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KATISO KA TSA TEMOTHUO E SIMOLOTSE SEMMUSO KWA SETHEONG SA KGORA

Tsotlhe di malala-a-laotswe, se se setseng ke fela gore balemirui ba ba fatlhogang ba mo Bokone Bophirima ba tsee karolo le go tokafatsa kitso le tiro ya bona ya temothuo.

Seno ke jaaka Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya metse-magae mo porofenseng le setse le thangkgolotse le go bula semmuso setheo sa ikatiso sa Kgora, se se fitlhelwang gaufi le motse wa Ramatlabama ka fa ntlenyana ga Mahikeng. Tiragalo eno e ne e eteletswepele ke Tonakgolo ya Porofense Mme Thandi Modise gammogo le maloko mangwe a kabinete ya gagwe, go akaretsa yo a eteletseng-pele lefapha leno, e eleng Mme Desbo Mohono. Balemirui go tswa kwa dikgaolong tse di farologaneng tsa porofense ba ne ba thologetse moletlo ono ka makatla-a-namane, go tla go itseela ka tsoo-pedi le go nna dipaki tsa gore lefapha le na le maikaelelo a go fedisa tlala le lehuma.

Tiro e kgolo ee tlileng go rebolwa mo setheong seno ke go rupelela balemirui le botlhe ba ba eletsang go nna le seabe mo go tsa temo, ka tsotlhe tse di amanang le temothuo. Jaaka Mokhuduthamaga Mme Desbo Mohono a tlhalositse, seno se tlile go diragala ka mokgwa wa go rutiwa o tla o diragatsa se o se ithutileng. Mofuta ono wa katiso o tla kgontsha balemirui gore ba kgone go tsweletsa kitso e ba e ungwileng ka nepagalo, le morago ga katiso.

"Jaaka re tlaabo re simolola ka katiso eno, re ikaelela go netefatsa fa balemisi le batlhankedi ba tsa tlhokomelo le malwetse a diphologolo e nna karolo ya tseno tsotlhe, gore ba kgone go thusa le go ela tlhoko fa balemirui ba diragatsa se ba se rutilweng ka tsela ee siameng", ga rialo Mokhuduthamaga yo a kaileng fa lebaka la seno e le go thusa balemirui gore se ba tlaa se kotulang morago ga thobo, e bo e le sa maemo aa kwa godimo. Ntle le foo, balemirui ba tlile go rutiwa ka tsamaiso ee maleba ya matlole, tsela ee siameng ya go boloka tshedimosetso ka kgwebo kgotsa projeke, tlhokomelo le polokesego ya dijo, mefuta ee farologaneng ya menontsha, le tse dingwe tse di maleba mo lephateng la temothuo. Setheo seno se mo lefatsheng la bogolo ba diheketara di le kgolo-a-robedi le bobedi (802ha) le le dirisetswang temothuo fela. Go na le dikago tse mo go tsone go leng diphaposi–borutelo, marobalo, boapeelo le mo go tshwarelwang dikopano teng.

Go ya ka Mokhuduthamaga Mohono, ka motsi wa katiso, balemirui ba tla nna kwa setheong ntle le go duelela dipalangwa, marobalo le dijo, mme seno se tla thusa gore ba ba rutiwang ba kgone go tsepamisa megopolo ya bona mo dithutong.

Tonakgolo Mme Modise o ne a bua a sa kgale mathe ganong gore setheo se tshwana le Kgora se tshwanetswe go dirisiwa ka botlalo mo go lwantsheng botlhaka-kitso ka tsa temothuo, jaaka go bonagala mo bontsing jwa balemirui-potlana. "Kitso ke thebe go molemirui yo mongwe le yo mongwe, mme setheo seno ke sone se se tlileng go netefatsa fa temothuo e gola mo porofenseng ya rona gonne balemirui ba tlile go itshidisa ka go ntsha dikuno tse di nonneng tsa temothuo".

Pego ka Prince Seokotsa

Merogo ee setseng e jetswe kwa setheong sa Kgora

Thuto ka ga thuo ya dikoko le yona ga e a salela kwa morago

Bangwe ba balemirui-potlana ba ba setseng ba katisitswe

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1600 Tons of Fodder Distributed to Communal Livestock Farmers

More than 1140 communal farmers whose livestock was affected by severe drought which hit the Districts of Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati during the last few months of 2012, have received fodder as relief assistance from the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. As at January 2013, R1.6 million had been spent on the purchase of fodder, and R2.1 million has been committed.

The fodder relief assistance was distributed to severely affected areas over a period of three weeks. This vigorous plan by the Department was in response to the worsening effects of the drought throughout the two districts.

The two districts are still experiencing drought especially towards the west. The summer rains, particularly in December 2012, were below normal and did not completely improve the veldt conditions. Besides, the recent heat wave is adversely impacting on the improvement of vegetation. However the livestock condition of those animals that received fodder is gradually improving.

Communal farmers who benefited from this relief assistance could not hide their contentment as they left the distribution points with bakkies loaded with fodder bags. One of them, Mr Nkaelang Pontwane from Khunotsoana near Zeerust, Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, said farmers appreciated the effort made by the Department. "This proves that the Department has the best interest of farmers at heart, and we believe that with this kind of an approach, Agriculture and in particular food production will be sustained in the North West Province. We are really pleased", said Pontwane.

Sharing the same sentiment was Ms Khumoetsile Tigelo from Tseoge village in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, who said this assistance will not only keep their livestock healthy and strong again, but should be seen as a living testimony of how the Department is keeping up to its vision and mission. "Our District is known as a livestock area and the drought affected us the most", said Tigelo adding that this assistance will definitely keep them going.

The MEC responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development Ms Desbo Mohono said the objective of the fodder relief scheme, was to reach out to the "poorest of the poor" who were likely to lose livestock during that drought period.

The Department had before purchasing and distributing this fodder, embarked on an assessment process which was aimed at determining the extent to which communal livestock farmers had been affected.

The Department's Animal Health Technicians and Agricultural Extension Advisors were during the distribution period always available to support farmers by monitoring how livestock was being fed, and the monitoring and provision of advices will continue throughout the province for improved livestock condition.

Story by Bonolo Mohlakoana

Above and below: Smallholder farmers collecting fodder provided by the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

RUMINANT LIVESTOCK DROUGHT GUIDELINES

On numerous occasions it has been emphasised that droughts are possibly the biggest single contributory factor to the production losses experienced by South African stock farmers, especially where stock farming is practised in extensive, low rainfall areas. Although the effects of droughts are well known, many farmers are still caught unawares and this leads to serious problems and great financial loss.

In planning for a drought, two different types of droughts must be kept in mind:

A) The normal or predictable seasonal drought that lasts 5 to 6 week (normally during mid-summer months).

B) Disaster droughts of which the starting date, duration and intensity are unpredictable.

In this planning process the following aspects have to be considered:

AMOUNT OF FEED AVAILABLE

The amount of feed available will eventually determine the number and type of animals that can be fed. Consideration must, however, also be given to the unpredictability of the duration of the drought. In this regard the quality and quantity of available feed sources like drought-stricken cash crops, cultivated pastures, veld, hay, silage, etc. is of the utmost importance.

UTILISATION OF DROUGHT-STRICKEN CROPS

1. Grazing

If the crops wither before the ear- or plume stage is reached, the grazable matter is usually insufficient to justify mechanical removal. Maize crops can be grazed while still immature, but it must be kept in mind that withered plants may cause prussic acid poisoning (geilsiekte). A preventative measure is to add 1 kg Hypo/ 1000 l to the drinking water or include 3 - 5 % flour of sulphur to the lick. Due to its high prussic acid content, lucerne should rather be utilised as a grazing after it has died off completely.

2. Making of silage

This remains the best method to preserve the nutritional value of the plant material and at the same time curb dry matter losses. Plants are normally ensiled at a moisture content of 65 %. Drought-stricken maize or -grain sorghum still contain enough sugars (even if cobs or ears have not yet been formed) to facilitate normal fermentation without adding additional sugars (e.g. molasses). If the plants are too dry (but not less than 60 % moisture) it can still be ensiled successfully with the addition of 2 % molasses.

3. Stacked maize or -sorghum

At the normal stage of ensiling, the plants are cut and stacked. The nutritional value of this feed source is normally lower than that of silage and the method also proves to be labour intensive and costly. It is, however, useful where there are no facilities available for the making of silage and the product can also be sold. Also bear in mind that it is vulnerable to loss through fire.

4. Making of hay (bales or hay-stack)

The plants are normally cut and left in wind rows to dry to a moisture content of approximately 10 %. The material is then baled or loose hay is stacked. This proves to be an expensive method and the nutritional value also proves to be inferior, as well as incurring a relatively high loss in dry matter. This is only recommended where there is no other option available. Making hay of sources not usually considered is, however, recommended. There is often good grass next to roads, on the "wenakkers" of crop fields, etc. which can all be harvested to build a fodder bank for the winter.

5. Foggage

Plants are left on the lands to be grazed at a later stage. This feed source is of a lower quality than silage or hay but it does hold the advantage of no additional costs involved. However, considerable losses occur due to weathering, trampling and wastage.

TYPE/NUMBERS OF ANIMALS TO BE FED

Depending on the severity of the drought/feed shortage cattle can be disposed of in the following order:

Adult oxen and culled weaners; Breeding cows low in fertility (dry cows - including those that lost their calves before wean); Old breeding cows; Weaner oxen and Heifers.

In the case of small stock:

All adult wethers; All the culled ewes, wethers and unadapted animals; Old breeding ewes; Wether lambs and Ewe lambs.

Pregnant and lactating females, with their offspring, should receive the most attention. It also is advisable to apply an early weaning system as the direct feeding of the young animals proves to be more effective than being fed via its mother who can then be maintained at a lower feeding level. A rough guideline to apply during a disaster drought is to reduce the stock numbers to one third below the departmental carrying capacity norm for a specific area. If the stock numbers are reduced further than this, it will be a long and costly process to restore these numbers after the drought. It is important to make decisions in time while animals are still in good condition. Hoping that conditions will improve usually results in animals losing condition and becoming emaciated and prices will be negatively affected. Assess the season continuously and when the peak rain season has passed without sufficient rain plans must be made to detstock before the fodder shortage takes hold.

More information about the nutritional value of drought-stricken crops, rations for different groups of animals and other relevant information can be obtained from Departmental extension officers or representatives of the local co-ops.

Information supplied by the Animal Science Division

TEMO E TSWELETSE

Pego ka Prince Seokotsa

Bontsi jwa masimo aa dirisediwang temo mo dikgaolong tsa Mahikeng, Ditsobotla, Ratlou le Tswaing, a talafetse, morago ga dingwaga di feta lesome a ntse a setlhafetse. Seno ke morago ga gore lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya metsemagae ka tshwaragano le setlamo sa Grain South Africa ba saene tumalano ee ikaegileng mo go tsosoloseng seemo sa temo mo dikgaolong tseno.

Ba ba ungwileng go tswa mo tumalanong eno ba akaretsa dikoporasi di le nne go tswa kwa Louisdal, Kraaipan, Mareetsane,Lichtenburg, mokgatlho wa baagi ba ba buseditsweng mafatshe a bone kgotsa Community Property Association ya kwa Putfontein le Blaubank, morafe wa bogosi jwa Batloung ba ga Shole kwa Ramatlabama, gammogo le balemi ba ba ikemetseng ba le 102 go tswa kwa metseng ee akaretsang Bapong, Kaalpan, Vryhof, Makouspan, Naauwpoort, Nooitgedacht, Brooksby, Lombaardslaagte, Diretsane, Vrede, Louisdal, Diretsane, Mooipan, Sione, Klippan, Vrisgewacht, Kopela, Barberspan, Mareetsane, Kraaipan, Mofufutso, Khunwana, Monamolela, Ga-Motlatla, Ganaalagte ga mmogo le ba bangwe ba ba mo dipolasing tsa poraefete.

Maikaelelo a lefapha ka kgato eno ke go netefatsa fa lefatshe la bogolo ba diheketara di le 13 000 mo dikgaolong tse di umakilweng, le tswelela go tlhagisa dijo le go nna le seabe mo go fokotseng tlala le lehuma mo dikgaolong tseno tsa metse-selegae.

Fa le ne le tlhopha ba ba tshwanelwang ke go ungwa go tswa mo tumalanong eno, lefapha le ba Grain SA ba ne ba lebelela thata balemi ba ba ntseng ba lema ebile ba setse ba katisitswe ka tsa tlhagiso ya dithoro mo nakong ee fetileng.

Lefapha le tsweleditse porojeke eno ka go dirisa matlole a manaane a puso a Ilima/Letsema le Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), a maikaelelo a ona e leng go matlafatsa balemirui-potlana le go ba kgontsha go nna le seabe mo tlhagisong ya dijo. Balemi bano ba setse ba filwe didiriswa tsa temo tse di akaretsang diterekere, megoma, dipolantere, dijalo, menontsha, botlhole jwa mefero, tanka tse dikgolo tsa metsi ga mmogo le leokwane la diterekere le go ka pompa kwa masimong.

Mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha Mme Desbo Mohono a re le fa gone didiriswa tseno tsa temo di setse di le mo matsogong a balemi, seno ga se reye gore ke tsa bone gonne go ya ka molawana wa lefapha, didiriswa tseno di tla tswelela go nna mo leineng la lefapha, mme di tla neelwa balemi fela fa tiragatso ya bona mo temong e tlaabo e kgotsofaditse lefapha mo sebakeng sa dingwaga di le tharo tse di tlang.

Go netefatsa fa tiro e tswelela ka tsela ee siameng, balemi ba kgobokantswe go ya ka dikgaolo tsa bone, mme ba thapetswe batlhatlheledi (mentors) ba ba nang le maitemogelo le bokgoni mo go tsa temo. Tiro ya batlhatlheledi bano ke go tsibogela mathata otlhe ka bonako le go thusa balemi ka tsa temo ka kakaretso. Mongwe wa batlhatlheledi yo o dirang kwa kgaolong ya Nooidgedacht, Rre Johan Van Der Merwe a re o motlotlo go bo a dira le balemi ba ba nang le maikaelelo ka isago ya bona mo temong.

Mongwe wa balemi ba ba ungwileng go tswa mo porojekeng eno, Rre Abednigo Zilimbola yo o nang le dingwaga di le some a mabedi a lema kwa kgaolong ya Mooifontein, o buile a tletse boitumelo gore lefapha le bo le ba thusitse. A re "Re ne re sa tlhole re na le tsholofelo, mme re motlotlo gompieno gore puso ya rona e bo e tsobogetse kgwetlho e bontsi jwa rona mo magaeng re neng re setse re palelwa ke go samagana le yona".

Ka ntlha ya fa dingwe tsa dikgaolo di santse di aparetswe ke komelelo ee tlholwang ke seelo se se kwa tlase sa pula, ga se diheketara tsotlhe tse di supilweng tse di setseng di jetswe, mme lefapha le solofela gore le tla kgona go fitlhelela bontsi jwa masimo gore e re paka ya thobo e tla, banna ba bo ba ja mefufutso ya phatlha tsa bona.

Maikaelelo a lefapha ke gore mo isagong, tiro ee dirwang mo masimong ano e nne le seabe mo go tsosoloseng dipolokelo tsa dithoro kana Silos, tse di fitlhelwang kwa dikgaolong tsa Vryhof, Kraaipan le Springbokpan.

Dingwe tsa didiriswa tse lefapha le di reketseng balemi go tsweletsa temo

Yo mongwe wa balemi ba ba ungwileng go tswa mo lenaaneng leno a supa katlego ya bona

North West Aquaculture and Fisheries Programme Launched

Prince Seokotsa writes

Fishers and communities residing in areas close to the six dams identified for aquaculture and fisheries must take complete ownership of the programme, and use it as a means for income generation and food security. This was said by MEC for the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono, while launching the North West Aquaculture and Fisheries Programme in November 2012, at Disaneng dam.

Mohono who assured communities of government's support in establishing markets for fish, said Departments like Education and Training, Health and Social Development, Children, Women and People with disabilities, will be considered as key stakeholders in the selling of fish.

Highlighting the need for young people and women to actively participate in this programme which is regarded as one of the fastest growing sector in the entire world, Mohono said these categories remain to be essential machineries in alleviating poverty, and that the Department will work hard to attract their interest.

Mr Qurban Rouhani, the Director for Rural Fisheries at Rhodes University, said as strong partners in this programme, the University will continue to offer technical support by training fishers and providing them with fishing equipment. "Our intention is also to help fishers know how to keep records and manage their finances, with the view to assist them see the business side of fishing", Rouhani said.

Appreciating the step taken by the Department and its partners, Mr Rebaone Mabote, 35, who is a member of Disaneng Fisheries, said fishers are hopeful for the future. "We are geared up and raring to grow. The anticipated support from our communities and government will certainly help us sustain fish farming, thereby attaining the objective of this programme".

The study conducted by Rhodes University recommended the use of six dams namely, Disaneng, Ngotwane, Madikwe, Lotlamoreng, Molatedi and Taung for aquaculture and subsistence fishing, after discovering that these dams have large population of different fish species.

As key partners, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism will ensure that the industry is well regulated, by issuing permits to fish, while the Department's Veterinarians will continue to provide guidance on issues relating to hygiene.

"The survival and success of this project is dependent on the good management of resources, partnerships, strengthened governance, effective fisheries management and proper institutional arrangement", remarked MEC Desbo Mohono.

Pic 1: One of the project beneficiaries showing off the fish found in the dams
Pic 2: MEC Mohono presenting a cheque of fish bought to the beneficiaries
Pic 3: Some of the communities who attended the project launch event
Main Pic: MEC Mohono and Kgosi Masibi officially launching the project by cutting one of the fish caught

AQUACULTURE & FISHERY

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North West Fisheries
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AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES SET TO BOOM IN THE NORTH WEST DAMS

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development recognises the potential in aquaculture and fisheries as vehicles for rural development, poverty reduction, food security, livelihood provision and regional economic development. Inland fishery is harvesting of freshwater fish from lakes, streams, dams etc. Aquaculture is the farming (breeding, rearing, and harvesting) of aquatic organisms such as fish and crocodiles.

The Department together with Rhodes University undertook a study that confirmed the potential of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the 10 large dams of the North West Province. Six of the dams were found to have potential in fisheries. The Department launched Aquaculture and Fisheries at Disaneng Dam, where more than five hundred people were fed fish from this dam. The plan is to intensify aquaculture and fisheries in the six large dams.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF FISH ARE FOUND IN THESE DAMS.

1. Molatedi - Tilapia, Carp, Catfish, Yellow fish, Large mouth Kurper
2. Disaneng, Tilapia, Barbel, Catfish
3. Ngotwane - Carp, Catfish, Tilapia, Kurper
4. Madikwe - Catfish, Barbell, Tilapia, Carp
5. Lotlamoreng - Catfish, Barbell, Tilapia, Turper
6. Taung - Barbel, Tilapia, Carp, Catfish

THE ABOVE DAMS ARE EARMARKED FOR:

1. SUBSISTENCE FISHERY.
The Department has trained and will continue to train fishers on small scale fishing. There will also be an intervention by government to manage the fishery and ensure sustainability of the resources.

2. RECREATIONAL FISHERY.
The recreational fishers utilize the resource primarily for leisure purposes but may sell some of their catch. The Department will fence the dams for gate takings to ensure proper environmental upkeep and security in these dams.

3. COMMERCIAL FISHERY
This type of fishing is mostly operated by private individuals who are granted access by government to harvest a pre-determined yield from the dam. The enterprise should be profit oriented and be able to create jobs, either through harvesting or processing. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will engage with other private and public institutions to arrange the market for the fishers in its dams.

Other Private and Public Stakeholders on Board

- Department of Health for hospitals.
- Department of Education for School feeding schemes.
- Department of Social Development for old age homes and orphanages.
- Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Environment for permitting, recreation and tourism
- South African Police Services and Correctional Services for holding cells and Prisons.
- University of the North West and Rhodes University
- Private business

All questions pertaining to the process of starting aquaculture, Authorisation of inland fishing including permitting in the Province can be directed to:

Mr Patrick Leteane or Mr Thebe Mothusi
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 018 3895432/0183895690, e-mail - PLeteane@nwpg.gov.za and thebem@nwpg.gov.za

Working together, we can do more.

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RURAL FISHERIES PROGRAMME
Department of Ichthyology & Fisheries Science
Rhodes University

the DEDECT
Department: Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
North West Province
Republic of South Africa

RHODES UNIVERSITY

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Department: Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
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Farmers' Markets Launched

Story by Hectious Bodigelo

The launch of Mahikeng and Taung Farmers' Markets has been widely hailed and branded as a creative, interesting and worthwhile approach that is designed to bridge the trade gap between the smallholder farmers and the local communities. These informal markets were launched by the MEC responsible for North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms Desbo Mohono.

The benefits of the farmer's market include;

- supporting farmers and other rural businesses with the opportunity for value added and on-farm processing often leading to increased rural employment,
- reducing and or eliminating middlemen, whereby produce will be sold directyl from the supplier to the consumers,
- availing fresh agricultural quality products to consumers at reasonable prices and thereby strengthening local economy, and
- allowing social interaction, production and market information sharing and networking amongst buyers and sellers.

"This initiative far exceeded my expectations, and it is a great opportunity which smallholder farmers like myself should take advantage of, since access to markets is a massive challenge for us," uttered Mr Moss Moruakgomo, who is owning Dimela farms in Ramatlabama. Moruakgomo said the support from the public is also amazing, saying farmers hope to enjoy this kind of support in future market activities, "as this will help to sustain this good initiative", added Moruakgomo.

One of the local residents who prefer buying vegetables sold at the Taung farmers' market Ms Lesego Oepeng said, "Everything that is being sold here is charged at a reasonable price, the goods are also fresh and they represent the good work that farmers out there do on daily basis".

Ms Desbo Mohono, the MEC for Department of Agriculture and Rural Development says this initiative should not be seen as just another government programme, saying "this is an investment in the economy of Mahikeng, Taung and the broader Province; an investment that will represent North West as a true agricultural Province because more food will be produced and more job opportunities will be created", emphasised the MEC.
As this is a pilot project, government is playing a leading role to ensure sustainability of this business venture. The business will ultimately be handed over to the members who will in turn appoint a manager to run the business operation. This strategy and or business model will assist in releasing time for farmers to focus on production. The concept will in the medium term culminate to the development of fruits and vegetable processing hub.

The farmers' markets which operate from 06h00 till 10h00 on Saturdays, on a fortnightly basis, was initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with the North West University, Mahikeng Local Municipality, Greater Taung Local Municipality, Organized Agriculture and other stakeholders.

As MEC Mohono explains, farmers will through this initiative, be encouraged to improve on production because they will take their produce to these informal markets after harvesting. This project will be rolled out to other Districts in future, for other smallholders farmers across the Province to benefit from the objectives of this initiative.

Farmers were before the rolling out of the market, taken on a tour to the well established Silverton farmers' market in Pretoria, for them to learn and observe best practices. Farmers in Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Districts who are interested in participating in future farmers' markets are encouraged to contact the Department on the following numbers: Ms Lizzy Kotlhai on 018 389 5335 or Mr Mothusiotsile Setlhabi on 073 199 6899.

Feeding the communities:
Some of the smallholder farmers who are selling fresh vegetables at the markets.

AGRIBEE WORKSHOPS

The Directorate responsible for the promotion of the Agriculture Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has in working together with the directorate responsible for Agribusiness Development within the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), met with the Agricultural stakeholders particularly black farmers from all the four districts of the province, during which the draft AgriBEE Sector Code was discussed.

The Director for Agribusiness Development within DARD Mr. Thebe Mothusi, spoke to Tshepo Mokono about this sector code and what transpired during the workshops held in the North West Province.

Question: What was the reason behind the hosting of these workshops?

Answer: The main purpose of these workshops was to popularize the recently approved and published Draft AgriBEE Sector Code for Section 9.5 in terms of the BBBEE Act No. 53 of 2003. The workshops in the Provinces took place under the context of soliciting inputs and comments from the public and agricultural sector stakeholders on the Draft Sector Code. This exercise was primarily to make stakeholders part of the final draft formulation with the view to ensure that the sector code is representative of the needs of farmers in the country.

Q. Tell us more about this AgriBEE Sector Code?

A. This document was developed to ensure that there is an increasing access and equitable participation in the agricultural sector. Moreover, it is a document that provides information on empowerment within the sector and it further includes enterprises that derive the majority of its turnover from:

- the primary production of agricultural products;
- the provision of inputs and services to enterprises engaged in the production of agricultural products;
- the beneficiation of agricultural products whether in a primary or semi-beneficiated form;
- the storage, distribution, and/or trading, and allied activities related to non-beneficiated agricultural products.

Q. What was DAFF's role in these workshops?

A. DAFF's role, as a Department responsible for Agriculture BBBEE, was to organize these workshops in our four Districts, together with the Ministerial appointed AgriBEE Charter Council. DAFF prepared the schedule of workshops dates and liaised with us regarding our availability and support for the workshops. DAFF did presentations on the Draft AgriBEE Sector Code Gazette contents and provided facilitators for all the workshops.

Q. And what role did DARD play?

A. DARD's role was to mobilize the stakeholders and handle invitations for the workshops throughout the Province. We managed to mobilize key stakeholders including cooperatives, designated groups, small-holder farmers, commercial farmers, entrepreneurs, agricultural advisors and senior managers within the Department.

Q. What were the key subjects highlighted during the workshops?

A. The discussions revolved around the 7 Elements of Empowerment as they relate to the AgriBEE Transformation Charter, and these are:

- Management Control;
- Ownership and Land Ownership;
- Employment Equity;
- Skills Development
- Preferential Procurement;
- Enterprise Development; and
- Socio Economic Development.

Q. What impression did the participants have on the hosting of such workshops?

A. The stakeholders appreciated the fact that government saw it necessary to consult them in its policy making processes. With the interest that farmers had on the discussions, some felt that the time allocated for these workshops was too limited to can extensively talk about and make meaningful contributions to this important process. Of course, ours is to learn from these comments and try to improve in future.

Q. Any issues or challenges raised by farmers during the workshops?

A. Yes, as we all know, this sector is challenging and dynamic in nature, therefore farmers used that platform to also highlight issues that remain a challenge to the sector and these included agricultural support that is not adequate; funding for AgriBEE deals which are not available; inadequate skills development programmes, training and mentorship which is needed as well as the successes of BBBEE which are not shared or showcased.

Q. Charting the way forward?

A. DAFF indicated that it would make available the AgriBEE IT Portal to all Provincial Departments of Agriculture for them to use it as a tool to capture AgriBEE performance as per the 7 Empowerment Elements and Scorecards, and this will also include the agricultural entities in the Provinces.

A participatory workshop: Farmers who attended the workshop were given the opportunity to make meaningful contribution

Women MAKING INROADS IN THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

Tshepo Mokono writes

"The Department equipped members with necessary training in broiler production"

There is no doubt that Lebaleng township which is 15km outside Wolmaranstad in Maquassie Hills Local Municipality, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, has the potential that the province need in its pursuit to alleviate poverty and unemployment through agriculture.

Ipelegeng Broiler Project in among the agricultural projects in this District that have held their heads high up as small scale farmers, specialising in breeding chickens.

At the heart of this poultry enterprise is nine dedicated women who have refused to be part of the socio-economic problems existing in their surroundings, but rather chose to be part of the solution.

"Most women in our township were not working and poverty levels were escalating. We then decided that we no longer want to be counted amongst the unemployed and the impoverished. Having grouped ourselves as women, we then started this project in 2008. This we did because we believe that women are a key to sustaining food security, and that the contributions women are continuing to make in farming cannot be underestimated", said Ms Lora Ntshidi who spoke on behalf of the project members.

With that winning approach, the members registered a cooperative with agriculture as its core business.

After their successful registration, they decided to first equip themselves with knowledge, since they had resolved to venture into broiler production.

As the saying goes, "teach a woman to farm, and a community will flourish".

"We later approached the Maquassie Hills Local Development Centre of the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for infrastructure and production inputs funding, and our submission did not fall on deaf ears", Ntshidi relates.

As the chief custodian of food security, the Department threw its weight behind the Ipelegeng Broiler Project and funded the cooperative with a 2500 chickens structure, borehole, electricity, security fence, 2000 chickens and feed, construction of a store room, high pressure cleaner, chicken crates and protective clothing for members.

In addition to that, the Department equipped the members with necessary training in broiler production, bookkeeping and human resource skills such as how to deal with conflict and many other related human resource and project management aspects.

The Department has thus far funded the beneficiaries' two cycles of 6000 birds.

"Our clientele base comprises mainly the local communities and chickens sellers. We also sell big numbers at the pensions pay points," explained Ms Arlena Serame who is one of the project members.

According to Serame, accessing markets has been one of their challenges. She said the anticipated project growth can be achieved if they were to have regular clients, and that this will encourage them to employ even more communities.

After carefully studying the prospects and challenges of this project, Mr Dick Seolwane who is managing the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Maquassie Hills LDC, said seeing that the project's growth potential is inevitable, the Department has identified the need to provide this group with vegetable seedlings to add value to the project mission on fighting hunger and unemployment.

"This we saw as another way of showing support to these women and to inspire them to do more and make a mark in this poultry industry", Seolwane said.

Since its birth in 2008, the project has been growing in leaps and bounds. The project has over and above its nine members, temporarily employed three people, of which two are responsible for vegetable production and one is a security officer who is making sure that the place is safe and sound, especially at night.

To overcome the market challenges, the Department is continuously assisting the project in a bid to secure a commercial market for their products.

Practicing the Science of **Egg Production** - *Thuthusa Hatchery Project*

Tshepo Mokono writes

After years of longing for a local hatchery project within the Moretele Local Municipality in Bojanala Platinum District, which the small-holder broiler farmers could call their own, the establishment of Thuthusa Hatchery Project in Makapanstad village has been a definite response.

This initiative is in the hands of five capable women who identified the need that can well contribute towards alleviating hunger and poverty in the rural villages of Moretele Local Municipality.

"We are the chief supplier of six broiler farmers that are doing well around Moretele and Hammanskraal, and we have secured deals with three big farms in Brits," Mmidi Thakadu who is the project's spokesperson said about their business contracts.

According to Thakadu, they supply big sites with approximately 2000 day old chicks per cycle after the chicks had gone through an optimised incubation based on specific protocols for quality control and best performance.

During the 2011/12 financial year the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development supported the project by putting aside R650 000 for its development, and the money was used for the construction of a fully equipped 1 000 broiler chickens house. The house has incubator machineries and egg storage. Training in broiler production was also offered to all project members.

"We received Hatchery Management training from Kwa-Zulu Natal Poultry Institute and that has enabled us to better understand the environment within which we are operating", Thakadu explained.

The group members also continue to utilise both the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) expertise on poultry as well as the Agricultural Extension Advisors who specialises in livestock production within the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, through its Moretele Local Development Centre. Thakadu said regular interaction with these experts has helped them a lot towards the improvement of their project.

Thanking the Department for the contribution it made in helping them realise their dreams, Thakadu said "The Department's positive response to our proposal was well timed and that showed that government is ready to assist determined farmers and particularly female farmers".

Echoing the same sentiment, Ms Leeko Nkala who is also a project member, said with government's continued support, Thuthusa Hatchery will reach its full potential. "The growth of this project should however not be solely dependent on government support, as members' commitment towards the project coupled with good management must guarantee Thuthusa Hatchery's sustainability", maintained Ms Nkala.

The group has already employed one community member, Tebogo Moatshe, on a permanent basis, and his responsibilities are to assist with the collection of eggs, eggs handling at the farm as well as transportation of chicks to the clients.

"Our grand plan is to create as many job opportunities as possible for the community of Makapanstad and neighboring villages, and given the rate at which we are moving, we are positive that this plan will be realised shortly", Nkala continued.

Sharing some of their plans with us, another project member Mafani Gunguluza, said they would like to be seen as one of the province's most promising female farmers, with the ultimate goal of attaining the commercial poultry farmers status. "We are still relying on the likes of National Chicks as our eggs suppliers but once we begin to hatch our own eggs, we are certain that we will be the force to be reckoned with in the poultry sector".

The Department has noted with pride the efforts that members have put in growing this project and making it what it is today.
"They master all incubation steps and they love what they are doing. The project has potential to sustain itself because it meets the poultry market requirements", said the Agricultural Extension Advisor who is providing the project with the advisory services.

Community members believe that the road for Thuthusa Hatchery Project to compete with big poultry companies in the Province has been paved, and it is good that it has been paved with good intentions like job creations, skills transfer and women empowerment.

Mmidi Thakadu, Leeko Nkala and Mafani Gunguluza - women behind the success of Thuthusa Hatchery

a *DREAM COME TRUE* for BATLHAKO TEMO PRIMARY COOPERATIVE

Story by Sylvia Pheto

It is only a few months since a group of 10 who have formed Batlhako Temo Services Primary Cooperative near Brits in Bojanala Platinum District became beneficiaries of one of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's farmers' development programmes, and beneficiaries have wasted no time but hit the ground running. The farm was handed over to them on a five year lease in February 2012, after the Department saw potential in them. This is despite the fact that most of the employees are inexperienced in orange farming, as they have been producing sunflower for many years. The beneficiaries' excitement and enthusiasm around the acquisition of this farm make them believe that they are ready to conquer whatever challenge will come their way.

Hard work and willingness to go an extra mile is not compromised in this farm. Beneficiaries know that what they have been given by government is a lifetime opportunity, and that they have to make use of it.

The farm has fifteen thousand orange trees. Currently there are nine permanent workers and twenty five seasonal workers. All these workers know that in order for them to succeed, all must to do their bit to make sure that farm production is sustainable and intact. The team is aiming big, and this is demonstrated by their business acumen and skills, which led to them striking a deal with a renowned supplier of juice in the market. The cooperative has sealed a deal with Magalies Juice to provide it with 48 tons of fresh oranges every week. Almost a year in the business of orange farming, optimism and determination is still written all over their faces. For them, the sky is the limit.

During our visit, everybody was moving up and down as it was the harvesting season. Bags full of oranges were seen in rows, in-between the trees, and workers were all busy in their respective harvesting positions. Some were busy loading the oranges, which were to fill in a truck and transported to Pretoria where they sell to hawkers and retailers, in order for the cooperative to sustain the its day to day running of the farm.

According to the project supervisors, Messrs William Moiloa and Salthiel Ramatlakane, their only hindrance was transportation, which they have to hire thus affecting their coffers.

"We hire a truck that transports our oranges and more often than not, we do not meet our target of distribution because transport is expensive and sometimes unreliable" illustrated Mr Moiloa who said this arrangement affects them because at times they harvest oranges and have to wait for the truck to arrive, which sometimes do not arrive at all. In that way, it is another sad day in the office, with nothing to show of it.

To ensure proper application of farming methods, the farm beneficiaries have approached the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Local Development Centre in Brits for provision of agricultural advisory services, and Ms Ephenia Mmotong who is an Agricultural Extension Advisor was assigned the responsibility to take this group through. As fate would have it, the group immediately established a good working relationship with her, resulting in the development of an intervention strategy that will see the cooperative fully operating on an informed scale, just like professionals.

"The beneficiaries need a mentor who can share with them information on the type of farming they are in and how to run the farm. Of course the Department has the responsibility to ensure that they are given relevant training on how to run the business, and this will include amongst others record keeping, financial management and marketing management.

Mmotong says training will also include the planting, pruning, watering, harvesting and finally selling produce to relevant customers; the process which she says involves extensive marketing and proper management of funds.

Sharing their future plans with us, Mr Moiloa said their intention was to expand the operation into a one stop shop, where companies and hawkers will drop by to buy packaged oranges and they will supply retailers with their branded fresh juice. He mentioned that they have to double their efforts in acquiring the necessary resources to take their farm to the extremes. He admitted that training on farm management is a serious need for them as it will enable them to manage the resources they already have properly.

Having struck a deal with a reliable supplier, nothing seems to be on the cooperative's way to achieving more.

GOOD PIGGERY MANAGEMENT is essential - farmers told

Story by Sylvia Pheto

Mr Kagiso Molope of DARD
making a presentation about the importance of animal identification

The culture of teaching and learning does not end inside a classroom, but it extends to the farming areas as well. This was proved recently when the Madibeng East Piggery Study Group in the Bojanala Platinum District hosted a Farmers' day in Oskraal Farm, Plot 151. The intention was to bring together piggery farmers and aspirant farmers, to acquaint themselves with the processes of developing and successfully managing a piggery project.

Farmers' days are aimed at sharing information on the subject of the day, to exchange ideas and share experiences with the view to ultimately come up with better ways to developing and growing the industry.

"We have looked at the growing number of piggery farmers in our area, and we deemed it necessary to organise them in a study group where they will be able to network and assist each other. It is motivating to meet people who have started from nothing and are today suppliers of big companies with pork products, and other farmers can learn best practices from them", said Mr Kagiso Molope who is the project coordinator within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The discussions were centred on Piggery Management, Animal Identification and Pork Market in South Africa. Farmers listened attentively when Ms Johanna Motswatswe from Madibeng Local Municipality's LED on Agriculture explained to them the importance of consulting relevant authorities before starting or developing their projects or businesses.

The authorities she was referring to included amongst others the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as well as the relevant local municipality. "Most farmers often overlook the environmental impact assessment before they start their businesses. It is critical to consult the local municipality to get advice on the town planning, to avoid the risk of being forced to close down because the project structure did not comply with the building regulations, or is placed in a wrong area", shared Motswatswe.

She also advised farmers to always verify with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development about the prevailing diseases in their area, to avoid spending too much money on medication instead of on production.

Mrs Motswatswe emphasised the importance of ensuring proximity to the market and input suppliers, so that the farmer does not have to spend much on transporting pigs for market.

"Pig farmers need to invest on sound structures. A well drained and ventilated infrastructure will give a good return on investment, as happy and comfortable pigs make good production", she said.

Farmers were informed that the production duration for pigs is 4 -5 years. Beyond these years, the pigs should be sold or eaten as they will start to be too expensive to maintain and with low production.

Pig farmers also discussed their different experiences in so far as cutting of tusks and tails on piglets is concerned. They came up with different methods and demonstrated them to other aspirant farmers.

Ms Keduetse Lekomanyane, an Animal Production Scientist within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said farmers should take good care of their pigs until the last moment of ownership. "When farmers transport their pigs, they should ensure that they get proper transport to ferry the animals and that transportation permits are obtained from the Traffic Department or Police station. You should also ensure that your animals are tested by Veterinarians for diseases. Overcrowding and injuries during transportation can reduce the quality and mass of the pigs, which may affect the quality of pork and drop their value in the market", farmers were warned.

She advised the pig farmers to avoid getting into illegal and undocumented contracts with marketers, urging them to seek their respective Lawyers' advice or engage the Departmental Animal Health specialists before they get into marketing contracts.

"Farmers are in most cases desperate to sell their animals and they settle for nothing. They spend their money to feed and grow their animals, but at the end they do not get the return on investment. So it is very important for farmers to target their market and know when they produce healthy pigs that will attract a good price in the market," emphasised Ms Lekomanyane.

Presenting the Animal Identification Form for brand marking, Mr Molope told the farmers that it is important to have all animals clearly marked for identification. "Animals should be marked permanently using an ear number system or temporarily by affixing ear tags. If you own cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, it is compulsory that you mark your livestock. You must apply for a registered identification mark at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. An animal Identification Mark shows to whom the animal belongs. If the animal is lost or stolen and is found, it will be possible to trace the owner", he explained.

An Identification Mark consists of not more than three letters of the alphabet or symbols. Permanent Identification Marks can be put on animals by means of hot iron branding, freeze branding or tattooing. When buying animals or getting them as gifts, an Identification Mark must be put on them within two weeks. Animals that farmers sell should also have their Identification Mark.

Piggery farmers who attended the
Farmers' Day at the Oskraal farm in Madibeng East

the dard
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

GET YOUR ANIMALS MARKED

APPLICATION TO REGISTER AN ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION MARK

Description

All livestock owners must have a registered identification mark for their animals. The permanent marking of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs is compulsory in South Africa.

Steps to follow

1) Fill in an application form, the form can be downloaded or obtained from AHT, extension officers, magistrate offices, stock-theft units of the South African Police Services or from the Registrar: Animal Identification in Pretoria.
2) Buy Revenue Stamps to the value of **R110** at the Post Office to pay for the registration and paste it at the bottom of the form where indicated.
3) Cross the stamp by signing or writing your surname, initials and date over it.
4) You should pay for the registration of a brand only once.

Send the application by registered mail to:
The Registrar: Animal Identification,
Private Bag X 138,
Pretoria
0001,

or take the form to the nearest State Veterinarians office who will post it to the Registrar.

For further information contact officers from Registrar office
Tel: (012) 319 7666, (012) 319 7449/ 31/32/33/52/87

Working together, we can do more

a NEW DIPLOMA PROGRAMME for TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Bonolo Mohlakoana writes

MEC Desbo Mohono (in red academic regalia) with seven of the Taung Agricultural College 2012 graduates

The Taung Agricultural College has introduced a new curriculum with specialisation in Irrigation. This follows the successful registration of this programme with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) after it was accredited by the Council of Higher Education. The college has for the current academic year, already admitted twenty-nine (29) students to this new programme. The fifty-two others who had registered for a Diploma in Agriculture specialising in Mixed Farming in the previous academic years, will continue with their courses as this programme is being phased out at this college. However, the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture will continue offering mixed farming lessons.

Substantiating the relevancy of this newly registered programme, the MEC for Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono, said it is a qualification that befits the demographics of the Taung area, which practices farming largely under irrigation. She said the college will benefit a great deal from the revitalisation process of the Taung Irrigation Scheme, more so the Department has plans to develop this college to become a Centre of Excellence in Irrigation Technology.

The first seven students to graduate at the Taung Agricultural College since its re-opening in 2010 were happy that the lessons and experiences they have acquired while studying towards obtaining their mixed farming Diploma, have enabled them to face the agriculture sector with zeal and confidence.

Three of them were already employed at the time of their graduation in December 2012.

As the first group to register for a Diploma in Irrigation, the 29 newly admitted students are expected to complete their studies at the end of 2015.

TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRIVATE BAG X 532, TAUNG, . TEL 053 994 9800 . FAX 053 994 1130

Diploma in Agriculture in Irrigation
3 yrs Qualification
(NQF level 6)

Admission Requirements
NSC or Senior Certificate
Compulsory subject:
English (E)
Recommended subjects
Mathematics (D), English (E), Biology and/or Agricultural Science (D) and Physical Science (D).
Achieve a minimum (total) of 22 points (from the Swedish Rating Scale) of the best six (6) applicable nd appropriate subjects.

Plant Production
Agric. Botany, Winter crops, Summer crops, Fruit Production, Crop Protection, Vegetable Production

Soil Science
Soil Fertility, Soil Survey, Soil & water conservation

Management
Agricultural Economics, Agri-Business Management, Agricultural Financial Management, Agricultural Marketing, Computer Applications

Animal Production
Anatomy & Physiology, Beef, Dairy, Pig Poultry, Small stock

Irrigation
Automated Irrigation System, Drainage System and Design,. Evaluation of Irrigation System, Fundamental of Irrigation Irrigation Economics Irrigation Equipments & System design, Pumps and Propulsions, Irrigation System Evaluation, Hydraulics and Flow Measurement

Extra – curricular Activities
Net ball, Soccer, Rugby Various other sport codes in city

Contact: CAMPUS HEAD – Abri van Heerden
Tel: 053 994 9840
Fax: 053 994 1130

Closing date: 31 October

POTCHEFSTROOM
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
LANDBOUKOLLEGE
KHOLETSHE YA TEMOTHUO
1909 - 2009 = 100 YEARS

Diploma in Agriculture (Mixed Agriculture)
3 yrs Qualification
(NQF level 6)

PRIVATE BAG X 804, POTCHEFSTROOM, 2520 . TEL 018 299 6739 . FAX 018b 297 0023
e-mail: lthovhakale@nwpg.gov.za . http// www.potchagricollege.co.za

Admission Requirements:
NSC or Senior Certificate
Compulsory subjects:
Afrikaans or English, with a minimum rating of four (4) or (50-59%).
Agricultural Science or Agricultural Management Practices and or Agricultural Technology.
Recommended subjects:
Accountancy, Biology, Business Management, Economics, Engineering, Geography, Mathematics, Mathematically Literacy and Physical Science
Achieve a minimum (total) of 22 (from the Swedish Rating Scale) of the best six (6) applicable and appropriate subjects.

Animal Production
Beef, Breeding, Dairy, Small Stock, Pig, Poultry, Animal Health Pasture Sciences

Agricultural Engineering /Trades
Agric Mechanisation, Mechanics, Irrigation, Survey, Welding Building & Construction

Plant Production
Agricultural Botany, Breeding, Soil Sciences, Hortology, Vegetables, Summer grains, Small Grains, Tubers, Industrial-Oil & Protein Seed Crops

Agricultural Management
Agricultural Economics, Marketing Human Resource Management, Financial Accounting, Research Principles Agric Entrepreneurship, IT Applications,

Specialized Short Courses
Greenhouse Management, Artificial Insemination, Livestock Judging and Selection, Irrigation, Labour Management and Occupational and Health Safety

Skills Programmes
Fruit Production, Vegetable Production, Artificial Insemination, Cattle Processing, Pig Production, Poultry Production, Welding.

Extra-curricular Activities
Netball, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Squash, and other sporting codes in the city.

Contact: Campus Head
Tel: (018) 299 6739 / 6608 / 6666
Fax: (018) 293 3925 / 297 0023

Closing date for applications: 31 October

Potchefstroom College of Agriculture is an Accredited Public Institution of Higher Learning in terms of Chapter 3 of the Higher Education Act,1997.

AN AGRICULTURAL PHD STUDENT OFF TO CANADA

Tshepo Mokono writes

Shortage of skilled and competitive Agricultural researchers in the North West Province will soon be a thing of the past as one of the local residents, Ms Lebogang Mercy Motaung from Disaneng village outside Mahikeng has left the country to study in Manitoba University, Canada. This was said by the North West MEC for Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Desbo Mohono while bidding farewell to Motaung who is currently finalizing her PHD in Conservation Agriculture, focusing on maize based farming systems in the North West Province.

Ms Motaung who was once a trainee at the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is a beneficiary of the Canada Commonwealth Scholarship, which was awarded to her through the Office of the Premier, the North West University (Mahikeng Campus) as well as the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Her study is about the neutral technologies that could benefit both small and large scale farmers in the province.

"I will spend six (6) months in Canada focusing mainly on Conservation Agriculture, with special focus on maize-based farming systems in the North West Province. The overall objective of my studies is to improve water use efficiency," Motaung explained her mission to Canada.

She is proud that her research proposal would provide knowledge regarding solutions towards rain-fed agriculture, especially as it relates to maize production in the province.

Speaking on behalf of the North West University (Mahikeng Campus), the Vice-Rector Prof Mashudu Maselesele said Ms Motaung's quest for education would contribute towards the enhancement of agricultural practices and knowledge in the province.

"We are proud as the University to be associated with Lebogang Motaung and this opportunity will enable her to assist the province in addressing the contextual needs of the local villages, more so technology has the potential to provide sustainable livelihoods," Prof Maselesele said.

MEC Mohono commended Motaung for her remarkable academic project and believed that her knowledge will ultimately assist local farmers to unlock their potential using best management practices that would maximize food production and combat the after effects of climate change.

"We remain positive that you will use the knowledge acquired while in Canada to the benefit of the farmers in the Province. We are convinced that through your agricultural comprehension, our country will realise its mission to improve food security and champion sustainable agriculture", expressed Mohono who encouraged those interested in studying agricultural practices, to work hard and ensure that their dreams become a reality.

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK:
MEC Desbo Mohono is joined by representatives from the NWU and Office of the Premier in bididding farewell to Lebogang Motaung

OPPORTUNITY APPRECIATED:
Lebogang Motaung explaining the purpose of her PHD studies. Seated next to her is Keipelege Moseki, Chief Director Corporate Services at the Office of the Premier

the dard
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

Her Passion for Agriculture Speaks for Itself

Story by Sylvia Pheto

Mmakgejane Cetiso, a female farmer who has acquired land through government's Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme in 2010, has developed this 8.5hectares plot in Mooibank, Potchefstroom, with utter determination and diligence. Armed with nothing but the desire and courage to sustain her family as a single mother, she has managed to achieve her lifelong goal of becoming a productive and promising female farmer

Registered as Cetiso Project and practicing mixed farming, the farm got a grant to the tune of R450 000.00 through the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). This programme seeks to provide post-settlement support to beneficiaries of land reform and to other producers who have acquired land through other private means.

In giving this farm the investment and value it deserve, Ms Cetiso unearthed her capabilities and passion for agriculture by breeding and watching over more than 30 sheep which she is keeping in a pen bought to her by the Department, 6 dairy cows which she plans to increase as she gets some income from her sales, more than 30 African fowls and 50 broiler chickens, as well as a domestic sty which she started with two pigs and is now home to about 30 pigs.

Adding value to the project is also a well established orchard of peach trees which has during the last season produced not only enough peaches for selling to local communities, but canned once as well. With the help she has obtained from the Department, she intends growing lucern this year, which she says has a huge market in her surrounding areas.

"So far I plan my work in such a way that enables me to always have money to maintain my family, and to care for the needs of my produce" said Cetiso whose current objective is to expand the production of sheep as she has identified a potential market in the selling of sheep and sheep skin.

Among her list of wishes is also to have a structure for chickens as she already has a market for broilers. "I also want to broaden my horizons by venturing into vegetable production. I believe that I have what it takes to can do more, not only for me and my family, but for the communities surrounding me as well", she expressed.

Asked about water supply given the activities in her farm, Ms Cetiso said she is pleased that water is not a problem as there is an existing dam that needs minor repairs to keep water for her animals and plants.

The Director responsible for the departmental services in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Mr Mahmood Randeree accedes that even though this plot is medium sized, it has potential for intensive agricultural production that can very well sustain the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. "The Department is also encouraged by the performance of this project as it is one of those using the resources provided to them by government profitably", remarked Mr Randeree.

"I am appreciative of what the Department has done for me. I am so grateful and thank the Department for giving me the sense of worth, when I had almost given up on life. I see myself farming commercially in the not so distant future, and I encourage other farmers with the same vigour as mine, especially women, to never give up", highlighted Ms Mmakgejane Cetiso.

Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) seeks to provide post - settlement support to beneficiaries of land reform and other producers who have acquired land through other private means

A proud female farmer: Ms Mmakgejane Cetiso on her farm

YOUNG FARMERS SHARE IDEAS ON HOW TO FIGHT HUNGER

Hectious Bodigelo writes

Young people involved in the agricultural sector and those with interest have through the platform created by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development held a North West Provincial Youth Farmers Summit to advice one another on how to withstand hunger, which is the main problem amongst the communities of the province.

The summits which were held across the provincial districts were dubbed "Promoting Youth in Agriculture for Sustainable Job Creation and Economic Freedom".

The summits interrogated the fact that the right to food is a human right, and how as a collective, can they ensure that they protect the right to all human beings to live in dignity, free from hunger, free to insecurity and malnutrition.

Speaker after speaker emphasised the fact that the right to food is not about charity, but about ensuring that all people have the capacity to feed themselves in dignity.

MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD:
Young people who attended the Youth Summits held across the Province spoke about the need for watertight strategies in the fight against hunger

Buffalo Farming in the North West Province and the involvement of Veterinary Services

Wildlife farming with rare game species has developed into a multi-million rand industry in South Africa and wildlife farmers in North West Province play an important role in this industry. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Veterinary Services officials are almost on a daily basis involved in the relocation of buffalo, not only to farms within the province, but also to other farms within the country. At a recent game auction in Limpopo, a buffalo bull named "Horizon" was sold for R 26 million rand. It is the most expensive wild animal ever sold in South Africa.

There are currently 216 registered buffalo holdings in the North West Province and these registrations involve 318 farms.
Buffaloes are carriers of Foot and Mouth, Bovine Tuberculosis, Contagious Abortion (Brucellosis) and Corridor Diseases. These are zoonotic diseases, meaning that they can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Kutlwano Senokoane, an Animal Health Technician with a male buffalo that had just been captured

From an economic point of view, Foot-and-Mouth disease is the most important disease and any outbreak outside the controlled area may have disastrous effects on the livestock industry, including the exports of animals, animal products and other agricultural products.

In terms of Regulation 20 A of the Animal Diseases Regulations (G.N. R 2026 of 26 September 1986 as amended) of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984, any land in the Republic of South Africa on which buffalo are kept, must be registered with the National Director of Veterinary Services for that purpose. The keeping of Foot-and-Mouth disease carrier buffalo may only be allowed in the greater Kruger National Park and on farms and reserves registered for that purpose, which are situated within the adjacent Foot-and-Mouth infected zone.

THE ROLE AN ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN PLAYS ON BUFFALO FARMING

- Inspect buffaloes which are being captured, tested and moved to the boma (boma-reinforced kraal used to keep game and wildlife animals)
- The inspection and observation of series of diseases test
- Scanning buffaloes for microchips to correspond with samples and tag numbers
- Animal Health Technicians (AHT) must see to it that samples are taken to Onderstepoort Biological Product for testing within 24 hours

Buffaloes must be kept in the boma before movement is performed until all results are negative and are sent back to the State Veterinary office. Only the Provincial Director of Veterinary Services (PDVS) can delegate by letter of approval that those buffaloes can be moved.

Buffaloes must be moved within 60days (3 months) from the first day of testing. If they are not moved within this stipulated period, new tests must be done.

Information supplied by the Directorate Veterinary Services

International Accreditation for the Provincial Potchefstroom Veterinary Laboratory

It is now official - the Provincial Potchefstroom Veterinary Laboratory is the first ever government veterinary laboratory in the country to achieve the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) accreditation for **Veterinary Serology and Microbiology.**

This accreditation implies that the tests results for all controlled animal diseases released by this Veterinary Laboratory are now internationally regarded as accurate and reliable.

It also means that this laboratory is technically competent and conforms to assessments that are conducted in testing, calibration medical and certification.

The accreditation which will be effective for the next five years, confirms the good quality of the laboratory equipment and the competency of the laboratory staff.

For more information on the provision of Veterinary Services by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, contact us on 018 389 5723/5102/5719

Working together, we can do more

the dard
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

MOKHUDUTHAMAGA O SOLOFETSA BALEMIRUI TIRISANO-MMOGO

Pego ka Prince Seokotsa

Matlafatso ya tirisano-mmogo le ntshafatso ya mekgwa ya tlhaeletsano le batsaya-karolo mo lephateng la temothuo, ke dingwe tsa mabaka aa tlhotlheleditseng Mokhuduthamaga wa lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya metse-magae Mme Desbo Mohono go nna le dikopano le balemirui go ralala porofense, maikaelelo-magolo e le go utlwa gore balemirui ba akanya eng ka seemo sa temothuo mo porofenseng. Ka motsi wa metseletsele ya dikopano tseno, Mokhuduthamaga o ne a patilwe ke Tlhogo ya lefapha Ngaka Mmamakgaba Mogajane gammogo le bakaedi-bagolo ba manaane aa farologaneng a lefapha.

Makgolokgolo a balemirui a ne a thologetse dikopano tseno kwa didikeng tsotlhe tsa porofense, mme go ne go se ope wa bone yo a neng a bonala a sa batle go latlhela la motla-pitsong. Dikopano tseno e ne le tsa ntlha go tshwarwa ke Mokhuduthamaga fa e sale a supiwa go etelelapele lefapha leno.

Mo dikopanong tsotlhe, molaetsa wa ga Mokhuduthamaga e ne e le oo rotloetsang balemirui go somarela didiriswa tsa temo tse ba di ungwileng go tswa mo manaaneng a lefapha, ka go di dirisa ka tshwanelo. "Tiriso ee botlhaswa ya didiriswa tse puso e di rebolang ka maitlhomo a go thusa balemirui-potlana e re busetsa kwa morago, mme kgolo mo temothuong ga e kitla e nna gona fa re tswelela go nna botlhaswa".

Dintlha tse dingwe tse di tlhageletseng thata mo dikopanong tseno di ne di akaretsa gareng ga tse dingwe go rulaganngwa sentle ga tokomane ee ka ga maikaelelo-magolo le boleng jwa porojeke kgotsa 'business plan', tokafatso ya ditirelo tsa bolemisi, tlhokomelo le taolo ya malwetse a diphologolo, gammogo le tlhokego ya lefatshe la temothuo.

Fa a ne a tsibogela dintlha tse balemirui ba di tlhagisitseng, Mokhuduthamaga Mohono o amogetse fa lefapha le tlhoka go matlafatsa tirelo ya yona ya go thusa balemirui ka go rulaganya maano a diporojeke tsa bona kgotsa 'business plan', mme a gakolola balemirui go emisa go kopa thuso eno kwa ntle ga kwa lefapheng fela. "Tiro eno ke maikarabelo a rona mo lefapheng, mme le tshwanetse go ungwa go tswa mo go yone kwa ntle ga go e duelela", ga rialo Mokhuduthamaga.

Mokhuduthamaga o amogetse gape gore naga ya rona e na le palo ee kwa tlase ya dingaka tsa malwetse a diphologolo, mme a netefaletsa balemirui fa batlhankedi ba tsa tlhokomelo le taolo ya malwetse a diphologolo ba tla iponagatsa ka dinako tsotlhe le go rebola tirelo ee tlhokagalang, segolo thata kwa metse-magaeng. Fela jalo, Mokhuduthamaga o tlamile balemisi ba lefapha gore ba tla tswelela go neelana ka tirelo ya maemo aa kwa godimo le go ikanyega mo balemiruing.

Balemirui ba ne ba bua ba sa kgale mathe ganong gore ba itumeletse tshono e Mokhuduthamaga a ba e fileng go buisana ka tokafatso ya ditirelo tsa temothuo mo porofenseng.

Mokhuduthamaga o ne a kaya fa a kgotsofatswa ke seabe se balemirui ba mo porofenseng ba ikaelelang go nna le sona mo go thuseng puso go tlhagisa dijo, go fokotsa tlala, lehuma gammogo le botlhokatiro.

Mokhuduthamaga Mohono o buisana le makgolokgolo a balemirui ba ba neng ba tsenetse dikopano mo didikeng ka go farologana. Balemirui ba ne fiwa tshono ya go tlhagisa maikutlo le dikakanyo tsa bona ka temothuo mo porofenseng.

Junior LandCare Learners Bag National Awards

Lesego Matloko from J.M.Ntsime Secondary School who won the Best Oral Debate presentation

Dr Mmamakgaba Mogajane, the DARD HoD (at the back) celebrates with the Province's LandCare awards recipients

It was ululation and joy at the Mmabatho Convention Centre when two young people from the North West Province were presented with national awards at the 5th Biennial National LandCare Conference. Lesego Matloko, a learner from J.M Ntsime Secondary School and Boipelo Muse from Zinniaville Secondary School in Rustenburg were competing against other youths from across the country in five respective categories. The pair held their own and scooped two major awards for Best Poster Presentation and Best Oral Debate respectively.

The two, outperformed their peers in the above mentioned categories that were aiming at stimulating young people to take a lead in the areas of conservation agriculture as well as addressing climate change issues. They each walked away with a national trophy, an I-Pad as well as a certificate.

Accepting the Best Oral Debate Presentation award, Lesego Matloko expressed strong views on why young people need to continuously protect nature as it was important to them, saying "when it comes to nature, young people should be provided with training in natural resource management as that will empower them to know how to manage natural resources for sustainable livelihood."

Matloko unleashed her debating potential on the topic "A 2 degree celcius in temperature will lead to dramatic changes in patterns of land use," while Boipelo Muse's visual communication creativity was acknowledged by the competition's judges as he presented his poster communicating Conservation agriculture: feeding sub-Saharan Africa's people.

Congratulating the two, MEC Desbo Mohono of the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development said these young people's achievement is a clear indication that we are heading at the right direction as a Province in so far as luring the youth into the Agricultural sector is concerned, and in particular the land care issues.

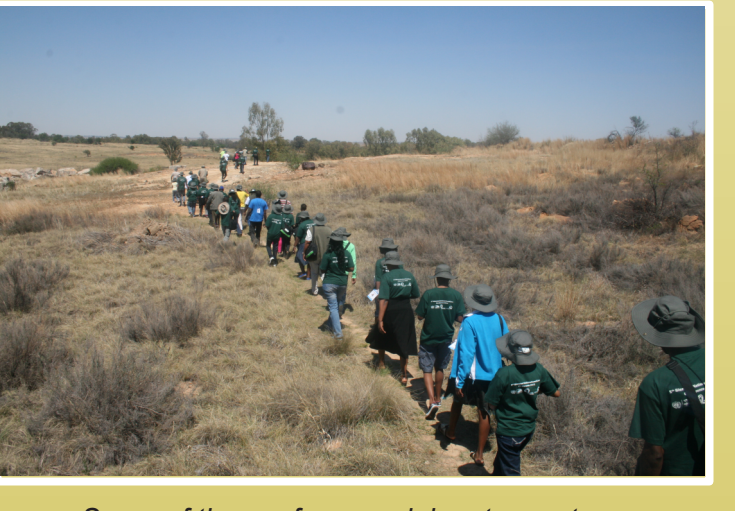
"Their presentations demonstrated how well they understand the sensitivity of climate change issues and how they affect all of us. We are very proud of them, and we encourage more youth to come on board and take part in such endeavours because they also help in bolstering their self confidence, Mohono said."

Mohono urged them to continue to be the voices of the next generation and build on the legacy of being the national champions. Mohono went on to encourage other schools within the Province to enter such competitions with the view to help unearth and nurture future champions like the two we are currently celebrating, saying in doing so, they must seek guidance from the Department's LandCare coordinators who are found in all the District offices of the Department.

Story by Tshepo Mokono

MEC Desbo Mohono during the conference closing ceremony, during which awards were presented to the best performers

Some of the scholars who were part of the Junior LandCare sessions



Some of the conference delegates on tour to one of the LandCare projects in the Province

KNOW MORE ABOUT BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT

What is an Agricultural Business Plan all about?

A business plan is a guideline or roadmap for a new project or for expanding of existing project.

Why it is important for a farmer to have a business plan?

It is important for a farmer to have a business plan because it plays an important role to assist the farmer with planning of a project or farm. It "forces" the farmer to think and plan what he/she wants to do on a farm. It also ensures that the farmer must take the following into account in the planning process.

- ✔ The natural resources available on the farm. What is on the farm in terms of lands, (dryland or irrigation), carrying capacity of veld etc.
- ✔ Climatic conditions (Average rainfall and past rainfall patterns)
- ✔ The existing infrastructure on the farm and condition of infrastructures e.g. borehole, borehole equipment and fencing, buildings, etc.
- ✔ The natural resources and infrastructure available will determine the possible enterprise(s) are suitable for the farm.

The business plan also provides an indication of the potential profit from its farm if the management of the project/farm is good.

In some instances the business plan is the primary document used for obtaining of borrowed funding.

What are the key elements necessary for inclusion in a business plan?

Situation Analysis

A brief description of what is prevailing on the location of the project is quite essential, and this will inform the implementers of what is needed at that point in time. It will assist planners on drawing an implementation plan of the project. In addition one should indicate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis) in which the project will operate.

Production plan

No business can or service industry can be productive without a sound production plan. Effective planning is fundamental in any business; it's a complex process that covers a wide variety of activities that ensure that materials, equipment and human resources are available to complete the work. Production planning is like a roadmap to reach your destination. It helps you know where you are going and how long it will take you to get there.

Advantages of an effective production plan and scheduling:

- ✔ Reduces labour by eliminating wasted time and improving process flow
- ✔ Reduces inventory costs by reducing the need for safety stocks and excessive work-in-process inventories
- ✔ Optimizes equipment usage and maximizes capacity
- ✔ Utilizes human resources to their full potential
- ✔ Improves on-time deliveries of products and services

Institutional arrangement

This section should indicate and outline the managerial structure of project participants. The legal form of the project must also be outlined. E.g. CPA, company, closed corporation, trusts, co-operative, etc. Contractual obligations should be outlined for members to know what is expected of them and what they are entitled to from the project. The entrance and the exit strategy for participants must clearly be spelled out.

Skills development

This should provide an indication on how participating beneficiaries would be capacitated. Skills acquired and required should be clearly spelt-out. An indication on how beneficiaries would be capacitated on issues related to formal and non-formal training should be provided.

Financial plan

Your financial plan puts all your findings into figures and helps you to calculate whether you have the potential to be profitable and whether you will have enough cash to survive times of low sales.

It consists of

- ✔ Enterprise Budgets
- ✔ Total Farm Budget
- ✔ Monthly Cash Flow
- ✔ The income statement
- ✔ The cash flow statement

Marketing Plan

The marketing plan describes your clients, competitors, location, products, prices, promotion, and method of distribution. Based on this, you must estimate how much you are likely to sell - in the short and long term. This sales forecast is crucial for the rest of your business plan, because you need to plan your operations, staffing and finances around it. Business owners are optimistic people, and there is a very real danger of exaggerating your sales forecast. The rule, when it comes to devising a marketing plan, is to be very conservative in your estimates.

Implementation plan

The implementation plan is a plan of action that remains important once you start. There is an overwhelming amount to do when setting up and running your business (or expanding your business) and a plan allows you to prioritise the most important tasks. When things do not go according to plan, you can take action. You also need to adapt your plan and keep communicating changes to important stakeholders and staff.

How is the Department contributing in assisting farmers to develop a business plan?

Farmers have to go to the nearest Local Development Centre (LDC) of which they will report to and will be assisted by the agricultural extension officer of that area, in terms of collection of information needed to have a proposal/business plan.

Recommendations regarding suitable enterprise(s) for a project will be made, keeping natural resources and climate in mind. Funding for all projects is not always available and a selection process is followed every year to select projects that must receive funding support from DARD. The process will then be handed over to the Agricultural Economics Directorate for further business plan development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON:
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