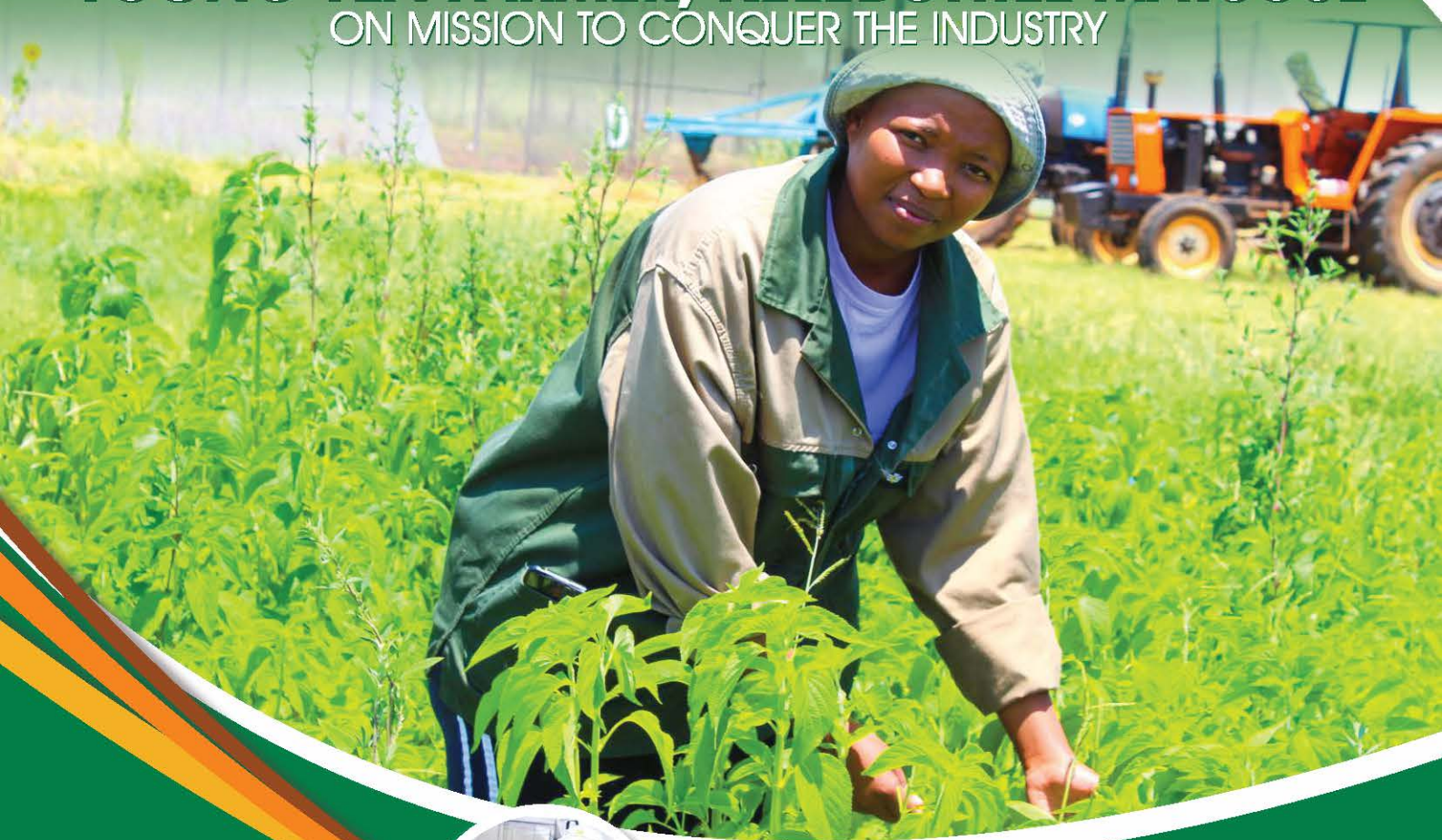


YOUNG TEA FARMER, KELEBOHILE MATSOSE ON MISSION TO CONQUER THE INDUSTRY



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Young Tea farmer on a mission to conquer the industry



Page 09
Young farmer secures off-take agreements with major South African retail stores



Page 20
Know Your Meat Safety act



**agriculture &
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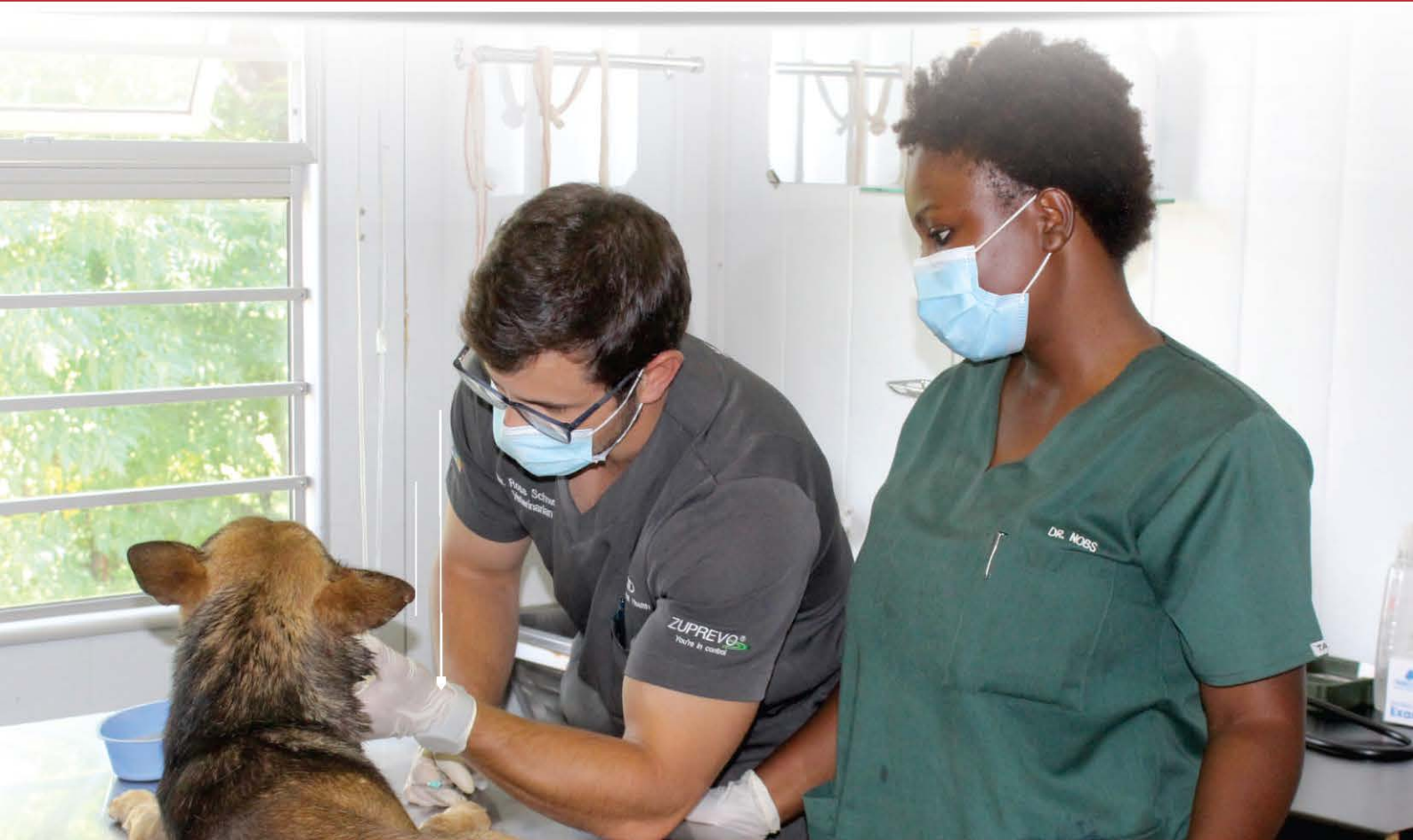
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GONTS

GREDITS

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

Re simolola ngwaga wa 2023 ka go semelela. Botshelo bo tsamaya ka lobelo lo lo kwa godimo mme re tshwanelwa ke go itepatepanya le maemo a bone. Masego a ngwaga o moshwa kea o Letsema Family. A ngwaga o e nne o re tla bonang re tswelitse go dira mmogo ka natal mme temothuo e gole...lefatshe le nne le dijo.

According to the World Bank Group, a leading global financier of agriculture, this sector can help reduce poverty, raise incomes and improve food security for 80% of the world's poor, who live in rural areas and work mainly in farming.

Go ya ka bone ba World Bank Group, Temothuo e tlhoka mananeo a tsepameng a itekanetseng mmogo le tirisano mmogo ya batsaya-karolo bothe go netefatsa fa e fitlhelela maitlhommo a yone a go tlamela lefatshe ka dikuno. It asserts that agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity, and feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050. Growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest compared to other sectors.

Fa re tswelitse re phasalatsa kitso ka ga temothuo le go aroganya maitemogelo a bangwe ba balemirui moprofenseng ya rona ke ka gonne re re lebeletse tumalano e baitseanape ba nang le yone ka seabe se temothuo e ka nnang le sone fa rotlhe re ka kopanya matsogo go e isa kwapele.

Jaaka le fapha go a namatsa go bona balemirui ba tswelitse go kopanya matsogo, ba neelana kitso, bathusana ka di diriswa gore re ye kwa pele. We have as a department equally hosted many farmers days and brought expects an array of fields including the departmental extension services officials in to come personally engage farmers so that they can note the many opportunities that are there for them. These information sessions will never seize because we are living in an everchanging world and these required improved ways of doing things. This means there will be an evolving knowledge material available for farmers and anyone interested to join the sector.

When we talk about agriculture, it is important that our conversation reflect on the value chain. This is in an effort to encourage farmers to see themselves beyond primary production. As part of this edition, we focus amongst others, on Meat Safety. Producers need to ensure that food that they produce is safe for consumption.

Sengwe seo re se etseng tlhoko ke gore re tlhoka go itse melwana yanaga yarona fa go tlamo go tsholeng dijo. Fa re fetisa go rua mme re batla go tselelela go ya pele mme re eletsa go dira ka nama re tshwanetse go itepatepanya le melwana ya tsholo ya nama. Our article on meat safety for provide you with further details. We also hae provided you with details of the departmental state offices in your area. Farmers and interest groups can approach these offices for more information.

One of our interesting topics in this edition is on soil health. I think you will agree that in order for us to have healthy produce, we need to look into the soil that give us those produce. It is very interesting to learn that when we refer to soil health we are not only talking about crop production but here we also reflect on the role of soil in water quality, human health and most importantly, the role of climate change on soil. Bagaetsho tota Letsema le tswelitse go re tlisetsa tshedimisetso e e humileng. Read our story on Soil Health and Climate change for more.

Ngwagatlola re bone lefapha le dirisana le ba Agriculture Research Council (ARC) go thusa balemirui ba basha go tsena mo indastering ya ditapole. Re bone basha bano e le lantlha ba jala mme ba ntsha dikuno tse dintle mme ba itirela letseno. Seno see ile sa rotloetsa ba bangwe ba bantsi mme re a lemoga gore bontsi bo tlhoka tshedimisetso ya sejalo seno gore ba kgone go tsena le bona mo go jaleng ditapole. Our article on agronomy practices will give you some heads up on key things to remember when growing potatoes.

Bagaetsho ngwaga eno re tile go tswelilela go neela ka tshedimisetso. Fa go na le ntsha nngwe e o ratang re ka e akaretsa mo lokwalo-lono, re a e amogela mme o ka ikgolaganya le kantoro ya rona mo nomoreng ya 018 389 5719 kgotsa ka email: esetlhako@nwpg.gov.za

Ke a leboga

Emelda Setlhako

Motsamaisi wa tsa Tlhaeletsano

FROM MEC's Desk



This third repayment of Letsema edition comes amid many challenges that are hell-bent on making sure that the entire country comes to a halt. Our province especially the agricultural sector happens to be in the kitchen and feeling the heat as well from the Foot and Mouth outbreak, electricity/load shedding, measles, Swine Flu and lastly the deadly Covid 19. All five mentioned shortfalls from above further add from the usual mistrusts that has wreaked havoc all along namely unemployment, crime, housing, education and poverty related shortfalls.

The departmental plans are afoot as we continue to ponder post all these trials and tribulations that faced the sector. Gatwe tiro e tshaba diatla, e bile bontsi bo bolaya noga. Plans are afoot in making sure that our farmers are not compromised in their service delivery entreaty.

The department is a change-maker for the entire North West province farming community, now our farmer's plight and plea has to be turned into reality in building a better and well positioned sector.

In all my interviews and all my public engagements I will not tire nor tone down in making sure that food security will be the order of the day in our province.

The triple burden of food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition compounded with social injustice and income inequality is inevitable especially in our rural outskirts.

As we aver, we might be found wanting due to lack of resources, and at times not have the capacity to address the entire food insecurity throughout the beautiful North West province. However we will not be deterred nor be disturbed by naysayer's lamentations.

By working hand in hand with all our municipalities (DDM MODEL) and many other stakeholders including the renowned North West University, Dikgosi tsa rona and faith based organizations, I do not think we will fail the test, the nexus of food insecurity and social injustice of our people will be alleviated no matter what.

This 3RD installment of Letsema is overflowing and chockfull with lot of success stories from our farmers. One thing that is common with our farmers is that they always try to go all out in

producing the best for the market thus positioning their end product to a wider variety of consumers.

This nicks across from horticulture, animal husbandry, crops, vegetables and poultry. As a department we are proud of all our farmers profiled in our magazine and we take our hats off to their sacrifices and willingness to help in combating the dilemma of food insecurity.

I hope you all enjoy this informative piece of knowledge from our department. I also urge farmers to feel free to lock on our social media platforms, website and make use of all the relevant channels to either get help or advice from our experienced personnel.

Ke a leboga - I thank you!

MEC: Desbo Mohono

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



KELEBOHILE MATSOSE

Kelebohile Matsose is a young and driven tea farmer from a small farming town of Makwassie near Wolmaransstad which is located in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality.

The electrical engineer turned farmer got into the farming business because of lack of job opportunities and because of her experiences of growing up on her family's farm.

According to Kelebohile, the decision of venturing into farming on a full time basis was a personal one. Instead of pursuing her profession as an electrical engineer, the 30-year-old Kelebohile decided to become a farmer.

Today she is known locally as one most hard-working and energetic young farmer in her home town of Makwassie where farming has remained a dominant economic activity.

In the farm, together with her family, they do mixed farming. They keep livestock, plant maize, sunflower and various vegetables. But Kelebohile's priority is production of tea.

Her product, known as Feel Good Tea, is made out of chia plants. She raises her tea bushes without the application of any agrochemicals and omits any type of fertilization. Kelebohile's focus is to grow a natural product that was raised and nurtured by the surroundings in which it grows. In doing so, she hopes to become an inspiration to others to discover a better way for humans and nature to successfully coexist, and in effect together build a better world.

Her passion and dedication to her craft saw her being selected to be part of the South African Good Agricultural Practice Certification Programme (SA-GAP) in the year 2022.

The programme's main objective is to assist smallholder producers of fresh produce like Kelebohile and many others in the Province to access both local and international markets by producing good quality products that comply with food safety and quality standards as required by the market.

Moreover, the certification programme ensures health and safety to consumers and helps producers to gain gradual recognition and acceptance from mainstream commercial markets.

In simple language, SA-GAP Certification Programme stands for (economic viability, environmental sustainability, social acceptability and food safety and quality).

As an intervention and through the SA-GAP programme, the Department has assisted Kelebohile Matsose with a package of marine 12m container, with steel sinks, tables and shelves, mobile cold room, harvesting crates and packaging/processing equipment.

Since then, Kelebohile has never looked back. Currently she has three permanent workers and five (5) seasonal workers.

In the North West Province, a total of eight (8) farmers/producers got SA-GAP certified during the 2021/22 financial year.

For the producer to be considered for participation in the certification programme, the following basic conditions should be met. The producer must:

- Understand the need, requirements and advantages of being certified,
- Be fully committed to participate in the programme,
- Be willing to implement the recommendations from the auditor,
- Be in production and utilise available production facilities to their utmost best (if the produce produced is out of season, the producer must be willing to continue with production in the new production season/cycle),
- Have access to irrigation water, land and other basic production infrastructure,
- Have production infrastructure which is in reasonably good condition (i.e. the programme is not designed for dilapidated business entities).



The corrugated iron house which Kelebogile was using as a store room. The Department is currently building her a proper store room and ablution facilities in the farm.

Kelebohile has expressed her appreciation to what the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has done for her. "I am grateful for what the Department has done for me. Through this SA-GAP I have learned a lot about farm management, data recording, traceability of products, financial management, food safety and handling and a whole lot of other stuff in this business," said Kelebogile.

Her dream is to see herself dominating the sector particularly with her organic tea, having a tea producing plant, supplying the international market. As the country is experiencing a lot of unemployment, she is working hard to expand her enterprise so she will be able to hire more people in the next five (5) years.

For more information on SA-GAP Programme, farmers can liaise with their Extension Officers or visit the Local Agricultural Offices or District Offices in all four districts of the province.

OTHER SUPPORT THAT THE VULIMEHLO MAJARA VEGETABLE PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE DARD IN THE PAST YEARS:

During the 2018/19 financial year, the project was funded for construction of security fence, knapsack sprayer, borehole testing and equipping.

During the 2019/20 financial year the project was funded for supply and construction of shade net (30 x30m), expansion of water development (60 000L water reservoir), electricity connection, palisade fence equipped with alarm system and supply of production inputs.

During the 2020/21 financial year, the project was funded to acquire a 12m marine container with steel sinks, tables and shelves, mobile cold room, harvesting crates and packaging/processing equipment.

During the 2021/22 financial year, the project was funded to acquire packaging materials and processing equipment.

This financial year, the project has been assisted to acquire a mechanization package i.e. tractor and implements. The Department is currently constructing a store room and ablution facility for the project.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng



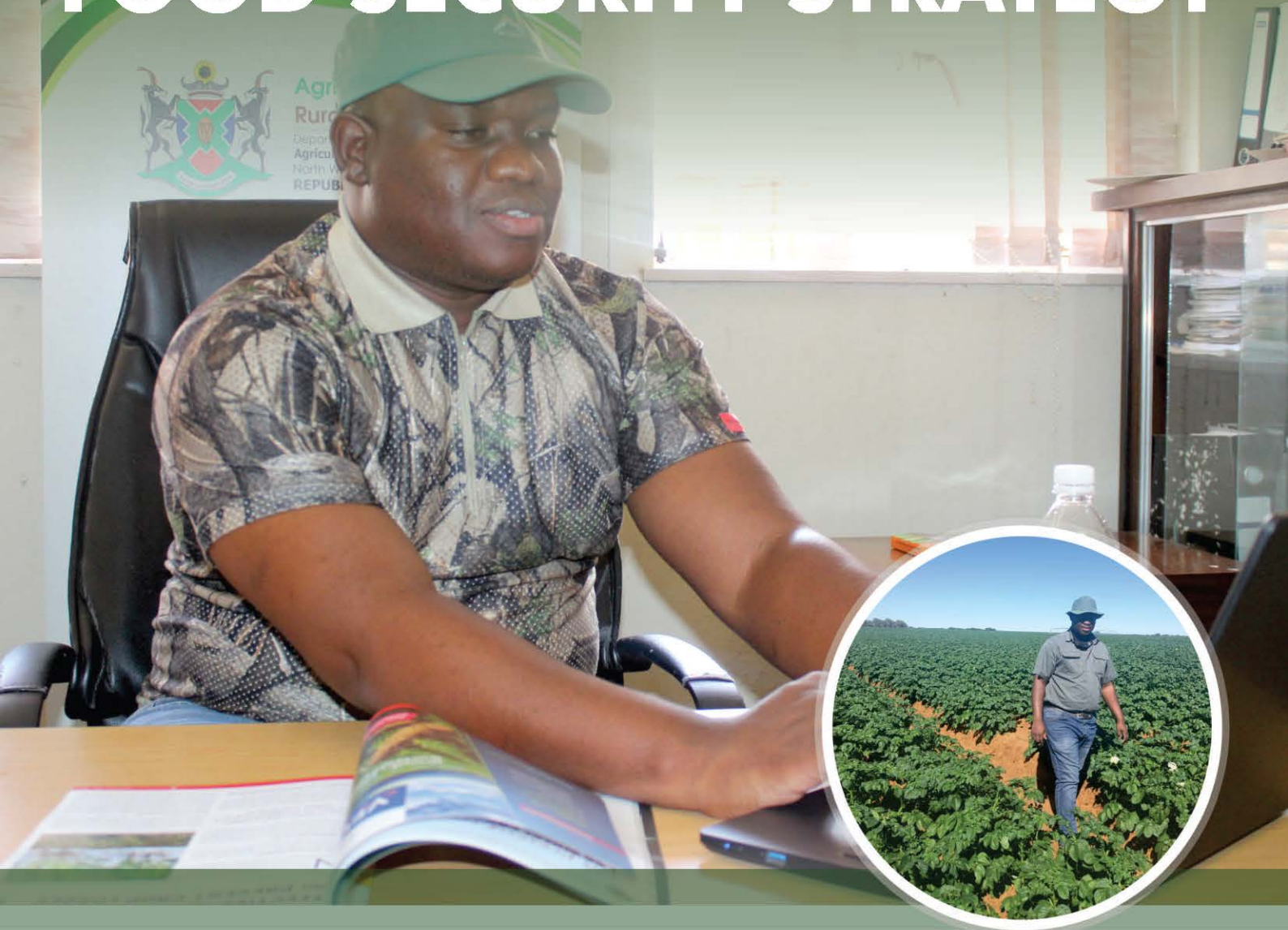
Kelebohile Matsose's product that known as Feel Good Tea, is made out of chia plants.



Her dream is to dominate the sector particularly with her organic tea, having a tea producing plant, supplying the international market and creating employment for residents of Makwassie and the the province at large.



FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY



AGRONOMY PRACTICES TO REMEMBER WHEN GROWING POTATOES

Growing potatoes is very tricky unlike other vegetables/crops. Potatoes grow beneath the soil, which makes it hard to track the progress of the crop therefore, it is essential to take samples of the soil to be planted on. Soil samples are taken by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Soil Science Division to test and analyse as well as give recommendations.

Zooming into the production of Potato (*solanumtuberosum* L.) practices to minimise losses and to meet the household nutritional requirements, producers need to ensure cultivars are disease free and disease resistant. It is important to procure from a reputable suppliers and to know which cultivars thrive within your region as well as the markets you intended to supply. Knowledge growth period for the selected cultivar is essential in order to measure physiological and market maturity which are indicators for readiness to harvest.

During the crop developmental stages, scouting is very imperative as it is a method used to identify crop nutritional deficiency and diseases on the field. Once any abnormality is identified, one needs to consult an Agricultural Advisor who will help with solutions to the problem.

Crop rotation is essential to minimise the build-up of diseases and nematodes which also diminishes soil health. That's why it's key to incorporate cover and crop rotation. One may rotate potatoes with onion, butternut or grain to serve as cover crop and use its residues for mulching.

Throughout the growing season, make to balance the soil moisture content as potatoes require moist soils to bulk. Planting date is also an important factor to consider for harvesting. Once the crop reaches its physiological maturity stage, the crop will senescence and then 7-14 days from the initial natural dying, the plant starts to suberize meaning the walls of the crop thickens to enable handling without the skin peeling off. It also helps when washing with recommended chemicals to enhance longer shelf life. Good luck potato farmer!

*Article by: Vusimusi Ngcobo – Kagisano Molopo
Agricultural Advisor*

YOUNG FARMER SECURES OFF-TAKE AGREEMENTS WITH MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN RETAIL STORES



Koketso Baloyi, a young female farmer whose project is run from a plot in Bojanala, supplies five major retail stores in South Africa with her produce. Since getting an off-take agreement with one of the largest Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company, McCain Foods and other retailers to supply spinach on a weekly basis, Diatla Tshweu has grown exponentially from when it started in 2018.

"We have recently purchased seedlings to plant other vegetables from the profits that we have been saving. Cabbage, green pepper and chillies will be part of the vegetables we grow and supply to our already established market that we have contracts with. We also sell directly from the farm to hawkers and individuals to keep the produce moving and to generate continuous revenue" said the thirty year old.

Besides plans of refurbishing a dilapidated building on the plot to turn it into a pack house to store their produce, the farmers has a vision to expand her cultivar on more hectors in order to reach a wider market.

In October 2022, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development mitigated a major water supply and electricity challenge that Koketso faced on the farm by funding her with a generator, pump and a main water line that will assist with sourcing water from a pond within the farm to irrigate her produce with ease. "I am grateful for the assistance the department has offered including the extension and advisory services that Ms Nne Lende continues to offer.

We have been working together for some time now and the relationship forged has empowered me with knowledge and skills that I have imparted on my employees" said Baloyi.

Besides being a successful and dedicated businesswoman, Koketso gives back to surrounding communities that are disadvantaged. With every harvest, she donates produce to a local school, destitute families and community based organisations that take care of the sickly, old and orphaned.

Sengwe Deborah Moiloe, Institutional Manager of the North West Department of Social Development Sonop Old Age Home applauded the outstanding work that the department does to support the young female farmers. This comes after the institution received a donation of more than two hundred bunched of spinach from Diatla Tshweu. "This old age home is the only state run institution in the province and currently operates with 137 beds.

We house patients from across the province and some are from neighbouring provinces. The donations of bulks of spinach will go a long way as green vegetables are a portion of the staples that we serve as part of a nutritious balanced diet for our beneficiaries" explained Ms Moiloe.

Article by: Tshegofatso Leepile

BAKWENA BA NARE'S UITKYK COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM LAND CARE PROGRAMME



Uitkyk community benefits from the Land Care Programme with mechanical and chemical de-bushing resources

Article by: Tshegofatso Leapile

Uitkyk located in Bojanala district, Moses Kotane Local Municipality Farm 22JP has a project that is funded by the department. The Bakwena Ba Nare's total project areas is 1 742ha and the objective of this project is to improve the agricultural potential of the grazing land through better veld management practices. The livestock census of the area is 654 and 72 farmers will benefit from this venture. The farmers are practicing continuous grazing due to lack of camps and 250ha grazing land will be improved through the removal of indigenous bush species.

David Matimele, Land care coordinator indicated that the project is aimed at controlling indigenous woody species which result in reduced biodiversity, reduces grazing capacity, increased moisture loss through run-off and reduced biomass. These are caused by *Dichrostachys cinerea* (sickle bush/moselesele) *Senegalia mellifera* (Mongana), *Vachellia Karroo* (mooka), and *Vachellia tortolli* (mosu).

Ratala Mofokeng a local farmer expressed gratitude towards the supply of the mechanical and chemical de-bushing equipment. "Since the project started our livestock is able to graze with ease. Prior, we experienced a lot of stock theft and less grazing land due to the encroachment of unwanted trees. We are anticipating increased conception rate of livestock as fodder will be more available as a result of increased grazing grassland and better grass species composition"

The department has provided training to thirty (30) employed workers on methods of control and chemical application, increase awareness among the community about the natural resource conservation, market linkages for market as they will be encouraged to have contracted market and increase dry matter production from the veld as bush will have decreased.

Refilwe Tawana and Thabang Moloiwho are part of the 30 employees under the department's land care programme in Uitkyk say the project has transferred necessary skills that they will use in future for their own benefit and capacitate other locals who share the 1 742ha of land to be able to assist in the maintenance of the grazing land as it is for the benefit of the community's livestock and safety thereof. "The support from the department is highly appreciated considering that most people in our village are unemployed and unskilled. The stipend we receive alleviates the burden of relying solely on social grants and poverty that has stricken our community. We hope that the relation between us and the department will see positive developments in our village" said Refilwe.

- Increased dry matter production from the veld.
- Improved general condition of the veld.
- Clear understanding veld management.
- Motivated and committed land users.



Community members applying chemicals provided by the department to kill unwanted trees

NGUNI CATTLE PROGRAMME

augment emerging farmers

Mr Andrew Mathe, the DARD pioneer of Nguni cattle programme in the province shares the interview with the readers of *Letsema* what has been achieved by this programme in the past ten (10) years.

Tell us about the overview of Nguni cattle programme in the province?

The North West Province Nguni cattle development project started in 2006 in partnership between the Industrial Development Committee (IDC), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Northwest University (NWU) with the aim of re-introducing the Nguni cattle in the province by providing deserving beneficiaries with heifers and bulls on a grant-loan basis. Each qualifying applicant receives 23 heifers and 1 bull to breed for five years and after 5 years is expected to return 12 heifers back to the trust. The intension of the project is to contribute towards alleviation of poverty and job creation. The goal is there introduction of indigenous breed to the rural farming areas of the province through the upgrading of non-descript cattle to Nguni status. The objective is to empower and ensure upliftment of the emerging livestock farmers to become more commercial Nguni cattle producers, transfer skills and capacities necessary for establishment of black commercial livestock farmers and create jobs for the rural poor.

How many projects and beneficiaries does it have and what contribution has made?

The programme managed to distribute 3 684 breeding heifers and 138 breeding bulls so far, 254 people benefitted and includes 81 women and 50 youths and 22 groups (av. 7/group) and 72 individuals benefitted. Summary of cattle distribution to the sites per district; Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti is 32, Dr Kenneth Kaunda is 32, Ngaka Modiri Molema is 27 and Bojanala Platinum is 35 total is 126.

Since its inception, what are the most aspect challenges faced by the programme?

The department stopped funding the project 3 years back and the project rely solely on IDC loan repayment heifers for its survival. Low number of new beneficiaries approved due to budget constraints, poor commitment by some beneficiaries especial after completing 5 years contractual obligations, inadequate and restricting grazing land hampers participation in the project and growth. Poor market price (haphazard marketing) in some areas, low number of animals given to beneficiaries (Budget constraints) restricts intended growth and poor infrastructure hampers administration of recommended livestock management practices. Individual farms distance to market (high transportation costs), drought, and theft in some farms diseases (CA pandemic) in some areas and control of some beneficiaries beyond 5 years (Cross breeding).

How does the dept. intervene and act to address and overcome the challenges?

The NW Nguni cattle development Board of Trustees visits all beneficiaries' sites on yearly basis to give support directly to beneficiaries. Farmers are organised into legal entities, Nguni breeder society allows project beneficiaries having excess production breeding material to sell through their auctions which are under auspices of society and training beneficiaries through farmers days and information days.

What objectives have been achieved in the past ten (10) years, so far?

126 sites established and 254 Nguni cattle farmers assisted. Trained 185 beneficiaries through NWU, Taung and Potchefstroom Agriculture colleges and Kgora farmer training centre, 3 farmers sites won the Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo competition conducted by ARC, 1 project site won the best elite cow of the year (2015), 2 farmer's sites won the best performing site award sponsored by Feedpro. Linked farmers with breed local clubs, breeder's society and Grassfed beef association. Established the Nguni cattle development project Provincial Structure, hosted the Lesotho delegation visited the province to learn more about the Nguni Cattle development model and Nguni cattle Veld bull growth performance testing up and running well at Potchefstroom.

What are the current and future perspectives?

DARD to continue funding the grant component. Melton Nguni cattle breeding farm owned by department to be used as breeding farm supplying the project with Nguni cattle breeding material. District representatives currently serving on project Technical committee to be officially appointed as Nguni cattle development project coordinators. Each district to be allocated holding farm where Nguni offtakes can be finished as per market requirement. Number of breeding animals allocated to approve beneficiaries to be augmented to make business more viable.

How can the programme be developed and improved for the future?

The NW Nguni cattle development project has made a huge impact in the North West Province. The programme is a successful model of what a well-structured institutional arrangement between Government institutions can manage to achieve. Great progress been realized with regard to the original objective of redistribution of the Nguni bloodstock, which is a worthwhile investment in the beef cattle industry given the challenges of climate change. With the current numbers of the breeding stock, the project is ready to launch into the next phase of commercialization as well as stud breeding. Beneficiaries have benefited financially as well as socially through this programme. They have benefited socially given the esteem given as well as dignity restored to many who come from a background where they owned very little in terms of beef cattle, to a position where they are in possession of large herds of Nguni cattle. The risk situation of many beneficiaries has been alleviated in that they currently farm with low cost/maintenance animals, and many who are renting state land and other pieces of land have been given an injection of capital that will enable them to pay their rentals as well as take care of daily living expenses. This programme has also demonstrated very well that small scale farmers are reliable and trustworthy in that the overwhelming majority has managed to successfully repay the loan at the end of the five year period. Given the above-mentioned benefits, the programme should be supported further with resources such as financially, intellectually research and technology development, human and infrastructure as it prepares to move into the next phase of commercialization. The next phase will mostly target the niche market of grass fed beef and will be driven mainly by the beneficiaries, and supported by the Board and Technical committee. What will be key is to secure holding farms where the North West Province Nguni brand of grass fed beef will be produced. Research farms will be needed to supply the programme with quality breeding material.

Article by: Dawn Mti

POULTRY BIOSECURITY MEASURES: YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST DISEASE

Compiled by:
Staff Reporter



Biosecurity means protecting your birds by preventing disease from entering your farm, and protecting others by preventing disease from leaving your farm. Some diseases are unapparent, and others can kill all of your birds.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Good biosecurity helps to prevent diseases not occurring on your farm from entering your farm and those on your farm from spreading to other farms, e.g. diseases such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease, etc.;

Reduces the risk of zoonotic diseases such as salmonella becoming established; limits the occurrence and spread of diseases and helps to protect your neighbours, public health and the rural areas;

Improves overall flock health, cuts costs of disease treatment and reduces losses, which could improve the profitability of the farm.

HOW TO PREVENT POULTRY DISEASES?

What you can do to prevent your birds from becoming sick with diseases like avian influenza, Newcastle disease, etc.

Plan how you will manage any free ranging and/or wild birds if there is a need to isolate these from broilers.

Feed and water should be provided indoors, where possible, to reduce contact between your chickens/birds and wild birds.

HOW DOES DISEASES SPREAD?

- Diseases are spread through:
- Movement of poultry, people, vehicles and equipment between and within farms;
- The introduction of birds of low or unknown health status;
- Contact with the neighbour's flocks;

- Using/sharing farm equipment and vehicles, which have not been effectively cleansed and disinfected;
- Contact with vermin and wild birds;
- Birds drinking from contaminated water sources;

Birds eating contaminated feed; and unsatisfactory cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, sheds, feeding troughs and other equipment.

CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTION EVEN IF YOU ALREADY IMPLEMENT GOOD BIOSECURITY MEASURES, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

If you farm free-range birds you should plan how you will manage them if there is a need to isolate them from wild birds.

Water and feed should be provided indoors for free-range birds where possible to reduce contact between your birds and wild birds.

Look out for the guidance on local risk assessment, available from your local State Veterinary Office.

HOW TO STOP DISEASE AND KEEP YOUR FARM CLEAN?

Do not bring infection into your farm, or spread it around your farm, on your clothes, footwear or hands

Strictly limit and control access to poultry flocks.

Have pressure washers, brushes, water and an approved disinfectant available.

Clean and disinfect all vehicles thoroughly after each journey.

Regularly clean and disinfect all crates, containers and other equipment before and after use.

Keep farm access routes, parking areas, yards, areas around buildings and storage areas clean and tidy and well maintained.

POULTRY BIOSECURITY MEASURES: YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST DISEASE



TAKING CARE OF YOUR CHICKENS

The welfare of your birds is always an important concern, and particularly so in the case of a disease outbreak.

Movement restrictions can have a negative impact on poultry, with confinement potentially leading to health and behavioural problems.

Allow for appropriate stocking density and avoid overcrowding.

Stocking density will be determined by the type of housing and the weather conditions where your farm is situated.

Having a contingency plan in place will make sure that the welfare of your flock remains a priority at a critical time.

HOUSING

The house should face east direction.

It should be designed to protect the chickens against rodents, wild birds and adverse weather (rain).

It should contain the relevant equipment.

Corrugated iron sheets are used for roofing.

It is advisable to place between 15-20 birds per square metre in the mechanically controlled houses and between 10-14 birds per square metre in naturally ventilated/open-sided houses to avoid overcrowding and spread of infections.

The broilers should not be mixed with other domestic birds.

The poultry houses should be secured to prevent stock theft.

RECORD KEEPING

Record keeping helps with the indication of the economic progress.

Helps to monitor health, growth and management practices;

The simpler the records are the better;

Manual records are often easier and simpler than computerised records.

THERE ARE FIVE VACCINATION METHODS OF BROILERS:

Eye-drop method;
Spray method;
Drinking water method;
Needle through the wing-web method;
Injection method.

NB: For further information on vaccination programme of poultry, please consult with your local state veterinarian or Animal Health Technician for prevalent diseases that you have to vaccinate against. Other than that, you can contact our Provincial Veterinary Services Directorate on: 018 389 5102/5051



THE IMPORTANCE OF DIPPING LIVESTOCK



Article by Mr. Lefentswe Mosupa
Animal Health Technician based in
Greater Taung State Vet Office

For a farmer to have a healthy flock or herd of animals there must be a number of activities that he/she must do regularly with the guidance of a livestock health management program. Such a program may differ between different areas and from one season to another. The frequency of an activity (e.g. deworming, dipping, or vaccination) in such a program is guided by scientific research on pathogens (disease causing organisms) and their vectors in relation to area and climatic season, and the guidance as per remedy recommendation. In this discussion we are going to focus on the importance of dipping of Cattle, Sheep, & Goats, in order to highlight why it is important for a farmer to incorporate it in his/her livestock management program.

The importance of external parasite treatment lies in the existence of pathogens that are harboured by vectors that have a predilection for the skin of the abovementioned animals. Moreover, many of these vectors have a tendency to infect more than one animal, either through mechanical or biological transmission. Some parasites can transmit disease to more than one species of animal. If this is the case then a strategic approach to dipping animals is necessary, namely a WHOLE-HERD/FLOCK approach. There must not be a situation whereby certain animals of a herd/flock are treated for external parasites while others are left behind-they must all be done at the same time. The common dipping methods include plunge dipping, spray and/or use of pour ons.

External parasites can lead to diseases like heartwater, redwater, tick borne gall-sickness, sweating sickness, sheep scab, abscesses etc. In the case of a disease like Heartwater, the tick (vector) that harbours the heartwater organism is a 3-host tick called Bont tick. This means that, in its lifetime, it will climb and feed upon three different animals, which may be Cattle, and/or Sheep, and/or Goat, or all 3 species.

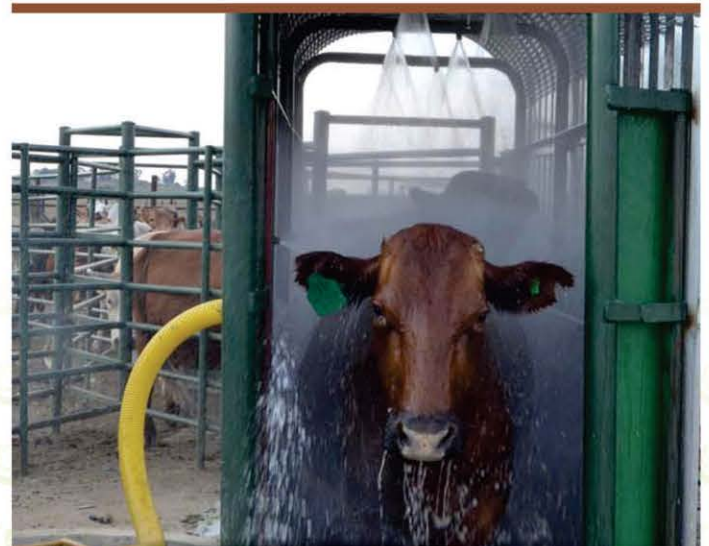
To add to the dread, the animals need not be in direct contact with one another for the tick to transmit the disease; after feeding on its current host the tick will climb off, change to the next phase of its life while on the ground, and then climb on the next animal for more feeding until it reaches the adult stage.

This is how it transmit the disease from one animal to another. Before the adult female tick dies it may lay up to 20 000 eggs that will (upon favourable conditions) hatch and grow to become another group of ticks that will transmit the disease to more animals and if there is animal movement from one are to the

other without dipping, the disease will spread from area to another. Without timeous treatment heartwater disease will present various nervous clinical signs in the animal like circling, drooling saliva, falling down & cycling legs as well, eventually leading to death. Heartwater happens to be one of the most problematic tick-borne diseases in the entire North West province and South Africa at large.

Ticks are not the only kind of external parasite that animals come across. As opposed to ticks, some parasites prevail in the winter season. An example is the mange mites that cause a disease of economic importance called Sheep Scab.

This is because of the lower sunlight and temperatures that allow for a moist wool environment possessed by a host animal that has been discovered to be of a favourable environment to the mite. The parasite that causes this disease penetrates the skin of the host animal, causing irritation to the animal. A farmer may witness his/her sheep biting themselves, rubbing against objects, and losing wool, among other things. This will affect the growth and performance of the animals as well as the quality of their wool. It is important to note that Sheep scab, like Foot and Mouth Disease, is a State Controlled Disease, meaning that should a farmer suspect it, they must report it to their nearest veterinary office.



EXTERNAL PARASITES CAN LEAD TO DISEASES LIKE HEARTWATER, REDWATER, TICK BORNE GALL-SICKNESS, SWEATING SICKNESS, SHEEP SCAB, ABSCESSSES ETC.



Farmers will have varying challenges in executing an effective dipping strategy. A commercial farmer compared to farmers in a cooperative, vs farmers sharing communal grazing land will encounter differing obstacles. A commercial farmer with a fenced grazing land only has to concentrate on the livestock he/she owns. Farmers in a cooperative and those on communal land must collaborate to ensure that all animals are dipped on the would-be agreed day of dipping. The most difficult situation, in the context of synchronized livestock dipping, is on communal territories due to the larger number of participants, i.e. livestock owners, who must part-take in such an activity.

The usual finding is that there is no fencing between villages, and the problem with this is that it gives room for contact between animals from different villages. This indicates the need for a coordinated dipping strategy; not only should farmers from the same village dip their animals on the same day, but neighbouring villages must also try to synchronize their days of dipping in order to achieve effective parasite control. Many farmers are not cognitive of this, and that is where the role of Veterinary Extension comes to play. The Animal Health Technicians must continuously emphasise this, and must help coordinate this action.

North West province is largely a rural province and there is a significantly huge population of livestock in communal areas. If farmers in communal grazing territories can cooperate with one another and start executing good dipping practices, uniformly, external-parasite-borne-disease occurrences will reduce, thus, reducing the frequency of needing to purchase drugs to treat such diseases; the kind of money that a farmer can use for other endeavours to grow his/her farm.

Therefore prevention of these diseases is better than attempting to treat them. In other words, by following a proper dipping program and strategy (in conjunction with other disease management practices) farmers in communal land may start to improve their contribution to South Africa's commercial meat industry, and thereby, the economy; just as those farmers who are already contributing.

NB: THERE ARE MANY MORE OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES THAT ARE BROUGHT ABOUT BY EXTERNAL PARASITES. HEARTWATER AND SHEEP SCAB WERE THE CHOSEN EXAMPLES FOR THIS ARTICLE.



VETERINARY SERVICES IN HARD-TO-REACH RURAL AREAS OF KAGISANO MOLOPO.

Article by: Thebe Itumeleng

About seventy kilometres (70km) north-west of Vryburg and about one hundred and seventy kilometres (170 km) south-west of the provincial capital Mahikeng, lies a small farming town of Ganyesa with an estimated population of nineteen thousand people according to census 2011.

Ganyesa is an administrative centre for the far north-western area of the province and hosting the head offices of the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality.

Majority of people in this local municipality are mostly subsistence and smallholder farmers with a few number of commercial farmers. The general population here is relying on the government for provision of basic services.

Realising the need for provision of animal health care services in the area, in the year 2016 the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development took a decision to establish a veterinary clinic in Ganyesa. Since then, this clinic has been offering primary animal health care services, clinical services, and control of state-controlled diseases, diagnosis, vaccinations, sterilisations and treatment amongst others and it has grown in size and client base over the years.

Although the facility is situated in Ganyesa, it services surrounding villages such as Louwna, Dipodi, Tosca, Piet Plessies Tlaakgameng, Phaposane, Morokweng, Bray to mention a few. The clinic also services farms that fall under the jurisdiction of the Kagisano-Molopo council.

When you are visiting or checking-in your animals at this facility, you will be welcomed by very professional and friendly staff. The team at this facility comprises of one (1) State Veterinarian Dr Gert Coetzee, one (1) Compulsory Community Services Veterinarian, nine (9) Animal Health Technicians, one (1) Clerk and two (2) general workers.

According to Dr Gert Coetzee, the team always tries to put emphasis on educating farmers and pet owners about basic care of their animals' general health and welfare as well as the importance of nutrition.

Dr Coetzee also said for farmers who are unable to reach the physical clinic, they provide farm call outs services.

"As you can see, the facility is very busy, showing that people appreciate the services we are providing at this clinic. We strive to uphold the very best in patient care and clinical excellence for our patients." Dr Coetzee said.

State veterinarians and animal health technicians provide affordable and quality veterinary services daily to communities who would otherwise not be able to afford private veterinary services.

Pets with other ailments including those with wounds can be treated at this clinic. Letsema caught up with Mr Leepile Tlharipe who is a farmer in Ganyesa and a regular client of this facility. He is generally happy about the quality of services he is getting from the clinic.

"I have taken my pets to this Vet clinic over the years, and I have never had a single bad experience. I always get a perfect service and for the record, they are extremely well priced and other services don't even charge you. The staff is professional and friendly. I have never had a problem," Tlharipe said.

With these kinds of facilities, citizens living in rural communities no longer have to travel or walk long distances to access these critical government services.

For animal health care related queries, communities in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti are welcome to call the following numbers during office hours:

AREA OFFICE	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT DETAILS
Bray-Molopo	Mr EP Boshoff	066 190 9238
Naledi	Ms ME Thebe	066 141 6397
Mamusa	Mr TL Ntefang	066 141 6448
Lekwa Teemane	Mr Letihogonolo Moroke	082 323 2790
Greater Taung	Dr R.E Murapa	060 980 8555



Ganyesa Vet Clinic staff



PROJEKE YA A.A QUEEN OF CHICKEN

E TLAMELA BAAGI BA IPELEGENG KA NAMA YA KOKO YA MAEMO A KWA GODIMO

Ka Thebe Itumeleng



Lefelo-bonno le Mme Annah Anitjie Maine a simolotseng a direla mo go lone. O ne a le dirisetsa go godisa ditlha tsa gagwe pele Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae le mo agela lefelo-bonno le le gatlwanyane.



Mme Annah o bapile le lefelo bonno le a simolotseng a direla mo go lone. Kwa morago ke hako le lefelo-babolakele le lefapha le le agetseng porojeke porojeke eno.

Porojeke ya dikoko ya A.A Queen of Chicken e e tlhamilweng ka ngwaga wa 2004 e na le dingwaga di le dintsi e tlamele baagi ba motse-setoropo wa Ipelegeng o o kwa Scweizer-Reneke kwa Mmasepaleng wa Mamusa le ditulo tse di mabapi ka nama ya koko ya maemo a a kwa godimo.

Porojeke eno, e eteletswe pele ke Mme Annah Anitjie Maine. Le fa gone a dula mo motse-setoropong mo gantsi go senang lefelo le le lekaneng go ka rua, lerato la ga Mme Annah mo dikokong le ile la mo rotloetsa go simolola kgwebo ya go rua le go rekisa dikoko teng mo motse-setoropong wa Ipelegeng. Moragonyana ka ntlha ya go bona porojeke e gola e bile go nna le koketsego ya bareki ba nama ya koko, Mme Annah o ile a kopana le botsamaisi jwa Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Mamusa go kopa setsha se se golwanyane se a ka direlang kwa go sone. Ba Mmasepala ba ile ba amogela kopo ya gagwe mme ba mo rebolela setsha seo. Fa e sale ka nako eo, Mme Annah ga ise a ko a lebe kwa morago. O ile a tswelela go dira ka natla go fitlhelela gompieno.

Fa a ne a etetswe ke ba lokwalo-dikgang la Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae e leng Letsema kwa polasing ya gagwe e e kwantlenyana fela ga Ipelegeng, o ile a tlhalosa gore ga a bolo go rata dikoko.

"Ke simolotse ka dikoko di le pedi (2) tsa selegae tsa mmala o mohibidu dingwaga di le dintsi tse di fetileng tse ke neng ka di fiwa ke Mme-motsadi. Mme di ne tsa ata fela thata. Morago ga go lemoga gore nka itshidisa ka go rua dikoko, ke ila ka simolola kgwebo ya tsone ka di le some-a-matlhano (50) tsa nama, go tsweng foo ka oketsa ka di le lekgolo (100) mme ka nna ka oketsa jalo go fitlha go di le makgolo-a-matlhano (500). Seo se ile sa dira gore puso e lemoge gore ke dira ka natla mme ba simolola go nthusa ka dikgakalole le maele le gore nka tlhokomela jang dikoko tsa me," ga rialo Mme Annah Maine.

Tiro ya bonatla ya ga Mme Annah Maine e ile ya lemogiwa ke Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae ya Porofense, mme Lefapha le ile la mo rekela dilwana tse a neng a di tlhoka mo porojekeng ya gagwe gore e gole le go feta.

Ka ngwaga wa matlole wa 2018/19, Lefapha le ile la agela porojeke eno lefelo-bonno la dikoko le le nang le didiriswa tsotlhe tse di tlhokegang go ka godisa dikoko tsa nama. Mme mo ngwageng e e latelang ya matlole ya 2019/20, Lefapha le ile la boa gape la agela porojeke eno ya A.A Queen of Chicken lefelo le le tla dirisiwang go boloka didiriswa tsa porojeke di tshwana le dijo melemo ya dikoko le tse dingwe.

Mo godimo ga kago eno ya bobedi, Lefapha le ile la rekela Mme Annah melemo ya dikoko le dijo tsa tsone. Lefapha le ile la mo direla sediba sa metsi (borehole), la mo rekela dikokwana di le 2500 tse a neng a tshwanela ke go di godisa le go duelela ditshenyegelo tsa go tsenya motlakase mo polasing ya gagwe. Fa e sale go tloga ka nako eo, porojeke e ile ya gola le go tlamele baagi ka nama ya koko ya maemo a kwa godimo.

Lefa gone leroborobo la Covi-19 le ile a ama porojeke eno fela jaaka diporojeke tse dingwe, Mme Annah Maine o ntse a tswelitse pele go dira ka natla le go netefatsa gore porojeke eno ga e phuthlame.

Porojeke eno ya A.A Queen of Chicken ke nngwe ya diporojeke di le dintsi go ralala Porofense tse puso e di tlamele ka dithuso gore di gole go thusa mo go rebeng tlala, go lwantsha bohuma le go fokotsa botlhoka-tiro gareng ga baagi.

Puso e thusa gape baagi ka go ba abela diporojeke tsa temothuo gore ba simolole dikgwebo-potlana, (Agri-project starter packs). Baagi ba ba nang le kgalhego kgotsa ba setse ba simolotse ka diporojeke tsa bone tsa temothuo ba ka ikgolaganya le dikantoro tsa Lefapha tse di gone kwa didika-potlana (Sub-Districts) go ralala Porofense kgotsa ba ikgolaganya le balemisi go utlwa ka dithuso tse lefapha le fanang ka tsone go baagi le balemirui ka kakaretso.



Tebogo Kgomo and Olga Nkoana together with other three business partners plant barley that they sell to Heineken South Africa

BARLEY FARMERS CONTINUE TO THRIVE AFTER DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE



GMMM Itireleng cooperative operates on a farm in Sonop, Bojanala. The five beneficiaries of the department occupied the farm in 2011 and have since been assisted with a grant to purchase a tractor, disc harrow, ripper, fertilizer spreader and a boom sprayer in the 2014/15 financial year. In the 2018/2019 budget, a planter was purchased and well as an additional fund for seedlings. The cooperative plants barely on 22ha of the 44.0300ha of land and have an off-take agreement with Heineken South Africa, a leading producer and marketer of premium beer and cider brands.

Olga Nkoana one of the directors of GMMM said the department's assistance has enabled the business to grow beyond their expectations. Even though they also spend on the continuous improvement of the farm and their personal skills development, Ms Nkoana acknowledges the exceptional work and support they continue to receive through training at the Kgora Farmers Training Centre in Mahikeng as well as extension and advisory services from their assigned Agricultural Advisor Mr Mokomele.

"The unwavering provision of advisory services saves us money that we could be spending on a private consultant. We also appreciate the grant we received through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme to purchase machinery when we initially started the business. The department has been by our side from the beginning and that shows us that government is committed to the growth of black farmers in the province" she said.

Barley, an inexpensive crop is easy to grow, provides excellent erosion control and weed suppression in semi-arid regions and in light soils. It also serves as a topsoil- protecting crop during droughty conditions in any region. The crop is mainly planted for malting purposes as there is no significant feed market for barley, it is grown in both highly productive agricultural systems and by subsistence farmers.

The dedicated agripreneurs plant wheat and soybeans in rotation with barley. Business partner, Tebogo Kgomo says the benefits of crop rotation is to give the soil microbes different food sources, which ultimately makes soil healthier. In addition to planting crops, the cooperative also produces spinach which they sell to local markets and the neighbouring town of Pretoria.

"We have also been part of the potato trial with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Agricultural Research Council. Through that we have been able to plant our own potatoes and we will be harvesting soon. Diversifying with other crops and vegetables will allow our market to grow beyond what we currently have" said Ms Kgomo.

GMMM owners have future plans of putting an overhead irrigation system on the remaining part of the farm and building a processing plant.

Article by Tshegofatso Leepile

"We have also been part of the potato trial with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Agricultural Research Council. Through that we have been able to plant our own potatoes and we will be harvesting soon. Diversifying with other crops and vegetables will allow our market to grow beyond what we currently have"
~Ms Kgomo



SOIL HEALTH



Figure 1: Soil resource diagnosis using soil profile pit at Machavie experimental farm. Assessments of soil resources are needed to understand diagnostic horizons, soil physical characteristics, organic matter composition and ability of crop to exploit available soil moisture, nutrients and gaseous exchange capacity for sustainable production. Various sources suggest that about 5-10 million hectares are being lost annually to severe degradation. Declining yields (or increased input requirements to compensate) can be expected over a much larger area. These losses result from: physical degradation by water and wind, crusting, compaction and waterlogging. Biological degradation due to the depletion of organic matter and loss of soil flora and fauna. Chemical degradation by acidification, nutrient depletion, pollution from excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers or human and industrial waste.

AND THE QUEST FOR ENHANCEMENT IN THE INTERFACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Article by Kenneth Nthangeni

Soil health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. It connects agricultural and soil science to policy, stakeholder needs and sustainable management. Historically, soil assessments focused on crop production, but today, soil health also includes the role of soil in water quality, human health and most importantly, the role of climate change on soil. Healthy soils sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help intensify production, while enhancing the natural resource base. However, quantifying soil health is still dominated by chemical indicators, despite growing appreciation of the importance of soil biodiversity, owing to limited functional knowledge and lack of effective methods.

The soil is a heterogeneous natural body, which basically consists of solid particles (mineral particles), organic matter, water and air. Organic matter is one of the smallest components of the soil system, but plays an essential role in maintaining soil health and functions. Soil organic matter is derived from living organisms, such as plants and animals, and their products in the soil environment. When organic matter breaks down, it is transformed into different pools as sources of plant nutrients at various degrees of availability and eventually forms the final product called humus. This product becomes the central building block of healthy soil.

SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Integrated soil fertility management is a strategy used worldwide in intensified cropping systems to combine inputs of organic matter (mulch, compost, crop residues, green manure) with fertilizers to address or prevent macro- and micro-nutrient deficiencies.

Sound management of soil-crop-water interrelations can increase SOM levels, improve the soil's nutrient retention

capacity and enhance soil biota. Depending on agro-ecological zones, climate change will impact negatively; both on soil and crops and therefore the following practices are intended on enhancing soil resilience: Minimum or No-tillage; improved protective soil cover through cover crops, crop residues or mulch; and crop diversification through rotations, for example (incorporating deep rooting plants and perennials pasture leys for integrated crop-livestock systems).



Figure 2: Minimum tillage practice on Rensburg soil from, Bojanala District. The recycling of nitrogen on the farm by using manure and nitrogen fixing plants is the predominant technique used in organic and low external input agriculture to enhance soil quality and provide nutrients. When using this technique, proper timing and management are essential. Nutrients need to be delivered to the plant in times of peak demand. Organic and green manures, as well as nitrogen from legumes, can be managed very precisely through crop rotations.

Numerous studies show that farming practices strongly affect two key aspects of soil health, for example, soil organic matter and the community composition of soil life. Agricultural production systems should adapt through increasing soil resilience that presents substantial opportunities even in the advent of climate change.

KNOW YOUR MEAT

SAFETY ACT, 40 OF 2000

Article by Muzikayise Nkosi

The Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000 is a national legislation responsible for regulating slaughter of animals, especially with the intention to sell the meat. In terms of this act, it is illegal for anyone in South Africa to sell any meat unless it has been slaughtered at an abattoir.

The main purpose of this act is to provide for measures to promote meat safety and the safety of animal products. An abattoir is defined as a slaughter facility in respect of which a registration certificate has been issued. So, anyone who wants or wishes to slaughter any animal and sell the meat, must first build an abattoir which must be built in accordance with the Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000. Under this act, there are regulations for different species of animals, such as poultry regulations for poultry abattoirs, red meat regulations for cattle, sheep and goat abattoirs, game regulations for wild/game animals etc.

The responsible department for this law is the Department of Agriculture at national and provincial level. In the North West Province, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible through Veterinary Public Health in the Directorate of Veterinary Services. There are Veterinary Public Health Officers (VPHOs) in different parts of the provinces based at some State Vet.

Offices and their responsibilities include the enforcement of the Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000. For anyone who wishes to build or establish a new abattoir, the ideal first contact point for advice or guidance is with the local/nearest VPH Officer. The requirements on where abattoirs can be built, the kind of structure to be built and how the processes should be run is all based on the applicable regulations under the Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000. There are also other stakeholders to be involved when establishing an abattoir, these include the Local Authority, Environmental Affairs and Water and Sanitation, and the VPHO would give such information to the prospective abattoir owner.

There are a number of registered abattoirs in the province for different species, especially poultry and red meat, which are monitored regularly by the VPHOs for compliance with the act. Any slaughter of any animal at any place other than at a registered

abattoir is illegal and therefore not allowed. The Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000 does however exempt slaughter of animals for own consumption, for cultural or religious purposes, but it is important to note that such meat may not be sold to anyone.

It is important for people to understand that there is a difference between abattoirs and butcheries and the laws applicable are administered by different departments. Butcheries and all meat retail outlets are regulated in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, Act 54 of 1972 (regulation no. 638). This law falls under the Department of Health and the responsible officers are called Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) and are based in municipalities.

It nevertheless also does prohibit sale of meat unless sourced in line with the Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000. All retail outlets are therefore required by law to source all their meat from approved or registered suppliers who are mainly abattoirs.

Consumers have an important role to play in ensuring adherence and compliance to the Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000, by ensuring they buy meat from approved facilities selling meat sourced from abattoirs. Also consumers can report illegal slaughter activities they notice in their areas to local VPH Officer who would then investigate and take appropriate action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT ANY ONE OF OUR STATE VETERINARY OFFICES OR CALL ANY OF THE FOLLOWING VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

NAME	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL-ADDRESS	OFFICE LOCATION
M.D. Nkosi	066 141 6862	Nmuzikayise@nwpg.gov.za	Mmabatho (Regional Office)
S. Kgechane	0661412727	Kgechane@gmail.com	Potchefstroom (Regional Office)
M.A. Morwe	066 141 6413	moiadmorwe@nwps.gov.za	Mahikeng State Vet Office
M.S. Modise	066 141 6859	Suzanmodise36@gmail.com	Vryburg State Vet Office
M.P. Marede	0661909160	madulroto77@gmail.com	Ganyesa State Vet Office
G.R.Dlamini	082 322 1066	racheldlamini@yahoo.com	Zeerust State Vet Office
M.L. Matabologa	066 141 6393	lmatabologa@yahoo.com	Lichtenburg State Vet Office
K. Matsietsa	066 190 9228	katlegondu@yahoo.com	Bloemhof State Vet Office
S.J. Mokubane	066 141 6893	jmokane@yahoo.com	Madibeng State Vet Office
B. Montoedi	060 980 8620	tumilicity@gmail.com	Potch State Vet Office
T. Hlongwane	0661416817	thalefangh@gmail.com	Rustenburg State Vet
J. Lekgothoane	060 980 8723	lekgothoanemogobova@gmail.com	Moretele State Vet Office
P. Matjila	0660549245	matjilaportia@yahoo.com	Mogwase State Vet Office

WHAT IS DDM?

FOCUSING ON AN INTEGRATED-DISTRICT BASED APPROACH THROUGH MUNIMEC.

MuniMEC forum members viewing presentations on refocusing the agricultural sector in the North West Province.



North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Head of Department, Thupi Mokhatla addressing MuniMEC forum members during the first technical meeting in Potchefstroom Municipal chambers

Article by Kgalalelo Mashomo

The District Development Model (DDM) is a newly integrated district-based approach to addressing service delivery challenges. The DDM requires national, provincial and local governments' to facilitate coordination in the implementation of policy and legislation.

DDM aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery and realization of national priorities and monitoring of compliance and implementation of the said policies and legislations. Furthermore, the DDM embodies an approach by which the three spheres of government work in unison in an impact-oriented way, whereby President Cyril Ramaphosa calls for government to break away from the silo mentality of working for coherent service delivery and development outcomes.

Under the District Development Model all three spheres of government coordinate and integrate development plans and budgets and mobilize the capacity and resources of government and civil society, including business, labour and community, in pursuit of inclusive growth and job creation.

The MuniMEC, a forum formed by the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was launched in May 2022. It forms part of the District Development Model (DDM). The forum will come up with plans that will ensure that there will be an alignment between planning and budget processes in identifying needs of communities within the agricultural sector.

During the first technical MuniMEC meeting held on 04 and 05 August 2022, the Head of Department of the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Thupi Mokhatla stated there's a need for this structure (the MuniMEC) to feed into the DDM and not interrupt the process.

"North-West is predominantly a rural province and agriculture is one of the economic drivers. The purpose of MuniMEC is for the three spheres of government; national, provincial and local to work together, to avoid duplication & wastage of resources. MuniMEC will assist the 3 spheres of government to carry out their mandate effectively & efficiently to serve the people of the North-West Province, while ensuring food security and creating employment," emphasized Mokhatla.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's (DALRRD) Chief Director, Mr Lengane Bogatsu, appreciates the initiative of the department. "With the MuniMEC, a technical team will look into what we can achieve working together, the recommendations must have a district-based approach to maximize participation of black farmers in the sector," said Bogatsu.

He furthermore said "Municipalities must also be able to define the activities of the municipality irrespective of it being handled by the national department. This process will furthermore address land municipalities own, some of which are agricultural land that is lying fallow"

The collective partnership of the three spheres of government is also in line with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act which requires that national, provincial and local governments consult each other in a manner best suited to their circumstances, including by either direct contact or relevant intergovernmental structures. This is to allow coordination of actions when implementing policies or legislation by cooperation and information sharing between organs of state.



Tshepiso Jantjies on the border post of Namibia when attending the Oruharui annual agri expo where he won a gold medal

VENTURING INTO EXPORT TRADE

By: Kgalalelo Mashomo

When it comes to trade there are quite a number of things to look at, the strict specifications or requirements and the consistency of production as far as farmers are concerned.

Export refers to a product or service produced in one country but sold to a buyer abroad, exports are one of the oldest forms of economic transfer and occur on a large scale between nations. This kind of trade contributes and increases the world economy.

Speaking to Tshepiso Jantjies from Taung Village in Dr Segomotsi Mompati District, Chief Executive Officer of Jantjies Boerdery/Voere, a multi-agricultural service company specializing in human consumable maize meal, animal feed, manufacturing, livestock feedlotting, crop production, retailing agricultural supplies and Maize Meal manufacturing. He sells to local farmers, both emerging & commercial and supply to farmers in Botswana & Namibia.

Smallholder farmers of the North West province do produce exceptional yields, but they are unable to venture into export trade market, with reasons being lack of knowledge and information on where these markets are and also the requirements the markets have.

In this trade Jantjies Boerdery manufacture their own feeds of which are of the highest quality, to bridge the ever expanding gap of feeds shortage due to the high demand caused by drought stricken parts of Southern Africa. Their aim in regards to this trade is to bring closer a market place that offers the surrounding communities of the establishment a constant and reliable supply of live sheep, cattle, goats and pigs of the highest quality supply of live sheep, cattle, goats and pigs of the highest quality.

“The sole purpose of this is to take charge of the basis of the value chain from planting raw material to processing that raw material into animal feeds and feeding them to livestock which subsequently we sell to the end user” said Jantjies.

In November 2021 Tshepiso won a gold medal at Namibia's Oruharui annual agri expo, within a year they've also managed to make a turnover of R3 million and bought inputs to assist in the day-to-day running of the business, with job creation high on his agenda, the company currently employs 24 people, both temporary & permanent.

This type of trade requires farmers to have at least explored the domestic market, to know that they have the muscles and enough to even ship outside the country, there's no chance of cutting corners, farmers must be able to aggregate their produce as there will be a contract between two governments.

The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the means of training & workshops quarterly in the districts give farmers insight into in international trade, the department is also responsible in identifying those markets for farmers and inform them of the requirements in order to supply those markets.

“The sole purpose of this is to take charge of the basis of the value chain from planting raw material to processing that raw material into animal feeds and feeding them to livestock which subsequently we sell to the end user”
~Jantjies.



agriculture & rural development

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KNOW YOUR LOCAL AREA OFFICE MANAGER

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Local Agricultural Office	Name of LAO Manager	Contact Number
GREATER TAUNG	Mr Thaelo Lethogela	053 994 1975 / 072 794 0787
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MAMUSA	Ms. Tuelo Sebekedi	053 963 1339 / 072 781 2345
KAGISANO MOLOPO	Mr. Tebesi Makabanyane	053 998 3343 / 072 790 4934
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