



The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) together with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) and Makhado Municipality entered into a partnership agreement to empower the farmers at Ha-Mphaila Irrigation Scheme. The Mphaila Irrigation Scheme was established by the former homeland government. The farmers currently own a piece of land through the Permission to Occupy (P.T.O). The total extent of the scheme is 71 ha and the farmers in the scheme are 62 households owning an average of 1 ha each.

The group of farmers produce dry beans, butternut, tomatoes, chillies, tobacco, spinach, maize and etc. Due to variety of commodities, the NAMC in collaboration with Department of Agriculture

Limpopo collaborated in developing a comprehensive business plan for the most planted commodities. The business plan was developed focusing on dry beans, tomatoes, butternut and maize. The motive behind the development of the business plan was to take the advantage of market requirements, producing in bulk and saving operation costs.

As part of implementing the business plan, the NAMC placed four plant production interns to the scheme, in order to assist with day to day implementation activities which includes and not limited to identification of diseases, advisory service and practical mentorship on farm management activities. The four interns are placed in the hands of. Mr. Tshithivhe an extension officer from LDARD, who is

the manager of Mphaila irrigation scheme. Just in a period of three months, the interns received training in Nurse Management, soil fertility management, soil and water conservation and installation of drip irrigation parts.

As the Agribusiness Development, we saw it prudent to ensure that all projects we work on must have the element of youth development. Mr. T.T. Tshithivhe knowledge and expertise infarm management was a marvel to watch. Our interns seemed to be impressed with the thoroughness of working with someone with such experience. The disconnection of the old generation and the younger generation is something the education and agriculture sector must address as a way to unlock youth interest in agriculture.