Class.

Speaking during the ceremony when delivering the keynote address, Premier Job Mokgoro encouraged the students to work hard to assist the provincial government to achieve in line with the NDP Vision. "We have a huge task at hand as the North West Provincial government through the agricultural colleges. And the mission is to ensure great achievements of the provisions of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030. According to the NDP, the colleges and other higher learning institutions are expected to improve the ratio of graduates from 1 in 17 people to 1 in every 6 people in South Africa," he emphasised.

He further reiterated that great investment needed to be made in agriculture in line with this sector potential. "Every conversation around agriculture at the moment, asserts that this is a sector which plays a critical role in the economy of many developing countries. In South Africa, as in many of these developing countries, the contribution that agriculture does to efforts of employment is well documented. It is said that in our country, about 6 million peoples' livelihood is contingent on agriculture. This is about 10% of the South African population. So the contribution of this sector to key government priorities such as food security, exports, Growth Development Plan and foreign exchange is detectable.

Premier congratulated the learners and assured them of opportunities within the sector. "We remain adamant that the agricultural sector carries dynamic opportunities which present an upper hand to any young person who is passionate about it. The evolution of technology has made it even far stimulating to be part of this sector," he said.

Dr Ronald Thomas, Alumni of the PCA now part of the ARC commended graduates and urged them continue learning. He further advised them to be prepared for challenges ahead and not to quit when the going gets tougher. Thomas emphasised that the land debate was a perfect state for young people to help and develop the agricultural industry. "A journey of thousand miles starts with a single step", he said.

The college is one of two state owned colleges in the province tasked with training young people with passion for agriculture. Since its establishment, the institution continues to thrive in the training sphere and continues to live up to its vision of being a leading centre of excellence in training. The college has for the 2019 academic year registered 79 first year students this reflecting a growing trajectory as compared to the previous years. The Department of READ has for the year 2018/19 budgeted R46m to support both the Taung and Potchefstroom Agricultural Colleges.

Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations!

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (TECHNOLOGY)



Thoriso Mogapi Thobejane during BBAGIS 2017

Climate change poses a number of threats to intensive livestock commodities; these changes in climate have several potential impacts, both direct and indirect, on poultry farming. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) describes agricultural practices, approaches and systems that sustainably and reliably increase food production and the ability of farmers to earn a living while protecting or restoring the environment.

Kgalalelo Mashomo of *Letsema* spoke to Thoriso Thobejane the CEO of Chickens4Africa in Bojanala District about their Feather Plucker Machine which is easy to use and is perfect for abattoirs, farm shops and rearing chickens. The chicken plucker offers a quick and effective way to rapidly remove feathers from chickens. Chickens4Africa a leading black owned Agri-Engineering entity in Africa offering low cost innovative agricultural technologies and products. The company specialises with a combination of skills and expertise in agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

Chickens4Africa also runs a hatchery in a small village called Bollantlokwe and they breed mainly Boschvelds-indigenous chickens, they are robust and can survive and produce on what nature can provide, with only a small amount of maintenance feed to boost production. Boschvelds can withstand Africa's varying climatic conditions and keep producing well in free-range conditions. They have inbred hardiness, which helps them to withstand poultry diseases.

The company aims to become the largest home of Indigenous Poultry Breeds in Africa, the largest manufacturer of Innovative Agricultural Equipment in Africa, to empower youth in Africa by offering Sustainable Employment and skills development through their Technology development and Agri-Biz concepts and to ignite establishment of New Direct Local and Continental Businesses.

Thoriso manufactured his first feather plucker machine in 2016 when he was practising broiler production. He had a lot of challenges to slaughter and package the meat economically, efficiently and hygienically. He was forcefully encouraged by his grandmother Kate Motsei to construct this

machine because they had orders of around 1 000 chickens that needed to be delivered urgently, and they could only package 50 chickens per day with a workforce of 6 people, so the first machine was constructed using parts from an old washing machine and a bucket of biscuits and drilling machine to propel the drive system, little did they know that the machine will process over 10 000 in 2016. In 2017 he decided to design the machine better and share this wonderful tool with other farmers.

Chickens4Africa currently have 3 types of feather pluckers, the Drum Feather Plucker – T1 that plucks 1 000 birds per day, the Super Plucker – SRM 1500 that plucks 1500 birds per day and the Super Plucker –SRM 3000 that plucks 3 000 birds per day, all the equipment uses single phase electricity. They also have designed a mobile poultry abattoir whereby the owner can tow to any farm, process chickens for the farmer, thus igniting business opportunities amongst farmers.

Their biggest challenge is acquiring better welding and fabrication tools, as they strive to produce high quality products and with the correct tooling the quality will be much better, and they can look into approaching companies like NWK and Obaro for distribution.

All products are manufactured exclusively by Thoriso out of his garage, they currently employ 5 permanent staff and between 6 to 20 temporary staff, he was the winner of the 2017 Youth in Agriculture Awards Best Innovative Enterprise and Sowetan Top 100 Young Bosses Nominee.

Article by: Kgalalelo Mashomo



Feather Plucker Machine



IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION FOR QUALITY BEEF CATTLE

The best possible nutrition for beef cattle is a key part of an effective production system. Feed usually represents the single biggest consumption related with beef cattle. An understanding of the ruminant digestive process and essential nutrition is required for effective feeding and management.

Product Scientist at READ's Research and Technology Development directorate, Keduetshe Lekomonyane says "The nutrition requirements of different species of animals for various production functions should be addressed. Dietary supplementation with certain nutrients (e.g., arginine, glutamine, zinc, and conjugated linoleic acid) can regulate gene expression and key metabolic pathways to improve fertility, pregnancy outcome, immune function, neonatal survival and growth, feed efficiency, and meat quality."

Lick is a range of premium quality feed which is scientifically formulated to supplement all protein, phosphate and mineral deficiencies in natural grazing. When a farmer decides to provide licks, it is important that he should know what deficiencies may occur during which times of the year, so that he can supply the correct licks to optimise the production and reproduction of his animals.

Livestock small holder and female farmer, Banyana Gloria Legotlo currently has 60 Cattle, 30 Goats and 45 sheep. She started farming in 1993 at Ntsweletsoku Communal farm. In 2014 she acquired a farm Jaggfontein JP 455. She says during the winter season she feeds her cattle twice a week with lick and increases the intake with heifers because winter lick may be too low or adds it to feed with maize residue.

"In summer, lick serves as protein and energy supplement for cattle on green pastures, it supplies the necessary nutrients for maximum growth and production. In addition, it contains medicine for better feed conversion and increases energy utilisation. I also use it as supplement for first calf heifers for 60 – 90 day period after giving birth for better growth, milk production and to increase fertility" she said.

Animal feed manufacturer and supplier to the Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ), Dr Kenneth Kaunda district, Prime Trade Boerdery owner Katlego Gaoraelwe advises against livestock farmers using low quality feed as it affects the growth, fertility and immune

system of cattle, he added that due to these facts it is uneconomical to opt for low quality feed.

He further recommends that Beef cattle farmers should buy licks to maintain the health of their cattle and then feed them with fattening feed to prepare them for the market. "Start with Calf Starter, Calf Grower and then Beef Fattening Ration together with appropriate licks" he said. It is also important to adequately ration feed to include probiotics which maintain gut health, minerals for production and good health as well as protein for growth.

It is also vital to ensure that licks should not under no circumstances replace natural grazing. These are supplements that prevent deficiencies that may exist in grazing in order to ensure that the animals will be in the best possible condition, not only during the mating season, but throughout the year.

READ provides extension services through-out the North West province and farmers may contact the department should they need assistance or information on animal health and nutrition.

Article by: Tshagofatso Leepile



LEFAPHA LE THUSA DIKGWEBO-POTLANA KO METSEMAGAENG GO GOLA



Go tswa molemeng go ya mojang:

John Serake, Dimakatso Makgoane, Maleshoane Sehloho, Lancelot Sehloho le Tlotso Sehloho.

Matlole a rebolwang ke puso go tshegetsa ditlamo tse di potlana tsa temothuo a tswela go tisa phetogo e kgolo mo matshelong a baagi segolobogolo kwa metsemagaeng e mo malobeng e neng e e ikgatolositse.

Nngwe ya ditlamo tseo ke Bakoena Agricultural Production ya kwa motseng wa Mofufutso 1 o o kwantlenyana fela ga Mafikeng. Kwa setlamong seno se se tshamilweng ka ngwaga wa 1992 ke maloko a le matlhano, go silwa mmidi go dira bopi. Baagi ba metse e gaufi e tshwana le Sione, Kopela, Diretsane Mofufutso 2 le Khunwana ke bone gantsi ba dirisang ditirelo tsa setlamo seno.

O mongwe wa maloko a a simolotseng setlamo seno eleng Mme Maloshoane Setlhoho a re se se dirileng gore ba tle ka kakanyo ya go sila mo motseng wa bone, ke go bona baagi ba tsamaya sekgala se seleele ba ya go sila kwa dipolasing, mme go bona seno ba tlelwa ke kakanyo ya go aga tshilo go kgaola baagi ba metse eno e humanegileng maoto. "Ka ntlha ya tshegetso ya puso, re ile ra kgona go reka tse dingwe tsa didiriswa tsa go sila. Mo malobeng puso e ile ya re adima madi gore re ithekele motshini wa go sila. Mme ra dira jalo go fitlhela re kgona go busa madi ao a kadimo," garialo Mme Sehloho.

Mma Maleshoane Setlhoho are dithuso tsa puso ga di a ka tsa khutla foo ka gone morago ga ketelo ya Lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae,



Setlamo seno sa Bakoena Agricultural Production se se tshagisang bupi jwa Bakoena Super Maize Meal

Tikologo le Temothuo mo Porofenseng kwa motseng wa bone le kwa setlamong seno, ba ile ba rekelwa ke lefapha dilwana tse di latelang : motshini wa go sila bopi le go dira setampa, sekale, sefe, jenereitara le didiriswa tse dingwe go ba thusa go atolosa kgwebo ya bone.

Puso gape e ile ya ba agela lefelo le ba tla direlang mo go lone le le bogolo jo bo lekaneng go ka boloka didiriswa tseno di sireletsegile mme gape ba agelwa matlwana-boithusetso. Ka ntlha ya kemokeng eno ya puso, setlamo se na le batho ba mo motseng ba ba dirang mo go sone. Mongwe wa badiri bao ke John Serake. John o thusa go sila le ditiro tse dingwe mo setlamong.

Modiri yono yo o saleng moshia ka dingwaga, a re o itumelela tshono e a e filweng ke setlamo seno sa Bakoena Agricultural Production go dira, go anya kitso le maitemogelo segolo jang mo lephateng la go dirisa metshini eno.

"Pele ke tla go dira kwano, ke ne ke na le dingwaga di le pedi ke sa dire gope. Mme ka ntlha ya setlamo seno, ke a dira mme ebile ke ithuta go le go ntsi," ga rialo Serake. Fa a tswela o tshalositse gore mo nakong e nyenyane e a dirileng ka yone kwa Bakoena Agricultural Production, o ithutile go dira le setlhopha, bopelotelele le botlhokwa jwa go tlhokomela dijalo gore di go neye dikuno tse di nonneng.

Ke na le keletso ya gore le nna ka letsatsi lengwe, ke nne le setlamo sa me ke kgone go tlhama ditiro,”ga garela jalo John Serake. Ga jaana setlamo seno se tsamaisiwa ke Lancelot Sehloho.Lancelot a re fa a akanya ka dithuso tse lefapha le ba neetseng tsone go fitlha ga jaana, o tlaelwa ke mafoko go tlhalosa boitumelo jwa gagwe.

“Lefapha le re belege mme le santse le tswela go re thusa re le Bakoena Agricultural Production,”go tlhalosa jalo Lancelot. “Ka ntlha ya thuso ya lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae, Tikologo le Temothuo, mo porofenseng ya rona, ke ntse ke katisiwa mo go tsa tshireletso ya dijo (Food Safety Awareness) fa e sale ka ngwaga wa 2017. Lancelot o kaile fa nngwe ya ditiro tsa gagwe e le go aga mabolokelo mo metseng e dikologileng motse wa Mofufutso 1 gore a kgone go rekisetsa baagi ba metse eo dikuno tsa gagwe.

“Keletso ke gore mo nakong e e tlang, re seka ra sila bopi fela mo setlamong sa rona, mme re dire le go tlhagisa dilo di tshwana le mageu mme re tlamele moepo o gaufi le motse wa rona ka mageu ano.

Bakoena Agriculral Production e ke setlamo sa go sila mmidi, setampa mme ba ntse ba tshagediwa ke lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae, Tikologo le Temothuo la Porofense ya Bokone Bophirima ka matlole go ba rekela didiriswa le ka maele go tswa go balemisi ba Lefapha.

Lefapha ka porogramo ya lone ya Tlhabolo ya metsemagae, le neelana ka dithuso go ditlamo tse di lekang ka natla go gola jaaka setlamo seno sa Bakoena Agricultural Production. Go tla go tsena ga jaana Lefapha le setse le dirisitse diranta di feta milione mo setlamong seno se le sengwe fela.

Mo dingwageng tse nne (04) tse di fetileng, lefapha le kgonne go tlhama ditiro di feta kgolo-a-mathano (500) ka ntlha ya go beeletsa mo porogramong eno ya tlhabololo ya metsemagae.

Setlamo seno sa Bakoena Agrucultural Production se se tlhagisang bupi jwa Bakoena Super Maize Meal, ke sekai fela se le nosi sa ditlamo tse dintsi tse puso ya Bokone Bophirima e ntseng e di tshegetsa go reba bothoka-tiro le go fokotsa bohumanegi mo porofenseng . Setlamo seno se fitlhelwa kwa motseng wa Mofufutso 1.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng



Motshini wa go fetlha molelo (jenereitara) o o thusang setlamo seno go sila.

LEFAPHA LE THUSA DIKGWEBO-POTLANA KO METSEMAGAENG GO GOLA



Lancelot Sehloho mo kantoro e a tsamaisetsang tiro ya gagwe mo go yone.



Kago e kgologolo ya Bakoena Agricultural Production



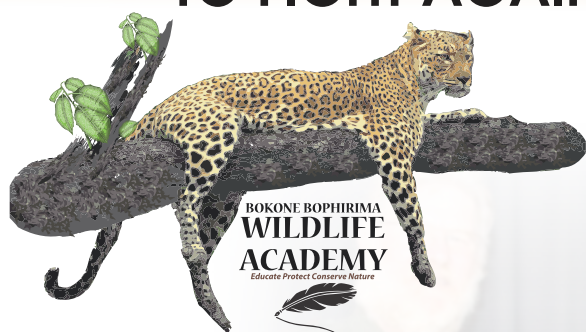
Kago e ntsha ya Bakoena Agricultural Production e agilweng ka tshegetso ya puso



Motshini o montsha wa go sila o Lefapha la Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae, Tikologo le Temothuo la Porofense ya Bokone Bophirima le o reketseng setlamong seno sa Bakoena Agricultural Production.



BOKONE BOPHIRIMA WILDLIFE ACADEMY ALUMNI SET TO FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE VIOLATION



The Bokone Bophirima Wildlife Academy has produced its first graduates setting on motion the Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development's cutting edge role in Wildlife Conservation. The academy is an initiative of the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) in partnership with North West Parks Board (NWPB) to train and develop black community-based rangers and field guides for game parks, game farms, resorts and lodges. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was signed off with South African Wildlife Academy to run a Field Ranger Training for the first 40 registered trainee candidates.

The intense training which started in February 2018 soon after the Academy official opening ceremony, encapsulated use of rifle, law enforcement, conservation philosophy, patrols, drill and discipline, communications, tracking, first aid, observation posts, ambushes, crime scene control, and night operations. Young people, particularly residing in areas near various parks are recruited to this programme that forms part of government efforts to transform game farming. It is also aimed at empowering game parks with human resources to assist to fight against wildlife violations.

The candidates were accordingly awarded a National Certificate: Nature Conservation Resource Guardianship which is at NQF level 2. Kealeboga Moshupa from Marikana Village in Bojanala Platinum District is one of the 40 students who graduated and the best performer during this inaugural ceremony. The 27 years old remains resolute that her contribution is set to ensure that the future generations will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance. Moshupa is one of the first intake of the college having gone through a rigorous selection process which she said needed a lot of determination. "It is challenging but I have always wanted to make a difference in this rainbow nation, that is why I persisted," Moshupa emphasized.

She said the training process was very informative and the practical part equipped them to be ready for the field. "As we graduate today, I am quite

comfortable that we are ready to face the world and protect our wildlife.

She said she was prepared to be a custodian of wildlife and help the province set the record for improving wildlife protection especially rhino poaching. "We have seen not so pleasing statistics of rhino-poaching and part of the reasons for these escalating numbers is the need for increased number of rangers. Today, as we are going to be placed at parks, will ensure that we assist the province in fighting the scourge," Moshupa said.

Moshupa and 39 others, whom are from rural communities around the province will be placed in selected parks across the province. This is as part of ensuring sustainability of the programme and that the skills they have acquired are adequately utilized. The North West Parks board of Directors chairperson, Dr Khakhane Lobelo said students' placement needed multi-sectoral approach such that the students placement is done in both government owned and as well as privately owned parks and lodges. She emphasized the need for industry partners who will further share their skills and partner with government.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Dr Leballo called on the Wildlife Industry to collectively work with government in order to assist to unlock a vicious cycle of persistent high costs constrain in skills development. This she said had a potential to impede economic growth and limits the resources available for investing in skills. "Investing in skills may be costly and often may exceed the capacity of government to finance every one of the flagship initiatives to the extent and quality required. It is on these grounds that our Industry players have accordingly been invited to this occasion," she noted.

Dr Leballo remarked that skills deficit had widened the gap of productivity performance with main competitors. "It compromises the capacity to exploit the potential benefits of a modern knowledge driven economy inclusive of the wildlife conservation and environmental services sector. She further said the North West Province was committed to spearhead Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Services skills development and training initiatives through Bokone Bophirima Wildlife Academy.

The 2019 Academy intake is in progress. Recruitment has focussed on unemployed matriculates from the four Regions of our Province. Like Moshupa, Many young people are set to be given a lifetime opportunity and for many others a dream is set to be realised.

Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe

DIGITILIZING EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The agricultural sector is crucial to rural development and contributes significantly to any initiative to alleviate poverty; and for this reason there is a great need for a strong extension and advisory services. With digitalisation gaining momentum, the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development held a three day conference with focus on digitalization, improving the image and professionalism of extension services in the province.

Conference delegates agreed that there is an urgent need to transform and digitalize the sector to achieve specific national development initiatives as envisaged in the Agricultural Policy Action Plan and the National Development Plan, (NDP).

11TH PROVINCIAL EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

- The conference resolved that all Extension Practitioners should be more visible to the clients they serve and account to production of their clients.
- Managers to ensure that each and every Extension Practitioner have an extension programme that is accounting to the number of farmers they serve.
- All Extension Practitioners to utilize information, communication technology (ICT) tools to the fullest on their day to day activities in order to improve services
- Extension Practitioners must register with agricultural professional bodies for exposure purposes.

ACTING READ MEC DR MPHOTO MOTLHABANE EXPLAINS THE ROLE OF EXTENSION PRACTITIONERS IN REALISING VISION 2030

READ Acting MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane said for the province to immensely contribute in response of the NDP, Extension and Advisory Practitioners must empower farmers with the cutting edge information so that they keep pace with trends and developments in agricultural production.

He further went on to challenge delegates to ensure that their day-to-day activities are aligned to the Extension Recovery Plan (ERP) which is aimed at addressing the gaps identified in Agricultural Extension Services and which will ultimately assist the Province to meaningfully contribute towards achieving the 2030 National Development Plan (NDP).



MEC Motlhabane also said the agricultural advisors through their capacity building programmes and knowledge transfer should ensure that farmers produce food according to the potential of the area and strive for maximum participation and that they must use their expertise to benefit farming community and establish sustainable projects using programmed extension.

To boost the staff morale, the 2019 conference honoured Extension Practitioners and Agricultural Advisors who are making commendable contribution to the profession towards the long term achievement of the objectives of the National norms and standards of Extension and Advisory Services (EAS).

Jeremiah Gaompotse won the award for Best Conference Poster, Pertunia Mogogana took home the Best Conference Paper award, Top Performer in the category of Agricultural Advisor award was won by Padiso Mothibi, Top Performer Award in the category of Senior Agricultural Advisor was won by Didintle Sebuli, Specialist Agricultural Advisor Award was won by Dieter Jordan, Top Performer in the category of Supervisor was won by Tshetlho Makhwane and the main winner was Daniel Thubisi from Ngaka Modiri Molema who took home the award for top performer in the category of support services and the Overall Winner for 2019

Winners will compete with their counterparts from other provinces at the national extension and advisory services awards to be hosted at the end of the year.





ANNUAL VETERINARY DOCTORS AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS ASSEMBLY

The Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development has recently held the annual symposium in which papers are presented on the researches conducted throughout the year. The Animal health technicians, Doctors and Academics, shared knowledge with others on their new discoveries.

Papers covered a broad spectrum on animal diseases, vaccines, anti parasitic, Anti-infectives, endocrine products for regulation and improvement of breeding performance, and productivity enhancers for ruminants, companion animals, pigs and poultry.

Dr Rendani Ndou a lecturer at the North west University presented an interesting paper of his Doctoral Degree on an unusual topic in the field of Veterinary Science and Animal Health which focus on ancient medicine discipline which she entitled, Ethno-veterinary Medicines And Its Use. Letsema interviewed her, to get the in depth knowledge and teach farmers about this discipline of medicine.

Letsema: What is ethno-veterinary medicine?

Dr Ndou: Ethno-veterinary medicine(EVM), is a component of African traditional medicine, and is an Indigenous Knowledge that is used by farmers to treat animal diseases and conditions. This knowledge encompasses medicinal plant use, procedures and non-plant remedies and can be used to treat ailment such as diarrhoea, worms, ticks, fractures, dystocia and many more.

Letsema: When was this kind of medicinal use discovered and by whom?

Dr Ndou: Africans developed this knowledge a long time ago and its use decreased with the dawn of Western Veterinary Medicine. The knowledge differs in different parts of the country and is still effectively and extensively used by farmers especially those in remote, rural and poor farming communities. However what many may not realise is that, many Western Veterinary drugs and remedies were developed after the exploitation or/and utilisation of medicinal plants knowledge of different indigenous communities throughout the world.

Letsema: How did you become interested in this knowledge?

Dr Ndou: My father is a traditional healer and I grew up around traditional healing. I went to university and studied Western veterinary medicine. However, throughout my studies the only time I heard of ethnoveterinary medicine was when we were told it is dangerous, toxic and useless, therefore, when I started working as a veterinarian that was also what I told farmers who tried to share their knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicine.

It was through observation and experiencing my father's traditional healing and it's effectiveness that I realised the wealth in African knowledge. That was the beginning of my journey to learn more about the knowledge that I had once shunned. Through this learning I was able to complete a Master in Indigenous Knowledge Systems studying ethno-veterinary medicine.

Letsema: What do you think, should be done to preserve and promote this knowledge?

Dr Ndou: South Africa as a developing country is faced with many services delivery challenges that includes veterinary services to the rural and poor farmers. I believe we should look at China to learn and determine the way forward with our veterinary service delivery. China has a success integrated animal health system that combines Western veterinary and ethno-veterinary medicine for a more sustainable animal health care system.

The knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicine should be integrated into curriculum of veterinary and para-veterinary programme so that the graduates will not only be able to use ethnoveterinary medicine, but be able to experiment and develop new treatment options from the environment. My current research project for PhD, is finding the best ways (pedagogy and content) to integrate ethnoveterinary medicine into animal health programmes.

Article by: Hectious Bodigelo



VETERINARY SERVICES





NORTH WEST LION BONE TRADERS KEEN ON THE 1500 LION BONE QUOTA INCREASE.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) approved an annual quota of 1 500 lion skeleton for export. The quota, which became effective from 7 June 2017, was based on new evidence from a research project on the lion bone trade in South Africa. The project was established by the SA National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in collaboration with the University of the Witwatersrand, Oxford University and the University of Kent.

Director: Biodiversity Management at the Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ), Mr Jonathan Denga said, "Before the lion bone quota was introduced in 2017, the quantity of bones that were exported was determined by normal market forces such as availability of bones from lions hunted in the province; demand for bones at a specific time (this varies dramatically from time to time and influences the selling price); exports by bone traders were spaced during the year which helped the market absorb the supply".

The effect of the 2017 quota in the North West was that 800 sets of bones which were put on the market in a short space of time (4 months) due to the quota becoming effective very late last year. A successful lion bone trader, Clifton Oberholze says that the 1 5000 skeleton quota increase will enable him to apply to ship out all the skeletons that were stockpiled from the previous year due to the 800 quota being used up within a short period in 2017.

"I started my lion trade business 5 years ago when I had enquiries from overseas for lion skeletons. I then registered with all the local and national authorities, received my standing permit and registration certificate to trade with lion bone, thereafter, applied for TOPS and Cites permits and started exporting" he said.

Currently, Oberholze purchases lion skeletons from hunting and breeders farms in the Free State. He collects from the farms after the transport permits have been issued and the skeletons have been tagged with the quota number and DNA samples have been taken by the nature conservation inspector on the farm or in Gauteng where he transports the skeletons to taxidermy in Pretoria.

"This year (2018) will be a bad year for prices on the overseas market due to the fact that a large quantity of stock will become available on the market in an even shorter time frame because there are 4 months left of the year and no tags have been issued yet" said Mr Jonathan Denga.

If the 2018 quota of 1500 skeletons is issued without further delay, all the skeletons hunted up to the end of November 2018 as well as all previous stockpiles will be cleared and exported as part of the 2018 quota allocation he also recommends that for a quota to be most effective, it should be issued early in the year.

The study conducted by DEA also revealed that there had been no discernible increase in the poaching of wild lions in the country, although there appeared to be an increase in the poaching of captive bred lions for body parts. Poaching has been a reality for Madeleine Venter, a lion breeder and bone trader who saw a mounting demand in the market when other lion breeders had no option to but to sell skeleton of dead lions to recover their losses.

She says that poaching has affected her business, not because of the increase in the lion bone quota but for the reason that there is a growing perception among local people (South Africans) that lion body parts have healing effects and thus poached to supply body parts to local tradition healers and produce *muthi*.

"The price of a skeleton is mainly determined by condition and how complete it is. Generally hunted skeletons have hunting damage which makes the price lower. The long delay in the issue of quota this year will cause a lot of deterioration in the quality of the bones which affects prices quite dramatically" said Mr Denga. In addition, Oberholze conceded to that fact stated by Mr Denga and said that the average price of a skeleton is between R10,000 and R35,000.

Lion bones are largely sold to Asian markets for use in virility products and traditional medicines. The trade in skeletons began in the country a decade ago, and it is now the largest exporter of lion bones to Asia - mostly to Thailand and Vietnam.

Article by: *Tshegofatso Leepile and Mary Nkgomotsang Mokgosi*



read

Department:
Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BOKONE BOPHIRIMA VILLAGE LIVESTOCK AUCTION

UPCOMING DATES

MABESKRAAL LIVESTOCK

4 & 18 April / 9 & 23 May
6 & 20 JUNE 2019

TSHIDILAMOLOMO LIVESTOCK

9 April / 4 June / 13 August 2019

DRIEFONTUIN LIVESTOCK

(MOROKONG - BONABONA)

16 April / 23 May / 20 June 2019

TAUNG LIVESTOCK PAN

29 May / 31 July
19 September 2019

Starts @ 10:00am

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

MOTHUSIOTSILE SETLHABI: +27 (0)73 199 6899

OTSILE LEKALAKE: +27 (0)71 860 5279

AUCTIONEER:

DRIEFONTEIN (Bona Bona): Andre Kock & Seun/Son & NOORDKAAP

TAUNG LIVESTOCK AUCTION PAN: NOORDKAAP

MABESKRAAL: LUND AFSLAERS & AGRI AUCTIONS

TSHIDILAMOLOMO: VLEISSENTRAL



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