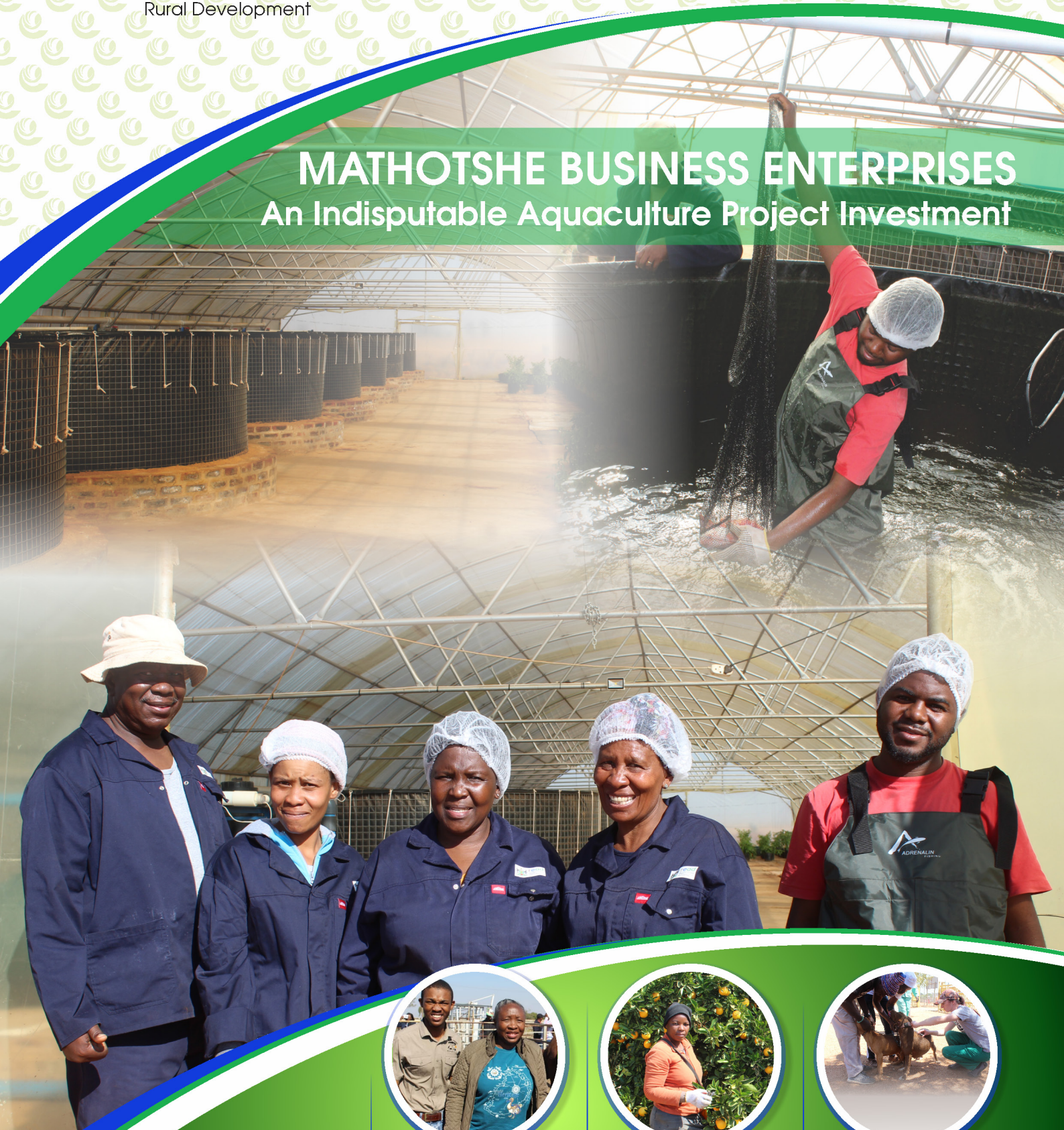


## MATHOTSHE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

### An Indisputable Aquaculture Project Investment



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# Editorial Comment



REH  
AD  
INGO

## Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

One unknown writer once said: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift of God, which is why we call it, the present". I appreciate every moment that we get afforded to use this platform to talk to our key stakeholders and I see it as a gift that information that we disseminate is well received and used. We cannot seize to over-emphasize the critical role that our stakeholders play in making the business of the Department meaningful.

We cannot also ignore the fact that there is a lot happening in our country lately making many people to look grimly into the future. But I guess that cannot be said by the farming community. I hope that with the faith that they have, farmers will pass their positive spirit to other members of the society about being positive in life. It is in these strong men and women that I get a true sense that indeed great things happen to those who don't stop believing, trying, learning, and being grateful. The farmer has patience and trusts the process. He just has the faith and deep understanding that through his daily efforts, the harvest will come.

We have seen the reconfiguration process taking place in the North West province in line with the National Government. We now meet under the umbrella of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Key to this entity is now the delivery of agriculture services and efforts to reach out and changing lives of the rural communities.

Mokhuduthamaga Mme Desbo Mohono has reiterated the need to prioritize farmers' development and making agriculture a sector of choice ultimately growing the economy of the province and the country at large. We agree that agriculture is life and therefore with it people must have a meaningful existence.

Lekwalo-kgang leno la rona la *Letsema* le go tlisetsa dikgang ka ga tshegetso eo lefapha le tswelletseng go e neela balemirui mme go bonala tota tokafalo ya maphelo. Lefapha le ntse motlotlo go bona nngwe ya diporojeke tsa dinamunu kwa kgaolong ya Brits e kgona go tsenelela le go

rekisa kwa dinageng tsa kwa ntle. Fa Batlhako Temo farming project ba kgona go fitlhelela seemo seo, re na le mooko o thata gore Profense ya rona e santse e tlele go bona balemirui ba le bantsi ba fitlha koo mme le go feta.

Lefapha le tswelletsse gape go thusa barui ba dikgomo go tokafatsa leruo ka go ba neela dipholo. Se ke nngwe ya mananeo a a lekang go fitlhelela thekiso ya nama kwa dinageneng tse di kwa ntle.

Mokhuduthamaga Mme Mohono o tswelletsse pele go kopana le balemirui nako le nako go utlwa maikutlo a bone mmogo le go ba rotloetsa go dira ka natla gonne lefapha le le nosi ga le kake la kgona.

Re dumela gore dikgang tsa lokwalo lono di tla go rotloetsa o le molemirui gongwe le gongwe kwa o leng gone. Fa o rata go tsenya letsogo mo go tsa temothuo mme o tlhoka kitso, lefapha le na le dikantoro mo dimasepaleng tsotlhe mme baagi ba ka di etela go batla tshedimosetso.

There can never be harvest if there is no planting, so we need to work together, and focus all our efforts on succeeding to change lives for the better. We have that purpose and we can do it!

## Keep reading letsema

Re a leboga  
*Emelda*

Motsamaisi wa tsa Tlhaeletsano



# FROM her Desk



The acerbic test of where we are as a Department today and where we must set off is hexed out in the recent 2019/20 pecuniary address, which happens to be the gridiron for our farmers in the next twelve months and the nearby future therefore. While a more complete account of the Departments progress and regress is available elsewhere in different platforms be it departmental website, social media folios and different reports, in this prelude I would like to underscore a few facet of first and foremost the changes within the Department and perhaps paint a clear picture of where we are heading as proclaimed Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

It is said in life sometimes you do not have to mop the water, but rather switch off the taps entirely. It is exactly what we are trying to accomplish as the new 6th administration by shifting lifelong experiences that we feel needs to be relooked. No river can return to its source, yet all rivers must have a beginning. I urge all to not fear change but rather embrace it be in internally or externally, because with change we may lose something good or even better we can gain something great. In order for most of the pronouncements I make mentioned during the budget speech 19/20, to favour our farmers and speed up service delivery, I saw it fit to embark on a strategic overhaul on certain aspects within the Department.

While toiling with change, I take this profound moment to welcome in our midst Mr. Diopeneneng Serage as the Acting Head of Department, as we bid farewell to Dr. Poncho Mokaila who served the department for the past five years. Mr. Serage who is not new to the Department, has a lot of experience within the sector and all of us including our farmers should give him all the support required.

This plenteous edition of the ever growing *Letsema* publication sees our farmers continuing to take the bull by its horns in making sure that they push back the frontiers of poverty. Overcoming poverty is not an act of charity; but an act of justice.

We are blessed to have such farmers in our interior, Batlhako Temo Services are a typical poverty fighting machinery that has stood the test of time and the Department is proud to be associated with them. They are into citrus and sunflower farming. Not only are they fighting poverty they also contribute immensely towards the bane of unemployment that is threatening our communities especially our youth. We are proud to have our editorial been dominated by our youth more especially women. This clearly shows that we mean business when we allow our women to be at the epicentre of our plans as a Department.

As we honour the September month, we do so in cognisance of the fact that it is the Rabies month and the planting season of foliage. In our province we are intensifying the plight of encountered outbreaks. Our belts are tightened in this regard and we will leave no stone unturned in making sure that our farmers' animals are healthy and strong.

We also urge our farmers to attend to their animals in time and contact our points for vaccinations and advice.

Agriculture as one of the four priority sectors selected for economical relief during the sixth (6) administration, will champion fiscal growth, transformation through job creation and poverty combating. We will punch above our weight in aligning our budget and all our resources to support the realisation of the new growth. This will be done in a true mantra of President Cyril Ramaphosa; we will khawuleza as the clock is ticking for our farmers to be assisted in many aspects. In going forward we will go big on Food Security issues, as this still reigns as an obstacle in particular for the rural household echelons.

A Mogoma o tsene mo Mmung Bagaetsho, Pula e ne, re tle re kgone go ja legwetla.

**Re a leboga - I thank you!**

*MEC: Desbo Mohono*

**North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**





# TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

## DO YOU WANT TO STUDY AT TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE?

## HERE IS ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A grade 12 certificate with Mathematics (E)/Mathematics Literacy (D), English (E)  
Life Science/Agricultural Science (E) and Physics (E) or an equivalent of Grade 12 certification.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Irrigation Farming
- Farm Manager
- Agricultural Extension Practitioner (Irrigation)
- Agriculturalist
- Research Technician
- Irrigation Technician
- Own business (Service Provider: Training, Assessor, Moderator and etc)

### APPLICATION

#### Annual closing date: 31 October

Forward completed application form to:

The registrar  
Taung Agricultural College  
Private Bag X 532  
8582

**Telephone:** +27(0)53 994 9800/39  
**Fax** : +27(0)53 994 1130

#### The M-Count criterion

A minimum of 22 points is a pre-requisite for admission.

POST 2008 MATRICULATE APPLICANTS		POST 2008 MATRICULATE APPLICANTS		POST 2009 MATRICULATE APPLICANTS	
SYMBOL/POINTS				HG	SG
A	9	7		9	7
B	8	6		8	6
C	7	5		7	5
D	6	4		6	4
E	5	2		5	2
F	9	0		0	0



# MATHOTSHE Business Enterprises



## AN INDISPUTABLE AQUACULTURE PROJECT INVESTMENT

For years, Salome Mathobela toyed with the idea of owning aquaponic farm. Aquaponics is a way of producing food that combines aquaculture (farming aquatic animals such as snails and fish) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment.

In this type of farming, the plants get their nutrients from the nutrient rich water produced by the fish wastes.

Finally in the year 2014, Salome Mathobela bought a bare land and established her own farm. She requested the broken 10 00l tank from the JB MARKS municipality and divided it into half, to make two ponds. She started with 100 Koi fish and fed it with duck weed. Duck weed feed is fed to fish to compliment diets, largely to provide a protein of high biological value.

Mathobela felt confident that one day she will own a bigger farm with a professionally built tunnel systems producing a larger number of fish and vegetables.

Later in 2017, her dream of expanding and increasing production became a reality when the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Province offered to support her project with infrastructure through its Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme.

The farmer also invested on the farm by sighting ,drilling , testing and equipping of the borehole to enhance production.

Thorough this programme, the government invested with the following infrastructure equipments in the enterprise: two large (2) tunnels, fully equipped solar system with control room for power, a generator, fourteenth (14) ponds and production inputs.

The farm now specializes with Nile Tilapia with the capacity of producing 13tons of fish per annum.

Mathobela also grow vegetables in the area around these seven

ponds/tanks, as these will absorb potentially harmful gases escaping from the tanks while helping to create a warm, tropical climate conducive to the well-being of the fish.

The plants are grown organically and no chemical fertilisers or pesticides are used.

“We keep things as natural as possible”.

“We harvest one (1) ton of tilapia fish every month,” Mathobela indicated.

While aquaponic is often perceived as complicated, Mathobela says that the system operates on very simple principles.

“The fishes' waste is then broken down by nitrifying bacteria, initially into nitrites and subsequently into nitrates, which the plants utilise as nutrients,” Mathobela explains.

The farm also produces a variety of leaf vegetables that are sold in colourful, mixed packs.

They include jasmine tomatoes, green beans, green pepper and spinach.

“We are currently selling and supplying Ok Grocer with organic vegetables Ventersdorp shop with fish and supplying Gauteng outlets.

“I truly believe that diversification production through Aquaculture and Aquaponics practices is the future of farming. It works in rural or urban areas and all you need is a little know-how,” Mathobela highlighted.

The department has monitoring mechanisms in place to oversee the day-to-day running of these cooperatives and to ensure sustainability.

Mathobela has acknowledged the department's contribution in assisting her to get necessary skills.



"I have Senior Aquaculture Officer Mme Betty Matebesi from the Department who is always available for advice. Through her assistance I managed to attend a number of Aquaculture and fishery awareness campaigns, farmer's days, training organized by the department and that has helped me a lot to improve my farming skills. She linked me with commercial farmers.

Currently the farm has five (5) permanent employees. It creates five (5) temporary jobs every month during fish harvesting. Annually, it creates over fifteen (15) temporary jobs for weed control and during planting of vegetables.

One of the employees is Ntsoaki Maria Molosi (20) from the neighbouring village of Mafole. She enjoys working at Mathotse Business Enterprise.

"I enjoy working here and since my arrival I have learned a lot and developed interest for fish farming," Molosi said.

Molosi also has a dream of having her own farm just like her employer.

Mathobela says food security is at the heart of her farm and is hoping that soon her business will grow to create more jobs.

Mathotse Business Enterprise is one of many projects which are supported by government in an effort to ensure food security and responding to high rate of unemployment amongst communities' challenges affecting North West communities who are still locked in cycles of generational poverty and food insecurity.

#### QUICK FACTS ABOUT MATHOTSE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

- Mathotse Business Enterprise is farming with aquaculture and aquaponics.
- The farm is situated at Doornkop 30 km outside Ventersdorp town which falls under the jurisdiction of JB Marks Local Municipality within Dr. Kenneth Kaunda district.
- The farm specializes with Nile Tilapia
- The farm was officially established in 2014.
- It is headed by a female.
- The beneficiary is the first black woman in South Africa to receive the Nile Tilapia permit. She also has Mozambicus permit and she is a member of Tilapia Association South Africa (TASA).

**Article by: Thebe Itumeleng**







# NINETEEN YEAR OLD NORTH WEST FARMING ENTHUSIAST



## NINETEEN YEAR OLD NORTH WEST FARMING ENTHUSIAST WITH MEC DESBO MOHONO

Nasi Thabo Dithakgwe is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director of Nasi Ditha Farming, Wildlife and Projects. He is currently considered as one of the youngest farmers in the North West province. At just age 19, he has been able to penetrate the market with his youthful skills through social media and assistance from his family.

On the livestock farm in Pomfret near Morokweng village, Thabo has Bonsmara type cattle and other crosses which he sells their weaners at local auctions. He also runs a flock of pure Boergoats which he breeds for other interested parties who want to go into the goat industry and a small flock of Dorperx Van Rooy sheep of which some he keeps for household consumption.

"I am planning to expand my farming enterprise only when I have the means to get assistance and lease a big farm. With a larger portion of land, I can increase my breeding stock and reach commercial status before age 21. It is not going to be easy but I believe with government assistance and guidance I will prosper. I also plan to go into stud breeding and produce animals of high quality at affordable prices for my fellow people and game farming as is a profitable sector" said Thabo.

He adds that, as a young black farmer he encourage others to enter into this sector as it is the only one that feeds the nation. "You cannot go a day without eating and all thanks to farmers. Farming can be very fashionable only if we put our mind to it. There is potential here though others see just dirt. Dirty hands are a sign of clean money".

Even though other emerging farmers shifted from farming due to lack of land, the young farmer believes that there is still hope if only people were to start where they are, with what they have and they will grow to the top. "The only time when you start at the bottom is when you are digging a hole. I advise people to hop on the agricultural train because the journey is very promising. Passion, love, character and pure patience is all that needed," he said.

When Thabo realised that there is plenty of opportunity and a new trend for goat meat. He made use of the gap in the market and took that opportunity by selling all his boergoat type goats and bought in top quality boergoats for the market.

He strongly encourages farmers to go digital and make use of technology to improve agriculture with gadgets such as drones to monitor farms and buy good quality herd sires and see how the returns will follow.

Since Thabo's recent media attention, he says that it has been a very moving journey. "I have inspired my whole country and have had countless interviews on radio, magazines, newspapers and TV news. I have reached Presidential level through media. The President of South Africa Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa has offered to mentor me after his endorsement in Sandton Convention Centre and it is one of my biggest highlights so far".

In May 2019 the farming enthusiast received a bull from the newly appointed MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono and he says that he appreciates the recognition moreover, the efforts made by MEC Mohono to know more about his passion. The bulls were donated to the Department by commercial farmers who are hell bent on assisting others and on improving the local livestock in general.

**Article by: Tshagofatso leepile**





BRITS BASED PRODUCERS ON CITRUS EXPORT MARKET

# CITRUS PRODUCE



Bathhako Temo Services have successfully entered the export market, making them the first black owned citrus orchard in the North West province to enter the global market. The Brits based company will see their products going to Middle East areas as well as Taiwan.

Having started the project in 2012 on a farm leased from the now Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, the enterprise partner Issac Moliwa says the journey has not been easy. The 5 members' cooperative started in 2012 by sunflower producers at that time. After the first difficult two years which saw the passing away of two members and a loss on production, the remaining members decided to introduce citrus.

The 61,5 hectare farm currently has 16 000 citrus trees. Of this only 21 is under production. Although in around 2014 until 2017, the production was in teething stage, their dream was slowly gaining momentum. The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development assisted the business on two occasions with at least R800 000 of each of those years. With the funds, the cooperative improved their irrigation system and structure their office space and other logistics.

"We placed in irrigation system and from there we never looked back. We have been receiving technical advice from the department and we are

comfortable of the strides we have from such assistance," Moliwa said. They are also part of the Citrus Growers Association which generally supports members to be globally competitive.

To date the company has employed 10 workers permanent and over 70 seasonal. The seasonal workers are divided into the local and export market workers. Their workforce includes a seasoned farm manager whom the cooperative commissioned to create a structure for the company and take it to international platforms. Their journey was faced with challenges however they did not despair. "We were ready to export in 2018 but we could not get a pack house so our products ended in the local markets including SIR Fruit and Magalies Citrus Company. We were determined to break through and as such we did manage to get a pack house. So far we have managed to deliver seven containers and we hope to deliver more the end of the harvest season.

Much as this is a milestone, this family cooperative have big dreams in as far as developing their business is concerned. They would like to increase on the exportable trees in their other available land. They would also like to own a pack house which they believe is a need. "Pack-house will cut a lot of costs and eventually lead to us employing possibly over 200 people. We would like to make that great contribution to job creation and that is what many companies are looking forward to these days.

North West MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono remain impressed by the orchard after visiting in the past few weeks. She has encouraged the team to work even harder and grow their global market. Mohono said she would wish to see many farmers tapping on the same knowledge and expanding their territories.

Despite the water leak challenges that are in the their current space as well as transport to their leased pack House, Bathhako Temo is determined to make it big in the industry. The fact that they are first to enter the market makes them prepared to work and share ideas with other farmers. They are due to host a farmer's information day in November this year as part of their effort to share ideas with other farmers.

**Article by:** Tsholofelo Dintwe



# SEED BANKS

## A WEALTH BASIS WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO PROTECT

Seeds conservation may be not a daily subject to refer to when discussions around food security are made. However seeds are the reason we end up with food on our tables. When conserved, seed can last from few years to centuries depending on the species and the storage conditions. Whilst many countries are concentrating on food security, on farming as well as fixing economies; the loss of seeds is hardly considered. To think of it, many communities have lost almost unfathomable amount of genetic diversity as a result. Just in the farming sector itself, farmers every year would need to buy new seeds which have been engineered in laboratories.

It is said that in South Africa alone, seed systems are increasingly coming under pressure. The forms of traditional seeds exchange seems to be dying slowly.

The Jericho Community in the North West have stood out to assist and turn a tide against diminishing of seeds. The community was recently handed over their Community Seed Bank by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

This is the third site for the national department since the efforts to establish the sites has begun. The other sites are Gumbu in Limpopo as well as Sterkspruit in the Eastern Cape. This initiative which seeks to conserve indigenous seeds started in 2017 and has drawn 16 members together to manage the community projects they now have termed Jericho Community Seedbank project.

At the beginning of the project two years ago, the Deputy Chairperson of the group Ms Mabiletsa said they were about 42. The group continued to stand together even though there was an exodus of members. Mabiletsa said the love for farming and seed security kept the remaining team together. She said those who are remaining are passionate about their work and pride themselves with the wealth they have. She emphasised that the project is their pride as it is one of those that will benefit many generations to come. She extended an invitation to community members to donate seeds and to participate in the work of the project.

To date, the Jericho local community are on a dedicated assignment to collect and conserve seeds that they get from the local community. An office structure has been set up to conserve and maintain a different range of crops species, clear marks are made to indicate the name of the seeds as well as the donor and the date of donation. This is to have a footprint for the team to gauge the progress since the establishment of the sites.

Community Seed Banks are local groups who gather together to conserve and maintain locally adapted seeds. The practices assist to prevent the erosion and ultimate disappearance of seeds within the community. The effort allows members of the particular community easy access to seeds and well the ability to control and manage crops populations. Community Seed Banks and technical support provided by government will allow members to improve seeds conservation technologies, increase access to diversity, apply crop improvement practices and explore seeds production and marketing opportunities.

Mr Julian Jafta of the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development indicated that the love for seeds security as displayed by the Jericho community prompted the Department to persist in establishing the initiative and training the members of the community on saving seeds.

Ms Arlene Dikolomela, District Manager of READ in Bojanala who going forward will oversee the project appreciated the National Department's efforts and committed to ensure that the Department through Agriculture Extension and Advisory services will manage the project. Dikolomela echoed the messages on ensuring that the Seed Bank should contribute to Food Security within the local community.

Jericho Seed Bank was established in partnership with Bioversity International, an international global research organisation that believes that agricultural Biodiversity nourishes people and sustains the planet. Bioversity has also assisted the Jericho community with training and representative of the Organisation, Mr Roonie Vernooy has committed that the organisation will be available to technical advises to the project whenever needed.

**Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe**



Jericho Community Seed Bank ready to collect and secure a variety of crop species



Biovorsity wheel demonstrates the seeds that the community posses and assist to identify the need to include other crops



Food Fair - Community prepared traditional dishes through the nutritious crops they have.





## Forty-five receive Diploma in Irrigation programme at Taung Agricultural College

Forty-five (45) students from the only tertiary institution in the whole country offering Diploma in Irrigation Management course at NQF level 06 were recently honoured for competently completing their three year Diploma in Irrigation programme.

The winter graduation ceremony was held on 07 June 2019 in Taung village. Out of the forty-five (45) who were graduating, eighteen (18) were females and 27 were males.

This three (3) year Irrigation programme is engineering based, equipping students with the necessary practical skills and theoretical knowledge to pursue a career in farming as well as other related careers in agriculture (Irrigation technology field).

The latest batch of graduates included students from neighbouring provinces such as the Northern Cape.

One of those is the twenty-two (22) year old Thembekile Keohithetse from Seweding Village in the Northern Cape Province. Out of the forty-five, Thembekile got an award for Top Performing Student in Irrigation Programme. Thembekile says time management helped her a lot in getting good results.

"I am very grateful to be recognised as the top achiever for 2019. I did everything I could to get the good results but I think time management helped me a lot.

"I believe that all my colleagues were capable to be recognised but I am glad that I am the one who walked away with the award," said elated Keohithetse.

Keohithetse thanked Agriseta for funding her last two years of study at the college and she has applied to Central University of Technology to further her studies in advanced Diploma in Extension Services.

Congratulating the successful students, the Head of Department Dr Poncho Mokaila said the ceremony was meant to pay a tribute to the outcome of their hard work and commitment as graduate of Taung Agricultural College.

Mokaila further challenged the graduates to go out there to employ the skills and the knowledge they have been able to acquire during the three (3) years of their studies, to ensure that they contribute in addressing the challenges related to water scarcity and climate change that affect the production output of the farming communities.

"You have surely gone through challenges throughout your stay at the college. Those challenges were meant to prepare you for the professional world we are releasing you to today. You were able to navigate your way through difficult circumstances; some of you coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, scrapping for amenities all the time. You succeeded nonetheless.

"Go out and make your mark and help transform not only agriculture but the rural landscape in our province. As the National Development Plan says, we need the rural areas to be integrated into mainstream economic development.

Please play your part and become a catalyst for this change so that we can fight poverty and become a more equal society. Let us build South Africa to become a better place," Dr Mokaila concluded. Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane of Batlhaping ba-ga Phuduhucwana in Taung urged graduates to pursue lifelong learning.

"As you will be joining fellow thousands graduates from this institution who are scattered all over the world, you must keep on learning and remain curious," said Kgosi Mankuroane.

For the 2019 academic year, Taung Agricultural College has registered one hundred and eighty five (185) students from across study levels.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng





# Departmental

## Key Mega Projects 2019/20

A firm foundation is set to be laid in the Agricultural sector, as MEC Mohono leads the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the sixth administration. In delivering the departmental Budget Vote speech for 2019/20 MEC Mohono emphasised the need to close the gap in delivery of agricultural and rural development efforts in the province. Mohono has committed to utilise the over R1, 1 billion budget to ensure that people's lives are touched and transformed. She has also declared her unwavering efforts towards effective collaboration on delivery of the mandate of the department as well as to ensure growth and transformation of the sector.

### THE DEPARTMENT WILL DELIVER ON THE FOLLOWING KEY MEGA PROJECTS:

#### FOOD SECURITY A HIGH PRIORITY

2400 needy households are set to receive food security projects, a continuation of the commitment and delivery that has been made to these households since the beginning of 2019. The food security programme in the North West Province seeks to promote food accessibility, availability, affordability for people who are hard hit by poverty so that they can sustain their livelihoods.

Beneficiaries of this programme will continue to receive amongst others seedlings, vegetable garden structures, indigenous chickens, fruit trees; small stock (goats) as well as feed as starter kits so they can engage in agricultural activities and contribute to poverty reduction at household and national level. Participants are also given support that includes infrastructure, technical advice and training. Food security is part of department's broader plan of promoting food production.

#### PLANTING OF 20 000 HECTARES OF LAND TO INTENSIFY THE CROP MASSIFICATION PROGRAMME

The Crop Massification Programme is an intervention by government to support both Smallholder and identified Black Commercial Farmers to put back arable land into production. During her 2019/20 Budget Vote Speech, MEC Desbo Mohono committed the department to intensifying the programme by increasing types of produce. A crop production plan is being rolled-out to plant 20 000 Hectares on grains across the province, whilst also diversifying to cotton & barley, and further looking into other perennial crops such as olives and peacan nuts.

The support to famers will also be done in a variety of ways such as provision of crop production inputs, technical advice, holding of information and farmers days, access to storage facilities, provision of marketing information as well as mechanisation packages. This will be offered within available resources and mandate.

#### MENTOR-MENTEE PROGRAMME FOR ASPIRING YOUNG BLACK AUCTIONEERS

In an effort to transform the hostile industry of agricultural auctions in the province, MEC Desbo Mohono announced that plans are afoot to train black aspiring auctioneers to become professionals. This undertaking will be realised through a mentor-mentee programme to be launched in the province soon. With this programme, the department seeks to increase the pool of previously disadvantaged people who own, control and manage existing and new enterprises within the auction industry.

MEC Mohono stressed that the deserving youth aspiring to become professional auctioneers should be afforded an opportunity to tap into the industry with the aim of influencing real and meaningful change. Mohono is optimistic that piloting this programme in the province is necessary to redress past imbalances and create a climate which is conducive to the meaningful participation of blacks in untransformed industries such as auctioneering. The department sees auction industry accessibility as a great opportunity to promote sustainable development and job creation especially amongst the youth.

#### INVESTMENT IN AGRO PROCESSING

In line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for agricultural sector development and investment, the department will intensify efforts of expansion to agro-processing. A turn-around plan in collaboration with Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) to complete fourteen (14) multi-year Agro-Processing projects is in process. Other plans include creation of partnership opportunities with the City of Matlosana Local Municipality Fresh Produce Market and relocation of Mogwase Farmers Market to Madibeng Municipality given the comparative advantage of horticulture. Further investment to be made on a Dairy Processing Plant in Ngaka Modiri Molema District, Poultry Hatchery in Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Feed-mill in Dr Kenneth Kaunda through blended funding.

#### MULTI ENTERPRISE AND VALUE CHAIN AGRIPARK

Efforts are in place to turn Kgora Farmers training centre to a multiple enterprise and a Value Chain AgriPark. With this, the department seeks to create platform for commodity cooperatives to collaborate and form a network innovation system of agro production, processing, logistics, packaging as well as marketing. As a network this initiative enables a market driven combination and integration of various agricultural activities and rural transformation features. The Department hopes to accelerate job creation and deal with poverty challenge scourge.



## DIVERSIFICATION OF THE LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The programme previously focused mainly on the Nguni cattle breed which has already benefitted 109 sites/ farmers across North West since the delivery of the first batch in 2007.

Fiscal year 2019/2020 will see the Department intensifying the Nguni Model and gradually and carefully introducing other different breeds within a return rate over stipulated period to extent this to other farmers. MEC Mohono said the department is in the process of intensify beef production to Small-Holders in partnership with Agricultural Research Council (ARC) through Kaonafatso Livestock improvement which is linked to existing Abattoirs and Feedlots.

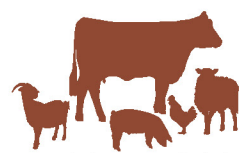
In addition to the developing plans, partnerships are in progress with Beef Stud-Breeders on genetic improvement well as the advancement of Smallholder Dairy Farmers to link-up with envisaged processing enterprises. This kind of farming contributes a substantial percentage towards the economic growth of North West and tackling the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

FARM  
FRESH

## BUDGET ALLOCATION PER PROGRAMME ITEM: 2019/2020

Programme	Allocation	Amount in words
	R'000	
1. Administration	R294 085	Two hundred and ninety four million and eighty-five thousand rands
2. Sustainable Resource Management	R34 722	Thirty-four million seven hundred and twenty two thousand rands
3. Farmer Support And Development	R421 405	Four hundred and twenty-one million four hundred and five thousand rands
4. Veterinary Services	R141 907	One hundred and forty-one million nine hundred and seven thousand rands
5. Research And Technology Development Services	R67 487	Sixty-seven million four hundred and eighty seven thousand rands
6. Agricultural Economics Services	R16 461	Sixteen million four hundred and sixty-one
7. Structured Agricultural Education and Training	R112 136	One hundred twelve million one hundred and thirty-six thousand rands
8. Rural Development Coordination	R77 508	Seventy-seven million five hundred and eight thousand rands
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R1 165 711</b>	One billion One hundred and Sixty-five million, Seven hundred and eleven Thousand rands





# livestock

## Barui Driehoek livestock farm booms



Kabelo and Matshediso Mooketsi of the Barui-Driehoek Co-operative currently are on inter/national platforms to share their experience on livestock farming. The couple from Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti have spent the past years on growing their livestock business and exposing at both national and international platforms. Today this cooperative which are beneficiaries of Nguni Cattle project are the proud owners of a thriving farming business in Lykso, 75 km west of Vryburg Town.

The North West Nguni cattle development project started in 2006 as partnership between the Industrial Development Committee (IDC), Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) and the Northwest University (NWU) with aim of re-introducing the Nguni cattle in the province by providing deserving beneficiaries with heifers and bulls on a grant-loan basis. The loan includes 23 heifers and one bull. After five year, the loan should be repaid with 12 Nguni cattle which should include 11 heifers and one bull. The intension of the project is to contribute towards alleviation of poverty and job creation.

Before the Nguni Cattle project grant, the Mooketsi were already clear on their dream of livestock farming. The Mooketsi's first attempt at farming was on a municipal farm in Tosca which proved to be very difficult as it was very run down. "We had no water on the farm for 1 year and 4 months. We had to fetch water from a white neighbour with a tractor and trailer during this period", Matshediso recalled. At that stage they had only 39 cattle.

The co-operative now owns a farm on the 1855 hectare of land in the Vryburg area. They acquired the farm through the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in January 2011.

To get their farming business started the couple had to dig even deeper in their pockets and that included having to sell town based house in Vryburg, to renovate buildings and to get the enterprise going. They later applied further for funding and they began the bonsmara livestock farming. The Mooketsi said once they noted an even greater potential in livestock farming, they vowed never to look back. "We had to look at all other avenues to grow our business, there was no turning back. This was the business of our choice and we wanted to make a mark," Matshediso said confidently.

The farm has now 187 strong bonsmara herd which includes four stud bulls, 123 breeding cows, 49 replacement heifers and 11 calves.

The Barui Driehoek farm owned have a proven record to successful management and to that effect have score both local and national

recognition from a variety of institutions both public and private. Amongst others, they have clinged accolades as the 2012 ARC Beef Cattle producers, they have in recognition for their professionalism won the Agricultural research councils award for the high standard of their record keeping winning themselves a fully paid trip to attend Annual Beef Cattle Symposium in Nebraska in the United States. They were also winners of the 2013 READ Female Entrepreneur awards best commercial producers and the 2017 National Gazelles Top, a SEDA funded programme which aims at identifying and supporting SMEs in top 10 priority sectors. In 2018, the cooperative members attended the china International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shangai.

As part of their vision to contribute to economic development, the farm has employed 2 permanent staff, 2 casual and seasonally would have between 10-12 employees. They have also through the North West University's internship programme on a time to time assisted to train students on agricultural production post their qualification.

Reflecting on government support, the Mooketsi said they were forever grateful for the help they have and are still receiving from government. They indicated that they still welcome any efforts and that will help them grow their business even further. They indicated they are grateful for opportunities to sell their business internationally as that allows them to see what other countries are doing and gives them opportunity to explore exporting prospects.

**Article by:** Tsholofelo Dintwe







# NORTH WEST NGUNI CATTLE

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PRODUCES SUCCESSFUL BREEDERS

The NW/IDC Nguni Cattle Development Project was introduced in 2006 with the aim of reintroducing the indigenous Nguni cattle to the mainstream of the livestock industry in the North West province and to develop black farmers to the status of commercial farming. A total of 3169 heifers and 119 Bulls have been distributed to date since the delivery of the first batch in 2007. The tripartite partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the North West University (NWU – Mahikeng Campus) has benefited 109 sites/ farmers to date (2019).

One of the most successful Nguni cattle beneficiaries is Peabro Farming CC. The enterprise is run by 2 families, the Peacock and Brophy (PEABRO) family consisting of 5 members combined. "Luck was on our side and in December 2008 we were granted the Nguni cattle loan/grant for a period of five years. We received 33 heifers and 1 bull. Our calving % was 98% for the last 8 years. We still have the original 33 cows and bull that we received in 2008. Our herd has grown from 33 cows and 1 bull to 200 cows and 5 bulls to date" said Peacock. The two families (Peabro Farming CC) have since repaid the loan to the IDC.

These Nguni farmers are one of beneficiaries in the North West province that have sold breeding animals on the Nguni cattle Auction organized by Highveld club. "We have been part of the Highveld Nguni Veld Bull test for 3 years in a row and this year we have produced 5 very beautiful bulls that will be sold at the Nguni Breeders Auction together with 40 of our best heifers produced in 2014"

In the 2019/20 financial year, more than twenty farmers successfully completed their five-year contractual obligation with the NW/IDC Nguni Cattle Development Project which states that upon conclusion of the agreement with the identified beneficiary, in terms of which a specific number of heifers or cows and 1 bull will be made available to them as a loan with the understanding that within a period of five years they will deliver back to the trust a like number of cattle (gender and condition) or cash equivalent to the value of the loaned cattle s may be arranged or determined by the trustees or their representatives.

One of those beneficiaries includes a Ventersdorp farmer, Mrs Average Chidawaya who is the owner of DLJ Golden Holdings. The successful breeder of these indigenous cows thanked the Department for affording her the opportunity to participate in the Nguni project. "This project has opened our eyes to the enormous potential and hidden secrets of this breed. Having seen the high performance of this breed in the last five years, it has

motivated us to work even harder and to invest more into nguni cattle farming" said Chidawaya.

DLJ Golden Holdings received 24 Nguni cattle from DARD in 2014 and in May 2019 the cattle had multiplied to an amount of two hundred and forty (240). Chidawaya had reported to the IDC's Nguni Cattle Development Trust Board of Trustees in March 2019 that the 12 heifers to be paid back are ready for collection and as token of appreciation for assistance offered she will repay 14 heifers back.

The North West Nguni Cattle Development Project Manager, Mr Andrew Mathe encourages farmers to venture into Nguni Cattle as it is the breed for future and rearing them is a way to improving quality of life. Once farmers receive the cattle loan, the department offer supports in training of beef cattle and veld management; extension advises; assistance with access to market; veterinary support; livestock water provision, handling facilities (Crush pens) and fencing material.

On average a single Nguni cow sells for R 11 500- R17 500 females and Bulls between R25 000- R50 000. Applications window period for the 2020/21 financial year will open from 1 April 2020– 30 June 2020.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr Andrew Mathe  
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*Article by: Tshegofatso leepile*





# Importing Animals & Animal Products into South Africa



## Focusing on Import and Export Animal Diseases Acts and laws of the Republic of South Africa

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform Forestry and Fisheries do not allow animals or animal products to enter or leave the country without following proper laws of the Republic of South African. The Acts were passed by parliament to ensure that the animals or animal products keep to the required health safety standards as set by the state veterinary office of the Republic of South Africa.

Dr Rapule Mphuti the Deputy Director for import and export in the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development said, in terms of Section 6 of Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (act no 35 of 1984), no animal or animal product (including samples) may be imported into or moved in transit through South Africa without the importer obtaining a veterinary import permit from the Directorate of Food Import and export Standards.

In order to get a veterinary import permit, the relevant application form for the importation of the specific animal or animal product must be completed. The forms can be obtained from the veterinary import office, he further said.

Dr Mphuti explained that the completed application form can be e-mailed or faxed or hand delivered to the permit office. In cases where an agent is used to apply for a permit, an authorization letter must also be attached to the application. This letter must state that the agent is authorized to act on behalf of the importer. Proof of payment must accompany the application form.

He further explained that, veterinary permits are usually used between five to ten working days once the permit has been approved by the state veterinarian, if all relevant documentation is provided and is in order. The department recommends that the permits be either collected in person or is collected by a courier service, as problems have been experienced with permits being lost in the past. Should a courier be used, it is the responsibility of the applicant or importer to arrange the service and at the applicant's expense.

A veterinary health certificate will also be provided with the veterinary import service. It needs to be completed before the departure, and within 10 days of departure in English, by a veterinarian authorized thereto by the veterinary authority of the exporting country.

Dr Mphuti elaborated that, the South African State Veterinarian or his or her representative or agricultural official at the port of entry must be presented with the following:

- Original Veterinary Import Permit;
- Original Veterinary Health Certificate; and
- Any other documentation specified like, Indemnity declaration, Rabies Vaccination Certificate, /Pet vaccination history, Waybill/ Airway Bill, Packing and Ingredient Lists, SARS EDI etc.

A tariff /payment is required for issuance of veterinary permit, a master of

import, certified copies for import permit and master of permits and finally issuance of extension/dispensation/amendment letters. The applicant is responsible for bank charges as well as Foreign Bank charges.

In cases where quarantine of animal is required, the importer must contact the State Veterinarian or his or her representative at the port of entry. The State veterinarian or his/ her representative will arrange the reservation for accommodation at the Quarantine station and must the complete the applicable part of the application form. An Indemnity Declaration, in respect of imported animals or birds undergoing quarantine, must also be completed and attached to the application form. Indemnity Declaration form can also be obtained from the Permit Office.

Dr Mphuti clarified that the directorate of Animal Health, Sub-Directorate Import/Export Policy unit in Pretoria will be able to assist any person in regard to technical information. The list of contact persons can be obtained from the website (<http://www.daff.gov.za>).

If any information is needed on the next requirements for a specific animal or animal product, specimen copies of the veterinary Import Permit and the Veterinary Health certificate can be obtained from the permit office.

To apply for import veterinary permit to import meat for own use from neighboring countries, "Application for hunting trophies & meat for own use" must be completed.

In cases of importing wet/dry hides, skins, the application must be authorized by the state Veterinarian of the area of the final destination before the permit can be issued. The authorization given will also confirm that the facility is approved to receive imported products.

Dr Mphuti advised in conclusion that importers of live animals e.g. cattle, goats, horses etc. excluding cats and dogs must obtain authorization from the registrar: Animal Improvement Before the veterinary import can be issued.

**Article by: Hectious Bodigelo**







# Agripreneurs

## Youth programme deepens its strength to transform Agripreneurs

Batswana Farms and Training is an Agribusiness based in Buhrmansdrif, Mahikeng in the North West. The project is a mix farming enterprise focuses on livestock husbandry (Dorper sheep, Boergoats and Simbra cattle), Horticulture and training. It is operating from a privately leased property measuring 712ha.

Ms Nthabiseng Kgobokoe, 27, young Agripreneur together with Tolamoetlile registered a company and offset operation in 2013. The experience forced them to be innovative and be solution driven business people because they did not have a financial safety net. In 2016 their efforts were recognised as they won the Best Subsistent producer in the province and at national level.

Ms Kgobokoe said “the award came with an Infrastructural grant from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The grant we finally received last year (2018-2019 financial year) was of great support indeed and has assisted our company to accelerate growth. We are on track to become a commercial enterprise that will help many young South African. Our calling is to become an Agro powerhouse across all value chains.

She further added that the project through the department has an incredible journey with a couple of accolades under its belt for years. “In 2016 we won Provincial Female Entrepreneur Awards (FEA) in the province and at national, in 2017 I won a trip to Kenya as part of National Awards package and in 2018 I jet off to Senegal and Dakar where I attended the Incubation course offered by African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN), Kgobokoe appreciated”.

The training facility as part of their core business seeks to run an incubation programme and a FET or University. It is at a finale stage of accreditation with AgriSeta, however, will not only offer formal education but also informal education that will share with other farmers and farming communities with the plenty of experiential learning. The practical training is offered to any interested person and can be done through WhatsApp, Cellphone and email. Applicant is required to provide information that will then inform the training to be offered. Through excursion we had hosted over 150 North West University Mahikeng Campus students, 40 High School and 30 Primary School learners.

The project prides itself in being excellent implementers and consistent producers of the value chain. In mix farming the husbandry is in two folds, it sell slaughter and production animals. It has 3 breeding cycles every 2 years in the small stock department which do lambing and kidding every 8 months. It also does Horticulture, especially Chards (fordhook faint and rhubarb) and brassica (cabbage and lettuce) sell the produce to both

hawker and retail market unprocessed. Its team is in partnership with organisations that have similar objectives and are aimed at improving the lives of young South Africans. Also strides in creating networks that are beneficial to developing a profitable entity. In the past it has employed hundred young people who came in for assistance in agriculture start-ups aiming to improve their livelihoods and currently have both permanent and casual workers.

It markets its products to retail and private sector, through different media platforms. It operates in the primary agriculture, which requires to produce quality yet subscribe to prices that ensure food security is achieved. The primary agriculture programme covers all sciences around plant, animal production and nutrition as well as the economical impact.

**Article by: Mandisa Dawn Mti**







## NICHE RABBIT FARMING A PASSION FOR ORATENG NTSIME

Born 1990, in a village called Moruleng in the platinum city Rustenburg, North West Province. Orateng Ntsime begun his life as a livestock farmer in 2016 when he could not find a job back home after he left Gauteng as a Real Estate agent.

Rabbit farming is a niche market in South Africa and it compares favourably with other animals as converters of vegetable feed to meat. To produce 1 kg live mass meat, the rabbit only requires 3,5 kg vegetable feed. Orateng says that he started with only 4 rabbits and currently has 34.

Because the market is so small, Orateng resorted to creating his own market. "It was very simple, it only took me to have rabbits and make them available for people, many people didn't know much but I had to do research and educate my clients. I used my social media platform especially Twitter to connect and I won. Today people put orders and they are now specific with the type and colour and size of the rabbits they want" said the 28 year old farmer.

Rabbit farming is the most cheapest to venture into. The area required for an economic unit is fairly small. A plot or even a comparatively large town property is suitable. Orateng says that rabbit pallets and vegetables are very cheap to have or purchase. "I make my profit by selling my rabbits at R120 each and I try to spend at least R44 to R48 on one rabbit, expenses such as: equipment, transport because most I deliver to clients, feed and electricity" he said.

Rabbit meat has been put in the same category as Chicken (Poultry) and has been dubbed as the most nutritional meat known to man. This emanates from the following facts about rabbit meat:

- Rabbit meat has the highest protein content of all meats, has the lowest fat content in the meat as compared to other meats.
- In addition, 63% of rabbit meat's fat is unsaturated fat, which is regarded as the good fat.
- Rabbit meat is also low in calories compared to all similar white meat i.e. content per gram.

Furthermore, the market also includes the sale of its fur which can be used for wool (making clothes). Another product from rabbits is their manure, which has the highest levels of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphoric Acid, and Potassium) of all farm animal manures and its urine as a pesticide control chemical.

In the next 5 years Orateng wants to produce strictly 100% organic rabbit meat, raise awareness about the importance of organic foods and create employment within his farm as he also has goats and chickens. He also aspires to further his studies and pursue a course in agriculture, specifically livestock production.

Farmers in all sub-sectors of agriculture face various challenges including funding and Orateng has not had it easy either. However, he is adamant and positive to grow his agribusiness and has opened his doors to mentoring those who wish to venture into rabbit farming as well as those who want to help him grow.

*Article by: Tshegofatso Leepile*







*MEC Desbo Mohono, DARD Officials handed over 10 Bonsmara bulls and 3 rams to farmers in a bid to improve their livestock*

## NEEDY NORTH WEST FARMERS RECEIVE BONSMARA BULLS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVESTOCK

Ten more needy North West farmers have recently received Bonsmara bulls as part of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's plan to empower farmers in order to improve their livestock.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono handed over the bulls in an occasion hosted by the Department at Armoedsvlakte Livestock Breeding Farm near Vryburg Town in last month (August). The ten farmers come from the four districts of the province and are already on livestock production.

The handover is also part of MEC's response to the needs of the farmers as highlighted during her Stakeholder engagements sessions earlier this year. MEC had since committed to ensuring that farmers' needs are prioritised.

In support of the MEC's vision, some commercial livestock farmers are also coming on board to collaborate with the Department on assisting farmers to improve their livestock and strengthening the province's position on meat production. In addition to the ten bulls handed over, one other farmer has donated 3 rams which were also handed over to other three young farmers making the number of animals donated to 13. Earlier this year MEC presided over a donation of bulls which were from the stud breeders in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District.

In handing over livestock, MEC Mohono encouraged the farmers to make sure that the donation works for them. "It cannot be right for us to buy meat out of the country when we have potential and I would like to urge farmers to ensure that they take good care of the animals. They have been donated with a hope to change lives and we would want to see livestock improvement in the province," Mohono told the farmers.

MEC urged the farmers who received rams to work hard and take position in changing lives. She emphasised that young people stand a better chance of succeeding by virtue of them being young but there are instances where they become reluctant and they end up with frustrations.

In encouraging other both Mr Duncan Serapelwane and Mr Katlego Gaoraelwe, commercial farmers who have committed to participate in livestock improvement, urged the farmers to keep in touch with them in order to share ideas and challenges they face. They indicated that the

quality of the breeds farmers received was high thereof demanded extra care. They pledged their continued support to farmers.

Ms Tsholofelo Ntsompe, a farmer based in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti and a beneficiary of the programme appreciated the efforts the department. She said she felt that the department had elevated the farmers and it was now due for the farmers to ensure that they show appreciation by changing how they do business.

In her budget speech last month, MEC Desbo Mohono indicated that the programme is aimed at assisting farmers in ways needed to make the agricultural sector a more economical one, thus leading to a general upliftment of the farmers and the broader communities.

Mohono further said that; through this programme farmers will be able to increase their profitability since access to the competitive beef industry markets will be improved.

**Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe**



*The programme is aimed at assisting farmers in ways needed to make the agricultural sector more economical.*





## DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT LIFTS MORE FARMERS



The continued commitment to farmers support and development by the North West Department of Agriculture and development is giving birth to many blossoming businesses across the province. In the Bojanala District alone, farming entrepreneurs are at length breaking the barriers and entering the once stiff markets. One of those farmers, Sonto Mujakachi has her eyes glued to bigger farming territories. The urge of going back to her 'first love' has driven once a celebrated corporate executive manager to leave her occupation and join the farming sector. Mujakachi has vowed to make a mark on food security after quitting her full time job which she had been doing for 25 years and joined the agriculture sector permanently.

In a 50 hectares farm, she has bought and has been operating in since 2016, Mujakachi specialises in the production of fresh produce which include spinach, peppers and beans and baby marrows. Of the 50 hectares of the farm which is based at Brits within the Madibeng Local Municipality, only 25 hectares are under irrigation.

She has appreciated the support of nearly R1million infrastructure development from the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. She indicated that the pivot system bought through the support has made the running of the farm a lot better and was looking forward to business growth. She is also receiving technical support through advisory services team of the Department.

"I started this company in 2016 as a sole owner. I was simply responding to government's call for woman industrialists to become involved in the agricultural sector. So our focus is to establish a formidable agricultural company that produces first grade peppers, spinach and cucumber for both domestic and international markets," she highlighted.

The farm is structured into four multispan tunnels with drip irrigation, a six hectare shade net structure, two hectares of open land with drip irrigation, 14 hectares open land with centre pivot. The 650m<sup>2</sup> packhouse consist of features such as cold room facilities, ablution and washing up facilities, sanitation machines, wrapping and packing facilities, pallet handling as well as loading ramps.

She was so determined to succeed that she did an intensive research before putting her dream into action. She has assembled a team of highly driven individuals to run the farm. "I would to see the farm succeed at all costs and I was prepared to take many risks to into by investing my entire retirement package into it and to look for people with notable credentials in the sector. My team is partner focused and places the utmost trusting relationships within the group, with our stakeholders and business partners," she alluded.

The 51-years-old mother of one, is currently employing 40 workers, 20 permanent as well as 20 seasonal. She is encouraged to contribute to provision employment opportunities. "The unemployment statistics do not paint a good picture for us as South Africa. I try to provide as many opportunities as I can especially for young people. I take full responsibility as an entrepreneur to ensure that Treasure Trove Farms make a difference by giving young people work opportunities, Mujakachi emphasised.

She also trains her staff on an ongoing basis and this she said assists to keep them up to date with new standard requirements and generally to have a skilled team. She further indicated that there was a lot of space for growth and development in the sector.

Her hard work and dedication has led her to secure supply contracts with giant stores like Woolworths, Pick 'n Pay, Food Lovers Market and Fresh Mark. She supplies these all at a national market and on a daily basis. She further supplies to the Pretoria and Johannesburg Fresh produce markets. Sonto said she was looking forward to many other supply opportunities and she was currently exploring the export market for cucumbers.

To any woman who would want to make it in the sector, Mujakachi said the sector is not easy, yet, it is very rewarding. "Besides the cost of production and changing weather patterns and other than relying on the breath of your employees skills, you need to have a good relationship with the community that you work in. It is amazing how our local farmers can have skills and expertise. I advise women farmers to take advantage of those and learn from others. The knowledge is amazing, do not only look into what you have, the world around you might be richer with expertise," she acknowledged.

She emphasised that she was welcoming any farmer who would want to go and work with her. She is prepared to share her skills with others. With the big markets she is already exposed to, she indicated that she would want to see other farmer tapping into the same markets. She is also prepared to assist through her pack house and teach others packing methodologies. But over-all, Mujakachi indicated she is prepared for collaborations with emerging farmers who are determined to grow their business.

**Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe**



# 2019 ANNUAL HORTICULTURE EXPO

## HIGHLIGHTS RISING TRADE IN VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND FLOWERS

Trading with vegetables, fruits and flowers is increasing in the Bojanala District, drawing hundreds of people yearly to annual Horticulture Expo and equally creating a platform for sharing ideas amongst the farmers themselves.

This year's annual fair saw farmers showcasing daily their produce ranging from vegetable products, to agro-processed products like beauty items, Moringa, ornamental plants and many others.

The expo is held every year in the Bojanala District Municipality by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The expo is a developmental initiative aimed at showcasing horticulture products through various exhibitions as produced by local farmers and consequently market such produce and services.

Furthermore farmers are afforded training and skill transfer opportunities. With the theme "Live Better with Horticulture", the entrepreneurs brought what could be termed the cream of their crop products, scoring some good sales and some good exposure for their brands.

Whilst they appreciated the opportunity, farmers were keen on their involvement in making sure that the market grows to greater heights.

Minah Kgwebane of the Masa a Khwebane Primary cooperative who exhibited their Agro processed beauty products valued the prospect of engaging with other farmers and hopes to participate further in the Expo.

From only being in business for a full one year, the young woman who is also a medical doctor by profession acknowledges that agriculture is a way of life. She currently uses aloe vera for her products and hopes to grow business to the export level. Her 5 hectare farm in the far flung village of Jericho is making strides and with the platforms like the Expo, Kgwebane is adamant that "Business is finding its true meaning," she said.

Job Betha, one of Honey Nectarous, has been on honey keeping business for over 10 years in Brits. He currently employs 8 people. He has received financial support from other government organisations. He is also looking forward to further participate in the Expo.

Speaking to the farmers at the opening of the 2nd event, the North West Agriculture and Rural Development Department's Director at Bojanala District, Ms Arlene Dikolomela said there was a need for business networking platforms and the Bojanala Horticulture Expo will at length serve as a platform for such engagements. "This field requires participants to share ideas on an ongoing basis, and we need this expo to assist farmers to continually meet and engage. We also have invited learners and we need farmers to motivate them," Dikolomela said.

She was confident of the horticulture performance in Bojanala and resolute towards the sector support and development. "There is potential and as we are working towards the 2030 goal of reducing hunger. We have seen many professionals leaving their sectors and joining agriculture and this indicates that were bound to get some game changing ideas from them," she concluded.

**Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe**

## HORTICULTURE



*Farmers reaped the benefits both monetary and generating awareness of their products*



*A good exposure for Bojanala Horticulture Farmers*





# Rabies

## Cases in the North West Province

Rabies is a fatal viral disease affecting warm blooded animals including domestic (dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats etc.) and wild (jackals and yellow mongoose etc.). Humans are also highly susceptible to the disease.

The disease is caused by the rabies virus, a member of the rhabdoviridae family which upon gaining entry into the host is transported via the neurons to the brain where it multiplies in the brain and the spinal cord. The infection of the brain leads to the behavioural changes. The virus is further transported to the salivary glands hence it's shedding in the saliva of infected animals.

Human rabies cases result from viral introduction through broken skin usually by being beaten by an infected dog/ cat/ jackal; or saliva splashing on people's eyes from rabid animals. Children under the age of 10 years are the most victims due to short height, their inquisitive nature, interest in animals and inability to protect themselves.

In the North West Province, first outbreak of the disease was confirmed in 94 years ago in the Wolmaranstad area following the death of 2 children being bitten by yellow mongoose which still even poses a threat in spreading rabies in the province today. Spread of rabies can be categorised into two cycles known as sylvatic and urban rabies. The urban rabies has been known as dog rabies due to involvement of these companion animals in the transmission and spread of the disease. Sylvatic form of rabies involves largely the wild animals with yellow mongoose and black-backed jackals the major culprits. The black-backed jackal is found in the 4 districts of the North West province and spreads the disease when it bites dogs, cats, cattle, sheep and goats.

Veterinary services in the North West Province has sampled 65 animals which presented with suspicion of rabies since the beginning of 2019 and 19 were confirmed positive. It was not only Dogs that were sampled and the 19 positives included dogs, cattle, sheep, goats and jackals. Rabies clinical signs have been traditionally classified into two forms however no clear separation of the forms have been documented. The two traditional classifications of rabies are the furious and the dumb forms. The underlying sign in rabies cases is change in behaviour. Animals affected by rabies disease shows behavioural changes like being too aggressive or dumb (an animals that was not aggressive becomes suddenly aggressive hence furious form and the one that was aggressive becomes suddenly withdrawn and easily approachable (dumb form), drooling saliva with abnormal vocalisation and in- coordination. Rabid wild animals like jackals and even kudus appear tame and lose their fear for human beings therefore a 'tame' wild animal must be treated cautiously.

In the event of a person being bitten by a suspect rabid dog, the person should immediately present themselves to a local medical clinic, as immediate post exposure treatment is essential in preventing death. The adage that prevention is better than cure is so applicable to rabies control.

Proper animal vaccination against rabies aids remarkably in preventing transmission of the disease to human beings. The Animal Disease Act (Act 35 of 1984) compels all pet owners to vaccinate their pets (dogs and cats) against rabies. Every Municipality in the province has a veterinary office with Veterinary officials based in all wards to facilitate animal vaccination. A collective and informed approach to rabies prevention will take our communities, North West province, the nation and whole world to the vision of eradicating rabies by 2030.

For the year 2019/2020, the Directorate intend engaging technically with the communities in line with observing World Rabies Day. The event this year will be held in the NMMD. The Activities that will be involved will be vaccinations, deworming, treatment of minor conditions/ailments, conducting spays and castrations on village dogs.

**Article by: Dr Lerato Kgatswetswe**



## RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN





# Prevention of Rabies in Humans

**Rabies is 100% fatal** but also **100% preventable** with prompt and complete post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). **All animal bites, scratches and licks must be assessed for potential rabies virus exposure.**

## Exposure Risk Assessment

All animal exposures must be assessed for potential rabies virus exposure and whether rabies PEP is required. The assessment is based on behavior and health status (including rabies vaccination history) of the animal, animal species and geographical location where the animal is from/exposure occurred. High risk rabies incidents may include:

- Unprovoked animal attack
- Animal with unusual behavior e.g. domestic animals becoming aggressive or wild animals appearing tame
- Animal sick e.g. drooling, wobbling/unsteady gait, snapping at imaginary objects
- Animal having died within 2 weeks after the human attack

**If the incident suggests potential rabies virus exposure, give rabies PEP, see below.**

## Notes

There are **NO blood tests** to confirm or exclude rabies virus transmission from animal to human at the time of exposure. Decision to provide PEP based on risk assessment. If vaccination history of animal is unreliable, provide PEP. Do not delay PEP pending laboratory confirmation of rabies in an animal. There might be unforeseen delays. PEP may be discontinued if animal deemed rabies negative. PEP must be given **as soon as possible** after the exposure for best protection. PEP must be given even if there was a delay in presenting to health facility. No alteration to recommended PEP schedule advised. **DAY 0 = DAY OF FIRST VACCINATION**. All animal bites are notifiable to local authority + the State Veterinarian.

## Management of Patient Exposed to Potentially Rabid Animal

General wound management is **critical** in all patients:

- Flush well with soap and water for at least 10 minutes, then clean with 70% alcohol solution. Apply iodine solution or ointment.
- Avoid or delay suturing (where possible) and use of local anesthetic agents (may potentially spread the virus locally). If suturing required, first infiltrate rabies immunoglobulin (RIG), allow to diffuse in an around the tissues of the wound site for as long as possible.
- Provide antibiotics e.g. amoxicillin clavulanate
- Provide tetanus vaccination/booster

Further management depends on category of exposure and previous vaccination history of patient:

- + Provide rabies vaccine, see schedule
- + Provision of RIG in category 3 exposures is critical, see details for administration

## + Rabies Vaccine

Indication: Category 2 and 3 exposures

Schedule: FOUR doses administered intramuscularly on days 0, 3, 7, 14 (Day 0-day of first vaccination)

Intramuscular injection in deltoid muscle in adults, anterolateral thigh in infants (<2 years)

**INTERFERENCE IF GIVEN IN GLUTEUS MAXIMUS (Buttocks)**

Dose: 1 amp per dose for adults and children



## Categories of Exposure

Category	Description	Action
1	Touching or feeding animal Licking intact skin	No action if history of exposure is reliable If history of exposure is not reliable treat as category 2
2	Nibbling of uncovered skin Superficial scratch without any bleeding	Full course of rabies vaccine* RIG NOT REQUIRED
3	Bites or scratches penetrating skin or drawing even a drop of blood Licking of mucous membranes e.g. eyes and mouth Licking of broken skin or abrasions Bat bites or scratches (these may be very small and not obvious)	Full course of rabies vaccine* AND RIG* RIG CRITICAL IN THESE EXPOSURES TO IMMEDIATELY NEUTRALIZE THE VIRUS AS VACCINE IMMUNITY MAY TAKE 7 DAYS OR MORE TO DEVELOP

## Special Groups

### Immunocompromised patients

In category 2 and 3 exposures:  
Give RIG and 5 doses of vaccine (day 0, 3, 7, 14 & 28)

### Pregnant women & children

No contraindication to vaccine or RIG

### Individuals at high risk (e.g. continual or frequent) for rabies virus exposure (e.g. veterinarians)

Provide pre-exposure vaccination comprising 3 doses of vaccine administered intramuscularly in deltoid muscle (day 0, 7, 21 or 28)

### Previously rabies vaccinated individuals

If a patient had three or more rabies vaccines in the past, then give two booster doses on days 0 and 3 post-exposure (but NO RIG). Adequate booster response have been shown in patients up to 20 years after initial vaccination

## Factors to Consider for Risk Assessment

### Animal Species

#### Commonest animal source for human rabies in SA



(the leading source, >80% of human rabies cases associated with dog exposures)

#### No risk

Birds | Reptiles

#### Unlikely risk

Mice and rats | Squirrel | Hyrax (commonly known as mole)

**Bats and monkeys** commonly bite with little provocation. To date, in South Africa there have been no human rabies cases associated with bat/monkey/monkeys.

**Bats** are a uncommon source of human rabies, associated with rabies-related viruses only. Bites or scratches may be very small and not obvious. See below, examples of category 3 exposures

### Animal Health

If the animal has died or is sick this increases the likelihood of rabies

#### Typical rabies symptoms include



If the patient presents more than 14 days after exposure, and the animal is still alive and healthy, then risk of rabies exposure is very low

### Animal Behaviour

Factors which indicate higher risk of exposure:

#### Unprovoked attack

The animal has bitten multiple people  
Domestic animal being unusually aggressive, wild animal appearing tame

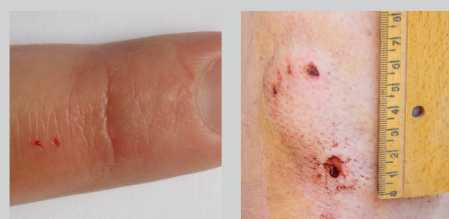
Note: Teasing an animal, trying to take an animal's food or guard dog attacking an unfamiliar person entering their territory are provoked attacks

### Geography

Consider the local occurrence of rabies and origin of animal if known

South Africa is endemic for rabies and several hotspots for transmission exist  
Contact State Veterinarian for geographical risk assessment if not known

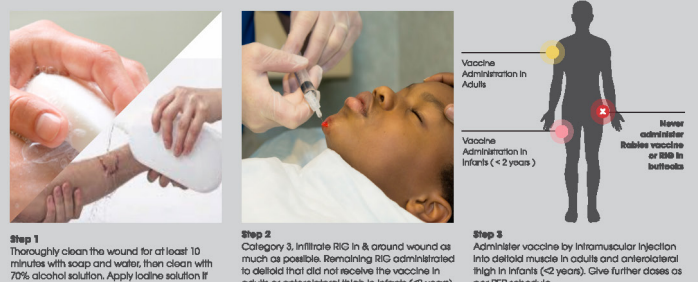
## Examples of Category 3 Exposure



Wounds do not have to be large or bleed profusely to be considered as category 3. A single drop of blood drawn from the wound indicates a category 3 exposure. For example, bat bites are usually only small, deep puncture wounds without overt bleeding (see far left)

Category 2 exposures imply a superficial scratches or nicks with no break in the skin or bleeding

## Wound Management and Administration Technique



Avoid or delay suturing (where possible) and use of local anesthetic agents (may potentially spread the virus locally)

## Other Considerations

### Supply of RIG and Rabies Vaccine

Procedures should be in place to ensure continuous access to supplies of vaccine and RIG (either local stocks or robust referral systems)  
Provincial Department of Health should be contacted if there are any difficulties in sourcing RIG

### Non-compliance:

It is critical to follow the protocol  
Ensure compliance with follow-up vaccines  
Non-compliance to rabies PEP protocol may lead to human rabies death

### A human rabies death constitutes a public health system failure

so it is important to confirm all suspected rabies cases and to investigate reasons for the failure





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