

letsoma

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



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2023/24

NEWLY ELECTED YARD STRUCTURE TO CHAMPION YOUTH PROGRAMMES



Page 10-11
Award winning Itumeleng
Taje is riding the success of
his mixed farming business
into the commercial agri-
space



Page 16
Unlocking the potential of
agro products for animal
feed



Page 20
Kgora Farmers Training
Centre transforming North
West farmers into
entrepreneurs



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

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Application forms are available on the department's website: www.nwpg.gov.za/dard alternatively
WhatsApp: **Ms. Vuyiswa Mziwakhe** of TAC on 060 504 8149 and
Mr. Ismail Haffejee of PCA on 0797975456

CONTENTS

CREDITS

Content

Page Number

TAUNG GRADUATIONS POSTER	02
CONTENTS PAGE	03
EDITORIAL COMMENT	04
FROM MEC'S DESK	05
NEWLY ELECTED YARD STRUCTURE TO CHAMPION YOUTH PROGRAMMES.....	06
LOVE, HARD WORK AND CHARACTER MAKE THE FARMER - SAYS YOUNG BOIKANYO BUTI FROM MAHRJANI!	07
ORANGE-FLESHED SWEET POTATO TO COMBAT DEFICIENCIES	08
POTATO COMMON SCAB	09
AWARD WINNING ITUMELENG TAJE IS RIDING THE SUCCESS OF HIS MIXED FARMING BUSINESS INTO THE COMMERCIAL AGRI-SPACE.....	10 & 11
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24	12 & 13
MAKING A SWITCH: THE RAMADIA COUPLE QUIT THEIR CORPORATE JOBS TO START FARMING.....	14
FARMING WITH PIGS? HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO SAVE YOUR HERD FROM DISEASES	15
UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF AGRO PRODUCTS FOR ANIMAL FEED	16
PROPOLIS, A BEE PRODUCT WITH MULTIPLE USES AND BENEFITS	17
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WATER QUALITY FOR IRRIGATION.....	18 & 19
KGORA FARMERS TRAINING CENTRE TRANSFORMING NORTH WEST FARMERS INTO ENTREPRENEURS	20
KGORA'S SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION	21
LAWS PROMOTING MEAT SAFETY	22
SPINACH PRODUCTION PROGRAM: SERIES 2	23
BACK PAGE	24

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Editorial: Emelda Setlhako

During the month of June, South Africa celebrated this year's Youth Month under the theme: **"Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future"**. Core to this was a message to reflect on how our government is continually making a commitment to build a country where young people are actively participating in the economy with greater dignity and a sense of urgency over their contribution to society. With this, government is creating an environment for young people to succeed in generating their own income.

Young people to date are constantly emerging within the agricultural sector. This shows that this sector has positioned itself as a choice for many young people. Re bona ka mokgwa o basha ba ntshang ditlhogo ka gone mo temothuong mme katlego ya bona e itumedisa thata. Lefapha la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae mo North-West le thankgolotse mo malobeng programa ya **Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD)** mme maitlhomo a lone ke go golaganya basha. Maano otlhe le dikakanyo tsa bona di tlaa tlisiwa mo programeng eno gore ba thusane ebile le go gakolola puso gore e ka dirisana mmogo jang le basha go tswela pele.

Our article on a young couple, Jan and Refilwe Ramadia the co-owners of Tbatlala Project based in Skuinsdrift village near Zeerust goes to show that the agricultural sector is commanding economic authority and many young people are now grabbing the opportunity. The Ramadia couple have left both their corporate jobs to join the agricultural sector and are currently on livestock and crop production, horticulture as well as poultry farming.

The energy that we see in these young people shows that a lot is bound to be achieved and many economic opportunities will be created and seized. Youth is the future!

One author, Franklin D. Roosevelt once said: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future". The crop of the current youth generation seems to have opened their eyes to the wealth that is in this agriculture sector. We can attribute this leap to their preparation stages. Programs like YARD will indeed build these young people for the future.

At the beginning of the 2023/2024 financial year, MEC Desbo Mohono tabled the Departmental Budget Vote which had an array of deliverables planned for the year ahead as well as a reflection of the achievements of

the past year. In this edition of Letsema we are bringing you the highlights of the departmental speech so that all stakeholders can be abreast of the plans of the North-West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for this financial year.

Water is one important commodity in our daily lives. We cannot equally rule out how this commodity plays a critical role in the agricultural sector. Our article on Water Quality will give you some heads up on standards as a guide for judging the suitability of water for irrigation. This includes information on how the suitability of water for irrigation also depends on other associated factors, such as the crop, soil, climate and management practices.

Bagaetsho temothuo ka boyone e bophara thata. Go dikuno tse dintsi thata tse di ka tswang mo mmung ebile le tsone dikuno tseo di ka boa gape di ata mme di thagisa tse dingwe gape dikuno. One of the interesting information we have come across is how Propolis has become one of multiple income streams in beekeeping. Many smallholder farmers can take advantage of this business prospect. Propolis, a mixture of pollen and beeswax that is collected by bees from certain various plants has many benefits and multiple uses in the bee economy. Read our article on Propolis Economy and see that selling propolis can be a lucrative business opportunity.

Re mo nakong ya go roba masimo, re dumela gore balemirui ba semeletse mme re lo eletsa setlha se se edileng sa thobo. A re tlhokomeleng le masimo a rona kgatlhanong le melelo ya naga.

There is a lot that can still be achieved in the agricultural sector and sharing information is therefore necessary. We believe that all information in this newsletter carries potential to enlighten us all.

Re eletsa basha ba rona katlego le masego go ya pele mme ra re a re semeleleng, re godiseng temothuo mmogo bagaetsho.

Enjoy reading.

Ke a leboga

Emelda Setlhako

YOUTH
IN
AGRICULTURE
AND
RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
EDITION



FROM HER DESK

The expedition of a thousand miles of **2023/2024** financial year begins now. Tloga tloga e tloga e kgale, Modisa wa dikgomo o tswa natso. Konkodi ka ko pele ka ko morago Kgomo di a tswa. After all is being said and done, the Department is still on a mandate to make sure that our farmers prerequisites are met and prioritised even during this brand new financial year. Our command and decree is quite clear and vivid, to make sure that we take each and every farmer serious, to make sure that we treat all farmers equal and lastly to make sure that we uplift and make our farmers business women and men.

The year **2022/2023** had its ups and downs, but with God's grace we have managed to pull a rabbit from the lucky hat. We might not have pleased all our farmers due to financial constraints and limited resources but in this coming year we will try by all means to come to the fore in making sure that we cut the cake equally as per custom. Our farmer's modus-operandi differs entirely, which makes Agriculture in the North West province more diverse and more unique. Now that on its own has its pros and cons thus stretching our budget to its last breadth. While at resources, let me remind our farmers that one of the most and valuable resource we have on our disposal as government is time, which counts immensely in our plans and executions, because our farmers are very punctual when coming to time management.

As the North West Department of Agriculture we will continue to treat all our natural resources as assets which in turn will be a turn over to the next generation of new farmers that are knocking very hard on this Agricultural voyage. In that way we will be creating an agricultural road map and legacy for the upcoming youth that will not be impaired in value preposition.

Talking about our youth in Agriculture, our youth are making strides indeed. During the month of June, renowned as the youth month, the Department had a very fruitful session of reviving and resuscitating their umbrella wing called Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (**YARD**). If we are talking about the future and we do not include our youth then surely we are striding in the park leisurely so. All youth farmers from all four districts converged under one roof to make it a point that they witness this historic moment and become pioneers of their own destination in farming. **YARD** is in our plans and will be agents for agriculture amongst the youth and everybody else tapping from the sector. This will be done in a manner in which most programmes will be expected to lead and decide instead of the department dictating terms and conditions.

Even without an announcement, the sun rises every morning. Now for the past two or three editions we have made sure that we preach the gospel of beekeeping, by being constant in marketing and positioning this model. In this instalment of the year there is no exception as well. We have a young farmer that is doing wonders with propolis and using it to its full potential.

Bees are our future as the North West province and nothing makes us happier as the Department than to see our farmers tapping into this diligence.

Our edition consists of a young fish entrepreneur, who is silently making strides in aquaculture. I remember vividly when we launched the Aquaculture programme in Disaneng Dam in the year **2010**, amid naysayers doubting and casting a stone into the route we were taking by then. Now we finally see the end results as one of our aquaculture beneficiaries managed to win a major award in the fishing competition. These are stories to be narrated to others interested in the sector. It is said "Trees do not hand around with grass even though they started from the same place and wavelength", indeed our fisherman is that tree amongst his peers. It might have taken thirteen years for us to see the light but steadily and gradually we will arrive and make an impact in the fishing industry.

As we begin with a first step of this financial year, let us all be cognisant of the fact that we are civil servants and a lot is expected from us. Let us push the Agriculture vehicle together and witness our farmer's success. It is said that when the cattle stand together, the lions lie down hungry. Motswana a bo a e digela ka gore, sedikwa ke ntja pedi ga se thata. Let us all pull in one direction and make a better future for our farming community. Let's enjoy this **2023/2024** edition of Letsema and continue to make agriculture fashionable in the North West province.

Ke a leboga - I thank you!

MEC: Desbo Mohono

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



MEC Desbo Mohono speaking during the launch of YARD structure at Potchefstroom College of Agriculture on Friday, 07 July 2023



MEC Desbo Mohono handing over the constitution of YARD to Chairperson of the Provincial Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development **Ms Ipeleng Kwadi**.



MEC Desbo Mohono and Director for Rural Development **Mr Malakia Matlhabe** (far right) with the newly elected Provincial Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development structure. The structure will champion the interest of young people in agriculture and rural development programmes.

NEWLY ELECTED YARD STRUCTURE TO CHAMPION YOUTH PROGRAMMES

By Thebe Itumeleng

The newly elected Provincial Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) structure is ready to get the ball rolling. MEC Desbo Mohono unveiled this structure which comprises young people from all four districts of the province and who are actively involved in agriculture and rural development programmes in July this year in Potchefstroom.

The structure is mandated to expand youth participation in the sector, lead in creating awareness around the improvement of agricultural activities to ensure food security and economic stability in the province; respond to the youth's needs by implementing appropriate programmes, policies, and services, and advocate for the youth's equal participation and representation in decision making in the agricultural sector in general and rural development programmes.

Speaking during the unveiling of this structure to the public, MEC Desbo Mohono said she is confident that with the energy and knowledge of these youngsters, there will be a change in the sector going forward.

"As the Department we saw it fit to organise young people in the sector to form a structure so that they can be united with the vision of ensuring food security in the province. We are serious about creating a young generation of farmers and this structure will ensure that youth should be able to make contributions to issues that affect their future hence I am happy to launch this structure today," MEC Mohono said to loud applause from attendees.

She went on and said it was critical to equip youth with skills so they can create jobs. "We do not want young people with businesses that are not sustainable hence we will assist them. We have institutions like the National Youth Development Agency, SEDA, Agricultural Research Council, and many others that are willing to assist our young people in the agricultural sector.

The structure is led by Ipeleng Kwadi, a female farmer from Brits in Bojanala Platinum District. Kwadi serves as the Chairperson of the North West Provincial Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development structure. She said she feels honoured and privileged that the Department has organised them so that they can have a body that will unlock their potential and support young people.

"As young farmers serving in this structure we understand the task at hand and we are looking forward to working with fellow young farmers across the province and stimulating the thinking of youth in general to acknowledge and take agriculture as a commercial venture.

The Department will train twenty eight (28) members of YARD structure on leadership and governance so they can deliver on their mandate

LOVE HARD WORK AND CHARACTER MAKE THE FARMER

By Thebe Itumeleng



Boikanyo has been farming from an early age. She says she will not dream of doing an office job and instead she is happy to continue building a farm that she believes will provide financial opportunities, a better quality of life and most importantly, job opportunities for people in her community.



Boikanyo Buti, a 33 year old female farmer from the rural village of Mahrjan near Bonabona in the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality.

While some regions in the province are struggling to attract new young farmers, there are clear indications that there is a growing number of young people in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality that are considering agriculture as a business value.

One of those young farmers is Boikanyo Buti, a 33 year old female farmer from the rural village of Mahrjan near Bonabona in the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality. Boikanyo is an example of a new, young, generation of farmers who are driven by their love for what they do. Now she wants to encourage other young female farmers to do the same.

Her love for farming dates to many years ago when she was still in primary school. She started with only three goats which was a gift from her parents. Years later, she has more than thirty-five (35) goats, more than thirty (30) sheep and close to forty (40) cattle. Although there are many challenges that she faces on a day to day basis, she is determined to keep going.

She says her love for farming, hard work and character is what keeps her going as a farmer in an isolated and rural area of Mahrjan. "There is no other enterprise now, where you have a high return investment like in farming," she said.

Her ultimate goal is to become a female stud breeder as there are only few females in the sector.

In the extreme high temperatures of an afternoon in Mahrjan, Boikanyo can be found walking in the veld herding her livestock. "For me, agriculture has always been something I wanted. After completing my matric, I have not looked back and I am looking into expanding my farmstead," she said.

She says although she has not received infrastructural support from the government, she appreciates the technical and extension support she is getting from officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Kagisano-Molopo Local Area Office.

Boikanyo made it clear that she never dream of doing an office job and instead she is happy to continue building a farm that she believes will provide financial opportunities and a better quality of life and most importantly, job opportunities for people in her community.

"For now I need a bull to develop my livestock as well as land where I can work from as I am currently using communal land for grazing," she highlighted.

Her role models in livestock farming are the renowned stud breeders Mr Chris Molamu and Mr Duncan Serapelwane who are also based in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality.

As farming is not a stagnant environment and there are always new developments, Boikanyo says she keeps herself up to date by reading and being part of study-groups to discover and learn about other things related to livestock farming.

"A good farmer is a perpetual student who reads and talks to experts to soak up as much information as possible," she expressed.



Boikanyo says her love for farming, hard work and character is what keeps her going as a farmer in an isolated and rural area of Mahrjan



ORANGE-FLESHED SWEET POTATO TO COMBAT DEFICIENCIES

By Kgalalelo Mashomo

Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes are one of the richest natural sources of beta carotene, a plant-based compound that is converted to vitamin A in human body.

Thato Dibetso, the director and founder of ThatoDib Enterprise and co-owner of Buang Makabe Trading, a mixed farm with fresh produce, poultry and broilers situated in Rustenburg, produces Orange Flesh Sweet Potato vines to the farmers.

Thato was part of the Agricultural Research Council's programme of Orange Fleshed Sweet potatoes and is one of the four certified and approved by SA Medical Research Council to produce orange fleshed sweet potatoes in the country.

The aim of the programme is to encourage backyard farming; promote food security; alleviate poverty and create jobs. ARC conducted research and discovered that children suffer from deficiency in vitamin A and women at childbearing age suffer from anaemia.

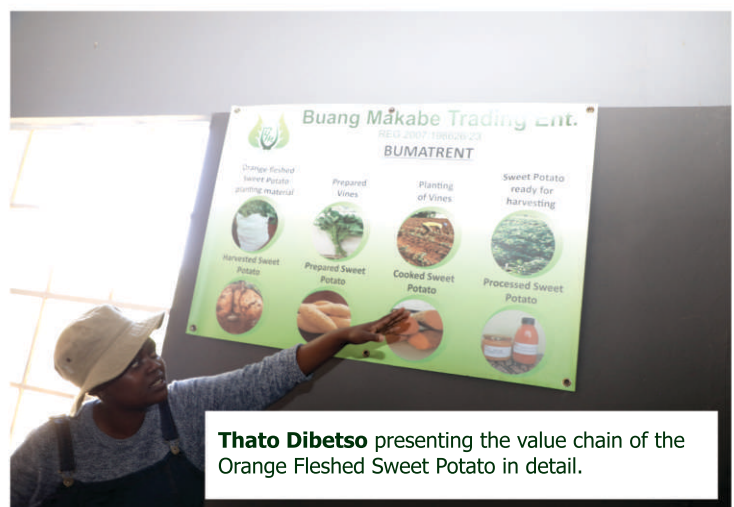
The process of producing Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato was to find affordable alternatives for Vitamin A, rather than expensive supplements. The purpose was to focus on feeding schemes, orphanages and hospitals as they need that nutrition.

"Our area is dominated with Mines and soon the minerals will be depleted, we would need land that can be utilized for food security. We strive to align ourselves with the National Development Plan," Thato said.

Thato is also part of the initiative where she collaborates with the local mine as part of the Community Service Initiative to offer mentorship programme to the local community & has 20 tunnels where she works with 16 youth from the community mainly child headed families and four pensioners. "The aim is to assist in eradicating hunger and also empowering them to be able to make a living from their backyards," emphasised Thato.

The department built and equipped her farm with a pack house to consolidate produce from different farmers in the area and to alternatively serve as a market for the community.

Her farm's future plans is to register with Agriseta in order to be accredited to offer trainings and certificates and become an aggregator for local farmers.



Thato Dibetso presenting the value chain of the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato in detail.



Disease-tested Orange Flesh Sweet Potato Vines that **Thato** produces to farmers

POTATO

POTATO COMMON SCAB Compiled by Tshiamo Mothata, Specialist Agricultural Advisor, 2023.

Potato is one of the most important food crops in the world. It is the second highest vegetable producer of protein after Soy Beans and has a balanced content of minerals and vitamins. In addition to the fluctuating market prices, high production costs, insects' and many other diseases, common scab of potato is one of the diseases that make cultivation of this crop a high-risk endeavour. *Streptomyces scabiei*, the bacterial species that causes the disease, lowers the quality and grade of tubers produced for fresh market, leading to economic losses for the producers of table potatoes. The disease occurs in most soils that have been cultivated to potato and can also be introduced to a soil by means of infected seed tubers. A warm, dry environment and repeated cultivation of potatoes or other hosts promote development of the disease. The severity of the disease increases in sandy soils with a pH above 5.5.



Symptoms of common scab typically consist of superficial, netted, raised, tan to brown, corky lesions on tubers. Lesions vary from small isolated corky area to even large lesions covering the surface of the tuber.

The disease can be managed by planting only certified seed. Development of the disease may be limited to some extent if the soil pH is below 5.5, thus one of the reasons making soil analysis of great importance. Sulphur or ammonium sulphate fertilisers can be applied to lower the soil pH. The application of gypsum is recommended to increase calcium levels, if the nutrient is deficient, since lime application may increase soil pH and lead to a higher incidence of scab.

Sufficient soil moisture during the early stages of tuber development provides a good measure of control of the disease. Crop rotation systems of three to six years with non-host crops is recommended, as this lowers the soil inoculum. There are also 'tolerant' cultivars that may be cultivated instead of susceptible ones. If chemical treatments are being considered, it is important that registered bactericides are used after the correct identification of this disease.





AWARD WINNING ITUMELENG TAJE

IS RIDING THE SUCCESS OF HIS MIXED FARMING BUSINESS INTO THE COMMERCIAL AGRI-SPACE

By Thebe Itumeleng

Itumeleng Taje, is the founder of Taje Project and renowned crop and cattle farmer in the JB Marks Local Municipality. Although he grew up in a farming family, Itumeleng's agricultural business was formally registered in the year 2008.

He studied electrical engineering at Manpower that is now known as Taletso FET College in the capital city of Mahikeng. After completing his studies, Itumeleng went back straight to farming business.

He says he was encouraged by his father who was also a farmer. His dedication in the farming space got him a three hundred and thirty hectares (330 ha) farm that he obtained through the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

In 2011, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform was impressed with his farming skills and the progress he was making. His farm was further extended by another 970 ha of the farm in Klipgat, thus making the overall total hectares of both farms (Elandsfontein and Klipgat) 1 300 ha.

The farm is situated approximately 50 km east of a small farming town of Ventersdorp along the N14 towards Krugersdorp, and the Derby-Boons turn in the jurisdiction of JB Marks local municipality under the Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality.

The farm is mostly used for mixed farming which comprises livestock and crops. He plants maize and white beans "Growing beans was a good choice," he said "White beans require little water and South Africans are among the biggest consumers of beans, yet very few people are producing them. Additionally, the market price is increasing from time to time," Itumeleng remarked.

His achievements include winning the Best Provincial youth farmer enterprise award and Monsanto Best grain farmer.

As agriculture is one the sectors that is famously known for creating employment, in his farm Itumeleng has employed twelve (12) permanent workers who are responsible for day-to-day activities of the farm. During the harvesting period, the farm employs over 100 casual workers.

Despite facing many challenges such as high production inputs costs for crops, droughts, lack of mechanisation, Itumeleng said giving up has never been an option. Instead, he helps emerging farmers in areas like Mathopestad and back in his hometown of Delareyville and in some parts of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality to grow.

Other than the two farms that Taje Project got through government, he receives extension and advisory services from the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and he is also being assisted with production inputs such as fertilizers, diesel and others during planting season.

Itumeleng has also received a tractor through a Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RECAP).

Itumeleng is encouraging young people to embrace agriculture. He warned that if young people continue to view the agricultural sector as a not viable and economically sustainable career path that will be a major blow and a threat to the future of food production.

Itumeleng strongly believes that agriculture has huge potential because people always need food.

Individuals or groups that need agricultural support and related services from the Department, are encouraged to visit local area offices of the Agriculture and Rural Development Department and enquire about funding and other support programmes that are available.

MEAT SAFETY AWARENESS



PURCHASING OF SAFE MEAT

Animals in the abattoir are slaughtered in a hygienic manner to ensure the production of safe meat.



Meat inspection is conducted by a qualified meat inspectors at abattoir.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR MEAT?

- People are still consuming unsafe /uninspected meat which is not safe for their health.
- Uninspected meat refers to meat that was not checked for diseases at an approved abattoir.
- Such meat can make people sick and is usually not purchased from reputable dealers.
- People can purchase meat from illegal/backyard slaughters without being aware



EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING PRACTICES OF POULTRY

WHAT IS AN APPROVED ABATTOIR?

It is a slaughtering facility which has been issued with the registration certificate by the Provincial Director of Veterinary Services.

LEGISLATION REGULATING ILLEGAL SLAUGHTERING PRACTICES

- According to the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act no. 40 of 2000), meat that was not obtained from an approved abattoir should not be sold.
- Anyone who sells uninspected meat is guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by a court of law.
- Stamp of approval on inspected meat



SAFE MEAT

- Safe meat refers to meat obtainable from healthy animal that were slaughtered at an approved abattoir.
- At the abattoir, meat is inspected by qualified meat inspector
- Inspected meat can be recognised by the stamp "PASSED" on each quarter of the carcass

THE ROLE OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN ENSURING SAFE MEAT

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is responsible for the enforcement of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 OF 2000).

Meat inspectors/Veterinary Public Health Officers from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development carry out routine inspections at all registered abattoirs to ensure that essential requirements are met

WHAT CAN WE DO AS CONSUMERS?

- We as consumers must ensure that we buy only approved meat
- People who sell meat from illegal slaughtering activities should be reported to the nearest state veterinary offices of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development or to the nearest police station.
- Most illegal slaughtering practices take place at night or at places where they cannot be easily recognised.
- Remember, when you have doubts about the meat that you buy, you have the right not to buy.
- Look out for stamp of approval on your meat



IMPORTANT POINTS

According to the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000), people can only slaughter animals at places that **are not abattoirs** only in the following instances:

For own consumption | For religious and cultural purposes e.g. traditional marriages and funerals
When slaughtering at home or land, the municipal ordinances on the keeping and slaughtering of animals on land must be complied with.

BEWARE! Never eat meat from dead animals because it can make people sick.
Approved meat is good for you!

For further information, contact your local Veterinary Public Health Officer of State Veterinarian/

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S

PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

DARD ESTABLISHES PROVINCIAL TASK TEAM TO DEAL WITH ENERGY CRISIS

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has established provincial energy task team (PETA) to deal with energy crisis that is affecting the agricultural sector in the Province. The team's work amongst others will be to engage with Eskom to possibly exempt the sector looking at agro processing and public entities as food security is at high risk.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Department will roll out a mentorship programme in collaboration with the Agricultural Commodities Groups and Breeders Association in the current financial year. The programme will include the six (6) agricultural commodities aligned to the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) as well as the apiculture for a period of twelve months.

Furthermore, a partnership will with the national Department of Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Agricultural Research Council and the North West University will see a total of 2 500 farmers being empowered through farmer training and capacity building during the 2023 / 24 financial year.

The Department will resuscitate and strengthen designated groups formations, such as Women in Agriculture and Rural Development (WARD) and Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) during the 2023/24 financial year.

A total of forty five (45) young farmers participating in the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) programme, are undergoing training through Kgora Farmer Training Centre as part of our collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development DALRRD.

JOB CREATION

As part of unlocking approximately 4 000 job opportunities in agriculture and related rural economic activities to address food insecurity at household level and rising unemployment in the province, various job creation interventions will be rolled out during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Producer Support and Development contribution will mostly be through CASP and Ilima Letsema. Sustainable Resource Use and Management most contributions will be through Landcare Green Jobs and Rural Development to contribute mainly through EPWP, Rural Infrastructure projects, and Farmer Training which include mentorship as well as Learnership programmes. As for the Agricultural Support and Corporate Services, contributions will be through Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Colleges, Learnership and Internship programmes

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES)

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and North West University is already bearing fruits through the increased skills exchange in the area of arable farming. In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Department will continue to reposition the Colleges as Centres of Excellence in Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Mining Development Agency (MDA) is partnering with the Department to develop communities by training farmers on the much needed and relevant skills and through this partnership. Sibanye mine funded the construction of an Agri-Hub through the MDA in Marikana near Rustenburg and is also developing and training farmers in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District.

MARKET ACCESS

To address the challenges of access to market by smallholder producers in the Province, the Department will this year enroll six more smallholder farmers to the South African Good Agricultural Practice (SA-GAP) Program. The SA-GAP program's main objective is to assist smallholder producers to access both local and international markets by producing good quality products that comply with food safety and quality standards as required by the market.

During the 12-month training programme, these smallholder producers will amongst others be empowered with efficient farm management practices, receive training to comply with legislation on food safety, environmental protection as well as animal and workers' welfare.

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

In the previous financial year, the Department, in collaboration with Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB), implemented the South African Good Agricultural Practice (SAGAP) certification program. Since the inception of this programme, the department is proud to announce that fifteen (15) vegetable producers have been awarded compliance certificates, seven (7) in 2021/22 and eight (8) during the financial year 2022/23.

VILLAGE LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS PROGRAMME

To improve market access for agricultural products, the Department will this financial year launch three (3) more village livestock auctions in Ganyesa, Khunwana and Mogopa village. These village livestock auction facilities will be centrally established to benefit communities of these villages. From 2015 to date, the Department has already launched four (4) other Village Livestock Auctions in Driefontein, Taung, Tshidilamolomo and Mabeskraal.



agriculture & rural development

Department:

Agriculture and Rural Development

North West Provincial Government

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Integrated Provincial Forum on climate smart agriculture will be established encompassed of stakeholders from organised agricultural formations, the North West University, Environmental Services and Agricultural Research Council.

To further mitigate against disasters and advocate for climate smart practice, the department, South African Weather Services (SAWS), the provincial disaster forum and other stakeholders continue to raise awareness and provide advocacy on disaster mitigations and undertake at least 96 awareness campaigns throughout the province.

Through the land care programme, a total of 100 hectares of fallow land will be brought back into production in the villages of Letlhogori and Koffiekraal.

The department aims to work on 2 000 hectares where no-till or minimum-till practices will be implemented.

RED MEAT COMMODITY

As part of our contribution towards the red meat industry, during the 2022/23 financial year, the department targeted to support 150 red meat commodity farmers and total of 173 were successfully provided with tangible support.

For the 2023/24 financial year, the department has allocated 40% of its CASP on & off farm infrastructure budget towards the Red Meat production, targeting a minimum of 373 beneficiaries. The major deliverables of this programme comprise of livestock water provisioning, livestock handling facilities and erection of fence wherein we target communal areas and state-owned farms.

CROP PRODUCTION

Despite the climate change challenges, 10 124ha of hectares were planted for food production during the 2022/2023 in the Province. For this year, the Department has planned to put into production a total of 11 000 hectares across the four districts. The Department will also support farmers through production inputs such as diesel, seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals and machinery.

PROGRAMMES TO EMPOWER FARMERS

The Department will roll out of a mentorship programme in collaboration with the Agricultural Commodities Groups and Breeders Association in the current financial year. The programme will include the six (6) agricultural commodities aligned to the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) as well as the apiculture for a period of 12 months.

A partnership with the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Agricultural Research Council and the North-West University will see a total of 2 500 farmers being empowered through farmer training and capacity building during the 2023/24 financial year," MEC Desbo Mohono said.

A total of forty five (45) young farmers participating in the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) programme, are undergoing training through Kgora Farmer Training Centre as part of our collaboration with DALRRD.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Through the help of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), the department will assign a mentor for its four candidate engineers and one engineering technician to ensure that the candidates become professionally registered and capacitated.

CANNABIS ROLL-OUT PROGRAMME

Following a successful Cannabis Lekgotla held in partnership with the North-West University, at least twenty-two (22) hemp farmers have been trained and two of these farmers were supported during the previous financial year. Part of the support the Department gave include drilling, sighting and equipping of bore holes, and in the current financial, the Department will be supporting one hemp farmer this financial year.

PROGRAMME NAME	TOTAL ALLOCATION R'000	AMOUNT IN WORDS
1. ADMINISTRATION	342 303 000,00	Three hundred and forty-two million, three hundred and three thousand
2. SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE AND MANAGEMENT	43 843 000,00	Forty-three million, eight hundred and forty-three thousand
3. AGRIC PRODUCER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT	471 103 000,00	Four hundred and seventy-one million, one hundred and three thousand
4. VETERINARY SERVICES	152 037 000,00	One hundred and fifty-two million and thirty-seven thousand
5. RESEARCH & TECH DEV SERV	81 893 000,00	Eighty-one million, eight hundred and ninety-three thousand
6. AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS SERVICES	19 206 000,00	Nineteen million, two hundred and six thousand
7. AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & TRAINING	70 599 000,00	Seventy million, five hundred and ninety-nine thousand
8. RURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION	48 465 000,00	Forty-eight million, four hundred and sixty-five thousand
GRAND TOTAL	1 229 449 000,00	ONE BILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE THOUSAND



MAKING A SWITCH

The Ramadia couple quit their corporate jobs to start farming

Compiled by Thebe Itumeleng

Leaving the corporate workforce to farm can be a shot in the dark if one does not have a background in agriculture. However the young couple, Jan and Refilwe Ramadia the co-owners of Tbatlala Project with no knowledge in agriculture were more than willing to take a risk and have bigger plans for the community of Skuinsdrift where they are currently farming with livestock, crop, vegetables and chickens.

The couple believe that with agriculture, they can help reduce poverty, raise income and improve food security for the community that they are living in. Through proper guidance from Departmental Extension Officers from the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Area Office coupled with the couple's determination, it seems like what these former corporate employees used to envision is now slowly taking shape.

The couple is farming in a 34,7 ha family-owned farm of which only 11.8 is arable.

Their farm is situated in Skuinsdrift, a small farming area outside Zeerust town in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. They are the co-owners of Tbatlala Projects which started back in 2021 and registered formally in 2022.

Both Jan and Refilwe, gave up their corporate employment to seek a livelihood in agriculture. Jan Ramadia comes from a mining background prior to farming while his wife Refilwe is a former bank manager.

In their farm they have sheep and they plant wheat, sunflower, beans, maize and vegetables like beetroot, spinach and cabbage and other seasonal crops.

They are also running a poultry business on the same farm.

"With poultry, we started with only fifty (50) chickens but today we are having over a thousand chickens," Refilwe said with a smile on her face.

The couple sell their produce which include vegetables and chickens to a nearby retailer shop, to resellers in the community and to hawkers at a nearby taxi rank.

From the government, Tbatlala Project has so far been receiving extension and advisory services and inputs like diesel.

They couple is also part of study groups conducted by their Extension Officer Kgomotso Senosi where they learn many things related to agriculture and how to correctly run a farming business.

When asked about their future plans, the couple said they have big vision for the farm. They said as much as they want Tbatlala Projects to grow and become a force within the agricultural industry, they also cannot ignore the plight of those who live close to their operations.

"On a daily basis we see young people who are abusing alcohol and using drugs. So as Tbatlala we wish to use our agricultural project to influence change in the community we live in especially amongst the youth. We are aware that this behaviour might be the result of idling and lack of job opportunities in our community, but we are determined to use our status as farmers to influence good behaviour and create a brighter future for our community," said Jan and Refilwe Ramadia.

Quick facts about Tbatlala Project

- Tbatlala Project is an agricultural project based in Skuinsdrift in the Ramotshere Local Municipality
- The project has been operational since 2021 but was formally registered in 2022
- The company is owned by a young couple Jan and Refilwe Ramadia
- The project specialises with livestock such as sheep and they plant wheat, sunflower, beans, maize and vegetables like beetroot, spinach, cabbage and other seasonal crops.
- They are also running a poultry business on the same farm

FARMING WITH PIGS?

Here are some practical biosecurity measures to save your herd from diseases.



As a pig farmer, one has an important role to play in protecting property and the entire pork industry from biosecurity threats. The number one way to protect yourself from biosecurity risks is to keep diseases, pests and weeds out of your piggery business.

Biosecurity is best when it becomes a part of your daily routine:

- Keep pigs healthy
- Buy or borrow from disease-free herds
- Keep pig pastures, housing, and your farm clean. Dispose of manure and dead animals properly.
- Clean and disinfect equipment every day or after use.
- Keep wildlife and insects under control
- Don't carry disease home
- When you visit a location with other pigs or pig owners, keep any potential germs away from your farm.
- Clean and disinfect your shoes and your vehicle, shower and change your clothes, and avoid parking near pig areas.
- Don't let visitors and workers bring disease to your pigs
- Make a visible boundary between "outside" and "inside" your pig area. Allow only people who need to enter the pig area inside, and ensure they clean/disinfect shoes in a footbath and wear clean coveralls before entering.
- Keep feed delivery trucks, trucks hauling pigs, garbage trucks, and dead stock haulers from crossing the line into the pig area.
- Write a farm biosecurity plan - use it, review it, update it!

For more information on this, pig farmers are encouraged to visit any of the Local Veterinary clinics across the province.





Variety of feed manufactured by Jantjies Boerdery

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF AGRO PRODUCTS FOR ANIMAL FEED

Kgalalelo Mashomo

Animal feed production is continually becoming an essential economic activity, the industry is a critical role player in South Africa's agricultural economy.

In this trade Jantjies Boerdery manufacture their own feeds, to bridge the ever-expanding gap of feeds shortage due to the high demand caused by drought-stricken parts of Southern Africa. The sole purpose of this is to take charge of the basis of the value chain from planting raw material to processing that material into animal feeds and feeding them to livestock which subsequently are sold to the end user.

Tshepiso Templeton Jantjies, owner and CEO of Jantjies Boerdery based in Taung, aims to bridge the high demand gap which exist in the animal feed industry in South Africa and beyond its borders, their main target audience in this field is retailers, department of agriculture and bulk buyers mainly in export markets.

Jantjies Boerdery buys the ingredients for their animal feed from other companies who also assist the standardisation of feed and testing. Jantjies strives to purchase high end manufacturing equipment for the manufacturing division to speed up the process of making feeds and furthermore purchase a software programme to aid in doing financials electronically.

"Owning an agri processing company is a challenge, since we are competing with big businesses in the industry, we are looking forward to having the business grow into a force to

be reckoned with in the province, especially a business that is led by young people," said Jantjies.

Since the animal feed industry is closely associated with the agriculture and agro-processing segments, this comes at a time when the agricultural sector is hard at work implementing the Agriculture & Agro Processing Master Plan (AAMP). AAMP forms part of the social compact based on a partnership between government sectors driving market oriented and inclusive production to develop rural economies, ensure food-security, and create employment.



CEO and Owner of Jantjies Boerdery Mr Tshepiso Jantjies presenting his commodities.



A BEE PRODUCT WITH MULTIPLE USES AND BENEFITS

Compiled by Lesedi Bonokwane & Tshagofatso Leepile

Propolis, a mixture of pollen and beeswax that is collected by bees from certain various plants has many proven benefits and multiple uses in the bee economy. In hives, propolis is used by bees as a glue to close-up small gaps and protects bees from infections. Furthermore, it helps to protect the hive from cold conditions as well as protecting the hives from mites. The use of propolis promotes good colony health as it is rich in antioxidants and flavonoids, which are phytonutrients found in various plants such as vegetables, flowers, fruits and etc.

The composition of propolis varies depending on the forage that the bees can access. Therefore, propolis found from various locations may have different chemical properties.

Propolis Extraction Procedure

There are basic methods that can be used to extract propolis. Firstly, it is important to clean raw propolis by removing wood and dead bees. It must be broken down into pieces to mix it with solvent such as alcohol, water or oil (sunflower, coconut and etc). Normally the ethanol which is known as pure alcohol or exceptionally glycol is used.

- Ethanol extracted propolis requires 70% alcohol and 30% propolis. In two weeks or less the mix can be filtered through clean and very fine cloth/paper filter. The filtration should be kept in a clean dark bottle, if the bottle is clear, it must be kept away from light.
- Water/aqueous extracted propolis, normally propolis is soaked for several days and the ethanol extracted procedure is followed.
- Oil extracted propolis method, propolis is mixed with any kind of refined oil, heating process and gently stir the mixture until dissolves. Sealed container is used to store the extract in a dark place. It is important to choose the correct solvent for human consumption.

Composition and benefits of Propolis

Propolis is available in different forms such as capsules, powder, and liquid. It is also found in ointments, creams, lotions, other personal care and pharmaceutical products.

Traditionally, propolis is known as a natural treatment of problems including wounds, ulcers, heart disorders and treatment of colds.

Propolis is safe for human consumption only at reasonable dosage both on skin and for internal usage. When is taken as a form of supplement certain precautions must be taken as it may have side effects. Furthermore, propolis has been noted to have interactions with certain medications and herbal supplements. It is recommended to check with your healthcare provider before taking propolis as a supplement.

The Economy of Propolis

Propolis is one of multiple income streams in beekeeping, which smallholder farmers can take advantage of. Selling propolis can be lucrative as it is in high demand and there is an inadequate supply of the product meaning there's very little competition which provides advantage in future when quality control becomes more stringent. Currently, there are only a few beekeepers in the North-West Province that extract and manufacturer propolis products.



WATER

QUALITY FOR IRRIGATION

Irrigation is defined as the application of water to a crop to replace the climatic moisture deficit over an irrigation interval.

Salinity is a common problem facing farmers who irrigate in arid climates. This is because all irrigation waters contain soluble salts. Whether derived from springs, diverted from streams, or pumped from wells, the waters contain appreciable quantities of chemical substances in solution, dissolved from geological strata through and over which the waters have flowed. Waters with a high salt content may have moved from a saline water table. In areas with intensive agriculture, fertilization is a major cause of aquifer salinization.

COMPOSITION AND CONCENTRATION OF SOLUBLE SALTS

The composition of salts in water varies according to the source and properties of the constituent chemical compounds. These salts include substances such as gypsum (calcium sulphate, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$), table salt (sodium chloride NaCl) and baking soda (sodium bicarbonate NaHCO_3). When dissolved in water, salts separate into ions, e.g. sodium chloride breaks down into sodium and chloride ions. Thus, it is customary to refer to ions rather than salts.

Boron is also present in irrigation waters as un-ionized boric acid expressed as boron element (B) in milligrams per liter. The salt concentration in most irrigation waters ranges from 200 to 4000 mg/liter total dissolved solids (TDS). The pH of the water is also an indicator of its quality and is normally ranges from 6.5 to 8.4.

The common method for evaluating the total salts content in water is by measuring the electrical conductivity of water (EC w) at 25°C. Electrical conductivity is expressed in deci – siemens per meter. There is a relation between the electrical conductivity and the concentration of salts in millie – equivalents per liter and milligrams per liter when the ECw is in the range of 1-5 ds/m. Thus, every 10 meq/liter of salts (cation concentration) create 1 ds/m EC w. The relationship between electrical conductivity and total dissolved salts (TDS) is: $\text{ECw (ds/m)} \times 640 = \text{TDS (mg/liter)}$

The sum of cations should equal the sum of anions. The accuracy of the chemical water analyses should be checked on the basis of the above relationships.

EFFECT OF SOLUBLE SALTS ON PLANTS

The application of irrigation water to the soil introduces salts into the root zone. Plant roots take in water but absorb very little salt from the soil solution. Similarly, water evaporates from the soil surface but salts remain behind. Both processes results in the gradual accumulation of salts in the root zone, even with

low salinity water. This situation may affect the plants in two ways: a) by creating salinity hazards and water deficiency; and) by causing toxicity and other problems.

SALINITY HAZARDS AND WATER DEFICIENCY

The build-up of salinity in the root zone increases the osmotic pressure of the soil solution and causes a reduction in both the rate of water absorption by the plants and the soil water availability. Thus, a continuous water deficiency may exist even though the field is heavily irrigated. Plant wilting symptoms may not become apparent, but growth and yield are depressed. Under such circumstances it is not possible to maintain good crop development conditions and obtain high yields. Instead, plant growth is delayed and there is a considerable reduction in yield. Seed germination is also affected by the presence of salts. It is usually delayed and, in some cases, does not occur.

The level of salinity build-up depends on both the concentration and the composition of salts in the water. Chloride is highly soluble and remains in the soil solution, while soil sulphate and bicarbonate combine with calcium and magnesium, where present, to form calcium sulphate and calcium carbonate, which are sparingly soluble compounds.

TOXICITY HAZARDS

Many fruit trees are susceptible to injury from salt toxicity. Chloride, sodium and boron are absorbed by the roots and transported to the leaves where they accumulate. In harmful amounts, they result in leave burn and leaf necrosis. Moreover, direct contact during sprinkling of water with a high chloride content may cause leave burn in high evaporation conditions. To some extent, bicarbonate is also toxic.

Chloride and sodium ions are both present in the solution. Thus, it is difficult to determine whether the damage caused is due to the one or to the other. Chloride ions in high concentrations are known to be harmful to citrus and many woody and leafy field crops. A chloride content exceeding 10meq/liter may cause severe problems to crops. The effect of sodium toxicity is not very clear. However, it has been found that it may cause some direct or indirect damage to many plants.

Boron is an essential element to the plant. However, where present in excessive amounts, it is extremely toxic, even at relatively very low concentrations of 0.6 mg/liter. Toxicity occurs with the uptake of boron from the soil solution. The boron tends to accumulate in the leaves until it become toxic to the leave tissue and results in the death of the plant. In arid regions, boron is considered the most harmful element in irrigation water.

Bicarbonate ions in high concentrations may affect the uptake of mineral nutrients and their metabolism in the plant. Chlorotic symptoms in sensitive plants may be due to the direct or indirect effects of bicarbonate, e.g. an increase in soil pH.

EFFECTS OF SOLUBLE SALTS ON SOIL

Sodium hazards

A soil permeability problem occurs with a high sodium content in the irrigation water. Sodium has a larger concentration than any other cation in saline water, its salts being very soluble. Positively charged, it is attracted by negatively charged soil particles, replacing the dominant calcium and magnesium cations. The replacement of the calcium ions with sodium ions causes the dispersion of the soil aggregates and the deterioration of its structure, thus rendering the soil impermeable to water and air. The increase in the concentration of exchangeable sodium may cause an increase in the soil pH to above 8.5 and reduce the availability of some micronutrients, e.g. iron and phosphorus.

The degree of absorption to the clay particles of the sodium depends on its concentration in the water and the concentration of the calcium and magnesium ions. This reaction is called cation exchange and it is a reversible process. The capacity of soil to absorb and exchange cations is limited. The percentage of the capacity that sodium takes up is known as the exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP). Soils with ESP > 15 are seriously affected by absorbed sodium.

The sodium problem is reduced if the amount of calcium plus magnesium is high compared with the amount of sodium. This relation is called the sodium adsorption ratio (SAR). The use of water with a high SAR value and low to moderate salinity may be hazardous and reduce the soil infiltration rate. The SAR of irrigation water indicates approximate ESP of a soil with water; the water is considered harmful.

WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

There have been calls to establish standards as a guide for judging the suitability of water for irrigation. Any classification should be based on the total concentration and the composition of salts. However, the suitability of water for irrigation also depends on other associated factors, such as the crop, soil, climate and management practices. The classification adopted by FAO in 1985 (after Maas), and proposed as an initial guide, has proved most practical and useful in assessing water quality for on-farm water use. The principal parameters for water classification (crop response to salinity, sodium hazards and toxicity) are quite clear and understood by both the extension engineers and the farmers themselves for proper irrigation management and follow-up purposes.

SALINITY CONTROL

The salts that accumulate in the soil can be effectively removed only by leaching. For this to occur, enough water must enter the surface to produce downward percolation and outflow of drainage water from the root zone.

Leaching is especially necessary as a soil preparation for crops with high plant density, such as carrots, onions and groundnuts. The salinity over the entire area should be the same with no difference between the wetted and the non-wetted parts of the field during the preceding season. The leaching of the salts in the top layer is particularly important because crops are sensitive to salinity during the first stages of their growth.

For the control of the salinity level in the root zone, frequent observation should be conducted with soil sampling for the laboratory determination of the soil extract EC. The use of soil solutions, extractors and portable metering devices on the spot enables the continuous monitoring, for immediate action, of any significant change in the EC of the soil solution, the chloride and nitrate content, and the soil pH as a result of irrigation and fertilization.

MICRO-IRRIGATION AND SALINITY CONTROL

In drip irrigation, the distribution of dissolved salts in the soil profile follows the pattern of the water flux with the tendency for accumulation at the periphery of the wetted soil mass. Most of the wetted zone below the emitter, where most of the roots concentrate and function, remains free from salts during the irrigation season with low to medium salinity values. Near the surface, due to evaporation, the salt accumulation is five times greater than in the deeper layers and increases with distance from the emitters. This, in combination with the use of poor-quality irrigation water and the application of fertilizers through the system, will cause a salinity build-up, which might become a problem in areas where the annual rainfall does not exceed 50 mm. In these cases, it is essential to flood the total area once a year, with adequate amounts of water in order to leach the salts beyond the rooting depth.

The salinity level in the root zone is related to the water quality, the amount of fertilizers and the irrigation dose. The salt accumulation in the vicinity of emitters is less than half that between the emitter lines. The electrical conductivity (EC) value of the saturation extract beyond the emitter is 2-3 times the electrical conductivity of water (EC_w), and between the lines it is six to ten times higher. This high salt content can be controlled only by leaching or by reducing the amount of fertilizer concentration in the irrigation water.

KGORA FARMERS TRAINING CENTRE

TRANSFORMING NORTH WEST FARMERS INTO ENTREPRENEURS

By Kgalalelo Mashomo

Agriculture is an important source of employment and subsistence in most parts of the world. In the North West Province, the majority of people are dependent on it for both food and income.

The sector here holds the most potential for increasing food security, reducing rural poverty, and generating on- and off-farm jobs.

To promote income generation opportunities amongst farmers, Kgora Farmers Training Centre which is a state-owned agricultural skills training centre, has been training farmers of all levels from across the province with the aim of improving their skills.

At the moment, the centre is providing training to forty-five (45) beneficiaries of the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC).

NARYSEC is a national youth skill development and employment programme.

The training programme for these young farmers started early in March and it will run up until the end of August 2023. The main objective of this project is to enhance opportunities for unemployed rural youth aged 18 -35 years to become self-reliant, show their capabilities and to allow them to be active members of the farming economy.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the Head of Department of DARD, Mr Thupi Mokhatla states that the NARYSEC beneficiaries will receive tailor made training focused on technical skills necessary for primary agriculture production at Kgora Farmer Training Centre. This approach will make a headway to ensure systematic mentoring on diversified agri-business value chains, including in primary production.

Speaking to Mr Dikgang Kogela, a NARYSEC beneficiary and farmer from Koster in the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality said he has learnt since March, "Training at Kgora has been advantageous for me, as I am a crop farmer. I learnt so much about weed control and diseases, I therefore plan to use the knowledge gained here to benefit the farm back home," said Kogela.



Dikgang Kogela on some of the crops he's planted through the NARYSEC program at Kgora Farmer Training Centre.

Mr Thuthukani Hlangu, who is the Kgora Farmers Training Centre Manager emphasized that beyond training to primary agriculture production, the strengthening of the technological capabilities of these beneficiaries through value chain development is key to the success of interventions centered on capacity development of their operations.

Kgora Farmer Training Centre is a unique public service institution in the North West Province and is accredited by the Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA), as an education and training provider in the agriculture sector on animal and plant production.



At the moment, the centre is providing training to forty-five (45) beneficiaries of the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC).



Kgora Farmer Training Centre is accredited as an education and training provider in agriculture by the AgriSETA ETQA.

Scope of accredited provider

Being a state owned training Centre, Kgora possesses a rich set of advantages that provide and contributes to its stable foundation and they include:

- Being a training Centre responsible for capacitating and serving previously disadvantaged farmers and rural communities thereby contributing to national pressing issues such as transformation and dynamic growing economy.
- Sound training infrastructure that includes 5000 layer unit, tunnels, equipment, machinery, shade nets, handling facilities poultry abattoir, indigenous chickens and soon to be- a fully-fledged hatchery amongst others.
- Government's commitment to support and fund development of developing farmers.
- Opportunity to collaborate with other state agencies, private cooperation and local communities.

For more information, farmers are welcome to contact the Directorate Rural Development Directorate on 018 389 5157.

QUALIFICATION CODE	QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTION	NQF LEVEL
48970	National Certificate Animal Production	NQF 1
48976	National Certificate: Animal Production	NQF 2
48979	National Certificate: Animal Production	NQF 4
49048	National Certificate: Animal Production	NQF 3
48972	National Certificate: Plant Production	NQF 1
48975	National Certificate: Plant Production	NQF 2
49009	National Certificate: Plant Production	NQF 4
49052	National Certificate: Plant Production	NQF 3

SPINACH PRODUCTION

PROGRAM: SERIES 2 Compiled by:
Tshiamo Mothata, Specialist Agricultural Advisor (Horticulture).

Seeds : Cultivar				Comments
Fork Hook Giant				There are other cultivars, cultivate according to market demand &/or to your preference.
Spacing (Seedlings)	20cm in rows & 30 cm between rows			
Fertiliser (kg)		Quantity in size of the land		Application Frequency
	2:3:2 (22) Zn	1000 kg/ha	100g/m ²	Apply at transplanting of seedlings Mix with top 10cm of soil, & irrigate well
Top dressing (kg) 1 ST	LAN/KAN (28)	350-450 kg/ha (depends on Soil Analysis)	16g/1m row (8g on each side of the plant)	3 weeks after transplanting <ul style="list-style-type: none">5-15cm away from plants on both sidesMix it into the top 2cm of soil, use a fork & irrigate wellLess on heavier soils
2 nd	LAN/KAN(2 8)	350-450 kg/ha (depends on Soil Analysis)	20g/1m row (10g on each side of the plant)	6 weeks after transplanting <ul style="list-style-type: none">5-15cm away from plants on both sidesMix it into the top 2cm of soil, use a fork & irrigate wellLess on heavier soils
Irrigation	Throughout the growing season (depends of the soil type and temperature)			
Pests		Management/ Control measures		
Nematodes		Comments		
Insects		Consult an Agricultural Advisor		
Cutworm				
Aphids, leafhoppers, whitefly				
Spider mite & leafminer				

Please Note:

Soil analysis and recommendation are important, consult an Agricultural Advisor at the local Agricultural offices. There are other Nitrogen fertiliser available, any other may be used. If compost or manure are used, apply synthetic fertiliser at half dose (instead of 10g, apply 5g, e.g.). For pests' control, use only registered chemicals for Spinach (Swiss chard), at a recommended dosage for the correct identification. Regular scouting is important.



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2023

COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK AUCTION DATES



DRIEFONTEIN LIVESTOCK AUCTION

DATE	VENUE	AUCTIONEER	TIME
11 October 2023	Driefontein	NOORDKAAP	11:00
13 December 2023	Driefontein	NOORDKAAP	11:00

TAUNG LIVESTOCK AUCTION

DATE	VENUE	AUCTIONEER	TIME
13 September 2023	Taung	Noordkaap	11:00
18 October 2023	Taung	Karoo Osche	11:00
06 December 2023	Taung	Noordkaap	11:00
11 December 2023	Taung	Kroo Osche	11:00

MABESKRAAL LIVESTOCK AUCTION

DATE	VENUE	AUCTIONEER	TIME
07 September 2023	Mabeskraal	Vleissentraal	11:00
05 October 2023	Mabeskraal	Vleissentraal	11:00
02 November 2023	Mabeskraal	Vleissentraal	11:00
07 December 2023	Mabeskraal	Vleissentraal	11:00

TSHIDILAMOLOMO LIVESTOCK AUCTION

DATE	VENUE	AUCTIONEER	TIME
06 September 2023	Tshidilamolomo	Boitshenolo	11:00
04 October 23	Tshidilamolomo	Boitshenolo	11:00
01 November 2023	Tshidilamolomo	Boitshenolo	11:00
06 December 2023	Tshidilamolomo	Boitshenolo	11:00



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Let's Grow North West Together