



Farmer Training & Mentorship Programme

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Outline

- Why NERPO?
- Approaches used for the youth & farmer training & mentorship
 - The seven categories
- Conclusion

Why NERPO?

- The National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation (NERPO)
 - Has a consulting & training division since 1999
 - Accredited as a training provider by AgriSETA & Services SETA
 - Also accredited as a Further Education and Training College (FETC) with Department of Higher Education and Training

AIM:

- To address the gap in technical & entrepreneurial skills of farmers and youth (in the red meat industry)
 - » As such, embarked on training initiatives & processes to address:
 - jobs classified as scarce and critical skills in the agricultural sector

NB: classifications by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupation (QCTO)

Approach

- Uses practical hand-on training & mentorship approach in order to:
 - develop technical skills of youth & farmers; and
 - Improve business and life skills [e.g. communication, computer literacy, driving (help acquire licence), occupational health, etc.]
- Seven categories have been formed to cater for different groups according to specific needs

Category A: Junior farm manager training

– Objective

- Train unemployed agric. Graduates as junior farm managers

– Entry requirements

- Diploma or Degree / NQF level 5

– Duration

- 12 to 36 months

– Intake

- 10 trainees per year

Category B: Training enrolled with a formal training institution & seek farm experiential training

– Objective

- Support tertiary students gain valuable experiential or conduct research while working towards completion of tertiary qualification

– Entry requirements

- enrolled & studying agriculture full-time in any SA tertiary institution

– Duration

- 12 months

– Intake

- 10 trainees per year

Category C: Learners enrolled with formal distance education institution

- Objective
 - Support tertiary students gain valuable experiential or conduct research while working towards completion of tertiary qualification
- Entry requirements
 - enrolled for agricultural courses with any accredited Formal Distance Education Institution
- Duration
 - 12 to 36 months
- Intake
 - 10 trainees per year

Category D: Skills programme for developing farmers

– Objective

- Improve the technical and entrepreneurial skills of emerging livestock farmers

– Entry requirements

- A developing farmer interested in gaining knowledge & skills in commercial farming
- Able to read and write in any of the eleven (11) SA languages
- A practicing farmer either as farm owner or farm manager

Cont'

- Duration
 - 1 day to 8 months of two-days contact time per month
- Intake
 - Groups of 10 to a maximum of 50 farmers at a time
 - Compulsory for beneficiaries of any NERPO farmer support programmes
 - » E.g. NERPO Livestock credit scheme; Bull & Heifer project

Category E: Mentorship for developing farmers

– Objective

- Improve the application of acquired technical & entrepreneurial skills of Emerging Livestock farmers to their livestock enterprises

– Entry requirements

- A developing farmer interested in gaining knowledge & skills in commercial farming
- Able to read and write in any of the eleven (11) SA languages
- A practicing farmer either as farm owner or farm manager

Cont'

- Duration
 - 12 to 36 months
- Intake
 - An organised study group of at least 10 farmers in a local or district municipality

Category F: International business exposure & exchange programme (IBEEP)

– Objective

- Provide experiential training and benchmarking opportunities for local and foreign junior to middle management official with relevant training in agriculture & an interest in other countries' agricultural best practices

– Entry requirements

- Relevant qualification and/or working experience in agriculture

Cont'

– Duration

- 2 weeks

– Intake

- 25 guest students per group

Category G: Continuous professional development programme (CPDP)

– Objective

- Provide in-service training to develop practical skills through focused short courses

– Entry requirements

- Agricultural professionals e.g. extension officers, agricultural consultants & marketers

– Duration

- 2 days to 3 months

– Intake

- 25 group of serving officers

Conclusion

- Through these programmes, NERPO is able to:
 - *Facilitate commercialisation of the emerging sector so that Youth and Developing farmers can participate meaningfully in the mainstream commercial agricultural sector*
 - *To date over three hundred (300) trained & mentored in agricultural & entrepreneurship*
 - *Thousands of farmers in NERPO Farmer Training & Mentorship Programme*

Dankie/thankyou

Siyabonga!!