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Rural Development



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DEPARTMENT STANDS FIRM ON CANNABIS MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



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agriculture &
rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

WHAT IS FOOT AND MOUTH (FMD) DISEASE AND WHAT CAUSES IT

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It is a very serious disease which spread rapidly. FMD causes a large scale economic losses and halts exportation of all animals and animal products as well as agricultural products used as animal feed.

WHICH ANIMALS CAN BE AFFECTED BY FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

All cloven hoofed animals are susceptible to FMD including cattle, sheep, goats and most importantly pigs. *Syncerus caffer* or buffaloes in the Kruger Parks are carriers of the Foot and Mouth Disease virus. Other game species can also be affected by FMD virus.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS THAT YOU WOULD EXPECT TO SEE IN ANIMALS WITH FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The clinical signs that are expected in a positive Foot and Mouth Disease are formation of vesicles in the mouth and feet, i.e. interdigital space, coronary band and bulbs of the heel. Lameness and salivation, sometimes lacrimation. Smacking of the lips, grinding of the teeth and a nasal discharge. Young animals may die suddenly without showing signs as a result of inflammation of the heart known as myocarditis.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO GET FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND HOW DO THEY GET IT?

No, human beings are not susceptible to Foot and Mouth Disease, however, researchers believe human being after being exposed to the virus may develop vesicles on the palm of their hands.

HOW IS THE DISEASE DIGNOSES

Based on the history, epidemiology, clinical signs and pathology. The disease is confirmed by laboratory examination of tissues to identify and type the virus

responsible for the outbreak as well as serological examination. Tests include Elisa, virus neutralization and virus isolation.

WHAT IS DONE TO CONTROL FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Kruger National Park and surrounding areas as well as the northern borders of the country are declared Foot and Mouth Disease controlled areas in terms of Animal Diseases Act. The Foot and Mouth Disease controlled area is divided into control zones according to OIE code.

- Foot and Mouth Disease infected zone** – This is the entire Park and regular game inspections are performed and any suspected cases are reported to the state veterinarian.
- Buffer zone** – This is the western and southern boundary of the park in which all cattle are vaccinated every 6 months and inspected by veterinary services weekly. Vaccinated animals are branded with "F" on the right side of the neck.
- Surveillance zone** – This is the area west and south of the buffer zone in which animals are inspected every 14 days. Vaccination of FMD is not permitted in this area.
- The rest of the Control zone** – This area is west of the surveillance and borders Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and here all cattle are inspected every 28 days. This is an extra protection zone.

WHAT DO WE DO IN CASE OF AN FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK

- In a free zone, like in our province the stamping out policy was used in the past, however, it is not preferred method currently.
- Vaccination also is not the preferred method in this area as it mask the disease only to have outbreaks later in a year or two.

- Normally the area will be quarantine and the source as well as the spread of infection will be investigated.
 - No movement will be allowed to and from one property to another within the quarantine area.
 - A 10-30 KM radius of surveillance will be instituted around the infected property. Roadblocks on all roads leaving the infected area is also instituted.
 - Strict movement control of cloven hoofed animals and their products is applied in the control area.
 - It is also important to increase awareness to the farming communities to be vigilant at the auctions and other areas where animals congregate to look for clinical signs and to report any suspicious cases to the nearest state vet or the police.
 - The disease is also communicated to the nearest farm, other provinces and is by law reported to the OIE as per Animal Diseases Act.

Should any suspicious clinical symptoms (salivation, blisters in the mouth, limping, or hoof lesions) be seen, they should be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately and such animals must not be moved under any circumstances.

For more information contact the nearest State Veterinary Services Clinic near you or call the Directorate Veterinary Services: 018 389 5102/5051 / 071 854 2016



agriculture & rural development
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE



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Editorial Comment

Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

The mid-year term is upon us. Now and again we are prone to look back see how far we came. As the Letsema Newsletter, team we are proud to announce that we were nominated for the Category of the Best Newsletter of the year 2022 hosted by the North-West Media Awards. This nomination goes to all our readers and contributors in general. It is definitely a nod to all staff and management of the Department whose service delivery efforts we reflect on this platform.

When we reconceptualised the content offering of this newsletter, we wanted it to reflect on how the Department continues to serve but mainly from beneficiary point of view. This is imperative that our communities should be aware that government does get to fulfil the promises that are made at the beginning of the every financial year and to reflect on development of those that are not concluded. It is in government's interest to see people's lives changing for the better.

In this edition, we showcase how many farmers are thriving in their businesses. Boons Hydro Produce is one such company. With just a few years in business the Petlele family is aggressive in their approach and wants to pull all stops and make their mark. It is such efforts that we strive to pull to light so that many farming enthusiasts can see how resistant agriculture business is and how it has proven its significance to economic growth.

We are seeing a satisfactory participation rate of women in agriculture business. Basadi ba eme ka dinao go bontsha gore botshelo ga bo sa tlhole bo tshwana le pele mmeomme ba tsene le bone mo temothuong ebile ga ba itepeletse. Puso ya North-West le yone e tseletse go itlamo go tshegetsata thata bomme le basha. We see that women in agriculture have taken the baton firmly and are running with it. Makgomo Huma, Kesaaleboga Motitswane and many others are good stories in this edition that prove the firmness of many women in the agricultural sector.

The Cannabis conversation is continuing in our province much to the delight of many interest groups. Following the hosting of the Lekgotla in September 2022, it was evident that much more still needs to be done in order to realise the objectives of Cannabis Masterplan. We are glad that this lekgotla has placed our province locally and internationally as one of those that have made strides in stirring the Cannabis conversation.

One of the engagements that the Department is intensifying is about Agro-processing. We see a lot of agricultural projects but it becomes critical that the local farmers do not see themselves at only primary production. MEC Desbo Mohono has emphasised that the approved Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan is a guide which needs to empower local farmers to participate in business across the value chain. When you read our story on tomato-jam, you will realise that many other farmers are on course with agro-processing.

Bagaetsho go tshwaya diphologolo tsa rona go bothokwa thata. Mo nakong e re leng mo yona, re itemogela go utswiwa go go oketsegang ga leruo. Re rotloetsa barui gore ba seka ba dula leruo le le sa tshwaiwang ka gonne ga gonne bonolo go batlisisa leruo fa le sena letshwao. Go tshwaiwa gono go diriwa fela ke kantoro ya bosetshaba ya temothuo, legale dikantoro tsa rona tsa lefapha di thusa ba ba sa kgoneng go ikgolaganya le kantoro ya bosetshaba.

The level of sharing information about agriculture is increasing. The success stories of these many farmers as we share it is meant to motivate others and to identify improvement opportunities. We have had a lot of networks also been formed by this sharing of information. Mainly these news are there to show us that we have a government that wants to work with people in order to improve their lives.

Enjoy reading

Ke a leboga

Emelda SETLHAKO

JOY
ZINGO
RELL
ADITION
EDITION



MEC's *Foreword*

The department has shown remarkable resilience over the past few months and has introduced fresh approaches and disruptive but positive developments to reshape its potential and build solid foundations for further growth. As eluded in the April budget vote that we will disrupt and refocus the agricultural sector in the province in order to sustain and improve our commodity ranking status based on the advantage of our sectors comparative and competitive edge.

Plans are falling into place but we need to be consistent and radical in our approach. We have been roving and wandering around the entire province visiting our farmers from all four districts, and I can tell you that as much as we are proud of our farmers many still need our assistance more.

As a department we are also continually creating solutions that will overcome all the challenges that are facing our farmers while at the same token introducing efficiencies that will redefine the shape and the future of the North West agricultural landscape. Our farmers play a major role in driving innovative solutions and refining best practices to ensure soil health, water efficiencies sustainable farming practices, animal welfare indicating a notable shift towards sustainability. Now as government the onus is really on us to go hand in hand in making sure that our farmers are afloat and breaking even at all times.

This Letsema lineup is packed with eye opening and exciting chronicles of our farmers across the entire province. These are weighty matters that have been wrought by our farmers year in and year out with the help from the department. We are really proud of all farmers who continue to wake up in the morning and have hope besides all the encounters they are faced with on daily basis. In this edition I am also impressed by the work put in by our women and our youth in all four districts. Our mothers, sisters, daughters and grandmothers continue to punch above their weight in making sure that we demystify the notion of men within the sector.

As make mentioned during the departmental budget speech earlier this year, the department continues to play a critical role towards the development of the Integrated Provincial Food Security Strategy.

Our Kgora Training Centre has continually been producing seedlings and indigenous chickens to all the deserving households throughout the province.

What one can term as a milestone for the Department this year was our Cannibus Lekgotla that was held together with the North West University Mahikeng Campus from the 14th of September to the 16th 2022. This Cannibus Lekgotla was a provincial marketplace for education and innovative products and businesses serving the cannabis industry and its medicinal, agricultural, financial and lifestyle aspects.

The department went all out in roping the who's who in the Cannibus industry in making sure that we live no stone unturned. At the ultimate were fruitful deliberations and recommendations that will take the entire province to a new chapter in Cannibus farming. Real work of transforming the industry in our province only begins now. A lot of ground needs to be covered in assisting our people to really be farmers of Cannibus in the North West province.

"The department would really like to say AHOI RASTAFARAI AHOI, for all the effort put in during the three day Lekgotla."

The Department will continue to build food sovereignty through sustainable agriculture with major focus on developing our farmers. Now more than ever the department must rise to contest space and shape the agricultural discourse in the province in particular reference to food security plans. The future of agriculture in the North West province looks bright. Former president Thabo Mbeki once said "If the saying Out of nothing, nothing comes" is true, then it must follow that the future is formed and derives its first impulse in the womb of the present. As a department, out of nothing but with the little that we have on our disposal let us make the present worthwhile for all our farmers throughout the province.

KE A LEBOGA. I THANK YOU.

MEC- Desbo Mohono
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NORTH WEST PROVINCE

DEPARTMENT STANDS FIRM ACTION ON CANNABIS MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has established a team that will work on the implementation of Cannabis master plan.

The wheels of change are rolling and the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development stands firm on ensuring the Cannabis Master Plan finds space in agriculture transformation in the province. This follows the Department hosting the much-anticipated hybrid Cannabis Lekgotla at the North West University from Wednesday, 14 September to Friday, 16 September 2022. The gathering was welcomed and appreciated by various cannabis advocacy groups which amongst them included the Cannabis Council of South Africa, the Rastafarians formations, traditional leaders, academics, interest groups and individuals as well as farmers. The first of its kind in the North West Province, the gathering met its objective of discussing the rollout of the National Cannabis Master Plan and engaging on the economic purpose of commercialisation and development of the herb.

MEC Desbo Mohono delivering her speech during the Lekgotla, said that the department provides a stark reminder that every avenue to create employment and fight poverty must be pursued, allowing businesses to grow, emerge and thrive, while also using the capabilities of the state to create a conducive environment for farmers. Mohono said, "This is hands on deck indeed and a dream come true for people of the North West province, for they too deserve to benefit from the value chain of this herb. As the government, we always appreciate the direct, considered and constructive approach that higher institutions of learning take in responding to the challenges facing our country. That is why we saw it fit as the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to rope in North West University, in particular, looking at their research output, which is amongst the best in the entire country".

The Hybrid Lekgotla which was hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the North West University was graced by Principal and Vice Chancellor of NWU, Dr Mzubanzi Bismark Tyobeka who vouched support for the master plan rollout. "We must all work with the government to assist in the review of policy and regulatory framework that will fast-track the industrialisation of hemp and cannabis towards the realization of economic investment and job creation. The North-West University is ready to contribute towards the implementation of the National Cannabis Master Plan to unlock the economic potential of rural communities," said Dr Tyobeka.

Breakaway discussions by experts, business community, the public, cultural and religious groups took place and report backs on the envisaged roll out plan were shared with the department. In heeding the recommendations of the commissions, Head of Department Mr Thupi Mokhatla presented the adopted and approved the Programme of Action. The gathering resolved that the province will establish Provincial Cannabis Structure with clear powers, functions and reporting lines. The gathering also agreed that Action Plans and/or the adopted Programme of Action [POA] by the Cannabis Lekgotla will be implemented. The gathering has also developed terms of reference for the Provincial Cannabis Structure and that the structure will meet on a quarterly basis.

All these will be actioned by delegated institutions and stakeholders by the stipulated time frame.

In conclusion, MEC Mohono said the Lekgotla unlocked many opportunities through commissions and the education drive. "In going forward, we will march to our traditional leaders as the department in forging a partnership and making sure that our people in communal land are not left behind by the train of this economic hub. The department will also set aside a certain amount of money in making sure that we train our farmers fully about how to be experts in this field. This will be done through roping in experts that we have met in this Lekgotla because we do not want to take a ride with our people's time," explained Mme Mohono.

By: Tshегоfatso Leepile





“Here's what keeps us going”

-Boons hydro produce share their story of fresh produce farming

Post the Covid 19 pandemic period, many businesses were left with a story to tell. While others have had to close the doors, many agricultural businesses witnessed a growth proving that this sector is persistent and by all means, can be the first choice sector for any business enthusiast.

In 2019, Mother and daughter, Busisiwe and Rabaone Petlele initiated an agricultural project, Boons Hydro Produce. The dream with this baby was to be a sole tomato producer. This was after the duo did research which indicated the need to pursue this product. Not only did they intend to focus on this market, but the idea was also to have the best produce in town.

As a first step in delivering on their dream, the family went for a training on tomato produce and that was followed by business startup of infrastructure procurement and inputs thereof. They acquired the four tunnels and in a period of another year they had increased by eight bringing the number of their tunnels in this 5-hectare privately leased farm to twelve.

Although their primary produce is tomato, within a year of their production, the Petleles had their tough lessons. Due to tomatoes being seasonal in nature, winter affected their production resulting in some setbacks. The challenge prompted them to introduce other crops which will keep business going. Cabbage, lattice, chilli and peppers are some of the crops they introduced, and they never looked back.

This business orientated family is now all in it together. Although Rebaone is an academic who also lectures at an institution of higher learning on a part-time basis, she finds a way to return the love she has for farming. Much as an effort is made on produce, she does not take for granted the marketing of their business. The brand -Boons Hydro produce is known as she is working hard to create a brand presence for it online.

The Petleles' through this hard work have had their produce sold for established markets such as Spar retailers and a temporary one with Ocean Basket. The other produce is also sold at Tshwane Fresh Produce Market and other local shops.

The North-West Department of Agriculture through its objective of agriculture producer support has been instrumental in assisting Boons Hydro to realise their dream. In the year 2020/2021, the Department supported the project and purchased for them a mobile cold room as well as a packhouse with packaging material. This has been able to assist the project for proper packaging and assisting them to chill their produce so that as they transport them, they reach their destination still in their proper state.

The farm has created an employment opportunity for six people and gets up to ten seasonal workers from time to time.

The Petleles' have all the intention to start with agro-processing, but they believe the journey is still new. They have many other big plans for this promising business, but they would like to take a step at a time. The family agrees that there is a future in agriculture. They also affirm that the potential in agriculture to stir the economy cannot be contested. They have weathered all seasons and carry valuable lessons from their three full years of operation.

The father, Busisiwe's husband and her son (Rebaone's brother) have also joined the business and they agree that the more the merrier. The Petleles have also opened the doors to other farmers who would like to share information with them, and they are prepared to tell their story so far.

By: Tsholofelo Dintwe



LAPSCO AGRO-PROCESSING SECONDARY CO-OPERATION WOMEN LEAD THEIR BUSINESS WITH PRIDE



Clara Mojaki, Salvation Kgobe, Tebogo Ntsizi and Naomi Moleme co-own LAPSCO which processes beetroot chutney, tomato jam, mango atchar and chilli sauce

Four female farmers from Marinspark, Klerksdorp have defied the odds by forming a secondary production business that they run together and plan to expand in future. Naomi Moleme, Tebogo Ntsizi, Salvation Kgobe and Clara Mojaki individually have primary productions that supply Luscious Agro-Processing Secondary Co-operation (LAPSCO) with fresh produce that they process into beetroot chutney, mango atchar, tomato jam and chilli sauce. Against all the challenges that they face, the elderly women continue to forge ahead means of ensuring that the business continues to meet the demand for their products on schedule.

The department built a pack house fully equipped with a cold-room to store our products, stoves, boiler, crusher, cooker, jam filler and capping machine which they use as part of their production. "Prior to the funding, we processed everything manually which was time consuming and ultimately delayed our output schedule and quantity. Since the grant, we have been able to supply large volumes of our produce to a local retail supermarket on an ongoing basis and we have also managed to gain the confidence of one of the biggest retailers in the country to supply them with our much loved chutney and atchar once we meet the industry compliance requirements," said the Deputy Chairwomen of LAPSCO, Clara Mojaki.

Even though the ladies have never received formal training as food technologists, they did not hold back on realising their vision of becoming farmers that participate in the entire agricultural value chain. "Everyone contributed their much trusted recipe to the production to contribute with having variety to the brand. However, we do not plan on have more products because our goal is to market these products and establish brand loyalty with stores and individuals" explained Tebogo Ntsizi.

Naomi Moleme from Semogare Agricultural Project Primary Co-operation aforementioned that business is currently operating at a small-scale due to a number of challenges that they are yet to overcome and said the group of women are resolute on have permanent employees at the secondary production as the business grows due to the growing demand of LAPSCO products, ultimately contributing to the reduction of unemployment in their surrounding areas town.

Gratitude towards the continuous support they receive from government was expressed by Salvation Kgobe. "We receive regular extension and advisory services from the department and we appreciate the assistance that it has given to LAPSCO. MEC Desbo Mohono has visited our primary and secondary projects to assess the progress we've made and we are grateful to see that she is invested in seeing women succeed in this industry. Her leadership remains an inspiration us to forge ahead despite the tests that we come across" said Mme Kgobe.

By: Tshgefotso Leepile



Beetroot chutney produced by Luscious Agro-Processing Secondary Co-operation



MMAKGOMO HUMA IS FLYING THE YOUNG FEMALE FARMERS' FLAG HIGH

Mmakgomo Huma is making strides in livestock farming proving that young female farmers have the capability to thrive in this male dominated sector.

The journey towards successful farming has its pros and cons. This has been attested by many farmers across the province. The most satisfying of all is that many of these farmers end up growing and earning strides. For many young people, this journey can be very daunting, but this, says many young people are able to stand the test of time.

Mmakgomo Huma is a young female farmer who carries her challenges with pride for she has been able to stand against all odds. This Bojanala based livestock farmer started her life journey like many other young people, furthering her studies in order to have a better future. Between the years of 2014-2016 when she received her qualifications in Bachelor of Science in Molecular Life science from Medunsa as well Post Graduate Diploma Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Free State and later a short course on AgriBusiness management.

She did look for job opportunities elsewhere in relation her qualifications, but she found herself back home and keen on seizing an opportunity to join the family livestock business which she always had a love for. After the passing of her father in 2018, she had to step in to continue the family legacy. Although her father was a Brahman Stud breeder, the young lady wanted to create a way for her to sustain the business with what she could do then.

Her greatest challenge then, was the fact that she has little knowledge of the practicality of farming. That did not deter her and she approached many institutions and underwent training. She was eager to make a mark and met her now mentor, a renowned agriculturist, Mr Jonan Mynand. This Mentor is now taking her through a continuous process of farming for success.

So determined is this farming enthusiast that after her father passed on, she continues to grow the business and to date she has over 100 cattle in the 1162 hectare government leased farm. Huma has managed to diversify and has included piggery, goats, and a vegetable garden all of which she says, are working well. "I do have a market for all my produce. I use nearby abattoirs for piggery slaughtering every week. I have customers ready and those include local butcheries. I had water challenges when it comes to my garden, but I did manage to plan spinach and my produce is in demand in local supermarkets," Mmakgomo said.

In June 2021, after acknowledging her efforts in making a positive contribution to the sector, the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (NWDARD), as part of livestock improvement programme, handed over a bull to Huma to assist to improve her livestock. She was glad to give back a testimony that she now, by mid-June 2022,

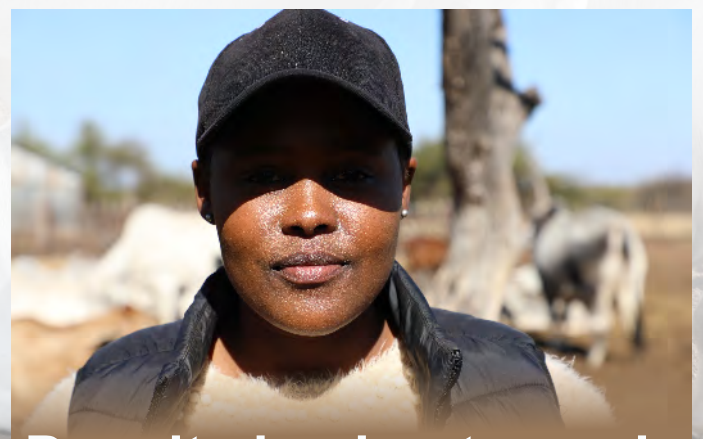
has 08 (eight) weaners from the bull. "I couldn't be quite about such a big achievement. I am so happy that the Department saw potential in me. I will forever be grateful for the help," she said delightfully.

She has employed four full-time workers and employs between to six to eight seasonal workers.

Mmakgomo would encourage other young farmers to join the agricultural sector as it has a lot of potential. Huma said she saw that many of the things said previously about the difficulty of women surviving in agriculture were just but mere myths. She acknowledged the day-to-day challenges, but she feels that they are "nothing out of the ordinary".

Huma appreciates the output that is bound to come with the growth of her project. She is looking forward to addressing all structural hiccups in the farm, that is going to assist day-to-day business. "I got to see the sustainability of the sector during the early stages of Covid outbreak in our country. Agriculture related business was thriving when many sectors had hit a wall. Our produce was in demand. So it was during that period, that I realised, that farming is my destiny," Huma concluded.

By: Tsholofelo Dintwe



Despite having to work twice as hard, Huma does take time out to unwind.

Department paves way for Potato production for black farmers

With potatoes being an adaptable root vegetable and a staple food in many households, the increase in consumption has occurred despite the rising input costs.

The North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has intensified the efforts to introduce local farmers in potato production. One of them, Mosidi Morule, an accountant by profession, now full-time female farmer and part owner of Bakang Farm in Ramatlabama, Mahikeng, was part of the nine potato production beneficiaries that were trained through the Departmental Food Security programme and in partnership with the Agricultural Research Council.

Morule is now venturing into potato farming and is also looking into commercializing potato production within the North-West province. She has consciously decided to penetrate this niche market having observed that there are a lot of black farmers in the potato industry.

Behind her passion is the inspiration fuelled by her father and brother who have been in the farming industry for ages. She resigned as an accountant in 2018 to come work full time on the family farm and has had positive yields on their mixed agriculture farming practices inclusive of crop, livestock, and vegetables.

She planted potatoes on one-hectare and her harvest far exceeded her expectation as she got triple the yield. She affirmed that the journey was not easy as potato production is labour intensive. "This production need passion because as a farmer one needs to be on site 90% of the time," she said.

As with any farming trade, challenges will always be there. Although she enjoyed this new journey, Morule indicated that irrigation was the troubling factor for her. She found comfort in that there were good this season. As a result she didn't need to water the crop much. This means that if she has a structured irrigation system the yield would have been excessive.

As a way-forward, Mosidi is currently looking forward to expansion. The assistance from both units (NWARD & ARC) going forward will be now 5% less. Both institutions will now focus on bringing in new entrants following the success of the maiden project. The opportunity is one in a million and I was, still am happy to be a part of it. I would like to thank MEC Desbo Mohono and the collaboration of the Agricultural Research Council for this opportunity. Their contribution of uplifting the province in terms of potato production and the support they've given throughout the production deserves to be commended," emphasised Morule.

The increase in potato consumption has occurred regardless of the unstable weather conditions and the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19. Many farming experts predict a stable outlook for potato production in South Africa. They further indicated that the summer rainfall region could result in farmers planting more potatoes in dryland areas, making up for downscaled production in other regions. This is envisaged to bring overall production closer to the long-term norm and help stabilise market prices, which, in turn, would facilitate better production planning.

By: Kgalalelo Mashomo



Ms Morule was part of the 10 beneficiaries that were trained through the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Food Security Strategic Plan



Packed and washed potatoes from Ms Mosidi Morule's first production.



Morokweng's Female Farmer, Kesaoleboga Gloria Motitswane Harvests Benefits of Resilience

Having business ideas, starting a project and setting goals are some of the traits that are found in the DNA of most entrepreneurs, but very few possess the resilience needed in the actual running of the business especially in the agricultural sector. This is what has set Kesaoleboga Gloria Motitswane apart from her counterparts.

Born and bred in the small village of Morokweng in Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality which lies 140 kilometres north-west of Vryburg, Ma-Motitswane as she is affectionately known in the area, runs a 1802 ha farm near Bonabona village. She started farming with her late husband back in 1987 on tribal land. The passing of her husband has not deterred her. To this day, she is still running the farm on her own.

Ma-Motitswane who is a teacher by profession, is leasing the said farm from the state and she is farming with livestock (i.e. cattle, sheep and goats). She has over seventy mixed breed cows in the farm, over forty Boer goats and 35 white and black headed sheep. In addition to the above mentioned main livestock, she is currently having 60 indigenous mixed chickens. As a supplement, she farms with broilers. She uses these broilers to make money which helps her to pay for costs of running a farm.

Despite operating in a difficult economic environment and without adequate resources, Kesaoleboga has won a number of awards in the past. In the year 2008 during the female farmer awards, she won position one (1) under the category informal markets. The following year, she won the female farmer top producer national markets award.

Currently, she has four seasonal workers and two permanent workers in all of her operations. She said although she does not possess any qualification in agriculture, she believes the sector needs hard-working people with zeal to produce and eradicate hunger.

"I don't possess any qualifications in agriculture but it's our culture that people are taught to work hard so that they succeed. I am a teacher by profession, but I have a passion for agriculture and I want to see our country regain its status as the breadbasket of Africa," said Ma-Motitswane. She says agriculture is not for lazy people and people should take it as a business.

Ma-Motitswane said she inherited the culture of hardworking from her parents who were also farmers in the area. Given the opportunity, she said she needs a bigger farm on her name so that she can produce more food for the nation as well as for export to boost the country's foreign currency reserves.

From the fruits of her labour, she has managed to secure a borehole on her own at this farm. Ma-Motitswane appealed to the government and other sectors to adequately fund women in farming if the current efforts to revive the sector are to be achieved.

With the ever increasing electricity rates that are eating into the already unpredictable profit margins for farmers, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has installed a solar power system in her farm and built a reservoir to store water for her animals.

Like other farmers in the province, she receives extension services from the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on a continuous basis. She has previously received training, and has received other agricultural support like fodder for livestock during drought seasons. Her journey as a female farmer has proved beyond doubt that women have the capacity to reach greater heights in all sectors of the economy - given equal opportunity and support.

MEC Desbo Mohono for the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has reiterated her promise to empower women to reach their full potential. Making women active participants of the agricultural economy has benefits that extend way beyond their own livelihoods — helping to improve the lives of their families and communities too," Mohono said.

By :Thebe Itumeleng



This female farmer has over seventy mixed breed cows in the farm, over forty Boer goats and 35 white and black headed sheep.

"Given an opportunity I need a much bigger and well-structured farm that I own so that I can help boost food security in our country."



The caravan Kesaoleboga Motitswane bought when she first moved into the farm that she is leasing from government. She used it as a shelter before she could build herself a two room house in the farm.

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND HOW TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION

Application for registration

The animals identification Act No.6 of 2002, states that it is by law that all livestock in South Africa (SA) must be marked. The livestock owner must apply for registration of identification mark from the Registrar of Animal Identification. An animal identification mark is a unique mark that shows whom the animal belongs. If the animal is lost or stolen, it will be easier to trace the owner. An identification mark consists of not more than three letters of the alphabets or symbols.

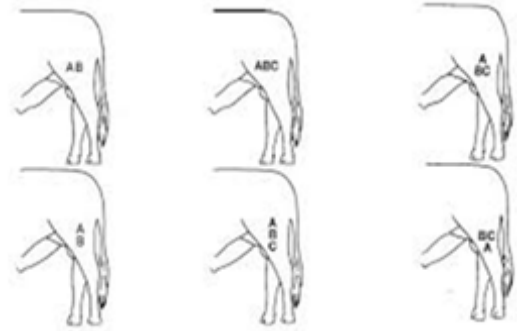
Being able to identify and trace an animal's origin assists in the planning and implementation of disease control and prevention. Not only will this help to reduce any potential health and safety threats, it will have a substantial impact on consumer protection as well. It also helps the farmer with proper management, record keeping and to make logical decisions, said Khomotso Kgaswane (Scientific Technician from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development)

The application for a registration of identification marks is done through the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's National Register of Animal Identification System (AIS). This system is used to register identification marks of animals that no one will use without the owner's permission and it is required by law to put an identification mark within two weeks of receiving or buying livestock.

What livestock owners need to do:

1. Download or get the application form from Extension officers, magistrates' offices, stock-theft units of the SA Police Service or from the Registrar: Animal Identification in Pretoria.
2. The applicant must be a jurisdic person, e.g. Lesego Hills or Lesego Hillis T/A Afri Stud cc or Afri STUD 9PTY) LTD, etc.
3. Complete and sign the application form and must be accompanied with a certified ID copy.
4. If you have not personally signed the application, a letter for authorizing the signatory must accompany the application form.
5. If the application is made in the name of a close co-operation or company the above mentioned also applies to the signatories
6. The applicant's id number or company registration number should be written in the reference space on the deposit slip. Without the reference the application may not be finalized.
7. Pay the required fee to: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development bank account or hand deliver the application form to Delpen Building, on the corner of Annie Botha Avenue and Union Street, Riviera, Pretoria.
8. Post the original deposit slip and the application form to The Registrar of Animal Identification, Private Bag X138, Pretoria, 0001.
9. Waiting period: 30 work days
10. Then you will receive an ID card with unique marks. After receiving the mark in a form as an id card with your unique mark, the user must decide on what part to use and stick to it on all his livestock.

For more information contact: Tel: 012 3197637 or Email: animalid@dalrrd.gov.za



Methods of identification: Scientific Technician – Research: Animal Science, Khomotso Kgaswane

There are different methods of identifying animals with the registered mark which are permanent which are branding (hot iron branding, freeze branding) and tattooing.

Branding

Calves must be brand marked at the age of six months. They are branded first on the lower part of the left thigh, second owner on the left foreleg, third owner on the right thigh and the fourth owner on the right lower foreleg.

Hot iron branding: Branding iron is made by mild steel or stainless steel. The height of the letters must be between 40mm and 100mm and space between letters is 12.5mm. Branding irons are welded on to steel rods about 1 meter long.



Freeze branding:

Specially made, copper-alloy branding irons are cooled in liquid nitrogen. The hair must be clipped or shaved as short as possible over the area where the brand is to be applied. The area must be moistened by methylated spirits. The cold irons are then applied for a fixed time period about 20 seconds. The pigments producing cells in the skin are destroyed and white hair will grow over the brand.



LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND HOW TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION

Tattooing

Tattoos are made using spiked letters placed in a pliers like instrument. The tattoo is to be applied in the left ear. Tattoo paste, liquid or black stove polish is rubbed vigorously in the ear and holes.



"NOTE: All marks on one animal must correspond, i.e. the notch number must be the same as the tag number, the branded and tattooed number. As well as the tattoo and the brand must be the same. Make sure the letter are placed the way they are stated on the id unique mark."

Other method includes ear-tagging and ear notching.

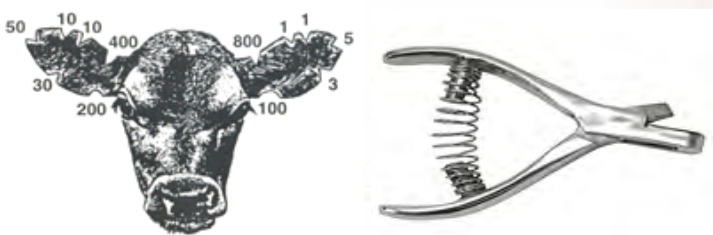
Ear tagging- tags are placed on the right ear and are cheap to use though they get lost easily. Mostly on the tag we write the year in which the animal is born the number to be used in recording. In these instance 8 stands for 2008 and 211 states that is calf number 211 for that year.

DO NOT RECTIFY THE LETTERS FROM THE ID CARD i.e. IF LETTER V IS WRITTEN AS ^ OR < SHOULD REMAIN THE WAY IS.



Ear notching

It is easiest and cheapest methods of identification. It has been proved to be the best means of first marking new born animals at birth. Use a commercial ear-clipper



Tomato jam

in the mix!

Agro-processing on a new other level

With households currently facing difficult economic realities of sourcing new possibilities of surviving and expanding their businesses, the agro-processing industry is among the sectors acknowledged to spur growth and create jobs because of its strong backward connection with the primary agricultural sector.

The agro-processing sector comprises of all processes from the stage of harvest till the handling stage. All these activities are carried out for preservation and control of agricultural produce and to make it usable as food and other materials.

When Letsema visited Bitso Radebe, a tomato jam producer from Rustenburg, her business was unusual in her Phokeng based farm. She alluded that she has been in this space since 2019. Radebe's love for farming is the one thing that pursued her thus far. She attributes this to the fact that she grew up on the farm and watching fellow farmers doing everything from farm to fork.

In her quest to make her mark, she focused on fresh produce in this farm. At first business was booming as she could grow spinach satisfactorily. In the process she managed to score strong markets for her produce which included giants retailers like Choppies and Foodzone Boshhoek.

When Covid-19 hit many businesses, Bitso Radebe was not spared. The effects of the pandemic had adverse effects on her business. She lost markets and sales dropped. She was working on a loss that's when she ventured into the tomato growing sector.

She developed the tomato jam recipe, through her eagerness of trying new things in the kitchen and due to not wanting to waste the fresh produce as she has not yet got into the market. "Tomatoes have always been easy for me to grow and maintain, I first started making gravy and salsas, then ventured into jam producing to preserve the tomatoes as I have not yet penetrated the market," said Radebe.

With her jam producing process, she plants her own fruits and vegetables which makes her jam production process cheaper, since it gets too expensive when buying from the market. It becomes simpler and cheaper when she produces her own and also manufacture her own produce.

Jam making is a fun, but intimidating process, whereby you have to find the cheapest supplier in relation to the bottling and the sugar, the market penetration is very difficult as people are not yet introduced to the tomato side of the jam "It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and passion, you have to love what you do," Radebe further said.

Radebe's tomato jam has been tested through Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) qualifying it for the agro-processing market.

By: Kgalalelo Mashomo



Prepared and packaged tomato jam ready for consumption & sales.

DEMAND FOR VUKANI PIGGERY'S PRODUCE GROWS BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Vukani Piggery Co-operative, located in Bronkhorstfontein (Potchefstroom) was bought through the states land reform programme by the Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for the Malinga family in 2008. The 154ha farm has received funding government programmes, such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development which provided the Malinga's with additional funding to build the current sow unit, which includes breeding, farrowing and weaning houses, the remainder of the fund was used to refurbish the pigsty and for electricity payments.

Molefi Mapogoshe, Agricultural Advisor assigned to Vukani Piggery highlighted that the project was given a RECAP and fully operating due to production inputs that was funded by the department. The beneficiaries practice artificial insemination and plans to implement mitigation measures to reduce the high production input costs by cultivating maize and generating their own feed for sows and using their own transport to the markets.

The family business has secured a consistent market in parts of the North West, Free State and Gauteng Province. "Vukani supplies to an abattoir about 15km from our farm, Vanderbiljpark, Parys, Potchefstroom and at the Viljoenskroon Abattoir. We also plan to sell to the local farmers who are operating grower units. However, we are under supplying as there is a high demand for our pigs from abattoirs and fortunately we are planning to increase the capacity that we currently have through the Jobs Fund. The expected cash injection will assist with an additional 150 000 sow units, we also have off-take agreements with various companies that export meat hence the reason we do not compromise on feed quality and husbandry so that we comply with industry standards," articulated Buti Malinga.

Malinga acknowledges that his staff knowledge of running a piggery plays an enormous role in ensuring that they produce quality meat that the market requires and therefore saw it suitable to invest in regular training for workers to empower and capacitate them to be able to produce quality meat that is required by the industry.

The farm is run by eight beneficiaries, four permanent employees and two interns whom each have their daily scheduled responsibilities which guarantees the smooth operation of the business. One of the workers, Yonga Bebe is a third year student from Potchefstroom College of Agriculture currently doing her Experiential Learning at Vukani Piggery works at the Dry Sow house where breeding done. Her daily duties include boar stimulation, flank fold reflex, back pressure test and artificial insemination. She says doing her practicals at Vukani Piggery under the guidance of Mr Malinga has bestowed substantial knowledge about pigs that she will be able to use in her career as an agriculturalist.

By: Tshogafatso Leepile



EXPECTATIONS

HELP FROM THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PUSHES LESEGO LUCKY MASETLHE AHEAD



A 29-year-old Lesego Lucky Masetlhe from Potchefstroom town is ploughing ahead with his mission to become a top Tilapia farmer, thanks to the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for supporting his vision.

Lesego now runs the aquaculture project which is registered as Maselesego Close Cooperation and farming at plot no 100 Wilgeboom which is in the outskirts of Potchefstroom town. He started everything on his own from the ground back in the year 2019 with only two makeshift tunnels and two ponds in a 12 ha farm which was bought by his family trust. Out of these hectares, two (2) has been allocated to him for fish farming and to practice aquaponics farming.

He is the beneficiary amongst the trust and he has been mentored on fish management by Salome Mathobela a renowned Tilapia fish farmer in Doornkop near Ventersdorp. This project is the first aquaculture project managed by a young person in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. Commitment to his work, saw Lesego's cooperative being awarded a permit to farm with Nile Tilapia by the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. The project started with farming Nile Tilapia at the capacity of two tons per annum but after receiving funding from the NWDARD, the cooperative is currently producing 14 tons per annum. He sells his produce to the local market and to the surrounding communities including at his own African Cuisine Restaurant in Ikageng Township.

The project has already created one permanent and 3 temporary jobs. During the fiscal year 2019/20, the project was funded by the NWDARD with two big tunnels, 14 ponds installed with recirculating aquaculture systems and production inputs. To empower him further, Lesego was taken to training on fish farming all paid by the NWDARD.

He received another funding last year of over R1 million for installation of solar system and production inputs. Lesego also grows vegetables in the area around these ponds 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," Lesego explains. "I am so grateful for what the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has done for me. As you can see, I have started with just a small makeshift tunnel with two small ponds," he said.

Lesego has encouraged other young people, especially those without jobs to start agricultural projects as there are a lot of opportunities in this sector. I believe that other young people like me can achieve the success I am enjoying today by doing proper research, being willing to share ideas and learning about good agricultural practices," Lesego expressed.

He also mentioned that he enjoys extension and advisory services he is receiving from Betty Matebesi who is an Agricultural Advisor from the NWDARD servicing the JB Marks Local Municipality.

Lesego's future plans include expanding the capacity of aquaponics production and hiring more people in his project. The project is implemented in line with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development' aquaculture strategy. With this strategy, the department seeks to have a pool of entrants in fish farming to create jobs and to help the government to fight poverty and hunger amongst the North-West communities.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT MASELESEGO AQUACULTURE PROJECT

- The project is a registered business and was established back in 2019 in Welgeboom near Potchefstroom.
- It is an aquaculture project specialising in Nile Tilapia fish.
- It is the only aquaculture project which is led by a young person in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda.
- It is a state funded project with a capacity of producing 14 tons per annum.
- It has already created one permanent and 3 temporary jobs.

By: Thebe Itumeleng





DEPARTMENT'S GRANT SUSTAINS WATCH P PIGGERY POST LISTERIA OUTBREAK

Located in Haaskraal in the jurisdiction of JB Marks Local Municipality Watch P Piggery project was established in 2010 by a young farmer, Palesa Watch. The project specialises with piggery production. The 2018 Female Entrepreneur Award winner in the category Commercial, is currently growing 120 weaners up to 75kg slaughter weight per cycle. In this farm there are also Ile de France sheep, boer goats, cattle and free range chickens.

The Department North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development funded Watch P Piggery project in 2016 with production inputs, 800 weaners, feed, medication, construction of 160 grower house and effluent dam. "The grant assisted tremendously as it came at a period when there was a breakout of listeriosis in the country. The demand for pork carcasses declined severely and the market price was dropped by as much as 40% which meant I was running the piggery at a loss. However, the feed supplied by the department was able to cushion the loss and eventually when the industry recovered I was one of the farmers that were still in production, otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to survive during that time," said Palesa.



Palesa currently sells her produce at local abattoirs and auctions and is currently busy developing a market plan to expand and to sell to local farmers who are operating grower units and has a stable market for pigs that also includes a retail store in Potchefstroom. She plans to intensify production in future and expand her market to other provinces as the demand for pork increases.

The project has two permanent workers and one casual employee who are responsible for the good housekeeping, cleaning of the structure and feeding of the pigs. Thabiso Moya who has been employed on the farm for over a year hopes that the piggery grows as it will safeguard his job. "The current factors affecting the economy could mean farmers downsizing on costs which will include cutting employees. The growth of this business will mean more people will be employed on a permanent contract, in turn contributing to household income and poverty alleviation. It will also create a demand for skills development which we are in need of to be able to contribute meaningfully to the project" explained Moya.

Watch P Piggery relies on the services of Agricultural Advisor from the department for extension services and also consults her husband who has an Honours Degree in Agricultural Management. Palesa says the support she receives from DARD is highly appreciated as some farmers are unable to overcome challenges that they face as female agricultural entrepreneurs. With the department by her side she is certain that someday she will massify her production and be an exporter of pork meat.

By: Tshegofatso Leepile



GAOSITWE MOLAO

GIVES UP A HIGH PAYING JOB FOR LIVESTOCK FARMING

Farming is often not viewed as a glamorous or even a profitable profession. Yet, it has now become an attractive option for some and has led them to quit their well-paying corporate jobs. Many of these individuals maintain that the switch to farming seemed organic to them and they have been driven by the quest to contribute to this sector positively and help their fellow farmers.

One of those people is the 26 year-old Gaositwe Vincent Molao. Hailing from the rural and small village of Morokweng, Vincent has always had interest in animal rearing.

The helpful lad would delight in assisting his father who was a respected cattle, sheep and goat farmer in Gafuthane farmstead located outside Morokweng village in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District. He says he had to learn to organise his time, and through a balancing act, he attended to small stock animals before and after school as he allocated time for schoolwork and other home chores.



The 26 year-old Gaositwe Vincent Molao

"I realised that I had a love for animals from an early age, so I just continued. I used to work with my father and that is where I learned most of the things I know today. I always tell people that I have always been a farmer and from a very young age," Vincent told *Letsema*.

After completing his matric, Vincent went to Bloemfontein to further his studies. He then proceeded to Gauteng to look for employment opportunities with the aim of helping his father to buy feed and medication for his animals. Few months into a new job, Vincent's father passed on. This firstborn of three children had to make a decision of continuing working in Gauteng or returning home.

His immense fondness for animals, affection for his village and family led him to drop everything and he immediately went back home to look after the animals.

Today Vincent together with his two (2) siblings Tumisang and Lebogang Molao manage a farm with over 150 cattle and several small stock animals such as sheep and goats. He says he enjoys the full support of his mother and other family members.

On a typical day, Vincent rises in the early hours of the morning and resumes his daily routine of making sure everything is in order in the three farmsteads where they are keeping their animals. For the rest of the day, he checks the property for openings in the fence and mends them accordingly. From the government, Vincent has received the presidential relief fund in the form of a voucher to purchase feed and medication for his animals. Other than that, he relies on the Departmental Agricultural Extension Officer Mr Nico Molefe and his Animal Health Technicians colleagues in the Kagisano-Molopo Area for technical advice. Vincent is eyeing the acquisition of a farm to expand his livestock business so he can hire more people. He is currently using communal property for grazing.

By: Thebe Itumeleng





KARABO KGEJANE CONTINUES TO THRIVE FOLLOWING FUNDING BY THE DEPARTMENT

Youth run project, Khejane Kgejane Enterprise situated in Mooibank town lands of Potchefstroom on a plot measuring 12.5 ha was established in 2017 by one beneficiary, Karabo Kgejane. The 28-year old's business was founded on a farm which the family received from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRD&LR) through the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme which is a grant that allows for black South African citizens to access land specifically for agricultural purposes.

Since then Kgejane has not looked back and knocked on every door for production assistance. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) funded the project with a 5000 layer house and purchased production inputs for the farmer during financial year 2019/20. "The department's assistance came in handy as I have been able to generate an income and maintain myself financially. Since completing matric in 2014, I have not had an opportunity to further my studies due to lack of funds but aspire to attain a degree in agriculture in the future to enable me to obtain more skills and knowledge about the sector and preferably layer and broiler chickens," said Karabo.

Regardless of the challenges of high production input costs, the enthused young man aspires to satisfy the demand of his consumers on an ongoing base as he forges to grow his produce which he supplies to communities in and around Potchefstroom as well as three supermarkets that have contracted Khejane Kgejane Enterprise

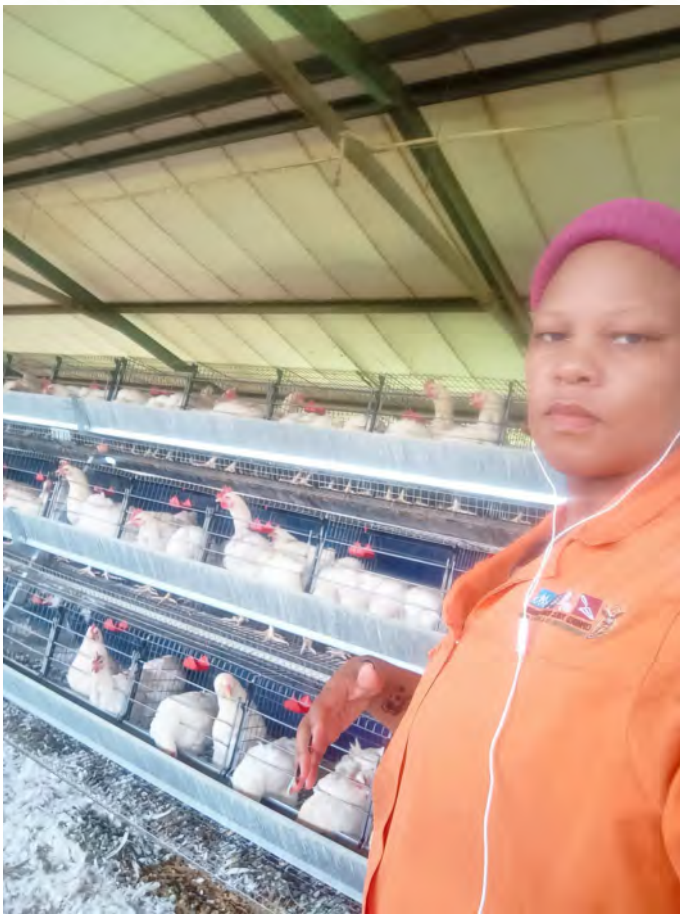
Currently the project is operating with other commodities like vegetable production and piggery and has two permanent employees and one casual worker who are responsible for the good housekeeping, cleaning of the structure and collecting of eggs. Karabo wishes to expand his business to employ more people and impart his skills that will empower them for their future endeavours.

"I persuade youth to enter the agri-sector because that is where life begins. No one should have an excuse of being too young to be a farmer, as being an agriculture entrepreneur is better than being unemployed. We must rise up as young people to tackle the challenges faced by us to better our communities, address unemployment and other socio-economic developments needed to grow our country," exclaimed the young business man.

By Tshegofatso Leepile



FEMALE AGRI-PRENEUR, MOSELE TRADED HER CAREER IN HOSPITALITY FOR FARMING



Established in 2013, Onatshitse Agricultural Co-operation is run by thirty-eight (38) year old Mosele Elizabeth Mokgoetsi. She quit her hospitality career when she realised that her budding passion for farming will be more rewarding if she invests round-the-clock on her small business which only had fifty (50) layer chickens when she started it. The project is run on a family farm just outside a small town of Ventersdorp which they are leasing from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

The single mother of two said after three months of saving her profits, she then managed to increase to 200 chickens. During that time she established a market with local vendors and one store and the demand for larger quantities of eggs grew as local businesses saved on transport costs of buying eggs from suppliers that were further from their operating areas. "After receiving a grant from the Department of Agriculture and Rural development in 2019, my supply list grew. The assistance of 1546 additional chickens, cages and water reticulation has enabled me to sustain a stable market and expand my market to surrounding businesses such as butcheries and guesthouses," explained Mosele.

Apart from the input grant, Mosele has received Poultry Production and Financial Management training funded by the department in the same year. "The course capacitated me with so much knowledge and skill that I did not have about poultry farming. I was able to understand the challenges much better and the facilitators delved deeper into what to expect in this kind of business. One of the things I took away from the training was to dissect a chicken in the occurrence of death to examine and establish the cause of death. Such an incident has happened post the training and I took that carcass to the state Veterinarian to diagnose what the source may have been. It was then found that it was genetic and there isn't much one can do in that event," she added.

Mosele receives extension and advisory services from Mr Molefi Mapogoshe, an Agricultural Advisor specializing in pig and poultry from the department. Currently the farm has mixed cattle breeds, sheep and goats. The farm also has two chicken houses that can house 90 000 Layers of which only half of one house have been converted to layer production and Mosele plans on expanding by saving for renovations for the chicken houses. Part of her long-term vision is to have permanent employees as the business grows because she currently only employs seasonal workers at the end of each cycle.

Moreover, she encourages young aspiring female farmers to start their projects at a small scale to allow them time to learn the business and gage the challenges that come with being a farmer. "It is important to start without expectations of funding from government because one may find that farming isn't something they'd want to pursue long-term given the fluctuating trends that often demoralise farmers. Being self-sustainable as a small-scale or emerging young female farmers' is essential and government's assistance should come as a capital that adds value to a business to grow to the next level," said Mosele.

By: Tshegofatso Leepile



Founder of Onatshitse Agricultural Cooperation,
Mosele Elizabeth Mokgoetsi

The impact and control measures of Alien plant species on environment

Alien plant species are not originally from South Africa but are being brought from another country, internationally. They are described as the biggest threat to plant and animal are major drivers of biodiversity. The different types of them that are found in the North West Province are Honey mesquite tree, green wattle tree, red river gum tree, sugar gum tree, karri tree, Japanese privet tree, Chinese privet tree and common privet.

The focus is on the impact of Honey mesquite tree replaces the grass species which results to decreasing of grazing capacity and is competitive in terms of light, space, water and nutrients. It can be controlled both by mechanical and chemical methods. In terms of mechanical, trees can be cut down but treatment should be repeated several times due to the germination of the trees, while chemical is the most effective method to control by using herbicides such as Turbodor and Imazapym.

In the contexts of green wattle tree impacts very competitive in terms of light, space, water and nutrients, it pose as a replacement of indigenous vegetation and decreasing of grazing capacity, the seeds can be contaminant and obstruct water flow and animal movement. While its control measure is the use of herbicides.

It is the observation that the management of alien plants is significant due to increase of water quality, minimize fire risks and prevent the extinction of indigenous vegetation.

1. Prosopis glandulas- (Honey mesquite)



Figure 1 Honey mesquite tree



2. Vachellia decurrens (formerly acacia decurrens) Green wattle



Figure 2 Green wattle tree



Figure 3 Red river gum tree



Figure 4 Red river gum tree leave



Figure 5 Sugar gum tree



Figure 6 Karri tree



Figure 7 Japanese privet tree



Figure 8 Chinese privet tree



Figure 9 Common privet

By: Dawn Mti



YOUNG **TIMOTHY MOGALE** FROM GOEDGEVONDEN VILLAGE, TAKING IT ONE HONEY BEE AT A TIME

Not everywhere is beekeeping seen as an appropriate livelihood or as a money-making agricultural business. But that perception has not deterred young Timothy “Barbie” Mogale. Growing up in the rural village of Goedgevonden Village near Ventersdorp town in the JB Marks Local Municipality, Timothy had a love for bees. Little did he know that one day he would be running his own apiary, making money from these small insects and employing fellow residents.

After completing his secondary education, Mogale went to Gauteng for greener pastures. He got himself employed in a Greenhouse company in the city of Johannesburg. While working there, he overheard one of his colleagues talking about beekeeping, his “childhood passion”. His colleague was talking about an institution near their place of work that is offering training on beekeeping management. That ignited the passion he had for bees. He was curious to learn and to know more about beekeeping.

He then went out to look for this institution, he eventually found the school and immediately enrolled as a student for a beekeeping course. Barbie somehow knew that the sector can contribute significantly to securing sustainable livelihoods by assisting in transforming vulnerabilities into security. Since then he never looked back.

He completed his studies in beekeeping and went back home with a plan in mind to convert his passion into a lucrative agribusiness practice. Today he is running an apiary with over eighty (80) beehives in his rural village and it is earning him and his family money and creating temporary jobs for local residents during harvesting. Fifty (50) of these beehives were donated to him by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

He has planted fruit trees and other flowers that he receives from the Department to enhance pollination as bees are the greatest pollinators. “I wish to thank the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as I continue to receive extension and advisory support,” Timothy said.

Over and above the 50 beehives he has received from the Department, he received the big honey extracting machine for production, protective clothing, queen excluders and other beekeeping equipment. He is operating his beekeeping business Moatane Atang from his family house in Goedgevonden and is now well-known in his community.

He sells his honey to local residents and due to his commitment in business, he also gets new customers through referrals by his loyal buyers. He has encouraged other young people to consider the sector as a way of making a living. He said in addition to the direct income from bee products, beekeeping enterprises stimulate various sectors within a society such as honey trading, renting and hiring of bee colonies for pollination, and other bee value addition.

“The nice thing about beekeeping is that, unlike other agricultural ventures, beekeeping requires less space,” he emphasised. His plan is to expand his operations and hire more locals as there is a serious challenge of unemployment in the country especially amongst the youth.

The department has taken a heed to MEC Desbo Mohono’s call to develop Apiculture farmers in order to increase bee population that is rapidly declining in areas that they are needed most. MEC has been advocating for development and support for beekeepers in the province as this will not only help to boost the economy of the province but will also contribute to the food security programme.

Those who are currently active in apiculture and have not registered are encouraged to do so. Farmers can register on the departmental data base by visiting one of the local agricultural offices in different local municipalities across the province.

By: Thebe Itumeleng



Suggested Vegetable Production Calendar

Compiled by: Tshiamo Mothata

Specialist Agricultural Advisor (Horticulture)

North West Province

S=SOW

T=TRANSPLANT

H=HARVEST

Crop		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spinach	Sow		S	S					S	S	S	S	
	Transplant			T	T					T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H	H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H
Cabbage	Sow		S	S	S				S	S	S	S	
	Transplant			T	T	T				T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H			H	H	H	H			H	H
Tomato	Sow								S	S	S	S	
	Transplant									T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H	H	H	H							H
Onion	Sow		S	S									
	Transplant			T	T								
	Harvest								H	H	H	H	
Carrot	Sow		S	S	S					S	S	S	S
	Transplant												
	Harvest	H	H		H	H	H					H	H
Beetroot	Sow		S	S	S				S	S	S	S	S
	Transplant	T		T	T	T				T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H			H	H	H				H	H
Eggplant	Sow								S	S	S	S	
	Transplant									T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H	H	H	H						H	H
Potatoes	Sow									S	S	S	
	Transplant												
	Harvest	H	H	H	H								
Sweet Potato	Sow										S	S	S
	Transplant												
	Harvest		H	H	H	H							
Okra	Sow	S									S	S	S
	Transplant	T	T									T	T
	Harvest	H	H	H	H	H							H
Watermelon	Sow									S	S	S	
	Transplant												
	Harvest	H	H										H
Sweet peppers	Sow								S	S	S		
	Transplant									T	T	T	
	Harvest	H	H	H	H							H	H
Chilli (hot pepper)	Sow		S						S	S	S	S	S
	Transplant	T		T						T	T	T	T
	Harvest	H	H	H	H	H						H	H
Cucurbits (butternuts/pumpkins)	Sow									S	S	S	
	Transplant												
	Harvest	H	H	H									H

Please note: There may be a month or two variation due to different climatic conditions experienced in the East and West of the North West province.

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Let's Grow North West Together