

letsoma

An official External Publication of the
Department of Agriculture and
Rural Development



APR - JUN
2025 Edition

DARD AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Invests in Youth to
Advance Agriculture
and Uplift Communities



Page 7

*Madibeng State Veterinary
Clinic Becomes a Trusted Hub
for Quality and Affordable
Animal Care*



Page 8-9

*From Dry Days to Flowing
Boreholes, Communal Farmers
in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi
Mompoti District Are Already
Feeling the Difference*



Page 11

*Growing hope from a
backyard garden*



**agriculture &
rural development**

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



Applications for the 2026 academic year at Taung Agricultural College (TAC)
and Potchefstroom College of Agriculture (PCA)
officially opened on **1 April 2025** and will close on **31 October 2025**.

WHY CHOOSE TAC OR PCA?

TAC and PCA are more than colleges, they are launchpads for tomorrow's agricultural leaders. Whether your goal is to become a farmer, researcher, technician, or agribusiness professional, these institutions offer industry-relevant and hands-on training.

AVAILABLE DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES:

Taung Agricultural College (TAC) – Diploma in Agriculture (Irrigation)
Potchefstroom College of Agriculture (PCA) – Diploma in Agriculture (Mixed Agriculture)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

TAC – DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE (IRRIGATION):

NSC or equivalent, English Level 4, Life Sciences/Agricultural Sciences Level 3
Mathematics Level 3 or Math Literacy Level 4, Physical Science Level 3 (advantageous)

PCA – DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE (MIXED AGRICULTURE):

Afrikaans or English Level 4 (50 - 59%)
Agricultural Sciences, Agri Management Practices, or Agri Technology (compulsory)
Other recommended subjects: Math, Physical Science, Business Economics,
Life Sciences, Accounting, Engineering
Minimum 24 points on the Swedish Rating Scale (excluding Life Orientation)

HOW TO APPLY?

Collect application forms from the colleges, OR download from: www.dard.nwpg.gov.za

CONTACT INFORMATION

Taung Agricultural College (TAC) // Vuyiswa Mziwakhe: +27 60 504 814
Neo Makhobela: +27 68 379 3026 **Potchefstroom College of Agriculture (PCA)**
Mr Ismail Haffeejee: +27 18 285 0701 // **Ms Lebo Mpiti:** +27 18 285 0700
Ms Patricia Mngomezulu: +27 18 285 0735



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



TAUNG
AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGE



POTCHEFSTROOM COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
LANDBOUKOLLEGE POTCHEFSTROOM
KHOLESHE YA TEMOTHUO YA POTCHEFSTROOM

Contents & Credits

Content

Page Number

COVER PAGE.....	01
START YOUR FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE TODAY.....	02
CONTENT & CREDITS.....	03
EDITORIAL COMMENT.....	04
FROM MEC'S DESK.....	05
THE LAUNCH OF THE SMART FARMING INITIATIVE IN SCHAUMBURG, SKEERPOORT.....	06
MADIBENG STATE VET CLINIC : A TRUSTED QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE ANIMAL HEALTH CARE	07
FROM DRY DAYS TO FLOWING BOREHOLES.....	08 - 09
GROWING HOPE FROM A BACKYARD GARDEN.....	10
FROM NUMBERS TO NATURE: HAPPY MPETE IS TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE IN MOSES KOTANE.....	11
YOUTH LEADING THE CHARGE IN AGRICULTURE, POWERED BY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.....	12
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS WITH NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY EQUIP 40 YOUNG FARMERS WITH ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS.....	13
PASSIONATE FARMER MAKES A COMEBACK AFTER SUFFERING A HUGE LOSS.....	14
FROM HARD HAT, TO HEN HOUSE: THAPELO MOKOTO'S STORY.....	15 -16
TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SOLIDIFIES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN IRRIGATION AGRICULTURE WITH GRADUATION OF 33 SPECIALISTS.....	17-18
CULTIVATING THE FAMILY LEGACY : A PRIORITY FOR TSHIAMO LEREFOLLO.....	19
PRISCILLA TSHIGWANE BUILDS A FAMILY LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.....	20
POROJEKE YA KWA MOTSENG WA MMAMUTLA YA DIKOKO:ITHUTENG BOMME.....	21
DON'T LET FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE WALK ON TO YOUR FARM.....	22
WILD FIRES ARLET.....	23
BACK PAGE: DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION.....	24

Credits

Editor in Chief : Emelda Setlhako

Editor and coordinator : Thebe Itumeleng

Writers : Tshegofatso Leepile
Kgalalelo Mashomo
Thebe Itumeleng
Katlego Thejane

Photography : Orapeleng Gaonewe
Motsepe Nkoliswa

Layout and Design : Ntsadi Ramoncha

FROM

Editor's Desk



Editor: Emelda Setlhako

Editorial Comment

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to another edition of Letsema, the official magazine of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The first quarter of the new financial year has already passed, and with it comes this exciting first edition rich with insight, inspiration, and stories that reflect both the progress we have made and the journey still ahead. There is always more to learn, and we hope this edition offers valuable knowledge and motivation to everyone involved in the sector.

In this issue, we highlight the growing presence and success of young people in agriculture. You will meet the likes of Thapelo Mokoto, a passionate layer farmer from Wolmaransstad, and Happy Mpete, another inspiring young voice in farming. With the support of the Department, these young farmers are turning their aspirations into achievements. Their stories are not only encouraging but also meant to serve as motivation to other young people who may be considering a future in this vital sector.

As you read further, you will also notice a welcome and consistent trend: the increasing emergence of women in agriculture. This is more than encouraging; it signals a positive shift towards a more inclusive and representative sector. We are proud to see more female-led farming operations gaining recognition and building successful enterprises.

As part of our responsibility to inform, educate, and empower, this edition includes articles that are both practical and educational. To those who are thinking of pursuing studies in agriculture, we encourage you to consider our state-owned agricultural colleges. All the information you need to make an informed decision is included in these pages. Do not wait for the closing date, apply now and take the first step toward securing your future in agriculture.

We also use this opportunity to update you on matters of animal health. Our province recently experienced an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. Thanks to the tireless work of our veterinary services team, swift response and containment efforts are underway. We urge all farmers to remain alert and to report any unusual signs in their livestock to the nearest veterinary office. Early reporting remains our strongest defence against the spread of such diseases.

Although we are nearing the end of the winter season, we must remain cautious. The risk of veld fires remains high during this period, and we appeal to all farmers and communities to take preventative measures. A single spark can undo years of hard work; this is the last thing we want as we prepare for the next planting season.

As a government, we remain committed to supporting a wide range of programmes aimed at strengthening the sector and improving the lives of those in rural areas. Whether through education, technical support, infrastructure development, or partnerships, our goal is to build a sustainable, inclusive, and thriving agricultural economy.

Thank you for your continued support of Letsema. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and that in these pages, you see your journey, your possibilities, and your future.

ENJOY READING!!!

EMELDA SETLHAKO

Chief Editor: Official Publication – Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development

FROM

MEC'S DESK



Member of Executive Council: Madoda Sambatha

Foreword

As we open the pages of this first edition of Letsema magazine for the new financial year, I invite you to see it not just as a publication, but as a mirror of the progress we are making and a window into the future we are building together.

The seventh administration has made it clear that we need to step up our efforts to fight poverty, unemployment, and inequality, especially in rural communities. As the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, we have embraced this responsibility and are taking action to ensure that agriculture becomes a true driver of change in people's lives.

This financial year, we enter with renewed focus and determination. Our priority is to support farmers, especially smallholders and youth, with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. This means providing access to water infrastructure, farming inputs, mentorship, and technical training to help them become more productive and commercially viable.

Recently, through the District Development Model, the Department has been working closely with traditional councils and local municipalities to fight poverty, upskill youth, and create economic opportunities. The agricultural learnership launched with the Batlhaping Ba Ga Maidi community is a strong example of this coordinated effort, enrolling local youth in skills development. This model will be replicated across the province to reach more communities and transform lives on the ground.

Support for agro-processing initiatives is being expanded to enable farmers to increase their incomes by adding value to raw agricultural products. This approach not only boosts individual earnings but also strengthens local economies by creating jobs and encouraging entrepreneurship throughout the agriculture value chain. Continued investments in production schemes, infrastructure development, and market access are vital to building resilient and sustainable rural economies.

At the same time, there is growing awareness of the impact climate change has on agricultural productivity and food security. Farmers are being encouraged and equipped to adopt sustainable, climate-smart farming practices, such as conservation agriculture, water-efficient irrigation, and integrated pest management. These methods protect livelihoods today while ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply for future generations.

The North West Province, aligned with South Africa's role on the global stage, including participation in the G-20, stands firm in its commitment to food security and sustainable agricultural development. Our efforts here at home contribute not only to the well-being of our communities but also form part of a wider international movement to fight hunger and promote economic growth.

None of this can be achieved by the government alone. That's why partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector, traditional leaders, and farmer organisations are being strengthened. Together, we open more doors, reach more communities, and grow an inclusive sector that truly transforms lives.

The path ahead is not always easy, but progress is being made. Our promise to the people of the North West is this: we will not slow down. We will work harder, together with you, to create a future where agriculture uplifts families, creates jobs, and feeds our nation. Let us keep moving forward with hope, determination, and unity.

MADODA SAMBATHA

MEC: Agriculture and Rural Development, North West Province



MEC Madoda Sambatha pictured alongside executives from Shell South Africa, MTN SA Foundation, and the founder of Earth Hub Africa during the launch of the Smart Farming Initiative in Schaumburg, Skeerpoort.

By Thebe Itumeleng

With an eye firmly on the future, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) continues to demonstrate its commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agricultural sector, placing youth empowerment at the centre of this vision.

At the helm of this progressive approach is MEC Madoda Sambatha, whose leadership style is marked by visibility, decisiveness, and an unwavering focus on impact. From strategic partnerships with private sector players to targeted development programmes for unemployed graduates, the Department is investing in long-term solutions that equip young people with the tools and knowledge to thrive in agriculture and drive rural development.

One of the Department's flagship initiatives, the Unemployed Graduate Programme, exemplifies this commitment. Delivered in collaboration with a local university, the programme provides young graduates with practical skills in farm management, production, business development, and occupational health and safety. More than a training platform, it is a pathway into enterprise creation and meaningful economic participation.

Another cornerstone of the Department's youth development framework is the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC). This initiative focuses on plant and animal production training while also cultivating leadership, resilience, and a strong sense of civic responsibility among participants. The intention is clear: to develop well-rounded individuals who can not only farm but also lead and uplift their communities.

Recognising that sustainable transformation must also address structural barriers, the Department has taken further steps to support young livestock farmers. Through a dedicated bull donation programme, it is assisting these farmers in enhancing herd genetics, improving productivity, and making the leap from subsistence to commercial production.

"We are not just transferring skills, we are restoring dignity, enabling ownership, and creating a future where our youth are active contributors to the economy," said MEC Madoda Sambatha. "Our programmes are designed to build confidence, competence, and long-term impact."

A significant milestone in the Department's ongoing transformation agenda is the recent launch of the Smart Farming Initiative, located in the Schaumburg

Bojanala Platinum District. Developed in collaboration with Earth Hub Africa, the MTN SA Foundation, and Shell Downstream South Africa, this initiative has enrolled ten young agri-preneurs who are currently pursuing a National Certificate in Plant Production.

The programme exposes participants to digital agricultural technologies, climate-smart practices, and market-led production models, setting a new standard for integrated and forward-looking agricultural training.

"This partnership reflects the kind of innovation and collaboration required to truly unlock potential within our communities. The future of agriculture lies in our ability to embrace technology while ensuring inclusive access to opportunity," MEC Sambatha noted.

The Department has also committed to providing ongoing mentorship and support to the programme's beneficiaries, intending to expand similar initiatives to other districts in future.

MEC Sambatha has called on private sector partners to scale these efforts, highlighting the power of public-private collaboration in achieving shared development goals.

For programme beneficiary Jafta Lin Boya, the impact has already been profound. "This initiative is more than a learning opportunity; it is a lifeline. It gives us the chance to rewrite the future for ourselves and for the communities we come from," Boya said.

All of these initiatives align with the broader goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, while also serving the specific developmental needs of the province. More than addressing unemployment, they aim to create an ecosystem of entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable livelihoods.

MEC Sambatha continues to champion this approach, emphasising the need for collective effort. "Transformation requires collaboration. We invite more partners to walk this journey with us as we shape a new generation of agricultural leaders capable, inspired, and committed to changing the world around them," said MEC Sambatha.

With this clear and actionable vision, the Department is not just investing in programmes, it is investing in people, in potential, and the promise of a better future for all.

Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic Becomes a Trusted Hub for Quality and Affordable Animal Care



From left to right: Dr. Lawrence Mugochi (State Veterinarian and Facility Manager), Mr. Ompabaletse Daniel Mmera, CCS veterinarian Dr. Jasmi Hira, Ms. Tshegofatso Ramfelo, and CCS veterinarian Dr. Dricus Oerlemans at Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic.

ByThebe Itumeleng

In the heart of Mothutlong Township, nestled in the north-eastern stretch of the North West Province, the Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic is making a lasting impact, changing lives through every animal it treats.

The Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic is more than a place of treatment; it stands as a symbol of hope, connection, and care for thousands of pet and livestock owners across a municipality of over half a million residents, many of whom live in remote and peri-urban areas. For these communities, the clinic provides essential animal healthcare and peace of mind to families who depend on their animals for both companionship and livelihood.

Driven by purpose, the clinic's dedicated and always friendly staff deliver a wide range of services daily, including disease prevention, diagnosis, vaccinations, sterilisation, minor surgeries, and emergency treatments. "We are proud to offer accessible and affordable veterinary care, ensuring that everyone has the support they need to keep their animals healthy. Our doors are always busy, which shows how much the community values the services we provide," says Dr. Lawrence Mugochi, State Veterinarian and Facility Manager.

Beyond treatment, the clinic places strong emphasis on education, empowering pet and livestock owners with knowledge on nutrition, hygiene, and basic animal health management. Dr Mugochi emphasises that public awareness is central to the clinic's mission, particularly when it comes to responsible pet ownership.

"To serve communities beyond the immediate area, the clinic also runs a mobile veterinary unit, staffed by a dedicated team including a veterinarian and skilled animal health technicians. "Our mobile team travels to underserved areas, delivering both services and education where they are needed most," says Dr Mugochi.

The clinic's impact extends into professional development, too. As part of the Compulsory Community Service (CCS) programme, newly graduated veterinarians are placed here for practical experience. The latest additions to the team, Dr Jasmi Hira and Dr Dricus Oerlemans, will spend a year applying their skills in real-world community settings, gaining insight while serving the public.

Clients' stories speak volumes about the clinic's impact. Mbongeni Witness Dube, from the nearby township of Ga-Rankuwa, brought his ailing dog for treatment after it contracted a severe viral infection. "What sets this place apart is that they don't just treat your animal—they teach you how to care for it better," he explains. "I used to go to a private clinic, but it became unaffordable. This clinic has changed everything for me."

Others share similar experiences. Veruska Van De Venter, from De Wildt in Brits, came in to have her cats sterilised. "It was efficient, affordable, and stress-free," she says.

From Akasia's Orchard area, regular client David Ndlovu adds, "The staff are knowledgeable and kind. The prices are fair, but it's the quality of service that keeps us coming back."

Open from Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 15:00, the Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic is one of 20 state-run facilities across the North West Province.

In a world where veterinary services can often feel out of reach, the Madibeng clinic is restoring dignity, offering solutions, and deepening trust. It stands not only as a public health institution but as a quiet force of compassion, committed to the well-being of animals and the people who love them.



Dr. Jasmi Hira, a CCS veterinarian at Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic, applies her skills with dedication, gaining invaluable hands-on experience while serving the community.

David Ndlovu leaves the Madibeng State Veterinary Clinic with his recovering pet, grateful for the compassionate care and quality service received.

From Dry Days to Flowing Boreholes, Communal Farmers in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Are Already Feeling the Difference



The Department has installed a 60,000-litre zinc storage tank to benefit the communities of Comforthill, Choseng, Tlapeng, Fairview, Mogopela B, Tamasikwa, Maphoitsile, and Manthe. This intervention also includes upgraded boreholes, new pumps, and a reticulation system that feeds into the new tank, ensuring a more reliable water supply.

By Thebe Itumeleng

After years of battling dry boreholes and unreliable water sources, communal livestock farmers in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District are finally seeing change, thanks to a major water infrastructure intervention by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The intervention has brought tangible improvement in areas where farmers have long struggled with unreliable and inadequate water supply for their animals. The Department's latest initiative has focused on villages within the Kagisano-Molopo and Greater Taung Local Municipalities, areas hardest hit by drought and deteriorating infrastructure.

Boreholes have been drilled and rehabilitated, new windmills installed, pumps replaced, and large water storage tanks set up to ensure that water is available consistently at key livestock points.

In Kagisano-Molopo, five villages, Langpomp, Gamongalenyane 1, Maheng, Setabeng and Matlhabatlhabe, are now accessing water from newly rehabilitated boreholes, functioning windmills, and purpose-built reservoirs. In Greater Taung, farmers in Comforthill, Choseng, Tlapeng, Fairview, Mogopela B, Tamasikwa, Maphoitsile and Manthe are benefitting from upgraded boreholes and pumps that now feed into a newly installed 60,000-litre zinc storage tank, supported by a proper reticulation system.

Speaking on the significance of this initiative, MEC Madoda Sambatha said the Department is committed to practical service delivery that directly benefits rural communities.

"We are responding to the needs of the people. Water is essential to livestock farming, and in areas like these, where people depend on animals for their livelihood, it becomes a lifeline. This is not the end. We have more ground to cover, but this is a solid start," said MEC Sambatha. Local farmers are already feeling the difference.



Mr Pucoe Oatlotse, a farmer from Kgomotso Village under the Baga Mothibi Tribal Authority, displays the previously used unclean water source from a nearby lake that livestock relied on before the Department's intervention.

Mr Pucoe Oatlotse, a livestock farmer from Kgomotso Village under the Baga Mothibi Traditional Authority, said access to water has transformed daily farming routines.

“Before this, we were in a desperate situation. The boreholes were dry, and we had to walk long distances just to find water. Sometimes we had to choose which animals to water because it wasn’t enough for all of them,” he said.

“Now, with the new pump and water tank, our cattle drink near home, and we’re no longer waking up before sunrise to start water runs. It’s a big relief,” Oatlhotse added.



Livestock belonging to communal farmers from Comforthill Village drink from the newly installed water creeps, providing improved access to clean water



Beneficiaries of the Taung Livestock Programme from Comforthill Village, together with their Agricultural Extension Officer, Mr Frans Nkale, stand beside the newly installed livestock handling facilities. The facilities include a dipping tank, allowing for safer and more efficient livestock management during health inspections and disease control operations.

The Department has also taken steps to support animal health by installing livestock handling facilities next to existing dipping tanks in select areas. These structures allow for safer inspections, vaccination campaigns, and routine disease control operations, making it easier for farmers to manage herd health.

This water access project is part of the Department’s broader drive to strengthen rural farming and promote food security across the province.

MEC Sambatha emphasised that while the government cannot solve every problem overnight, delivering targeted, practical interventions like these helps restore dignity and unlock productivity for communal farmers.

“Our approach is not just about promises, it is about real action on the ground. These farmers are the backbone of rural economies, and they deserve every bit of support we can give,” he said.

These efforts are not only helping sustain livestock farming in the district but are also reinforcing food security and stimulating local rural economies.

The Department is currently assessing additional areas across the province for similar interventions, as it continues to roll out its mandate to support agricultural development and climate-resilient farming systems.



Female farmers from Kgomotso Village stand next to the traditional kraal that was previously used as a livestock handling facility for practices such as dipping, before the Department introduced improved infrastructure.

GROWING HOPE FROM A BACKYARD GARDEN



Evelyn's backyard garden business located in Boitekong near Rustenburg is booming with customers from in and around the township.

By Tshegofatso Leepile

Evelyn Hlongwane began her backyard garden in 2010, initially planting six vegetable beds of spinach. However, the COVID-19 pandemic turned her garden into a vital source of income when unemployment impacted her household, especially with her father relying on a pension. Recognising the opportunity, Evelyn expanded her garden to include nine more beds with a wider variety of vegetables such as cabbage, carrots, onions, beetroot, and lettuce, catering to rising community demand.

With support from the Department of Correctional Services, which granted her access to land behind her yard, Evelyn further expanded her operations. Her partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development also provided her with vital resources, including production inputs, seedlings and a shade net installed in 2018, which helped preserve her produce. Extension and advisory services from both the department and private institutions empowered her to grow her business and mentor others.

Evelyn's primary market remains the local community, with regular customers and larger orders for events like weddings. Her efforts have now attracted eighteen AgriSETA learners, easing her labour needs and contributing to skills development in the community.

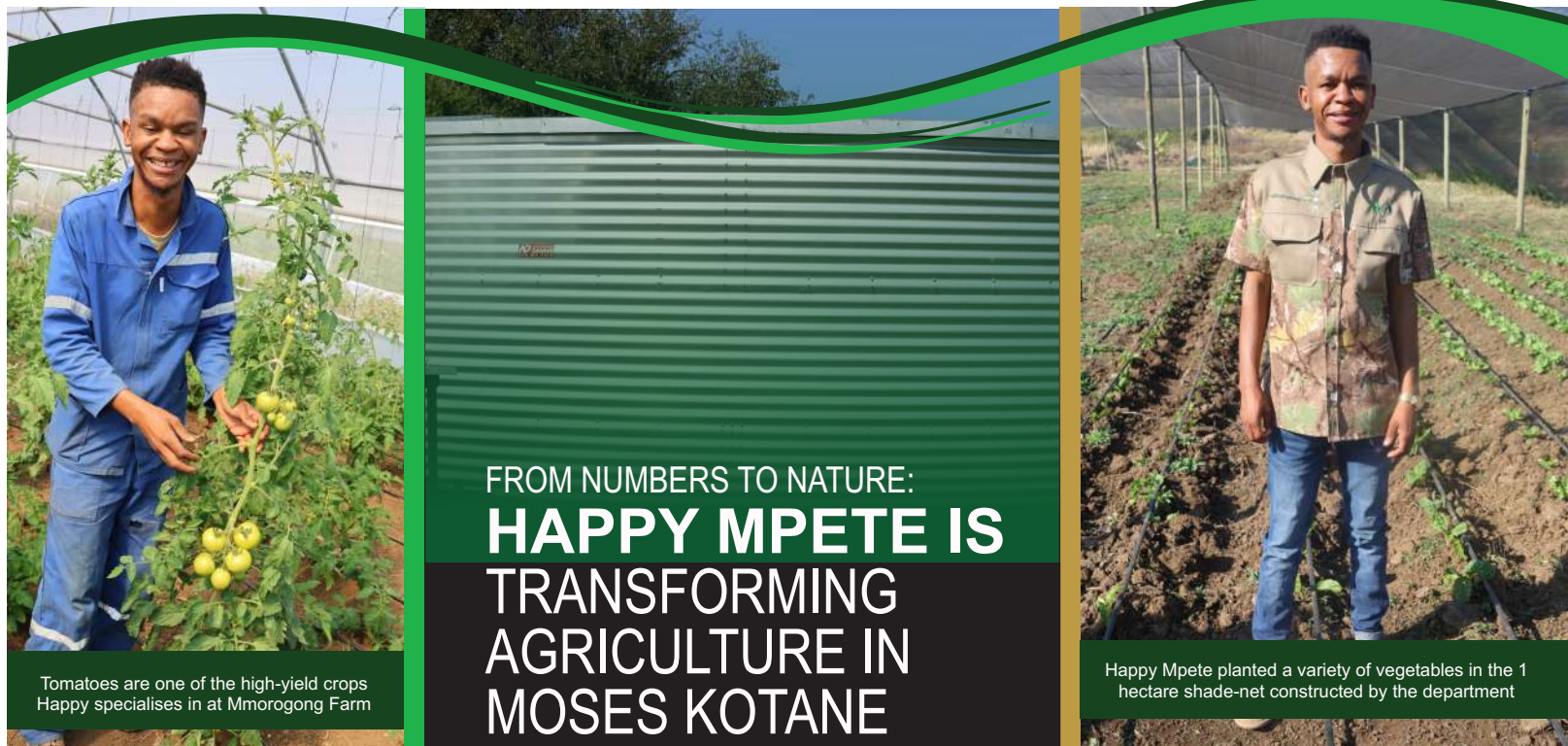
One learner, Florence Tselapedi, joined the programme in 2024. Initially motivated by the stipend, Florence soon discovered a passion for agriculture and has since started her own garden. "I have planted spinach, and because the yard is small, the produce is only for household consumption. Post the learnership, my brother and I are planning on acquiring land to start our own vegetable business," said Tselapedi.

The proceeds from Evelyn's garden have not only sustained her household, covering school fees, groceries, and other necessities, but have also allowed her to drill and equip a borehole, ensuring water security for continued production. "My plan is to now approach the tribal authority to lease land so that I can expand production as there is a growing need for my produce, and in future, I would like to supply retailers and create employment for locals", explained Hlongwane.

Evelyn's story is a testament to resilience, sustainable farming and the empowerment of others through agricultural skills and community-focused entrepreneurship.



Evelyn Hlongwane (centre) with the two AgriSETA youth learning horticulture at her business.



Tomatoes are one of the high-yield crops Happy specialises in at Mmorogong Farm

FROM NUMBERS TO NATURE: **HAPPY MPETE IS TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE IN MOSES KOTANE**

Happy Mpete planted a variety of vegetables in the 1 hectare shade-net constructed by the department

By Tshegofatso Leepile

In the heart of Moses Kotane, a quiet revolution in agriculture is taking root, led by an ambitious accountant turned farmer, Happy Mpete. His journey from balancing spreadsheets to harvesting high-value crops is not only an inspiring story of reinvention but also a testament to how strategic vision, community partnerships and passion can drive meaningful change in rural development and food security.

Happy Mpete graduated in 2011 and began his professional life as an accountant. After several years in the corporate world, he made a pivotal decision in 2018, resigning to establish his accounting practice. While the practice was successful, it also became the financial backbone for a much deeper dream: to build a sustainable and impactful farming business.

That dream began to take shape when, during corporate training sessions, he was frequently asked how he managed to earn extra income. Those curious conversations sowed the first seeds of an idea that farming could be more than just a side hustle; it could be a full-time vocation with real community value.

In 2019, Happy acquired 7 hectares of land from the Bakwena Ba Ra Bosula Traditional Authority. With determination and a hands-on approach, he started farming crops, vegetables and chickens. But the early days taught a vital lesson: quality trumps quantity. Producing on a large scale without the right systems compromised consistency. He pivoted and focused solely on high-value horticultural crops, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes.

The vision became clear. To build a commercial horticulture farm that becomes the main fresh produce supplier to the local tourism sector, including lodges and guest houses that currently source vegetables from distant markets.

Happy's farm has already made significant inroads. Today, he supplies retailers, lodges, local communities and a produce market in Rustenburg called FreshLink. Some clients collect directly from the farm, while others receive deliveries. Lodges place weekly orders, and retailers restock every three days, evidence of growing demand and a strong market fit.

A turning point came in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Happy began working with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. He received a R50,000 grant to support production inputs and seeds from Sakata, a long-standing partner that continues to offer technical support and guidance.

In 2024, the farm received a R2.5 million grant from the department to enhance infrastructure and boost productivity. The funds were used to install:

- A 1-hectare shade net
- Two 300m² greenhouse tunnels
- A 100,000-litre steel tank reservoir
- Four-phase electricity
- A comprehensive irrigation system

The upgrades have improved not only output but also efficiency. Birds and pests are now under control, thanks to the covered systems and year-round production is now possible, giving Happy a competitive edge, especially in the winter months when open-field producers struggle. With fewer suppliers in colder seasons, market prices rise, boosting farm profitability.

Happy believes in "farming farmers." Beyond growing crops, his mission is to develop future farmers and create employment in the region. He regularly transfers knowledge and skills to his employees and envisions formal training opportunities for them soon.

His educational journey continues, too. In 2024, he received a bursary to study Plant Production, building on previous qualifications including:

- A Climate-Smart Agriculture course in Nigeria
- A Business Management course from North-West University
- Ongoing skills development through the University of Stellenbosch
- Participation in the SA GAP food safety programme

With a solid foundation, strong community ties and a growing client base, Happy Mpete is not just building a farm; he is cultivating a movement. A movement rooted in sustainability, food security and youth empowerment. As the Moses Kotane region continues to develop, Happy stands as a shining example of what is possible when purpose meets perseverance. His farm is not just a business; it is a beacon of opportunity for others to follow.



Youth Leading the Charge in Agriculture, Powered by Government Support

By Kgalalelo Mashomo

Across the North West Province, a growing number of young people are stepping confidently into the agricultural sector, supported by targeted programmes, mentorship initiatives, and leadership opportunities championed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Through platforms like Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD), these young farmers are not only building sustainable businesses but are also driving innovation and transformation in their communities.

One such example is Mrs Ipeleng Kwadi-Seboni, a livestock farmer from Brits who currently serves as Chairperson of the North West YARD structure. Her journey reflects the progress being made by many young people who, with the right backing, are rewriting the narrative of youth involvement in farming.

Raised on a farm, Ipeleng's exposure to agriculture began at an early age under the guidance of her father, a Bonsmara cattle producer. In 2012, she left the education sector to join her family's farming operation, later establishing her own venture, Motshotelo Farming Enterprise in 2019.

What began with just a handful of pigs and goats has since grown into a thriving livestock business that includes cattle, chickens, and a team of employees.

"My focus is on sustainability, mentoring others, and keeping young people motivated about the future of agriculture," she explains.

Motshotelo Farming does not just produce. It also develops. The farm offers in-service training to students from agricultural institutions and serves as a mentoring hub for emerging farmers especially young women entering the sector.

Ipeleng holds a meat processing certificate and supplies livestock to abattoirs, ensuring her enterprise meets the highest health and compliance standards.

Her leadership role in YARD has also created opportunities for young people to engage in policy dialogues and access information about land, finance, and agricultural technology. Under her stewardship, the North West YARD has championed efforts to raise awareness around food security and the importance of youth participation in key decision-making platforms.

"We need youth at the centre of conversations around land ownership, access to inputs, and how we adapt agriculture to meet future challenges. The Department has opened important doors through YARD, and we must keep using these platforms to lift others," said Ipeleng.

Through its ongoing support of YARD structures and agricultural empowerment programmes, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continues to create space for young farmers to thrive. Many, like Ipeleng, are turning that support into practical change, running viable businesses, mentoring others, and building a new generation of agricultural leaders.



Ipeleng Kwadi-Seboni tending to goats at Motshotelo Farming Enterprise in Brits. Her farm is among several youth-led agricultural ventures thriving with support from YARD and departmental mentorship initiatives.



By Kgalalelo Mashomo

In a major step toward building a prosperous and inclusive economy, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), in partnership with the North West University Business School (NWU), celebrated the achievements of forty (40) young farmers from the North West Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (NWAYARD) structure, who completed the Agri-preneurship Programme. The awards ceremony took place towards the end of April this year.

The Agri-preneurship Programme, a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 5 Short Learning Programme in Entrepreneurial Skills, is designed to equip young farmers with essential business and entrepreneurial skills, empowering them to run and grow sustainable agri-businesses.

MEC Madoda Sambatha highlighted the shared commitment of both the Department and the University in nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders. "By investing in the training of young farmers, we can unlock the province's full potential, creating a skilled generation capable of leading the North West to a future filled with opportunity and driving its economic growth," said MEC Sambatha.

The forty young farmers, drawn from across the province's four districts, participated in intensive contact training sessions, delivered over three study schools of two weeks each, culminating in November 2024. NWAYARD, officially established to champion the development of young farmers in the agriculture and rural development sectors, played a pivotal role in the programme.

Expressing gratitude, Ipeleng Kwadi Seboni, farmer and chairperson of

NWAYARD, said, "This training will make a significant difference in how we manage our farming operations and foster stronger collaborative partnerships. We are truly thankful to the Department and the University for investing in our future."

The Agri-preneurship Programme is expected to not only enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of these young farmers but also boost food production and strengthen the agricultural economy of the North West Province.



A proud farmer beams with joy as she showcases her love for goats



PASSIONATE FARMER MAKES A COMEBACK AFTER SUFFERING A HUGE LOSS

By Katlego Thejane

Despite losing sixty-five goats due to stock theft, Dolly Khwebane, a subsistence farmer from Sephai in Madibeng Local Municipality, is determined to keep her farming dream a reality.

The 51-year-old farmer currently owns boerbok, kalahari reeds, and chickens and cultivates cabbage, spinach, tomatoes, and chilli peppers to feed her family. However, she says it hasn't always been a smooth sailing journey for her. "After my goats got stolen, I decided to start over and buy free-range goats, which were doing exceptionally well. But due to the difficult times of COVID-19, I couldn't keep up. Those were the moments I felt like giving up, but the farming bug continued to bite", she recalls.



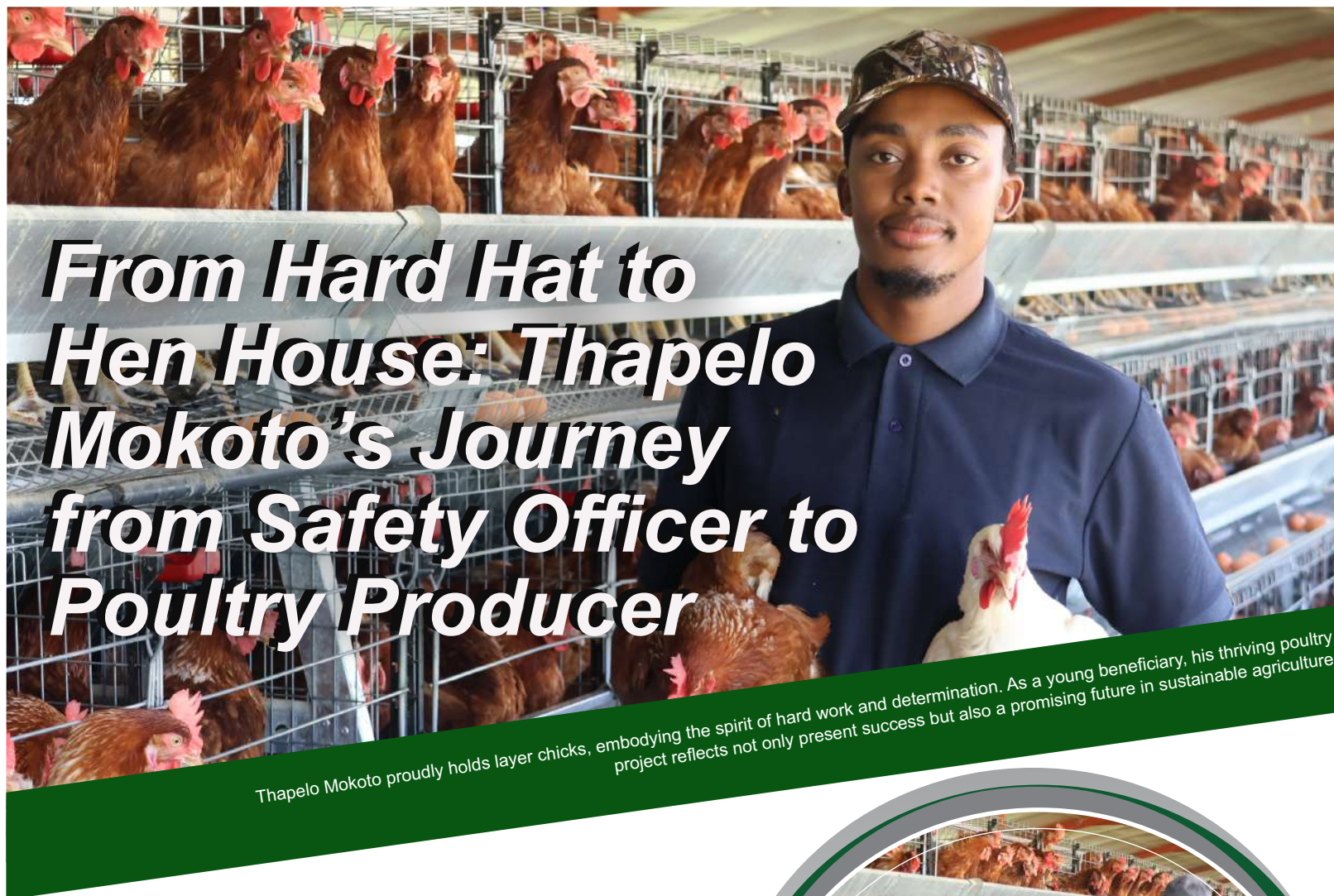
The thriving herd stands as a living testament to Dolly Khwebane's passion for goat farming.

As part of the department's food security programme, Khwebane received ten goats in the previous year. She has also undergone goat training with Kgora Farmer Training Centre and is now awaiting the irrigation training, which is set to take place towards the end of this year. She adds: "I am truly grateful to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for enriching my knowledge and skills. I am now capable of taking care of my livestock and navigating agricultural challenges".

In order to generate some income and make ends meet, the farm supplies its products and livestock to informal markets and residents. "I'm now producing my chilli sauce to put bread on the table because I still have people who depend on me. So, I'm doing my best to make sure that they don't go to bed hungry", she shares.

Even though she doesn't have a formal market yet, Khwebane is positive and confident about the future of her farm. Her goal is to see herself grow as a farmer and become a stud breeder and supply the Department with goats. Furthermore, she wishes to share valuable knowledge with agricultural students and offer them hands-on field experience and practical exposure on her farm.

As a woman who has been able to bounce back from life's adversities, Khwebane urges female farmers to stand their ground and never give up. "Farming requires so much dedication and patience. It doesn't matter how challenging each day may be; you have to keep pushing. It's also necessary that you always remind yourself why you started farming in the first place", she advises.



Thapelo Mokoto proudly holds layer chicks, embodying the spirit of hard work and determination. As a young beneficiary, his thriving poultry project reflects not only present success but also a promising future in sustainable agriculture.

By Thebe Itumeleng

It all began in a place far from home. While working in the construction industry in another province, Thapelo Mokoto saw the harsh face of poverty almost daily: families struggling to put food on the table, young people without direction, and communities weighed down by unemployment. The images stayed with him. They did not just tug at his conscience; they pushed him toward action. He resigned from his job and returned to Maquassi Hills in the North West Province, determined to do something different.

For Thapelo, farming was not a plan written on paper; it was born from a desire to create something meaningful. In 2018, with nothing more than determination and limited savings, Thapelo started small. He rented a modest structure and bought 500 broiler chickens, selling to locals and surrounding towns. Business grew to 1,000 birds, but challenges quickly followed. Cramped space, high mortality rates, and rising demand meant it was time to find a more permanent solution.

He secured a two-hectare piece of land through a lease agreement with the local municipality and, in 2019, knocked on the door of the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. That decision marked a turning point. The Department responded with meaningful support, erecting security fencing, providing ablution facilities, installing a borehole, drilling water, constructing a low-roof storeroom, and conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment to help Thapelo expand responsibly.



In the years that followed, more assistance came. He received production inputs, veterinary medication, a wrapping machine, and, by 2023, funding for the construction of a 5,000-layer unit fitted with cages. Most recently, his business was boosted with 5,000 point-of-lay hens, feed, packaging materials, and an egg grading machine—positioning him for long-term sustainability.

Today, Thapelo's operation, MasterChick Farm Group (Pty) Ltd, supplies eggs to towns such as Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, and neighbouring parts of the Free State. His business has created three jobs for young people in Maquassi Hills, and his name is steadily gaining recognition in local agricultural circles.



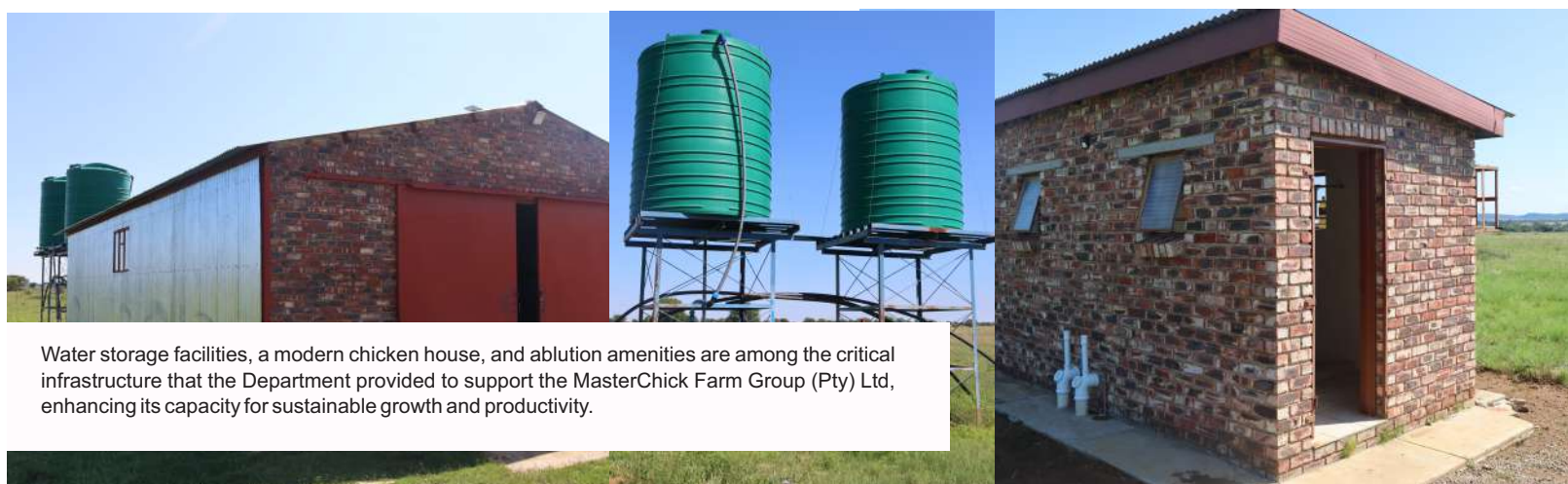
Steadily realising his vision of creating job opportunities, Thapelo Mokoto, founder of MasterChick Farm Group (Pty) Ltd, is pictured here alongside his dedicated team of employees.

He is open about the realities young farmers face. “As youth, we might not have the funds, but we have energy,” he says. “Believe in yourself and something higher. Don’t give up. If you’re not funded yet, keep knocking. Make sure you comply, keep your records. The journey is not easy.”

He credits much of his growth to the consistent support from the extension and advisory services that he receives from the Department.

His dream is to expand, not only in size but in impact, creating more opportunities for others and showing that agriculture can be a real career path for young people.

What began as a reaction to what he saw in a struggling community has now evolved into a story of growth, resilience, and meaningful change. Thapelo Mokoto returned home to rewrite his future, and in doing so, he is helping others imagine theirs.



Water storage facilities, a modern chicken house, and ablation amenities are among the critical infrastructure that the Department provided to support the MasterChick Farm Group (Pty) Ltd, enhancing its capacity for sustainable growth and productivity.

MEC Madoda Sambatha addressing the thirty-three (33) graduates of Taung Agricultural College during the Winter Graduation Ceremony held on Friday, 30 May 2025.

TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SOLIDIFIES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN IRRIGATION AGRICULTURE WITH GRADUATION OF 33 SPECIALISTS

By Thebe Itumeleng

Taung Agricultural College (TAC) proudly etched another chapter in its legacy when it capped thirty-three (33) students with Diplomas in Agriculture, specialising in Irrigation, during its Winter Graduation Ceremony held in May 2025. The event marked a major milestone not only for the graduates but also for the College and the broader agricultural landscape of the North West Province.

This specialised cohort, made up of 14 women and 19 men, is now fully equipped with practical and theoretical skills tailored for one of the most critical areas in modern agriculture, irrigation farming. As droughts and climate change increasingly threaten food security, this group represents a new generation of agriculturists trained to tackle these challenges head-on.

Taung Agricultural College continues to stand tall as the only institution in South Africa offering a diploma focused exclusively on Irrigation Agriculture. Its graduates are now more than just certificate holders; they are national assets in building a sustainable, water-smart agricultural economy.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, North West MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madoda Sambatha, addressed the graduates with words of encouragement and foresight.

During the graduation ceremony, North West MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Madoda Sambatha addressed the graduates with a message of inspiration and purpose.

"With this occasion, we are not merely celebrating academic success; we are affirming the emergence of future leaders in agriculture," said MEC Madoda Sambatha, addressing the graduates to warm applause.

"You have been equipped by an institution that stands alone in its specialisation. You are entering a sector that demands your skills, your innovation and your commitment. Go forth and contribute to feeding the nation, safeguarding our natural resources and advancing the transformation of our rural economy," MEC Sambatha remarked



A moment of pride and inspiration as Dr Karabo Mabe celebrates with the graduates, seen here beaming alongside one of the outstanding achievers. A powerful reminder of how dedication and mentorship shape the future of agriculture.

The MEC also announced plans that will further elevate the College's role in the sector. "As I said during the graduation, starting this financial year, both Taung and Potchefstroom Colleges will establish business development units to allow them to take part in the broader agricultural economy. Practical exposure is key, and production sites are being set up because agricultural training is not complete without hands-on experience."

Among those who graduated in May was Mapule Mathobela from Choseng village, who shared a deeply personal journey. "Graduating in May still feels unreal. I think about the long days in the sun, the tough exams, and the sacrifices my family made. But walking across that stage was one of the proudest moments of my life. I want young girls to see that agriculture has space for us, and Taung Agricultural College proved that to me."

Kitso Maseo of Lokalleng village also reflected on the moment. "May 30th changed my life. It wasn't easy; there were times I wanted to give up. But that diploma means I can stand on my own. I've already started working on my farming business, using what I learned here."

Professor Sylvester Mpandeli from the Water Research Commission, who was the guest speaker during the May graduation, offered both inspiration and a significant announcement.

"



A proud moment of achievement, congratulations to the Taung Agricultural College Class of 2024!

Graduation day in May was a proud moment for the sector. These graduates are entering a world of complex agricultural challenges but they are equipped to be part of the solution," Professor Mpandeli reflected.

He further announced that the Water Research Commission and its strategic partners will work with Taung Agricultural College to boost its research, training, and innovation capacity in irrigation and water resource management.

A proud graduate poses for a photo with MEC Madoda Sambatha at the Winter Graduation Ceremony at Taung Agricultural College.





Tshiamo envisions to increase his cattle herd once he has acquired more land

Cultivating the family legacy takes priority for Tshiamo Lerefolo

By Tshagofatso Leepile

At just 25 years old, Tshiamo Lerefolo stands as a testament to the power of heritage and resilience within the agricultural arena. Rooted in a rich family legacy of farming, Tshiamo has transformed ancestral knowledge into a modern agricultural enterprise, bridging traditional practices with contemporary techniques.

Tshiamo's agricultural journey is deeply intertwined with his family's history in Matlwang village. His grandfather, introduced to farming by his father, the first leader of the Barolong ba Modiboa, instilled in Tshiamo a profound respect for the land and its cultivation. Growing up amidst the rhythms of farm life, Tshiamo absorbed invaluable lessons that would later inform his approach to agriculture.

Recognising the importance of formal education in enhancing traditional knowledge, Tshiamo pursued training through private institutions such as Sernick and became affiliated with organisations like the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and AgriSETA. The Department's extension, advisory, and veterinary services have also contributed to the well-being of his livestock, enabling him to operate his business holistically. These experiences equipped him with insights into modern farming techniques, business management and sustainable practices.

In his quest to improve livestock quality, Tshiamo focuses on crossbreeding Bonsmara bulls with Nguni cows. This strategic pairing aims to harness the strengths of both breeds: the Bonsmara's superior meat and milk production and the Nguni's resilience, disease resistance and prized hides. The result is a robust lineage of cattle well-suited to South Africa's diverse climates and market demands.

Tshiamo's farming journey hasn't been without obstacles. He faces challenges common to many young farmers, including limited access to financing, infrastructure and equipment. Issues like theft and fire hazards further complicate operations. However, through collaboration with local police, community forums and disaster management departments, Tshiamo actively works to safeguard his farm and livestock.

Looking ahead, Tshiamo aspires to expand his operations into a commercial enterprise, complete with a feedlot, butchery and restaurant supplied directly from his farm. He envisions creating

employment opportunities, contributing to food security and playing a pivotal role in South Africa's red meat industry.

Tshiamo's journey serves as a beacon for aspiring young farmers. He emphasizes that while farming is challenging and demands patience, education and resilience, it also offers the potential for significant rewards. His message to the youth is clear: embrace the hardships, invest in learning, and remain steadfast in your commitment to agriculture.

Through his dedication, innovation and community engagement, Tshiamo Lerefolo exemplifies the transformative power of agriculture in South Africa, cultivating not just crops and livestock, but also hope and prosperity for future generations.

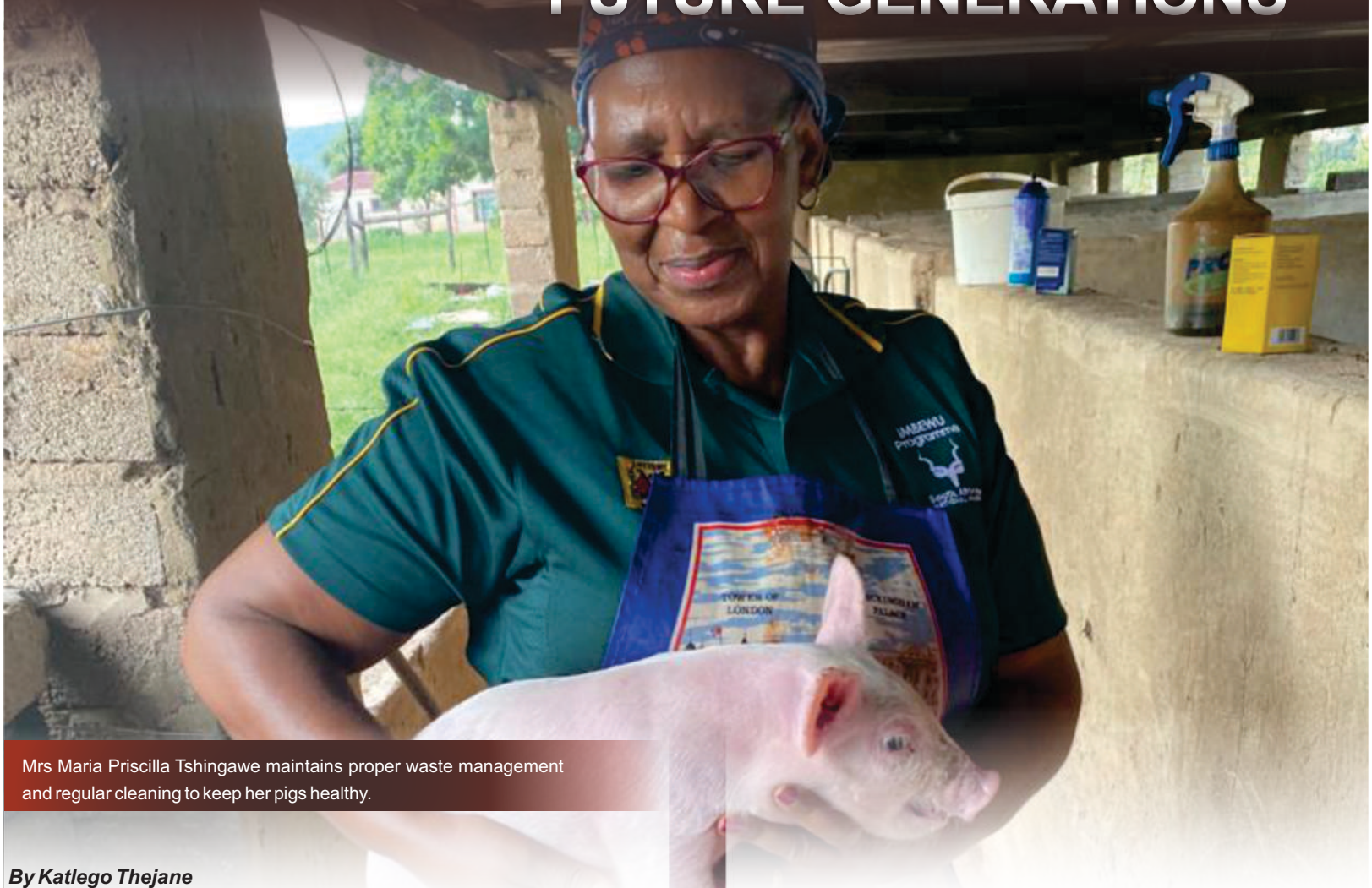


The 25 year old farmers also farms Marino Sheep, goats and layer chickens.



Nguni and Bonsmara mixed breed cattle dominate Lerefolo's herd

BUILDING A FARMING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Mrs Maria Priscilla Tshingawe maintains proper waste management and regular cleaning to keep her pigs healthy.

By Katlego Thejane

After the passing of her parents, Mme Maria Priscilla Tshinangwe, a small-scale pig farmer from Ratau village in Moses Kotane Municipality, was faced with the responsibility of taking care of her family home. However, it was during this sudden move that she felt compelled to start a farming business. "I started with just nine piglets, which I bought from the auction. It was during the listeriosis outbreak in 2018, when people were selling their pigs at lower prices. Surprisingly, they grew faster after just one month. Then I took three of them to the auction. Most people were interested in buying them," she says.

Like any other inexperienced farmer, Mme Tshinangwe had a rocky start in farming. She says she had no proper feeding plan and knowledge regarding veterinary care. "At first, I used to overfeed my pigs, which resulted in them gaining too much fat and struggling to get pregnant. So, I decided to go for pig training in KwaZulu-Natal, which helped me to take care of my pigs and grow as a farmer", she shares.

Through the Department's support programmes, Mme Tshinangwe received a R50,000 grant for feed. As she has undergone various trainings, including meat processing, she wishes to have her machinery so that she can process her meat and make polony, salami and sausages rather than having to pay an abattoir.

Although she no longer sells live pigs and doesn't have a formal market, she currently sells her branded goods to residents and also delivers to clients outside the province. She further explains: "The focus isn't only about making money, but offering quality meat and improving the health of farming in my area." The important part is that I have a water and sewage system in my farm".

As someone who has developed a love and passion for farming over time, Mme Tshinangwe hopes to expand her farm and create a lasting legacy for her children. She is even keeping her younger daughter involved in her farm and hopes that she'll one day carry on her legacy and pass it to the next generation. "My daughter and I share a love for agriculture as a whole. She's always willing to assist in every possible way. Her involvement assures me that my business will be in safe hands when I leave this world", she says.

Proudly produced by Priscilla Tshingawe, quality pork, locally farmed by a woman in agriculture



ITHUTENG BOMME, E ELENG POROJEKE YA DIKOKO YA KWA MOTSENG WA MAMMUTLA, E TLHAGELELA KA MAGETLA KA NTLHA YA BONATLA JWA BENG BA YONE



Molemisi Frans Nkale, go tswa Lefapheng la Temothuo le Tlhabololo Ya Metsemagae le maloko a porojeke ka dingwe tsa dikoko tse di tlhagisiwang go tswa mo porojekeng eno.

Mokwadi ke Thebe Itumeleng

Dikilomithara di ka nna masome-a-supha kwa bokone-bophirima jwa toropo ya Taung, kwa mmasepaleng wa sedika wa Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati go porojeke e tlhagisang nama ya koko. Leina la porojeke eno ke Ithuteng Bomme, mme e na le maloko a le matlhano a e leng bomme fela. Maloko a porojeke eno ya temothuo ya Ithuteng Bomme ke Dimakatso Rebecca Sikwenyane, Nosisi Maria Khumalo, Minah Matshadi Moleele, Nozi Mariah Mema le Mildred Dube

Bone ba tlhamile le go simolola porojeke eno ka ngwaga wa 2014 mme ka nako eo e ne e le porojeke ya merogo fela. Moragonyana maloko ano, a ile a batla setsha, ba aga lefelo le ba tla bayang dikoko mo go lone mme ba koleka diranta di le makgolo a le matlhano (R500) leloko lengwe le lengwe gore ba reke palo e kwa godimo ya dikoko.

Go dira ga bone ka natla, ga go a lemogiwa fela ke baagi ba selegae, mme go ile ga nkgoka le leitlho la mokgatlo o o thusang basadi ba ba agileng kwa metsemagaeng wa National Movement of Rural Women. Mokgatlo ono o e seng wa puso, o ile wa agela porojeke eno ya Ithuteng Bomme lefelo le le phuthologileng la go baya dikoko. Mo godimo ga moago ono wa maemo, mokgatlo o ile wa boa gape wa ba rekela dikoko di le sekete (1000), mme gape kwa moragonyana wa abela palo e nngwe ya dikoko.

Fa e sale ka nako eo, maloko a Ithuteng Bomme, ga a ise a ko a lebelele kwa morago. Ba ntse ba dira ka natla go godisa kgwebo ya bone le fa ba kopana le dikgwetlho tse di farologaneng.



Maloko a porojeke ya temothuo ya Ithuteng Bomme: Dimakatso Rebecca Sikwenyane, Nosisi Maria Khumalo, Minah Matshadi Moleele, Nozi Mariah Mema le Mildred Dube

Setshwantsho sa lefelo le porojeke eno e simolotseng ka lone ebile ba le dirisa go ruela dikoko.



Leno le lefelo le le tokafaditsweng le le agileng ke mokgatlo o o thusang basadi ba ba agileng kwa metsemagaeng wa National Movement of Rural Women. Ntle le go ba agela o ba thusitse ka mabolokelo a metsi gore got lthokomela dikoko go nne bonolo

Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo Ya Metsemagae ka kantoro ya lone ya balemisi kwa Greater Taung e ntse e eme nokeng porojeke eno ka go ba eletsa le go ba tlhaba matlhale ka tsa bolemisi. Ntle le moo, go tswa lefapheng, porojeke eno e setse e ile ya thusiwa ka dijo tsa dikoko ka porogramo ya Presidential Employment Stimulus Initiative (PESI).

PESI, e totile thata diporojeke segolo tse di kwa metse-magaeng go di thusa gore di gole le go ikemela.

Nama ya koko e e tlhagisiwang go tswa mo porojekeng eno ya Ithuteng Bomme, e rekisediwa baagi ba motse wa Mammutla go akaretse le dikgwebo tsa selegae.

Lerato le maloko a porojeke eno a nang le lone mo go tsa temothuo, le ba tlhotlheletse go fetisa kitso le maitemogelo a bone go bana ba bone gore ba lemoge gore temothuo ke kgwebo ebile fa o tlhokomela kgwebo eno, le yone e tla go tlhokomela.

Ga jaana go na le bana ba maloko a porojeke eno ba ba setseng ba ba ntseng ba thusa mo porojekeng ka maikaelelo a go ithuta go tswa mo maitemogelong le kitso ya bagolo ba bone.

Magareng ga tse dingwe, maloko a porojeke eno a tlhalositse keletso ya bone e le go bona mo isagweng porojeke ya bone e godile go feta fa, ba na le lefelo le legolo la go ruela dikoko, ba tlamela marekelo a magolo a mo nageng ka nama, ba na le didirisa di tshwana le metshini e metona ya go tlhaba ebile ba kgona go tlhama ditiro tse di tla thusang go reba seelo se se kwa godimo sa bothokatiro jo bo leng gone mo motseng ono wa Mammutla.

Ka go ema nokeng diporojeke di tshwana le Ithuteng Bomme, puso e leka go reba tlala le go fokotsa seelo se se ntseg se gola sa bothokatiro gareng ga baagi.



agriculture & rural development

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

DON'T LET FMD WALK ONTO YOUR FARM!

Let's work together to protect our livestock and livelihoods.

WHAT IS FMD?

Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- Drooling or excessive saliva
- Blisters in the mouth or on the feet
- Limping or reluctance to move
- Sudden drop in milk production
- Fever and loss of appetite

IF YOU SUSPECT FMD:

- ✓ Do NOT move the animals
- ✓ Immediately report to your nearest veterinary office
- ✓ Limit movement of people, animals, and vehicles on your farm

WHY ACT QUICKLY?

Early detection helps prevent the spread, protects markets, and saves the local economy.

OUR RESPONSE

Veterinary services in the North West are actively monitoring and responding to all reports. Our teams are here to help you.

- Report suspicious signs immediately
- Visit or contact your local state veterinary office

✓ **Protect your animals. Protect your livelihood. Report early.**

**Let's Grow
North West Together**

www.nwpg.gov.za

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

**LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND**

TALK TO US!
We invite readers to follow us on
X: NWPG_DARD
Facebook: North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development-DARD
YouTube: North West Agriculture and Rural Development

See the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's latest news as well as invitations to join with us on events and discussions.



G20
SOUTH AFRICA 2025





agriculture & rural development

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



VELD FIRES!!!

FARMERS: BE FIRE WISE

- ✓ Ensure fire belts are in place and maintained
- ✓ Check that firefighting equipment is ready and functional
- ✓ Coordinate with neighbours for firebreaks and response plans
- ✓ Stay alert to changing weather and wind conditions
- ✗ No open burning
- ✗ No dumping of hot ash or cigarette butts
- ✗ Avoid machinery that may spark fires in a dry field



Report Fires Immediately



Emergency Contacts

Chairperson: North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association (NWUFPA)

Mr. Eric Stoch – 071 077 6653

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Gabriel Phorotlho – 082 975 7737

Scotch Bodibe – 071 856 0586

**Let's protect our land, livestock, and lives.
Stay alert. Stay prepared. Work together.**



TALK TO US!
X: NWP_G_DARD
FACEBOOK: North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development-DARD
YOUTUBE: North West Agriculture and Rural Development



WE BELONG



WE CARE



WE SERVE





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

www.nwpg.gov.za



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

TALK TO US!

We invite readers to follow us on



facebook



YouTube

X : NWPG, DARD

FACEBOOK : North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development-DARD

YOUTUBE : North West Agriculture and Rural Development

See the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 's latest news
as well as invitations to join with us on events and discussions.



Let's Grow North West Together