

# SA\_FANRPAN digest

Issue No.: 7

*In this issue we cover the following topics:*

1. A brief report of the AFRICAP in-country stakeholders' workshop
2. *The success of the Farmers' Production Support Unit in the development of smallholder farmers: The case of the Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyana districts, as part of the AFRICAP project*
3. A profile of Ms T. Mudau of FANRPAN



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*FANRPAN Digest is a monthly report that is produced by the National Agricultural Marketing Council through the Agricultural Industry Trusts Division. The publication aims to communicate developments as they happen within the Food Agriculture Natural Resource Policy Analysis Networks (FANRPAN). This issue focuses on the following topics: (i) Brief report of the AFRICAP in-country stakeholders' workshop; (ii) The success of the Farmers' Production Support Unit in the development of smallholder farmers: The case of the Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyana district, as part of the AFRICAP project; and (iii) A profile of Ms T Mudau of FANRPAN. The division has three digests which cover FANRPAN, Agricultural Transformation and Agricultural Industry Trusts. FANRPAN Digest reports on the monthly key developments coming from the operations of FANRPAN as co-ordinated by the NAMC.*

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## 1. A BRIEF REPORT OF THE AFRICAP IN-COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP

By

Nomantande Yeki



**Figure 1:** AFRICAP in-country stakeholders' workshop participants

### 1.1. Introduction

Stakeholder engagement and stakeholder management are arguably the most critical ingredients for successful project delivery. Stakeholder workshops help the participant to understand more about the people who will be affected by the project, which in turn enables the participants to plan communication and engagement strategies ahead of implementation.

On 14 and 15 February 2019, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC), which is the South African node hosting institution for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), hosted the "Agricultural and Food-System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (AFRICAP)" in-country stakeholders' workshop in Bloemfontein, Free State Province.

The key stakeholders in attendance included representatives from the University of the Free State, Provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, FANRPAN, NAMC, and Leeds University. The purpose of this workshop was to create a platform for key stakeholders to discuss the way forward in terms of the implementation of the AFRICAP programme and agree on the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders.

### 1.2. Overview of the presentations delivered

The line of speakers was opened by an overview of the project. This overview highlighted that this programme aims to identify and implement evidence-based policy pathways to facilitate the development of sustainable, productive, climate-smart agricultural systems to meet food security and economic development needs.

Interestingly, researchers have analysed climate data from 26 weather stations around the country. Of those, 23 showed that the average annual maximum and minimum temperatures have increased by 1.5 °C over the past four decades, and as such, the number of warmer days has increased more than the number of cooler days. In this regard, a presentation was given that covered climate change work within the Free State Province, including a number of adaptation strategies.

Furthermore, a talk was given on Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs), mainly focusing on three districts of the Free State Province, namely the Thabo Mofutsanyane, Xhariep and Lejweleputswa district municipalities. It was highlighted that SAZs deal specifically with the Farmer Production Support

Units (FPSUs) which feed into the AgriParks in the Free State Province.

A recap was given of the scenarios workshop held in November 2018, aimed at putting all stakeholders on par with developments. In the case of South Africa, the key threats to the agri-food system were outlined, and the uncertainty of land reform issues and climate change were the key scenarios developed.

In addition, there was a presentation on the project plans to conduct household surveys which aim to evaluate the vulnerability of households to climate change through agriculture production systems, food and nutrition security. The surveys also aim to collect information about households, farming systems, nutrition and their response to climate shocks. The methodology to be used include mixed method designs which will include both the smallholder and commercial farmers focusing on priority crops comprised of maize, soybeans, potatoes, deciduous fruits and livestock. Within the same presentation, all the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders were discussed.

Among the presentations was a brief discussion on the use of theatre to communicate and inform policy advocacy through the use of media platforms such as YouTube and drama. The last speaker deliberated on the progress of the AgriParks in the province. The AgriParks are progressing well, despite challenges like funding and vandalism in some communities.

### **1.3. Conclusion and way forward**

In conclusion, the objectives of the engagement were met, which included creating a platform for key stakeholders to discuss the way forward in terms of the implementation of the AFRICAP programme and to agree on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

*A detailed report will be available on the NAMC website at <https://www.namc.co.za/>*

## **2. THE SUCCESS OF FARMERS' PRODUCTION SUPPORT UNIT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS: THE CASE OF THE LEJWELEPUTSWA AND THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICTS, AS PART OF THE AFRICAP PROJECT**

**By**

**Elekanyani Nekhavhambe and Lucius Phaleng**

### **2.1. Introduction**

As part of the AFRICAP programme, the NAMC, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and University of Leeds representatives conducted a site visit (on 27 and 28 February 2019) to the Farmers' Support Unit (FSP) in the Lejweleputswa and Thabo Mofutsanyana district municipalities. The purpose of these site visits was to gain insight into, and a better understanding of, the construction and existing infrastructure to support the development of smallholder farmers and households interested in agriculture within the districts concerned.

This article was inspired by the work that the South African government is doing in developing infrastructure support within rural villages. Good progress cannot be undermined but needs to be known and commended.

### **2.2. The success story of the Sediba and Makgolokweng FSPUs**

#### **2.2.1. Sediba FSPU**

The DRDLR has initiated the installation of irrigation infrastructure, a Farmer Support Production Unit (FPSU) facility and a water pumping station in the Sediba village of the Lejweleputswa district. The project focuses on the following construction initiatives:

(ii) Floppy sprinkler irrigation - There are two irrigation systems, both of which serve the production of lucerne hay for the feeding of livestock animals in the surrounding areas, as well as vegetable production. The first floppy sprinkler irrigation system will operate on 26 ha of land for lucerne hay production, while the second will operate on 5ha of land for vegetable production. Flood irrigation - The third irrigation installation has been completed and will operate on 6 ha of land for lucerne hay production.



**Figure 1:** A photo showing the Sediba floppy sprinkler irrigation system

(ii) Water pump station - The water pump station was completed with three pump engines. The station is part of the FSU's assets and will be servicing three sections (26 ha of lucerne using floppy irrigation, 5 ha of vegetables and 6 ha of flood irrigation) around the village.



**Figure 3:** A photo showing the Sediba water pumping station

(iii) Farmer Support Production Unit - The FSPU is also under construction, with most of the work being almost complete, and is inclusive of a storage

facility for lucerne hay and offices for various functions.

This FSPU will in future be the best centre for the provision of farmers' inputs, relevant equipment and training of farmers in the community.

### 2.2.2. Makgolokweng FSPU

The Makgolokweng Farmer Support Production Unit (FSPU) of the Thabo Mofutsanyane district was strategically implemented not far from the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of the district. This FSPU is already in utilisation. To date, it has advanced mechanisation that supports the local farmers in the district, and it is run by a well-established secondary co-operative.



**Figure 4:** A photo of an advanced combine harvester for Makgolokweng FSPU

The same FSPU has already procured farm inputs to support the local farmers in the coming season. Their main crop specialisations are soybeans, maize and wheat, which are also responsible for the capacity-building of farmers:

- Training of farmers in financial management;
- Assisting farmers with market readiness, including packaging and market linkages; and
- Training members of the secondary co-operative on all equipment within the FSPU.

The FPSU supports both smallholder and commercial farmers, especially when it comes to the leasing of machinery.



**Figure 5:** A photo of tractors

### 2.3. Conclusion

There is no doubt that FPSUs are becoming a fundamental pillar to the success of rural villagers in the agricultural sector. More support for these FPSUs will be positive for smallholder development.

### 3. A PROFILE OF MS T. MUDAU OF FANRPAN

By

**Nomantande Yeki**



**Figure 6:** NAMC colleagues awarding Ms T. Mudau of FANRPAN a graduate completion certificate

Ms Tsiko Mudau is from Venda in the Limpopo Province. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from the University of Venda and is registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). She is committed to helping

people eat well and lead healthy lifestyles. Following a recruitment process by the NAMC, in October 2017 she was deployed at the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) as a nutrition intern for one year.

During her internship, her roles included supporting the implementation of the Agriculture to Nutrition (ATONU) Project under the Agricultural Sensitive Nutrition (NSA) entity. The project was implemented in two African countries, namely Tanzania and Ethiopia. She later worked on the Biennial Review Report (BRR) Project, which was aimed at the implementation of the Malabo declaration, accelerating agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. On the BRR project, she was responsible for looking at the key areas of strong performance of each country and the key areas for development. In addition, her roles included identifying funding opportunities and compiling a project funding proposal. One of the lessons she draws from her Internship is working closely with farmers and linking agriculture with nutrition. One of her highlights includes developing a Tanzanian recipe book with her supervisor, Ms Bertha.

In October 2018, upon completing her internship, Ms Mudau was retained by FANRPAN. She then joined an entity called Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). Her role in the CSA Programme is to go beyond her career and engage herself in every activity that is done by FANRPAN, encompassing Policy, Research and Network. In her current position, she has helped to organise a successful COMESA NDC Regional Training Workshop and Policy Dialogue, which was held from 12 to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Mbabane, Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland). Furthermore, she works on creating the organisational Develop Web blurb and providing secretariat services for the SADC when the FANR Directorate holds joint planning meetings profiling eminent African women. Lastly, she does

research on the food and nutrition strategies of all SADC countries, as well as smart foods for nutrition and economic empowerment for Malawi, Ghana, Tanzania and Namibia.

This year she plans to enrol for a Master's degree in Nutrition. The NAMC wishes this young, vibrant and professional lady all the best in her future endeavours. It is through individuals like Ms Mudau that agriculture shall be linked to nutrition.

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