

letsoma

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Department of Agriculture and
Rural Development



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2023 Edition

BA SETLAMO SA MOLEBOTHA BA GODISA TLHAGISO YA NAMA



Page 07 - 08
*Aphamo Boerdery Goat
Production*



Page 11
*Ofentse Tlhabane starts a
vegetable*



Page 13
Thibela bolwetsi jwa Lumpy Skin mo leruong



Graduate Programme

DEPARTMENT WELCOMES GRADUATES
AS PART OF THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYED YOUTH PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 2023 - DECEMBER 2025

WE WELCOME AND WISH THEM A FRUITFUL 2-YEAR PERIOD!

Congratulations

Contents & Credits

Content

Page Number

| | |
|--|-------|
| <i>Poster: Welcome Graduates</i> | 02 |
| <i>In This Issue/Contents Page</i> | 03 |
| <i>Editorial Comment</i> | 04 |
| <i>From MEC'S Desk</i> | 05 |
| <i>Ba Setlamo sa Molebotha ba Godisa Tlhagiso ya Nama</i> | 06 |
| <i>Aphamo Boerdery – Goat Production: A Versatile Business Choice</i> | 07-08 |
| <i>Low-Cost Chicken Feed Production</i> | 09 |
| <i>Livestock Identification And Traceability System In North West</i> | 10 |
| <i>Exacerbated Poverty Prompts Ofentse to Start a Vegetable Garden</i> | 11 |
| <i>Giving Back to Contribute to Food Security</i> | 12 |
| <i>Why is it Important to Take Care of our Land?</i> | 13 |
| <i>Bolwetsi Jwa Letlalo: Seo Molemuri a Tshwanelwang ke go se Itse</i> | 14 |

Credits

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Chief Editor | : Emelda Setlhako |
| Editor | : Tsholofelo Dintwe |
| Magazine Coordinator | : Thebe Itumeleng |
| Writers | : Dawn Mti, Tshogofatse Leepile, Kgalalelo Mashomo, Tsholofelo Dintwe |
| Contributors | : Prince Seokotsa, Bonolo Molefi and Matsobane Ngoasheng |
| Photographers | : Orapeleng Gaonewe, Motsepe Nkoliswa, Kokeletso Legoete |
| Graphic Design | : Tshepo Selaledi (Communication Services) |



Editorial Comment

Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

We are now beginning a new year and equally approaching the end of 2023/2024 financial year. The year that was packed with plans that the Department had towards empowering communities in much needed corners of our province. At this stage we are only looking at how far we have gone to reach the Department's 2023/24 goals. Seo re ka se lo netefaletsang ke gore re kgonne go fetisa maano amantsi a thebolo ya ditirelo mmogo le go fetola selebo sa temothuo.

When the Department launched the MuniMEC programme, the aim was to ensure that the three spheres of government are working together to deliver services. We must applaud this effort for we have seen how the Department has thrived on a collective effort which included the national government as well as municipalities. This collaboration has helped us as a department to avoid a duplication of empowerment which allows us to reach to a broader community. Bagaetsho fa puso e dira ka tshwaragano re bona batho ba le bantsi ba ungwela. Kana Setswana se a re "Sejo se nnye ga se fete molomo". Le fa o ka fitlhela re pitlagane ka ntlha ya ledi le lennye, "Hube ga a tshwane le setlhe". Bontsi bone re a bo fithelela mme re bone menyobo fa re hulara.

During the year 2019, MEC Desbo Mohono committed to a goats massification programme. With this, MEC wanted the province to explore goat production as one of livestock economic drivers. To date the Department has reached out to many farmers to empower them with goats so that this dream can be realized. Read our story on Aphamo Boerdery and find how many farmers have embraced production and would do every effort to ensure that the goat massification dream is realized.

Many types of bacteria can grow on animal products, so it's important to safely handle and store all types of meat. However, the different rules for handling different types of meat can be confusing. It may be perfectly safe to eat some meat a week after it was prepared or to freeze it for later. Other types should be thrown away after only a few days. The role of Meat Safety Act 40 of 2000 is to provide for measures to promote meat safety and the safety of animal products; to establish and maintain essential national standards in respect of abattoirs; to regulate the importation and exportation of meat; to establish meat safety schemes as well as to provide

for matters connected therewith. As an advocate of this act in the province, the Department has sought to reward abattoirs in the province who are committed to ensuring that they live to the expectations of this act so that we can have a healthy nation and that our economic spin offs are continuing to soar.

Nothing can be more intriguing like animal diseases. Re na le go bona ka moo malwetsi a leruo a nang le go gwetlha barui ka teng. Itsholele tshedimotsetso e re e aroganyang mono mabapi le bolwetsi jwa letlalo mo luerung le gore o ka dira jang a leruo la gago le ka amega.

The Covid 19 period has come and gone. However, to date we still feel the effects of that pandemic. When we talk about this Covid 19, the first thing that comes to mind is its negative impact. We however have previously shared how the agricultural sector remained resistant during that period. One of the young people, Ofentse Tlhabane from Moretele Local Municipality took advantage of the covid 19 season to start his vegetable project. Read our story on how the young man took advantage of the opportunity and is still steadily growing his business.

Bagaetsho tota re dirile go ka tlala seatla mme mmogo re tlhoka go simolola ngwaga ka mathagatlhaga re solofetse tse dintsi mo setlheng seno. Re a itse gore bangwe ba balemi ba tsentse ditlhogo go ka konosetsa tiro ya go jala. A re solofeleng thobo e e namatsang mmogo le leruo le le akotseng.

Compliments of the new season to all farming communities. We are available on our landline 018 389 5719 if you have any enquiries.

Enjoy reading. Ke a leboga

Emelda SETLHAKO

Motsamaisi wa tsa Tlhaeletsano

FROM her Desk



Our faces are beaming with joy because 2024 is but upon us. In this issue of Letsema we have some exciting interviews, comments and very educational pieces that are sewed and hemmed together by our committed team of writers. They continue to go out of their way to make sure that you get your money's worth within the agricultural wing in the entire North West Province.

The past quarter saw the agricultural sector especially in our province outshining the sagging national economy. Despite lot of pressure from different other sectors, the sector has managed to steadily climb the employment ladder by at least 10%. This includes both casual and permanent jobs as applauded by the Minister, Thokozile Didiza. In that 10% we have surely contributed immensely in making sure that our people are skilled and positioned for greater things in the province but not just EPWP jobs. This is rainy season and floods are also upon our shores. As farmers it's rather embedded in our DNA to always be thankful for the rain because it means one thing only...Relieve and Reprieve in our pockets be it crop or animal feed.

The replenishment of soil moisture and dam levels can only be soul music in our ears. While on the issue of rain and climate, it has been researched and confirmed that 2023 was the hottest year in the recorded history, this was announced by World Meteorological Organization on the 30th November 2023 at COP28, at the climate summit in Dubai. As much as we have encountered all this mix fortunes we are proud to make mention of the fact that our farmers stood tall like a watered blue buffalo grass in the summer season.

As we continue to appreciate the work our farmers are putting in fighting food security to its roots, we do so in cognizance of the fact that as a department at times our support might seem and look minimal however I should put a disclaimer upfront to say "We see you, We appreciate your efforts" in helping this sixth administration to reach the target they long set to fight unemployment, food insecurity, homelessness and other imbalances in our society. We are aware that load shedding continues to frustrate most of our farmers operations more especially those who are dependent on constant electrical supply such as agribusinesses, poultry and irrigation like in your Dr.Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, Taung to be exact.

This edition of Letsema has insightful stories of our farmers who always go out of their way in making sure that they put bread on their tables. What really caught my roving eyes was Mr.Tshidiso Mokhoanatshe from Moretele Local Municipality, who is renowned for producing chicken feed with flies. This he says, is a low cost alternative to conventional poultry feed that we are all used to. The department saw it fit to dig in their reserves and make sure that we help grow this incredible initiative. Again we have a cooperative by the name of Molebotha Cooperative, who are really cooperating with each other in making sure that their meat operation is reaching greater heights at all costs. Currently their main focus is on Cattle, goat and sheep. The five individuals who are part and parcel of this initiative are all hard workers who are going an extra mile by attending classes offered to increase their knowledge and technical expertise within the Meat industry.

Finally, let's all enjoy this Letsema edition and make sure that we continue to make Agriculture the number one go to industry.

Ke a leboga - I thank you!

MEC: Desbo Mohono

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



BA SETLAMO SA MOLEBOTHA BA GODISA TLHAGISO YA NAMA

Fa o goroga mo Motsaneng wa Morokweng, mo kgaolong ya masepala wa Kagisano Molopo, ga o kake wa lemoga ka bonako khumo eo e leng teng mono ka ntlha ya leruo leo baagi ba lefelo leno ba ineetseng go dira ka lona. Kwa Polasing ya Kontario e eleng thuso ya puso, go na le setlamo sa balelapa la ga Bonokwane bao ba tsweletseng go dira ka dikgomo go godisa temothuo mo lefelong mmogo le go thusa porofense ya North West ka tlhagiso ya nama.

Setlamo seno sa balelapa la ga Bonokwane se bidiwa MOLEBOTHA mme ba ruile dikgomo, dipodi le dinku. Ke setlamo sa maloko a le matlhano a lelapa le le lengwe eleng Rre, Mme le bana ba le bararo. Botlhano jono bo kopantse ditlhogo go tliša puso kwa Morokweng le go e lemosa fa lefelo leno le na le isagwe e ntle thata ya leruo.

Fa e sale MOLEBOTHA e kwadisiwa semmuso ke motlhami e leng Rre David Bonokwane, maloko otlhe a ne a tshwaragana go netefatsa gore toro ya go godisa leruo e tswela pele. Ga jaana morwa mo lapeng e leng Lebogang Bonokwane ke ene bogolosegolo a eteletseng tiro kwa pele.

Fa a ne a buisana le ba Letsema, Lebogang o tlhalositse fa e le nakonyana ba ntse ba semeletsa mme ba leka gape thata go buisana le ditlamo tse di farologang tsa puso ka thuso. E ne ya re monongwana, Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae la thusa setlamo seno ka motlhape wa tsalo wa mofuta wa Simbra e le go leka go ba tsosolosa le go ba rotloetsa go tswelela pele.

Ga jaana leruo MOLEBOTHA le a gola mme ba leboga lefapha thata ka thuso ya lona. "Re leboga lefapha thata ka tshegetso mme re dira ka natla gore tiro eo e saleng e simololwa ke rre motsadi e golele pele," Lebogang o tlhalositse jalo.

Ba MOLEBOTHA ba setse ba iponetse mmaraka o o tsepameng wa go rekisa nama ya bona mo lebenkeleng le lengwe le legolo mo Afrika-Borwa. Fa esale ba iponetse mmaraka ono ka dingwaga di le mmalwa tse di fetilweng. Lebenkele leno le ne la ba neela ka dikgomo go tsadisa mme bona ba ne ba tshwanelwa ke go isa dinamanyane go godisiwa sentle le go rekisiwa. Lebenkele leno gape le ba neetse le motataisi yo o tsweletseng go didirsana le bone go ba thusa go ntsha diphologolo tsa nama ya boleng. Tiro ya bonatla ya MOLEBOTHA e ba gapetse sejana sa Developing Farmer ka ngwaga wa 2019.

Ka ona ngwaga oo, ba ne gape ba amogela thuso go tswa go Jobs Fund ya puso ya Bosetshaba morago ga go tsenya kopo. Jobs fund le yone e ne ya ba neela ka motlhape wa tsalo go oketsa tlhagiso ya bona mmogo le go ba thusa gape go baakanya mafaratlhatlha mo polasing ya bone ya dihektara di le 3754.

Le fa gone ba itemogetse melelo ya naga mo segaufing, ba leka ka bojotle gore morero wa bona wa temothuo o tswelole pele. Ba jala le masimo mme ba dirisa ditlhagiso tsa ona bogolosegolo go fepa leruo la bone. Ka ntlha ya pula e e diegileng monongwaga mme e tlhaedisa phulo, ba reka dijo go tlaletsa.

Ga jaana Lebogang o buile fa ba thusana le balemirui ba ba golang mo kgaolong ya bona ka go neelana ka dipodi le pedi morago ga dingwaga di le pedi tsa tlhagiso. Gape ba rulaganyanya dikopano tsa tshedimisetso. "Re setse re kile ra rulaganya letsatsi la tshedimisetso la balemirui mme re ile ba ngoka ditlamo di le dintsi tsa temothuo go tla go neelana ka dithuto," go buile jalo Rre Bonokwane.

Ma gareng ga ditiro tsa bona, Bonokwane a re ba eletsa go gola go fitlhela ba itirela tiro ya go tlhagiso, kgodiso le go fitlha kwa matlhabelelong. "Re eletsa go ipona re itirela tiro yotlhe ya tlhagiso ya nama mme re dumela gore kemonokeng e puso e tswelelang gore neela yone, le yone e tla re kgontsha go fitlhelela toro ya rona," Bonokwane a rialo a konosetsa puo ya gagwe.

Leruo le o ba nang le lona le akaretsa dipoo tsa mofuta wa limousine, dikgomo tsa Simbra mmogo le Bosmara. Ba na le badiri ba le bane mme ba na le ba ba tlang ka nakwana ba ka nna some-a-matlhano (50).

Mokwadi : Tsholofelo Dintwe



A VERSATILE BUSINESS CHOICE

GOAT PRODUCTION

When small livestock farming was considered by many farming enthusiasts some time ago, many would have sheep or cattle as their first choice. Well, it looks like this “first choice” is steadily shifting as many farmers are now opting for goats production. One such farmer is Mr Andrew Aphane of Aphamo Boerdery.

Coming from a farming family, Aphane confesses that goat farming was hardly considered for production as he grew up. In his early adult life and having considered a few farming options and after acquiring some knowledge and skill, he started his goat production, Aphamo Boerdery.

Behind his hard work, was a dream for this qualified mechanical engineer to build a stud goat production business that would cross the south African borders through exports.

He wanted to draw attention to this animal which was at some point least considered. “At some point people were not aware of the potential of this business but currently I see that many are becoming aware of the economic riches in this industry.

If it is done right, goat farming is a wealthy business, and many farmers are gradually drawing their attention to it.

Well, there are those who have been in it and are continuing to do well , but as black people we were not much keen until in the recent years,” Aphane clarified.

Together with his partner, they established a business with a mixed breed goats in the government leased farm of Rondavelskraal in the Ramotshere Moila Local Municipality from the year 2014.

It is after seeing his hard work that the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development supported Aphane with amongst others a boost of 100 Stud Boergoat Does, 50 Flock Boergoat Does and four Boergoat Stud Rams.

The Department equally assisted the farm with, goat feed, medicine. He is also assisted by the officials of the Department on extension and advisory roles.

Since the receipt of this assistance, the Aphanes' have worked tirelessly to ensure that they grow their business. To date they are working on clearing the farm of mixed breeds as they have set their mind on breeding quality, stud breeding to be specific.

They have already received certification but are still working with their business mentor, Jack Jordaan to get their business model up and running before joining the stud market.

“I really wanted to see the fruits of this business that I decided to take time off and went for a training on goats' production. With this I wanted to bring my own learned knowledge so I can enhance the potential of this business,” he said.

To date they have at least 400 goats in the 1453 hectares farm inclusive of the kids. Aphane said they are expecting more kids at the end of the year. He acknowledges that production is proceeding promisingly but he would like to gradually move to stud.

The business has introduced a few systems that are bound to boost production. With the help of a veterinarian, they have produced feed for the goats.

The feed consists of medicinal ingredients that will prevent diseases like hard water. With this feed, Aphane is confident that their goal for quality production is at hand.

“I am quite confident with it and we are seeing evidence already with the decrease of mortality rate of our animals,” he emphasised.

They are also using a Traceability system that assist not with animals' movement but also has profiles of these livestock.

This is helping him as well to do business outside the farm and be able to keep track of the on-site developments.

Aphane has currently employed seven employees and said with the growth of the business they will need more hands.

Amongst his future plans is to be an aggregator and establish commercial goat feedlot facility.

He would want to have a mobile abattoir that can move around wherever is needed.

He added that it would be necessary to have feedlots in many other areas so that the mobile abattoir can be used in such areas.

He said this would assist to curb unnecessary movement of animals. In addition, they would also wish to have a feed mill.

The challenges they have experienced with hard-water disease prompted them to be adamant to develop the feed for goats and with this they say, will go a long way in addressing what their animals consume.

Aphamo Boerdersy has signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the North-West University to bring on board Masters Degree students who will be doing research in the farm and equally assisting them with goats production.

Aphane said he was seeing a huge opportunity in there for the strengthening and growth of the business.

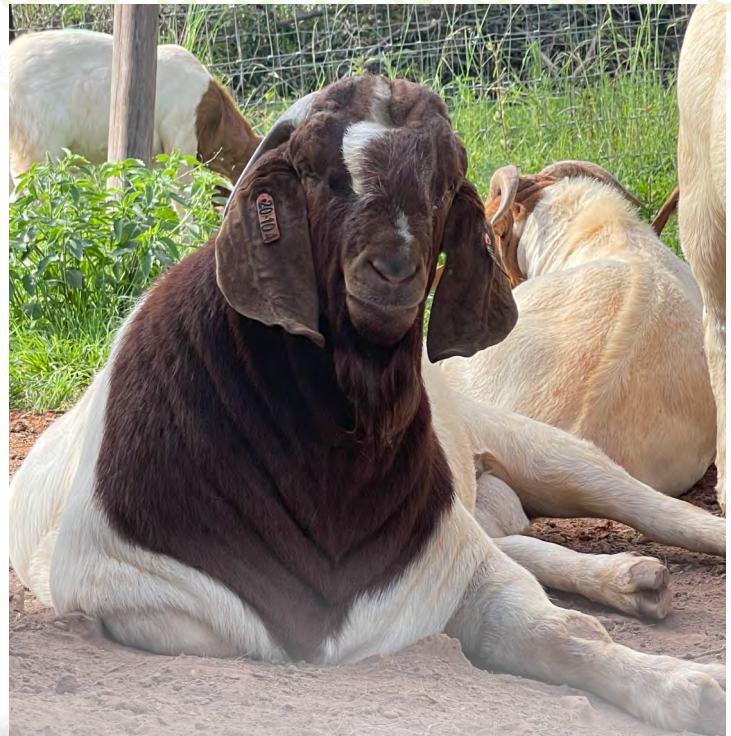
Aphane said his goal about goats' production is building on MEC Mohono's 2021 vision of drawing the North-West province into the economic drift through goat massification production.

Aphane has limitless words of gratitude for the government empowerment to the project.

He also encouraged other farmers to develop business models that would build on the economy of the province and not to faint on giving others information.

He is determined to grow his business to greater height and make Quality Boergoats much more celebrated in the North-West province.

Article by : Tsholofelo Dintwe





Mokhoanatshe showing that the Black Soldier Fly Larvae can subsequently break down the organic material quickly into nutrient-rich soil that can be used in gardens



Trays of chicken feed produced by Mr Mokhoanatshe using Black Soldier Flies

FLIES FOR FEED

Major factors that determine the sustainability of the poultry sector and economic viability of the business for small poultry farmers, is the quality, quantity and cost of feed. According to estimates, feeds account for up to 70 per cent of the entire cost of poultry production.

Mr Tshidiso Mokhoanatshe from Mathibestad in the Moretele Local Municipality, decided to focus on the production of animal feeds mainly chickens, to explore low-cost alternatives to conventional poultry feed, the most important component of poultry feed is protein, but it's also the most expensive one.

With insects being natural food sources for poultry, chickens can be found picking worms and larvae from the topsoil. Tshidiso spent the past year on a project to produce protein from Black Soldier Flies. The black soldier flies are actually recyclers in nature, if there's any carcass or forage, they will finish it they're the most prolific recyclers of nature and are reared to produce protein.

"A fly's job is only to mate, make eggs and dies off then the cycle starts again, they don't have any pathogens, don't carry any disease because they don't have a mouth or a stomach they live off the fat or energy that they accumulated when still a pupa" said Mokhoanatshe.

Tshidiso currently supplies his low cost feed to the local market and is awaiting the full packaging of the feed for him to be able to compete with others in the market. He further emphasized that "The crushing of the black soldier flies and maize is quite strenuous as I'm doing it manually & produce low quantity, it would be great to have the equipment and produce on a higher scale".

The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently building him two similar structures and will provide processing equipment for him to be able to supply his feed in large volumes at a faster rate.

In addition to being used as animal feed, black soldier fly larvae can also be used for composting purposes, when fed organic waste materials like kitchen scraps or garden clippings, the larvae break down the organic material quickly into nutrient-rich soil that can be used in gardens or flower beds. The process is much faster than traditional composting methods like burying food scraps or using large piles of manure and leaves that take months to turn into usable soil.

Article by : Kgalalelo Mashomo



Mr Tshidiso Mokhoanatshe Black Soldier Fly Larvae



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM IN NORTH WEST

A software system that digitally records cattle and its movement according to farm location and the owner is in the process of implementation in the Province. The Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems (LITS) database will be rolled out by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) throughout the North-West. This process aims simplify disease control during outbreaks, align all feedlots, abattoirs, and auction houses with LITS to permit cattle in these facilities for export market.

“Accurate traceability of all cattle will assist with aiding the opening of international markets that have previously been closed to South Africa. It will also assist with curbing the scourge of stock theft by clarifying accurately who the owners of the cattle are and their location. The software will be used together with existing databases of animals such as the recognized Premises Identification Number (PIN), the Animal Identification Number (AIN) and brand mark or any other additional official numbering systems,” explained Veterinary Services Director, Dr Langa Madyibi.

The use of compliant Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices and integrating handheld computers/readers to minimize paper-based forms is being exercised. This will enable relevant individuals and organisations to electronically record and submit essential data to the LITS databases. This multi-year implementation of inserting RFID ear tags on cattle and uploading them on the database will take place in crush pens in fars, villages, companies, cooperatives, individual farmers and animal owners.

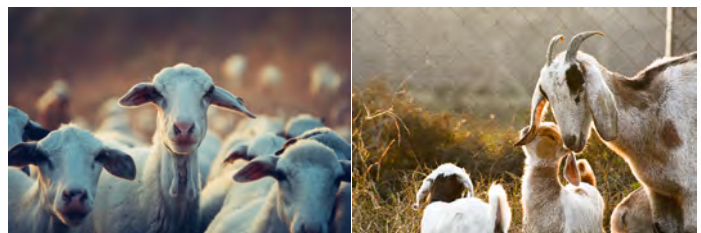
Dr Madyibi confirmed that the first-year deliverables of acquiring maps of the North West provincial farms from the Surveyor General for the purpose of covering all epidemiological units (inspection points) and uploading them in the system as well as the acquisition of tools that will be used to pilot the reading of RFID tags and the actual tags themselves have been achieved and that ten thousand (10 000) RFID tags were procured to pilot the process and all State Veterinary offices will receive tags for the roll-out.

He further said the software that will be used to implement the project has been finalised by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and demonstrations took place on a government Research farm in September 2023 as the rollout of the program will start on all state-owned research farms. Additionally, farmers are able to purchase approved RFID eartags from accredited suppliers and upload them in the LITS SA database which will be confirmed by the state. However, the Department will assist the communal sector with the process.

The training of field officers in the operation of the equipment already took place wherein practical training was conducted and it included the distributor of the equipment.

For any questions on the details of the roll-out farmers are advised to contact their local State Veterinary offices.

Mokwadi : Tshegofatso Leepile





COVID-19 VEGITABLE GARDENING

**EXACERBATED POVERTY BY COVID-19
PROMPTS OFENTSE TO START A VEGETABLE GARDEN**

Poverty and unemployment, exacerbated by level five lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic prompted Ofentse Tlhabane, a thirty-year-old from Makapanstad to start a vegetable garden to feed his family of eleven. After qualifying and receiving his first R350 unemployment grant, Ofentse took R100 from it and bought vegetable seeds from a local supermarket to start a 1m x 4m vegetable garden. His passion for farming grew then and motivated him to expand his garden to make it profitable.

Two years on, the department's satellite Kgora Farmer Training Center in Mathibestad assisted Ofentse with spinach, beetroot, carrots, onions and green pepper seedlings. "The assistance came in handy at a time where demand for vegetables was soaring. I was able to expand my garden from 1,2 to 1,8 hectares and permanently employ two workers who assist with the day to day running of the business. The department should continue supporting young people like myself in their farming endeavours," said the Tlhabane Empire business owner.

The young man voiced that he had no idea that expanding his garden would eventually make him R12 000 profit a week from selling vegetables to locals, schools and vendors in and around his village. "I have since taken the decision to invest my money in buying 10 hectares of land which I will begin planting in 2024 as I am currently unable to meet the demand for fresh vegetables even though I have collaborated with other producers to mitigate the shortage. As part of growing my business, I also envisage venturing into cannabis production which I am awaiting the permit for and currently attending as many workshops and conferences to learn more about the industry," explained the self-taught farmer.

In addition to vegetables, Ofentse has a small piggery and was supported with feed by the department. The steady venture into pig farming was an experimental move which encouraged him to buy chickens and become a smallholder farmer.

Article by : Tshegofatso Leepile





North West Province Food Security



Mr Rapitse Montsho together with Agricultural Advisor of Ventersdorp, Mr Mojalefa Soke handing over one of the 12.5kg maize meal to a beneficiary in Ga-Mogopa Village.

GIVING BACK TO CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY

More than 690 million people live in hunger every day, this is according to the United Nations data collection. If this trend continues, the number of people affected by hunger would surpass 840 million by 2030. Food insecurity is a global challenge that needs to be met with the development of better food production systems, education, conflict resolution and other impactful world hunger solutions.

Cameraman-turned-farmer Mr Rapitse Montsho, has through land beneficiation acquired 97 hectares of land to farm on in Ga-Mogopa, a village just outside Ventersdorp. The farm specializes in crop farming.

The reason for his love of agriculture was that it was very simple, people need to eat three times a day on a minimum, therefore food security is critical in the life of anybody, but having been a urbanized young man he did not understand how commercial farming can be done therefore he tasked himself with the question "How do I transform society with the impact of food security?".

On his quest to transform society with the impact of food security, he remembered that the North West Province is actually the food basket of maize, hence it's called the Maize Triangle. He then ventured into farming in 2018 and has been working in partnership with other farmers to familiarise himself with the agricultural sector and through his first harvest he hands over more than 70 bags of 12.5 kg maize meal to people over the age of 70. "I want to follow the entire value chain from planting, harvest to distributing and the distribution component is that I only offer people who are 70 years and older, that offering is based on a biblical injunction of numbers to see we must give to the poor," said Rapitse.

The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has over the years assisted Mr Montsho with advise, gave fertilizer, diesel and a spray program so that he can apply on at least 50 hectares and further assisted him to acquire a license for hemp. Ecstatic Rapitse Montsho exclaimed. "The department has been very helpful with crop knowledge and thus assisted with my training of crop farming and food security".

Mr Montsho has correspondingly collaborated with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to train people in Mozambique the importance of farming, for them to be able to sustain themselves after natural disasters.

Article by : kgalalelo Mashomo



Mr Rapitse Montsho with 12.5 kg maize meal from his maize produce.

LAND CARE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF OUR LAND?

Land users need to know the price they will pay for misuse of scarce agricultural resources. Unfortunately, this is not always the case as most land users lack adequate knowledge of the high cost associated with improper utilisation and management of the land. The consequences are far reaching and may be costly to reverse. One example of this is the formation of dongas resulting from massive soil erosion caused by negligence and improper land use. Land users can seek for information to take sound decisions on their farming operation, especially since the CARA, NEMBA and WATER Acts are there to guide us and to keep land users informed.

Success of any livestock farming relies on adequate feed provision. This might occur in a few different forms for example, natural veld, silage, hay, crops residue. The cheapest form of growing livestock is through natural veld, which makes it imperative for land users to take better care of this precious resource. So livestock owners need to take into consideration stocking rate, grazing capacity and carrying capacity of the very natural resource they are dependent on. Land users who should mainly ponder of these issues are those in communal areas or commonages. This is where the many farmers are more concerned about numbers instead of quality. This results in instances where land capability is pushed beyond its limits.

This shows that there is a need to create more platforms that can effectively convey the information to communal farmers. Through these platforms, complex concepts can be simplified and the use of available tools and resources highlighted to improve agricultural practices and ultimately the land. This starts with a fair portion of pasture scientists increasing in the country and the province. There is such a massive skew of apportioned veld scientists compared to animal scientists and that is part of the problem. The importance of pasture science equally cannot be ignored.

There is more to indigenous knowledge that livestock farmers hold than what is practised. We need tap into that "think tank" to maintain correct agricultural practices.

There are few questions that we need to respond to as we forge ahead with efforts to take care of our land. The long-term veld monitoring sites have shown a massive decrease of palatable species and what looks like changing veld type due to incorrect or poor usage of rangelands. Are we creating new veld types and together with changing climates creating undesirable rangelands? Are our livestock considering the need for more project-oriented approach in commonages? Do our Extension services conduct enough pasture workshops, farmer's days and road trips for our communities? What solution is there for proper land care?

Article by: Matsobane Ngoasheng - Pasture science specialist



A depiction of a donga (soil erosion)



A depiction of unplanned fire by a farmer



A depiction of Bush encroachment



A depiction of overgrazed veld



SEO MOLEMIRUI A TSHWANELWANG KE GO SE ITSE

- Bolwetsi jwa letlalo ke bolwetse jo bo tshelanwang thata jo bo bakiwang ke baerase. Bolwetsi jono bo ama mefuta yotlhe ya dikgomo le dinare. Ga e ame mefuta e mengwe ya diruiwa kgotsa batho.

BOLWETSI JONO BO ANAMA JANG?

- Bo anamisiwa thata ke ditshenekegi tse di lomang. Ditshenekegi tse di jaaka menang, dintshi tse di lomang jaaka dikgofa kana dinta di fetisa kokwana eno ka tsela ya metšhine (mechanically transfer). Gape e ka anamisiwa ka go kopana le diphologolo ka tšhamalalo ka go ntsha boloko le motlhapo.
- Dijo tsa diphologolo tse di kgotletsweng, metsi, dipalangwa le dilo tse di bakang bolwetse (seka, go dirisa dinnale gangwe le gape mo diphologolong tse di farologaneng) tsotlhe di ka anamisa bolwetse jono. Bolwetsi jwa letlalo bo ka tswa mo teng ga peo ya poo mme bo kana teng lemo maswing a diphologolo tse di tshwaeditsweng.

MATSHWAO A BOLWETSI JONO KE AFENG?

- Diphologolo di nna le letshoroma, di tshwenyegile thata mo maikutlong, go felelwa ke keletso ya dijo le go ota, e bile di na le makgwafo a letlalo;
- Letshoroma le le ka nngang la feta 41°C;
- Go fokotsega go go bonalang ga selekanyo sa maswi a dikgomo tse di anyisang;
- Go thibana ga dinko, leitlho le le pinki, go tshologa mathe thata;
- Go ka nna le dikodu tsa letlalo tse di tšhatlogileng thata tse di ka nngang bophara jwa 50mm go dikologa tlhogo, molala, dirwe tsa tsalo le maoto. Go ka nna ga nna le makgwafo mo karolong nngwe le nngwe ya mmele;
- Makgapetla a simolola go nna mo gare ga makgwafo mme morago ga moo makgapetla ano a wa, a bo a tlogela dikhuti tse dikgolo tse di ka nngang tsa tsenwa ke megare;
- Ditokololo tsa mmele le dikarolo tse dingwe tsa mmele tse di kafa teng ga mmele, tse di jaaka kgokgotso, kgetsana la peo/ kgeleswa le molomu wa setsala, di ka nna tsa tswa di na le bothole, mme seno se dira gore phologolo eno e se ka ya batla go tsamaya;
- Go tswa metsi mo nkong le mo matlhong;
- Go gola ga malokololo a a kwa godimo (a lymph);
- Dikgomo tse di imileng di ka nna tsa senyegelwa ke mpa mme tsa nna mo mogatong wa go ima dikgwedi di le mmalwa.
- Go ka nna le dikodu, go ruruga le go ruruga ga ditlhagala mo matlalong a molomo le a mala le mo thulaganyong ya go ja le mo thulaganyong ya makgwafo.

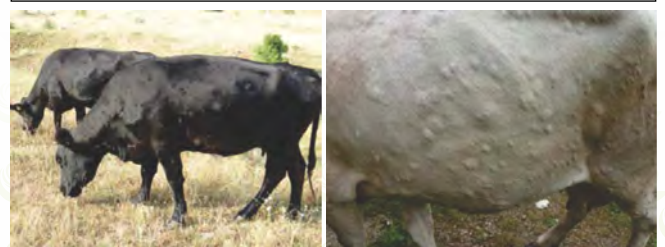
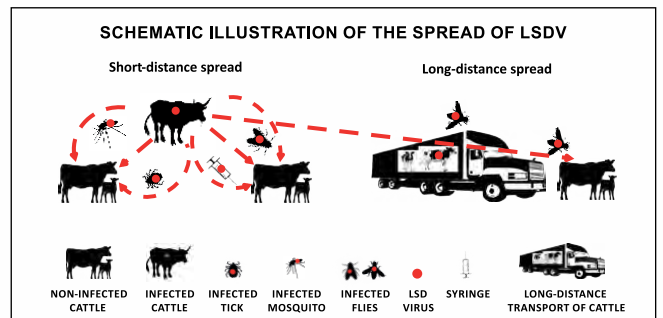
RE KA THIBELA JANG GO ANAMA GA BOLWETSI JONO?

- Tsela e e gaisang ya go sireletsa dikgomo tsa gago ke ka go tlhaba le go tsenya mo tirisong leano le le kopaneng la go laola ditshenekegi (tick and mosquito control). Seno se akaretsa go tšhasela megato yotlhe ya botshelo jwa dikgofa kana dinta le monang gore go fedisiwe modikologo wa go ikgatisa (life cycle);
- Tlhokomelo ya tikologo go fokotsa palo ya mafelo a go godisa (breeding) le a go ikhutsa; sekai, tšatsa dikhuti, tšosa metsi a a emeng mo ditankeng le go tšhomamisa gore mesele e elela sentle

RE BO ALAFA JANG?

- Bolwetse jwa letlalo (lumpy cow skin disease) ga bo alafiwe ka dibolayamegare (antiviral). Go na le moo, diphologolo tse di tshwaeditsweng di newa tlhokomelo e e tšha, e e akaretsang go di naya dibolayamegare (antibiotic), diokobatsi tse di okobatsang ditlhabi le tse di tshasiwang go alafa dintho go alafa matshwao a tsone. E re ka go se na kalafi, go dirisiwa mekento go laola go anama ga malwetse

Mokwadi: Bonolo Molefi



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Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
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WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE

Agricentre Building

Cnr Dr. James Moroka Drive & Stadium Road
Private Bag X 2039, Mmabatho, 2735
Tel: +27 (0)18 389 5111

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