

Several key initiatives will be prioritised under newly appointed MEC Madoda Sambatha's administration





agriculture & rural development

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



Join us in commemorating 30 Years of empowering young potential change-makers

Meet Kelebogile Matsose, a driven young tea farmer from the small farming town of Makwassie near Wolmaransstad. She is among the many inspiring young farmers in the province who have received support from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Let's celebrate the passion and dreams of all young potential change-makers in the agricultural sector.

IT'S TIME TO IGNITE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FIRE WITHIN YOU!



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Editorial Comment

Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

Welcome to another exciting edition of Letsema, the official external publication of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the North West Province. This is the first edition for the 2024/25 financial year.

Mme jaaka Motlhotlhi-Mogolo wa Lekwalo-Dikgang leno, mma ke simolole ka go go itsise gore Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo Ya Metsemagae le fetsa go amogela Mokhuduthamaga o moshwa e leng Mokhuduthamaga Madoda Sambatha. Se se itumedisang ke gore, Mokhuduthamaga Sambatha ga a moshwa mo maikarabelong a go etelela lefapha la puso pele, o tla ka maitemogelo a mantsi go tswa mo mafapheng a farologaneng a a kileng a a etelela pele, mme ka maitemogelo ao, baagi mme segolobogolo balemeirui go ralala Porofense a tla ba ungelwa go utlwala.

Mo kopanong ya ntlha fela le botsamaisi jwa Lefapha, Mokhuduthamaga Sambatha o kaile fa a tllile go potlakisa le go tokafatsa neelano ya ditirelo tsa Lefapha.

Mo lekwalong leno, re aroganya le wena tshedimotsetso ya bothokwa ebile e le e ka go matlafatsang. Re lebelela dingwe tsa diphithelelo tsa Lefapha le maano a go godisa lephata la temothuo la Porofense.

The Department has recently launched an Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) project. The main goal of the ART project is to enhance regional beef production by concentrating on important factors including growth rates, fertility, and milk production through selective breeding practices.

This initiative was launched and announced in May of this year. It has set ambitious goals to benefit 4,000 cattle over 5 years, with an annual target of 800 breeding females. The project has already received significant support from provincial breeders, who generously donated 700 semen straws.

Apart from the numerous projects supported by the Department in the past financial year, which we have covered in this edition, we are also providing important information about common livestock diseases during the winter season that farmers need to prepare for. Additionally, we have prepared an article on poultry diseases to empower our poultry farmers.

Dingwaga di le pedi tse di ntseng di feta, re ntse re dira mmogo le baitseanape ba Lefapha ka maikaelelo a le nosi fela e leng go aroganya tshedimotsetso e e ka go thusang segolo fa e le gore o na le kgaltheho mo go jaleng merogo, mme le mo kgatisong eno, re na le mofuta oo wa tshedimotsetso e o e tlhokang.

With this valuable information, we are confident that you will utilize it to enhance your skills as a farmer and play a pivotal role in solidifying the North West as the nation's food basket.

Sengwe le sengwe se a kgonega fa maikaelelo a le gone, mme rona jaaka batlhankela ba tshedimotsetso, re tla tswelala go dira tsotlhe tse di mo maatleng a rona go go tsofela tshedimotsetso e e tla thusang go godisa lephata la temothuo mme ebile e le e ka tlhabololang matshelo.

To stay updated with the latest information, we encourage you to join us on our Departmental social media platforms as we are committed to actively seeking information that can benefit you as a producer.

We are aware that an informed and empowered farmer can make a meaningful impact in enhancing the lives of others through their valuable contributions.

As a reader of this newsletter, your feedback is invaluable to us. We highly encourage you to share any topics that you would like us to cover.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at 018 384 3117 during office hours or email us at esetlhako@nwpg.gov.za.

I am confident that you will find this edition thoroughly enjoyable,

Enjoy reading. Ke a leboga

Emelda SETLHAKO

**Director: Communication Service
NW Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

FROM MEC'S DESK



Agriculture in its origins is a fundamental source of national prosperity and affluence. Secondly, Agriculture is constant and requires all to adapt to its offerings or you will be left behind. Gatwe tloga-tloga e tloga kgale modisa wa tsone o tswa natso, as we usher the 7th administration ours is to make it a point that our farmers are becoming prosperous thus attaining all the knowledge and resources required to be able to constantly sustain their aspirations and dreams. Gone are the days when Agriculture was positioned and poised for the selected few.

It should be mentioned that in every revolution there will be casualties. However, as the new Sheriff in town, I will make it a point that our farmers are prioritized and that policies of government are transparent and fair. Our policies should be premised on the constitution's fundamental understanding that farmers do not exist to serve the economy of the North West province, but rather it is the economy that should exist to serve our people in all four districts of the province.

In my maiden Letsema edition, we will be having an exciting line-up that will narrate a tale of our farmer's accounts. Indeed theirs is good stories to be recited for generations to come. We are determined to build upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor while bringing fresh perspectives and approaches to propel the sector forward. Gatwe logong le leswa, le agelwa mo go la kgale, re boele re re e gata mo go ya pele e gatileng gone.

As a department, we carry a sense of responsibility to serve the people and farmers of our province, and I am fully committed to tirelessly working to ensure the growth and development of our agricultural sector.

Our immediate task as the Department is to mobilize and consolidate all stakeholders and our people behind the rebuilding and positioning of the North West agriculture as a leading sector for all major agricultural produce the markets need. We are eagerly anticipating engaging with stakeholders, actively listening to their concerns, thus harnessing their expertise to drive progress.

Our focus is on the immense potential of our agricultural sector, and we are unwavering in our commitment to unlocking opportunities for our farmers, rural communities, and the entire value chain. We take immense pride in the collaborative spirit that defines our community. The partnerships between government, private sector, and local farmers serve as a testament to what we can achieve when working together towards a common goal. These collaborations not only boost our economy but also foster innovation and resilience in the face of challenges such as climate change and market fluctuations. The agriculture industry remains a cornerstone of our economy, providing sustenance, employment and a foundation for rural development. Our farmers, both emerging and established, have shown resilience, innovation and embracing new technologies and sustainable practices that ensure the growth and sustainability of our agricultural landscape.

In this edition, we proudly highlight the achievements of our local farmers, showcase cutting-edge advancements in agricultural technology, and share invaluable insights into sustainable farming practices. As you read through this newsletter, I hope you are all inspired by the stories of hard work, dedication, and ingenuity that define our agricultural landscape. The story of a young farmer, Koketso Baloyi, is particularly inspiring and should serve as motivation for other young and aspiring farmers in the Province. With her dedication and determination, Baloyi is currently supplying major retailers in the country with her products and has secured a deal to export her potatoes to Mozambique. This alone underscores our potential to compete on an international scale.

We also focus on capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among our farming communities in this edition. Training programs, workshops, and exhibitions are continuously organized to equip our farmers with the latest knowledge and skills. The recent demonstrations and the generous donation of fire beaters by the Working on Fire organization to communities in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality are testaments to our unwavering commitment to community support and disaster preparedness. Together, we are undoubtedly making strides towards a more robust, inclusive, and sustainable agricultural sector.

As we continue on this journey, I encourage everyone to stay engaged, share insights, and support one another. Our collective efforts will ensure that agriculture in our province not only thrives but also sets a benchmark for excellence.

***Together, we are cultivating a prosperous future for all. Enjoy reading this exciting edition of Letsema!
Ke a leboga - I thank you!***

MEC: Madoda Sambatha
North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



Newly Appointed MEC Madoda Sambatha Off to a Strong Start

The newly appointed MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in the North West Province, Madoda Sambatha, has hit the ground running with a series of engagements with agricultural stakeholders.

His proactive approach aims to understand the challenges faced by farmers and organized structures from various sub-sectors, foster collaboration, identify specific needs, and formulate targeted interventions to support and develop the agricultural sector of the province.

In one of his initial meetings, MEC Sambatha emphasized his desire to collaborate with all role players to grow the sector. He said this will allow industry role players to make strategic inputs on how the Department can improve the way it conducts its business.

"As the newly appointed MEC for this Department, I aim to build upon the foundation laid by my predecessor while introducing some fresh perspectives and approaches. I also promise to work closely with every role player in this important sector. My thoughts are focused on the immense potential of our agricultural sector, and I am committed to unlocking opportunities for our farmers, rural communities, and the entire value chain.

"By forming sectoral contributions, the Department and its associations can leverage collective expertise, resources, and efforts to address challenges, implement innovative solutions, and create sustainable development in the Province. This united approach ensures that everyone benefits and contributes to a thriving economy.

MEC Sambatha emphasized that he is mindful of the challenges ahead, including climate change, food security, and economic growth. However, he expressed confidence that, together with all industry players, these obstacles can be overcome to create a thriving agricultural sector that benefits all.

MEC Sambatha's strategy includes several key focus areas:

- 1. Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement:** Fostering closer relationships with farmers, industry leaders, and local communities to better understand their needs and concerns.
- 2. Prioritizing Sustainable Agriculture Practices:** Promoting environmentally friendly methods and innovative technologies to ensure a resilient and climate-smart agricultural sector.
- 3. Boosting Agricultural Economic Growth:** Supporting small-scale farmers, encouraging youth participation, and attracting investment in the sector.
- 4. Improving Infrastructure Development:** Enhancing irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, and storage facilities to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the agricultural value chain.
- 5. Precision Agriculture:** Leveraging technology and data-driven approaches to enhance the effectiveness of agricultural programs and services.

By adopting a collaborative, inclusive, and innovative approach, MEC Sambatha hopes to make a meaningful impact and elevate the agricultural sector to new heights.

Article by : Thebe Itumeleng & kgalalelo Mashomo

MAHIKENG

State Veterinary Clinic:

Where Compassionate Veterinary Care Is Our Priority



Dr. Koketso Makhubedu of Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic. The clinic is strategically located in the central area of the capital city Mahikeng and is providing essential medical services to over one hundred and ten townships and villages.

"I am highly satisfied with the quality of service provided by the staff at this establishment, and I wholeheartedly recommend fellow pet owners to give them a try. They truly are the best," Mmonyne affirmed.

Please take note of the following information about the Mahikeng State Vet clinic:

- The clinic is located at the corner of Vryburg Road and Bokone Road in the capital city of Mahikeng.
- It operates from Monday to Friday.
- Clients should keep in mind that the clinic handles both internal and external cases, so it is most active from 11 am onwards to accommodate external cases.
- In cases where resources and diagnostic capabilities are limited, the clinic may refer you to other veterinary facilities that can provide assistance.
- Most of services have a minimum fee. For detailed information, please speak with the attending official.
- The Clinic is committed to helping as many people and will not turn anyone away if able to assist.
- Please feel free to visit this office and make inquiries. For services, contact the clinic at **018 381 6530 or 066 190 9133** during office hours.

If you are a resident of Mahikeng Local Municipality and are a pet owner seeking reliable and high-quality animal health care services, your search ends here. The committed staff at this State Veterinary Clinic is prepared to offer you affordable and superior services.

The clinic is strategically located in the central area of Mahikeng, providing essential medical services to over one hundred and ten townships and villages. In addition, it extends its services to farms falling under the jurisdiction of the Mahikeng Local Municipality, thus ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage for the communities.

Upon your visit or check-in of your animals at this facility, you will be warmly greeted by highly professional and amicable staff.

The current clinic team comprises a State Veterinarian, a Compulsory Community Service Veterinarian (CCS), a Control Animal Health Technician, and seven Animal Health Technicians (AHTs). Additionally, two intern Animal Health Technicians are assigned to the office as part of a graduate program.

"At Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic, we are dedicated to providing top-quality veterinary care for both small animals and livestock. Our wide range of services includes consultations, vaccinations, deworming, and euthanasia. In addition, we offer procedures such as small animal sterilization, hernia repairs, and prolapse treatments. Don't hesitate to contact us to schedule an appointment and give your animals the best possible care," Dr. Koketso Makhubedu of Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic stated.

A member of the community, Naomi Mmonyne from Ramatlabama village spoke highly of the facility and its top-notch animal healthcare services, affordable prices and expressing her strong recommendation to fellow pet owners.

For areas located outside the Mafikeng municipality, it is recommended to contact the designated state veterinary office in the respective local municipality.



Dr Koketso Makhubedu with some of the staff members at Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic.

Article by : Thebe Itumeleng

VELD FIRE



DRY SEASON: A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AS WILD FIRES PREVAIL



The prevalence of veld fires during the dry season, usually between May and October months in the Northern parts of the country, is a yearly concern. The North West Province has in previous years experienced uncontrollable wild fires that affected farmers and the operation of various businesses.

Although most of the fires are due to natural causes, human error also plays a critical part in the cause and spread of veld fires. Therefore, communities are warned against burning vegetation during land preparation, disposing off of cigarette stubs, matches and lighters as these actions can potentially cause fire.

Accidents, deliberate acts of arson, burning of debris, and fireworks as well as other substantial causes of wildfires are not encouraged. Residents are also cautioned not to throw bottles in the veld as they can magnify the sun's rays and start fires.

Farmers are advised to ensure that firebreaks are well placed especially in summer seasons where the fuel load is high and may exacerbate the spread of fires. Veld fires are a threat to life, livestock and vegetation. Owners of land are encouraged to comply with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act Act 101 of 1998 by constructing, maintaining fire breaks and ensuring that firefighting equipment are well serviced.

Although no cases have been recorded thus far, the public should be aware that wild fires raise an environmental management and sustainability impact challenges as the effects posed by veld fires include property damage, reduced soil fertility, destruction of vegetation, grazing land for animals, air and water pollution as well as destruction of wildlife.

Members of the public are advised to refrain from containing or putting out veld fires themselves as this may pose a danger to them. In the event of a fire, contact trained personnel to extinguish the fire.

Contact details in case of emergency:

Chairperson of the North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association (NWUFPA)

Mr Eric Stoch : 071 077 6653

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Disaster Management

Gabriel Phorotlho: 082 975 7737

Schalk Voster : 083 443 1638

Article by : *Tshegofatso Leepile*



GALEBOE MASIBI PROJECTS

Galeboe Masibi Projects e thusitswe ka ditlabakelo di tshwana le terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong.

LEFAPHA LE MOTLOTLO

KA GO THUSA BASHA MO DINGWAGENG DI LE SOME-A-MARARO TSA TEMOKERASI

Mo dingwageng di le masome-a-mararo (30) tse di fetileng tsa puso ya temokerasi, Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae mo Porofenseng ya North West le dirile go tla seatl go thusa basha go ralala didika tse nne mme e le basha ba ba mo lephateng la temothuo ebile bontsi e le ba dikarolong tse di neng di ikgatolositse mo malobeng go akaretsa tsa metsemagae.

Ntle le metselsetsele ya matsholo a go aroganya tshedimose tso ka tsa temothuo go totlwe bone basha (information days), a lefapha le ntseng le a boloditse, go thusitswe bangwe ba basha bano ka didiriswa di tshwana le go ba rekela leruo le le akaretsang dipodi, dikoko tse di ruiwang, dipoo go tlhabolola leruo la bone, dipeo, diterekere, megoma le ditlabakelo tse dingwe.

Tseno tsothe di ne di dirwa ka maikaelelo a go thusa basha bano gore ba tswelale go tshagisa dikuno ka bontsi, go tshama ditshono tsa diphatlhatiro ka maikaelelo a go godisa ikonomi e e tla rebang bohuma le tla mo porofenseng.

Mongwe wa basha bao ke Galeboe Masibi yo o nang le porojeke ya go lema kwa motsaneng wa Matshepe o o dikilomithara di le ronngwe (09) kwa botlhaba jwa motsemoshate Mahikeng mo sedikeng sa Ngaka Modiri Molema. Porojeke eno ke ya dijalo tsa dithoro tse di akaretsang mmidi (maize) sonobolomo (sunflower) le dinawa mme tsothe di lengwa mo tshimong ya bogolo jwa diheketara di le lekgolo (100ha).

Ere ka mokoduo go tso siwa yo o itekang, molemi yono pele a amogela thuso go tswa lefapheng, o ne a ntse a itemela ka didiriswa tsa gagwe. Lerato le a nang le lone mo lephateng leno la temothuo, le ile la mo thusa gore a se lathele seditse le fa gone ka nako nngwe a ne a itemogela tlhalelo ka dilo dingwe. Fa a ntse a dira ka natla jalo Lefapha le ile la swetsa ka go thusa porojeke eno ya gagwe ka maele le dikgakololo mo go tsa temo (extension and advisory services). Ene ya re kwa morago a nna mongwe wa balemirui ba ba neng ba tsennngwa mo lenaaneng la go ka thusiwa ka dipeo. Seo se ile sa nna le tlhotlheletso e kgolo mo go Galeboe. Fa e sale ka nako eo, ga a ise a ko a lebelele kwa morago. O ile a dira gabedi go feta ka go bona Lefapha le mo tshegetsa lefa gone ka nako o ne a ntse a thaela ka didiriswa dingwe.

Ka go bona Galeboe yo o nang le dingwaga di feta lesome a ntse a dira ka natla, Lefapha gape le ile la swetswa ka go mo thusa ka gareng ga tse dingwe terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong. Ntle le didirisiwa tseno tsa bothokwa go thusa molemi go godisa ntsho-dikuno tsa gagwe, molemi yono o tswetsetse go amogela maele le dikgakololo go tswa mo balemising ba lefapha. Morago ga go amogela didirisiwa tseno o ile a kaya fa di tla mo thusa go godisa porojeke ya gagwe. "Ke leboga kemonokeng e lefapha le re fang yone jaaka balemirui ba ba golang. Ke tlile go dirisa se lefapha le nkabetseng sone ka tsela e siameng. Ke solofetsa go tlhokomela didirisiwa tseno mme ke tla thusa balemi ka nna mo ke kgonang," ga rialo Galeboe ka boitumelo.

Porojeke eno e setse e na le modiri wa leruri a le nosi mme e thapa badiri ba ka nna some-a-mabedi (20) ka nako ya thobo kgotsa fa go na le tiro e ntsi e tlhokang go dirwa.

TSHOBOKANYO YA DINTLHAKGOLO TSA GALEBOE MASIBI PROJECT

- Galeboe Masibi Project e eteletse pele ke mosh
- Ke porojeke ya dijalo tsa dithoro
- E fitlhelwa kwa motseselegaeng wa Matshepe o o mo sedikeng sa Ngaka Modiri Molema
- Baagi ba metse e gaufi ba ungwelwa go tswa mo ditirong tse di tlhamiwang ke porojeke eno.
- Ntle le maele le dikgakololo mo go tsa temo go tswa lefapheng (extension and advisory services), Galeboe Masibi Project e thusitswe ka ditlabakelo di tshwana le terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong.
- Ditlhagiswa tsa porojeke eno di rekiwa ke mebaraka ya selegae

Mokwadi: Thebe Itumeleng



Mokaedi wa kantoro ya sedika sa Ngaka Modiri Molema, Mme Esther Mnguni le Galeboe Masibi e leng mongwe wa baungwelwa ba porogamo ya puso e e totileng go thusa balemirui. Porojeke eno e fitlhelwa kwa motsaneng wa Matshepe



Lefapha gareng ga tse dingwe le abetse porojeke eno terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong.

DIJALO



Galeboe Masibi ke mongwe wa baungwelwa ba porogamo ya puso e e totileng go thusa balemirui. Porojeke eno e fitlhelwa kwa motsaneng wa Matshepe



LIVESTOCK DISEASES

COMMON LIVESTOCK DISEASE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

Winters in and around Mahikeng areas are characterised by low rainfall and dry pastures. This tends to predispose animals to diseases associated with deficiencies in the diet. Most subsistence farms in the surrounding areas utilised communal grazing lands as a source of food for their livestock. Unfortunately, if the veld is poor, then the animals will do poorly.

During this period from June to August months, there are a few prevalent diseases that farmers who enter this season unprepared must learn to deal with.

Cows can sometimes become recumbent, but if this persists for more than 24 hours then the affected animal is termed a Downer.

There are many reasons why this occurs, which include trauma due to nerve damage during dystocia for animals giving birth during this time.

Milk fever is also a concern for these cows, especially if they enter the season with a low Body Condition Score (BCS) and a calf at foot. The animals affected appear bright, alert, and responsive and may try to move away. The treatment options available for these cows are mostly supportive. The animal must be offered feed water, a bedding and not be left on one side for long. Calcium can also be supplemented to help with recovery.

Pica is a condition in animals characterised by unusual eating habits. It can affect all livestock exposed to predisposing factors. The basic understanding is that it is caused by mineral deficiencies in the ration/pasture or feed provided to the affected animals. This can include phosphates. Animals may lick anything that they encounter, this may include sand/dirt, bones, litter, walls and fences or fence posts and ingest faeces. The animals tend to start with a good BCS and then later start losing condition. The faeces of the animal may become dry, firm and at times diarrheic.

In some cases, ingestion of bones can lead to botulism. Mostly affects animals with young at foot and the young. Affected young tend to retard growth and fail to reach full size. Treatment options available include changing pastures and supplementing feed. A lick can also be provided in the feeding trough. Animals must also be given a dewormer as part of this regimen.

During this season it is not uncommon to have some dams failing to expel foetal membranes within the first 24 hrs after giving birth. Retained placenta has a higher incidence in winter (winter calving season) than in other seasons due to the lack of proper dietary nutrients, dystocia and some metabolic diseases.

The condition has no specific prevention, but you can lower the risks through good management which includes the supply of correct nutrients, particularly magnesium, and fat-soluble vitamins, maximizing dry matter intake, maintaining the correct body condition score and supplying a clean dry environment.

Plant toxicities are also common during this season, with the veld dry and nutritionally poor, animals tend to eat toxic plants which are sometimes lush and green during this time. If toxicities due to plants are suspected, farmers must dose Activated Charcoal as a first line of defence and contact your nearest veterinarian. A rotational grazing system is also helpful if available but in a communal setup, it is impossible.

Article by: *Dr Simon Mosenogi & Dr Koketso Makhubedu*





POROJEKE

Lonaka Agricultural Project E Amogela Ka Diatla Tsoo-pedi Dithuso Go Tswa Lefapheng La Temothuo Le Tlhabololo Ya Metsemagae

Lonaka Agricultural Project ke nngwe ya diporojeke tse di thusitsweng ke puso sesheng jaana ka maikaelelo a go di matlafatsa gore di godise ikonomi ya metseselegae ka go tlhama ditiro.

Mong wa porojeke e leng Kagiso Dirapelo o amogetse ka diatla tsoo-pedi thuso eo go tswa Lefapheng la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae mo Porofenseng ya North West.

Projeke eno e fitlhelwa mo motsaneng wa Moletsamongwe o o kwantlenyana ga Mahikeng. Kwa porojekeng eno go tlhagisiwa nama ya koko, dikoko tsa go ruiwa, mae le merogo e e farologaneng e e akaretsang sepinache, ditamati, di-eie, khabeche, chilisi le ditapole. Ba Lonaka gape ba lema le go jala dinawa.

Mme lerato la ga Rre Dirapelo mo go tsa temothuo lone le simolotse bogologolo fa a ne a tlhokomela leruo la ko gabone.

Dingwaga morago ga go wetsa dithuto tsa gagwe, Dirapelo o ile a ya go dira kwa go nngwe ya ditheo tse di kgolo tsa tlhaeletsano, mme ga go a ka ga feta nako e telele pele ga lerato la gagwe le mo tlhohleletsa go boela kwa a simolotseng gone e leng temothuo.

O ile a kwadisa semmuso porojeke eno ka ngwaga wa 2018. A simolola ka dikgomo di le tlhano fela mme morago a reka dihutshane mme fa nako e ntse e tsamaya a lemoga gore diphologolo di tsaya nako go dira lotseno. Ka ntlha ya seo, o ne a simolola go tlhoma mogopolo wa gagwe thata mo go tsa go jala merogo le dinawa. Fa e sale ka nako eo Dirapelo ga a ise a ko a lebe ko morago.

O direla mo lefelong la bogolo jwa diheketara di le masome-a-mabedi le borataro (26 ha) mme o na le maano a go atolosa mafelo a direlang mo go one.

O simolotse sengwe le sengwe ka ledi le a neng a na le lone morago ga go tlogela tiro mo lephateng le a neng a le berekela, mme lefapha le ile kwa morago la mo thusa.

Nngwe ya dithuso tsa ntlha e ne e le maele le dikgakololo go tswa mo balemising (extension and advisory services). Mme tiro ya gagwe ya bonatla e ile ya dira gore a tswelele go ikamogelela dithuso tse dingwe go tswa lefapheng.

Dirapelo ke mongwe wa balemirui ba sesheng jaana a ileng a amogela terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong e le go mo thusa go tlhagisa dikuno tse di oketsegileng.

Gape ke mongwe wa balemi ba le mmalwa ba ba neng ba tlhophiwa gape go tsena mo porogramong ya South African Good Agricultural Practice, SA-GAP. Ka porogramo eno, balemi ba merogo e farologaneng ba katisiwa ka tshwara ya dijalo gore di dule di itekanetse.

O ne a konosetsa katiso eo mme ga jaana ke sealogane sa SA-GAP, seo se mo kgontshang go rekisa ditlhogiswa tsa gagwe mo mabenkele a magolo go ralala naga.

Ka ntlha ya dithuso tseno tsa puso, Lonaka Agricultural Project e tlhamile ditiro di le mmalwa mme bontsi jwa badiri bano ke ba pele ba neng ba sa dire gope kgotsa ba ile ba felelwa ke tiro.

Mongwe wa bone ke Otsile Tsikang yo o tswang mo motseng wa Magogoe mo Mahikeng. Mangwe a maikarabelo a ga Otsile a letsatsi le letsatsi ke go tlhokomela dikoko le go netefatsa gore sengwe le sengwe se tsamaya sentle mo polasing.



Kagiso Dirapelo ke mong wa porojeke ya Lonaka Agricultural Project. Porojeke eno e fitlhelwa mo motsaneng wa Moletsamongwe o o kwantlenyana fela ga motsemoshate Mahikeng

Otsile o kaile fa tshono e a e filweng ke ba Lonaka Agricultural Project e sa mo thuse fela ka tsa dichelete mme e mo thusitse ka maitemogelo a mantsi a a ka mo kgontshang go itshimololela porojeke ya gagwe ya tsa temo nako nngwe le nngwe.

"Ke leboga tshono e ke e filweng ke Rre Kagiso Dirapelo ka go nthapa le go ntlhatlhelela ka kitso e ke neng ke sena yone pele ke tla go dira fano. Ka maitemogelo a ke setseng ke na le one a go bereka fano, nka kgona go simolola porojeke ya me ya tsa temo. Ke setse ke itse le mefuta e e farologaneng ya malwetsi a dijalo le a dikoko le gore a thibelwa le go fodisiwa jang," ga rialo Otsile Tsikang yo e leng modiri kwa porojekeng ya Lonaka.

Porojeke eno e na le badiri ba le bararo ba ba tlitsweng ke porogramo ya go ithutela tirong ya dialogane kgotsa Agricultural Graduate Program.

Maikaelelo a yone ke go thusa dialogane tseno go ithuta ka go tsamaisa kgwebo le go anya maitemogelo a ditiro tse di dirwang kwa dipolasing.

Kelebogile Gontse ke mongwe wa dialogane tseo. O na le diploma ya Crop Science go tswa kwa setheong sa thuto e kgolwane sa North West (North West University). Ka ntlha ya tshono e a feilweng ke porogramo eno, Kelebogile o na le keletso ya gore morago ga dingwaga tse pedi tse a tlleng go di dira kwa Lonaka, a dirise kitso eo kwa porojekeng e e leng ya gagwe.

Lefapha le rotoetsa ba ba mo lephateng la temothuo ebile ba eletsa go utlwa ka fa puso e ka ba thusang ka gone go etela dikantoro tsa lefapha tse di gauifi le mo ba gone kgotsa gore ba o ikopanye le balemisi ba mafelo a ba dirang kwa go one.

Mokwadi : Thebe Itumeleng



Kwa porokeng eno go tlhagisiwa nama ya koko, dikoko tsa go ruiwa, mae le merago e e farologaneng e e akaretsang sepinache, ditamati, di-eie, khabeche, chillisi le ditapole. Ba Lonaka gape ba lema le go jala dinawa.





WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a zoonotic disease, which means that people can become infected by an infected animal.

The virus is shed in saliva and spread mainly by an infected animal's bite. Rabies affects the brain and is fatal once a person or animal shows clinical signs.

Pet owners must watch their pets closely for any signs of unusual behaviour, such as:

- Aggression
- Excessive drooling
- Paralysis or difficulty swallowing

Pet owners also need to ensure that their pets' rabies vaccinations are up to date, as vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread of rabies and protect both pets and families, as required by law.

Communities are urged to avoid contact with stray or wild animals and to not approach or attempt to handle any animal showing signs of aggression or illness.

If you suspect any animal in the community may be infected with rabies, please immediately report it to your Local State Veterinarian Clinic.

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal that you think may have rabies, seek medical attention immediately.

Report any suspected rabid animal immediately to your state or private Veterinarian, Animal Health Technician, or the police.

Vaccinate your dogs and cats by visiting your private or state veterinarian today!

#RabiesEndsHere



Farmers from across the province gathered to learn more about the ART process.

(ART)

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ART) PROJECT, AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT ENHANCING CATTLE BREEDING

The North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has launched an Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) project, also known as Artificial Insemination (AI), aimed at enhancing cattle breeding and improving livestock quality across the province.

This initiative, announced in May of this year, has set ambitious goals to benefit 4000 cattle over a 5-year period, with an annual target of 800 breeding females.

The primary objective of the ART project is to strengthen regional beef production by focusing on key aspects such as growth rates, fertility, and milk production through selective breeding practices.

By leveraging modern reproductive technologies, the department aims to equip local farmers with the means to enhance their competitiveness in the commercial livestock sector.

The project has already received significant support from local breeders who generously donated 700 semen straws. This collaboration between public and private sectors is crucial for the successful execution of the ART initiative.

Effective engagement of farmers is key to the project's success, and the Department's Extension and Advisory Services officers will play a pivotal role in identifying and supporting eligible participants.

Participation criteria include having essential infrastructure such as adequate water supply, pens, and grazing land.

In essence, the ART project signifies a strategic approach by the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to harness advanced technology and foster collaboration toward sustainable improvements in livestock quality and economic empowerment within the province's farming community. This initiative not only aims to elevate cattle breeding practices but also underscores a commitment to long-term agricultural sustainability and development.

Article by: Tsholofelo Dintwe & Thebe Itumeleng



Industry experts, led by Dr. Masindi Mphaphati of the Agricultural Research Council, are preparing equipment for the ART practical demonstration.



Onions

Onion Production Program: Series 2

		Comments
Seeds (Cultivars)	Granex Types, Pyramid, Texas Grano, Hojem, Australian brown, Caledon Globe, Python, etc.	
Spacing (Seedlings)	7–10cm plants apart in rows that are 20 — 25cm apart 50-60 plants/m ² 55 to 65 plants/m ² <i>optimal</i>	
Fertiliser (kg)	Item	Quantity
	2:3:2 (22) OR 2:3:4 (30)	100g or 1000 kg
		Space
		m ²
		ha
		Application Frequency
		Soil type, climate, type of onion affects the response of onion to fertilisation
Top dressing (kg)	Source of Nitrogen (e.g LAN/KAN (28))	10g
		1m ²
		3 & 6 weeks after transplanting, especially for sandy soils Apply them 5 — 15cm from the plants.
	Potassium Chloride (KCl)	10g
		1m ²
		3 & 6 weeks after transplanting, especially for sandy soils Apply them 5 — 15cm from the plants.
Irrigation	Throughout the growing season Do not water onions for the <u>three weeks before</u> harvesting.	
Insect, Worm-like & Diseases Management measures		
Comments		
Insects	Do not plant onions near cereal grain fields : serve as a source of thrips. Overhead/Sprinkler irrigation can wash thrips off of onion leaves : Thrips prefer warm and dry conditions Use floating row covers Avoid excessive nitrogen fertilization, Intercrop onion with trap crops Practice crop rotation: once in 3 years	
Diseases	Undertake pre-planting and post-harvest sanitation Rotation: once in 3 years Field sanitation & m ² burning of crop residues minimizes the spread of infection. Diseased/Affected bulbs should be discarded before storage	
Harvesting	Determined by market price , weather When 50-100% of the leaves have lodged	
Yield	30-40 t/ha	Planting date, planting density, cultivar & growing period influence yield

Please note: it is advisable **not** to apply Manure to the soil when planting onion. For pests' control, **use only** registered chemicals **for Onion** at a **recommended** dose & regular scouting is important. The fertiliser recommendation serve only as a guideline, it is therefore important to do soil analysis.

Compiled by: Tshiamo Mothata, Specialist Agricultural Advisor (Horticulture) 1st edition, Year: 2024



SIBONGILE GUMEDE IS ENHANCING THE EGG BUSINESS TO ACHIEVE NEW LEVELS OF SUCCESS

Sibongile Gumede, a small-scale farmer located in Lindequesdrift, JB Marks Municipality, ventured into poultry farming in 2018 after identifying a gap in the market.

The female farmer houses 1500 points of Amberlinks Chicken Breed, which are designed to be "egg-laying machines". The eggs produced on her farm undergo a regular egg grading process conducted by the South African Poultry Association (SAPA).

The interior of the eggs is graded using a method called candling, which involves the use of an egg candler to examine the air cell, the egg white (albumen), and the yolk. Candling also enables the detection of spots and cracks on the eggshell.

To assess the egg quality, SAPA uses a random sampling method for grading, providing clear insight into the quality of eggs produced by a specific batch of chickens. "After the grading process, SAPA provides a detailed report and recommendations on how to improve the egg quality if there are any issues. For an egg to be considered Grade A, the egg white should not be lumpy or stuck to the shell, and the yolk should be perfectly golden. The blood clots found inside eggs are normal, and eggs should not come in contact with water as this depletes their calcium," said Sibongile.

The goal is to achieve Grade A, which can only be attained through consistent and nutritious feed. In the initial cycle, chickens usually produce small eggs called "quail," and farmers should not be discouraged as it is normal. Regular health and growth checks are vital for chickens to produce the right quality and quantity. Additionally, recycling egg shells and mixing them with the feed provide a good source of calcium for the chickens' bones.

Once the grading process is complete, the batch of eggs is given a barcode for tracking during that cycle. This enables consumers and stores to contact the supplier in case of any complaints. Sibongile has received support from the department through extension and advisory services, as well as funding for water reticulation and the construction of a borehole.

A contractor is currently on site to erect a 5000-point layer house, which will allow the farmer to expand her business and market.

"I am grateful for the assistance that I am receiving from the Department. Currently, I'm meeting the demand for eggs by partnering with other local farmers, but the new house will reduce the need to source from other businesses and will allow my profits to grow," expressed the farmer, who

currently supplies eggs to various supermarkets across Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District, vendors, and individuals.

Additionally, she operates an online storefront, Bongi G, offering customers a convenient avenue to place orders with doorstep delivery services.

Article by: Oratile Kgotle





AIRBORNE DISEASES IN POULTRY

Newcastle disease

Newcastle disease is a significant viral poultry disease in South Africa. It is thus considered a controlled disease according to the Animal Disease Act (Act 35 of 1984).

The disease has a short incubation period of about 7 days and is spread through direct and indirect contact between infected and susceptible flocks. It is airborne over a short distance and faecal dust can be a fomite.

It is a multisystemic disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems, with the clinical signs depending on the organ system affected. In a naïve flock, birds of all ages are susceptible. Severe clinical signs and high mortalities are usually seen in unvaccinated flocks, especially in free-range and backyard chickens.

The signs include acute death, dyspnoea, green diarrhoea and some nervous signs such as torticollis or paralysis. A layer can also display a drop in egg production.

Being a controlled disease, compulsory vaccination of all commercial poultry is required. This is the main form of prevention, as vaccinated flocks display fewer severe signs and lower mortalities.

Treatment is unfortunately not available. In the case of an outbreak, affected birds are **culled and disposed of correctly together with the manure and the adjacent houses** may be blocked with a live vaccine.

Avian Influenza

This is another important poultry disease globally. According to Animal Disease Act 35 of 1984, it is also considered a controlled disease.

The disease is particularly spread by migratory birds/ waterfowl, which serve as natural reservoirs of this virus. On the other hand, domestic poultry are very susceptible to the diseases.

The incubation period is variable but mostly short. It spreads through faecal drops from live birds and aerosol droplets. The clinical signs that manifest depend on whether it is Low or High pathogenic Avian influenza referred to as LPAI and HPAI respectively. The LPAI presents with low mortalities and both respiratory and gastrointestinal signs. While the HPAI causes very high mortalities and nervous signs.

Unfortunately, treatment is unavailable, and vaccination is not yet permitted in South Africa. During an outbreak, the affected flock is culled. The most recent outbreak of HPAI in the North West occurred in 2023

INFECTIOUS CORYZA

Infectious coryza is an acute respiratory disease of chickens. It is caused by the bacterium *Avibacterium paragallinarum*.

Infected flocks transmit the bacteria by direct contact, airborne droplets, and contaminated drinking water, equipment and clothing. It occurs in birds of any age though mature birds are generally at more risk.

Common symptoms include facial swelling, nasal discharge, lacrimation, diarrhoea and sometimes sneezing.

Treatment must be immediate and include supportive therapy and antibiotics such as erythromycin and oxy-tetracycline administered through water or feed.

Proper management, practising good biosecurity and vaccination helps in preventing the infection.

Infectious coryza is a common disease all around.

Avian Mycoplasmosis:

This is another significant poultry disease caused by *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (MG) and *Synoviar* (MS). Both are considered controlled diseases in South Africa.

Mycoplasma Gallisepticum affects the respiratory system. Disease tends to manifest in young susceptible birds. The incubation period is around 2-3 weeks. Infected layers show a drop in egg production with upper respiratory signs such as sinusitis and airsacculitis. Broilers also present with similar respiratory signs. *E. coli* virus can complicate the mycoplasma respiratory infection.

Treatment of MG is done with Fluoroquinolones. This can resolve the clinical signs but does not eliminate the infection.

Prevention is done through vaccination using a live or killed vaccine.

Mycoses (Aspergillosis/ Dactylariosis):

This is another avian disease caused by fungal infection namely *Aspergillus Fumigatus*.

Susceptible flocks are infected through the inhalation of spores contained in the environment, from litter or contaminated feed. The signs usually manifest as silent gasping of air, stretched necks (dyspnoea) and rapid respiration, within 5 days post-infection.

Treatment for this disease is unavailable, affected flocks are culled and the environment is fumigated with antifungal substances. In very valuable birds Amphotericin B can be utilised to treat. Prevention includes keeping litter dry and avoiding possibly contaminated feed. Regular fumigation of hatchery and next boxes can be adopted.

Article by: Dr Simon Mosenogi & Dr Koketso Makhubedu





knowledge possessed by the extension officer in my area is the reason I can continuously produce quality vegetables that meet industry standards” expressed Baloyi.

The young farmer secured an off-take agreement with McCain Foods for her spinach which she also supplies to Choppies and Boxer retailers. She also supplies cabbages and potatoes to retailers and individual stockiest. As the business continues to grow, Koketso is determined to cultivate more produce, especially potatoes that she has just recently exported to Mozambique. Potatoes will always be in high demand as the consumption of potato products varies, buyers are everywhere and they significantly contribute to the total gross value of vegetable production in South Africa.

Article by: Tshegofatso Leepile

KOKETSO BALOYI

YOUNG FARMER ACCUMULATES TWO MORE FARMS AND INCREASES COMMODITIES

When Koketso Baloyi started her farming business in 2018 from a leased piece of land, she envisioned herself owning land of her own, which she was able to acquire.

The thirty-two-year-old farmer purchased land in Beestekraal and Mooi Nooi in Bojanala whilst still operating on the leased 18.5 ha in Sonop.

Her business, named Diatla Tshweu, has since expanded and she has added more commodities from planting just spinach.

“Two of the plots, are for mainly horticulture where I plant spinach, cabbage and potatoes. I also plan on planting watermelons this August and lucerne as it is in demand. The lucern will also be beneficial to my small livestock as I have recently bought pigs, sheep and goats as part of my strategy to increase the commodities that I trade in. The Beestekraal plot houses layers only and the intention is to develop the farm to be able to meet the demand for eggs every week” said Koketso.

Four hectares of drip irrigation and sprinklers on the Sonop and Mooi Nooi farms were supported by the department. The system is the most efficient water delivery system for crop irrigation. This system saves water, electricity and crop protection products - the water is directed exactly to the plant’s root zone, in the right amounts and timeously.

“I appreciate the Department’s assistance with the irrigation system, it has made watering crops seamless and effective. I’ve received consistent extension and advisory services on horticulture. The experience and





Veterinary laboratories are essential for monitoring and maintaining the efficiency of the agricultural value chain. They provide epidemiological services to detect and monitor animal diseases early on, helping to manage the associated health risks.

The North West Diagnostic and Epidemiology Services, part of the Veterinary Service Directorate in the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, operates two veterinary laboratories: the Potchefstroom Veterinary Laboratory in Dr Kenneth Kaunda, and the Vryburg Veterinary Laboratory in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

These laboratories offer services such as testing for controlled and non-controlled diseases, investigating disease outbreaks, and conducting animal disease research. Both laboratories are accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) to ensure they meet international quality standards.

The primary customers of these lab services are farmers and abattoirs. Customers can access these services for free through state veterinary offices and veterinary public health officers. Upon receiving samples, they are registered and assigned a unique identification number for tracking purposes.

Here are the costs and turnaround times for sample testing:

- Microbiological water testing for water samples costs R363.00 per sample with a turnaround time of 5 working days.
- Testing for Brucellosis using serum costs RBT and CFT at a cost of R50.00, RBT only at R25.00, CFT only at R60.00, and MRT at R30.00 per sample, with turnaround times of 7, 10, and 3 working days respectively.
- Testing for antibodies to Avian Influenza viruses in serum samples costs R61.00 per sample with a turnaround time of 3-7 working days.

These laboratories play a critical role in disease control and prevention, aiding in formulating policies and reducing sanitary risks in the import and export of animals and animal products in South Africa.

A well-equipped veterinary lab is capable of providing clear diagnostic results quickly and efficiently, ensuring quality services through leading-edge equipment.

Article by: Kgalalelo Mashomo



THE SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL PUMPKIN FARMING

Pumpkins are a versatile and rewarding crop, cherished for their culinary and decorative uses. Successful pumpkin farming requires careful planning, weather conditions, and thorough care.

Here is a comprehensive overview of the best practices for growing pumpkins, from planting to harvest.

Pumpkins thrive in warm soil, making late spring the best time to sow seeds. Ideally, pumpkins should be planted two to three weeks after the winter frost to protect young seedlings from cold damage. The warm conditions of late spring ensure that pumpkins have the long growing season they need.

Warm weather is critical for pumpkin growth. These plants flourish in temperatures ranging from 21°C to 29°C. It's important to avoid areas with late frost or early winters, which can shorten the growing season and affect yields.

Pumpkins prefer well-drained, sandy soil with a pH level between 6.0 and 6.8. Before planting, a soil test to determine nutrient levels and pH balance should be conducted. Improving the soil with fertilizers or well-decayed manure improves fertility and structure, providing a nutrient-rich environment for the pumpkins. Digging the soil to a depth of 30 to 38 Centimetres (cm) promotes good root development.

When planting, choose a location that offers sufficient space, as pumpkins require significant room to grow. Plan for about 50 to 100 square meters per plant, depending on the variety. Plant seeds directly into the ground, about 2.5cm deep and 1.2 to 1.5 meters apart in rows. For larger pumpkin varieties, space the rows 1.8 to 3 metres apart. If starting indoors, transplant seedlings when they have at least two true leaves and the soil temperature is warm.

Planting pumpkins in late spring to early summer maximizes yields. This timing allows the plants to mature during the warm summer months and ensures they are ready for harvest before the first autumn cold.

Watering the plants consistently is key to healthy pumpkin growth, particularly during flowering and fruiting stages. Water deeply once a week, ensuring the soil remains moist but not too wet. Applying protection around the base of the plants helps retain soil moisture and control weeds. Pumpkins should be fertilized with a balanced formula high in phosphorus and potassium once the plants have developed their first true leaves, avoiding excessive nitrogen which can lead to leafy growth rather than fruit production.

Regular weeding prevents the struggle for nutrients and water and promotes healthier pumpkin plants. Monitor for common pests such as squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and aphids, using organic or chemical controls as needed. Crop rotation is essential to avoid soil-borne diseases, and applying fungicides can help manage outbreaks.

Harvest pumpkins when they are fully mature, usually 75 to 100 days after planting. Look for a deep, uniform colour and hard skin as indicators of maturity. The stem should be dry and starting to shrink. Cut the pumpkin from the vine with a sharp knife or cropping clippers, leaving at least 5 to 10 cm of stem attached, to prolong shelf life. Handle pumpkins carefully to avoid bruising.

After harvesting, cure pumpkins by placing them in a warm, dry location for 10 to 14 days to harden the skin and enhance storage life. Once cured, store pumpkins in a cool, dry place with temperatures between 10°C and 13°C. Properly stored pumpkins can last for several months, providing a longer supply for numerous uses.

Farmers can ensure a generous and high-quality pumpkin harvest by following these guidelines.

Article by: Kokeletso Legoete



agriculture & rural development

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

KNOW YOUR LOCAL AREA OFFICE MANAGER

Local Agricultural Offices have a pivotal role in ensuring that all farmers and communities have access to DARD services.

DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI		
Local Agricultural Office	Name of LAO Manager	Contact Number
GREATER TAUNG	Mr Thaelo Letlhogela	072 794 0787
LEKWA TEEMANE	Mr. Ogopoleng Motshabi	072 772 8973
MAMUSA	Ms. Tuelo Sebekedi	053 963 1339 / 072 781 2345
KAGISANO MOLOPO	Mr. Ogodiseng Lebatli	066 095 7042
NALEDI	Mr. Tshetlho Makhwana	072 795 0434
TAUNG IRRIGATION SCHEME	Mr Goitseone Mocwiri	072 793 8058

DR KENNETH KAUNDA		
Local Agricultural Office	Name of LAO Manager	Contact Number
JB MARKS	Mr. Mole fiMapogoshe (acting)	072 776 5838
MATLOSANA	Ms. Salome Modise	072 811 6971
MAQUASSI HILLS	Mr Kgosithebe Seolwane	072 807 1900

NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT		
Local Agricultural Office	Name of LAO Manager	Contact Number
DITSOBOTLA	Ms. Cynthia Gonyane	018 632 7400 / 082 949 4381
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RATLOU	Mr. Moses Ntolokwane	072 777 7023
TSWAING	Mr. Simon Sebokolodi	082 491 0637

BOJANALA		
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MOSES KOTANE	Ms. Pulane Lebetho	082 490 8531
MADIBENG	Mr. Solly Molebalwa	012 709 2606 / 072 815 5485
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