



Transformation Digest

Issue No.: 10

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3. Advocacy for Gender Equality and Empowering Women: AFASA National Women's Desk

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AGRI-TRANSFORMATION DIGEST

Agri-Transformation Digest is a bi-monthly report that is produced by the National Agricultural Marketing Council through the Agricultural Industry Trusts Division. The publication aims to communicate transformation developments as they happen around the agricultural industries. The division has three digests, covering Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy Networks (FANRPAN), Agricultural Transformation, and Agricultural Industry Trusts. *Agri-Transformation Digest* reports on the bi-monthly key developments coming from the transformation activities of different industries and trusts.

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1. TRANSFORMATION WITHIN THE RED MEAT INDUSTRY: CASE OF EMERGING FARMERS' INFORMATION DAY IN BRITS, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

By

Elekanyani Nekhavhambe and Bongani Radebe

1.1. Introduction

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) was invited by the South African Feedlot Association (SAFA) to attend the emerging farmers' information day held in Brits in the North West Province. It is important to note that SAFA is one of the recipients of the 20 % portion of the transformation levy funds within the red meat industry. One of SAFA's transformation activities is to ensure that the necessary training and information is disseminated to the emerging farmers within the red meat industry.

This article provides a snapshot relating to the emerging farmers' information day that was held in Brits in the North West Province on 18 October 2019.

1.2. Information dissemination and demonstration

Stakeholders such as MSD Animal Health, Obaro and the South African Meat Inspection Company (SAMIC) attended the programme. The information disseminated during the day included animal health and nutrition, reproduction, pasture management, treatment guidelines, animal identification and traceability, and the necessity of water.



Figure 1: Photo of an Obaro representative showing a specific treatment to farmers

It is commendable that demonstrations relating to animal handling took place. Farmers were also exposed to methods for creating relationships with their animals — including disease management and animal nutrition, as well as the branding and marketing of cattle.



Figure 2: Photo of a veterinarian from MSD Animal Health and GMP Basic demonstrating animal handling during traceability and identification

1.3. Conclusion

The information day went well and according to plan, and the NAMC found the demonstration of certain good farming practices within the red meat industry to be useful to emerging farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the industry commodity groups within the red meat industry, need to collaborate to ensure that real transformation is happening within the industry.

2. TRANSFORMATION WITHIN THE MACADAMIA INDUSTRY

By

Elekanyani Nekhavhambe and Matsobane (BM) Mpyana

2.1. Background

The National Agricultural Marketing Council's (NAMC) Transformation Review Committee (TRC) and AgriBEE Charter Compliance (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) representatives were invited by Macadamias South Africa (SAMAC) to conduct site visits to their industry transformation projects in the Vhembe district of the Limpopo Province between 26 and 28 August 2019.

The purpose of the visit was for the TRC to conduct a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) exercise on the progress and status of the transformation projects supported by SAMAC's 20 % of statutory levy expenditure, as well as to have an overview of new projects that SAMAC would like to support through its transformation programme, given the limited fund allocation.

This article highlights the background of the seven projects that were visited. It is important to note the common contribution of SAMAC to the transformation of emerging farmers, i.e. the provision of trees through a 50:50 model.

2.2. Projects visited

The section below narrates a brief background to the seven projects visited.

2.2.1. Mr Ndou's farm

Mr Ndou started growing macadamias in 2017 on five hectares (5 ha) of communal land in Tshidongololwe. He started his plantation on 2 ha, but only 1 ha survived due to withering and shortage of water. He intends to plant the entire farm area with macadamias should he be given proper technical support.



Figure 3: Photo of Mr Ndou in his orchard

2.2.2. Mr Negondeni's farm (trading name: Negrow)

Mr Negondeni is not new to the macadamia industry and is a registered member of SAMAC. He is operating on 5 ha of land and with a potential 3 ha available for expansion. His trees are 11 years old and have only been harvested twice since being planted, with about

1.5 tonnes having been harvested in 2017/18 and 2.5 tonnes in 2018/19.



Figure 4: Photo of Mr Negondeni's new plantation

2.2.3. Mr Lidzhegu's farm

Mr Lidzhegu is operating on 5 ha of land in the Tshakhuma area and has been on the farm since the year 2000. He is able to expand his orchard by an additional 2 ha. Over the past five years, his production trends have been as follows: 0.75 tonnes for 2015, 0.9 tonnes for 2016, 0.7 tonnes for 2017, 1.3 tonnes for 2018 and 4.5 tonnes for 2019. He saw a yield improvement between 2018 and 2019.



Figure 5: Photo of Mr Lidzhegu showing his orchard to the NAMC representative

2.2.4. Mr Tshitume's farming enterprise

Mr Tshitume is operating on 15 ha of land in the Tshakhuma area and has a 4 ha portion of land under macadamias (some trees have been growing for 16 years, with others being just four years old). The first harvest was in 2016/17 with 3.5 tonnes, while the second harvest in 2017/18 was 5 tonnes. His most

recent harvest in 2018/19 declined to 4 tonnes, attributed to low rainfall.



Figure 6: Photo of Mr Tshituame's farming enterprise

2.2.5. Madimbo farm

Mr Lukhanya Aluwani is the owner of Madimbo farm, consisting of approximately 58.5 ha of land granted by the Local Chief Authority on a 99-year lease agreement. The orchard is still new, and currently, 15 ha are being prepared (bush clearance, soil preparation, seedling beds and irrigation) for a macadamia plantation, starting from October 2019. About 5 248 trees will be planted.



15 ha of land prepared for plantation

Figure 7: Photo of new macadamia orchard on Madimbo farm

The SAB Foundation supports the farm in the form of a blended finance model (the foundation provided 80 % of the initial capital as a grant and the farm contributed 20 %). The farm is also establishing a nursery with a capacity of 22 000 trees, and the first trees will be given to other smallholder farmers in the Vhembe region, in the form of a donation.

2.2.6. Mr Makhado's farm

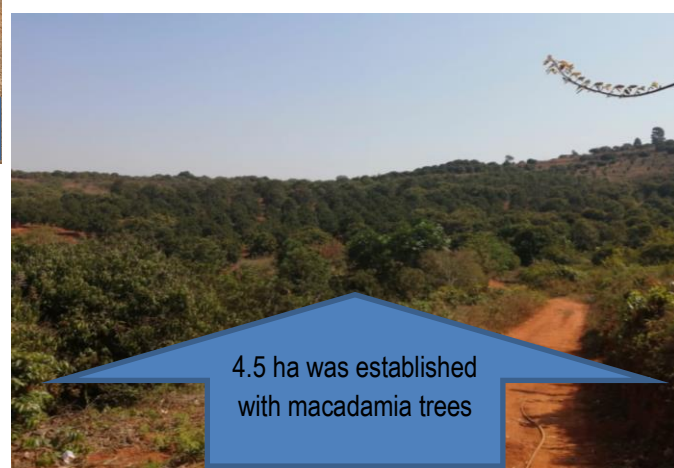
Mr Makhado has been farming with macadamias on 5.5 ha and 3.5 ha for eight years. His first harvest was 64 kg in 2016/17, the second harvest in 2017/18 was about 1.8 tonnes and the latest harvest in 2018/19 was 2.5 tonnes. The farm has four permanent workers (two males and two females).



Figure 8: Photo of Mr Makhado's macadamia orchard

2.2.7. Mr Matika's farm

Mr Matika is operating in the Phiphidi district on 15 ha of land, of which only 4.5 ha are planted to macadamias. The orchard is about 10 years old. His production trends over the past four years have been 0.5 tonnes for 2015/16, 0.95 tonnes for 2016/17, 1.5 tonnes for 2017/18 and 2.3 tonnes for 2018/19. He depends on seasonal workers, with four of them working during the flowering and pruning stages, and 12 being employed during the harvesting season.



4.5 ha was established with macadamia trees

Figure 9: Photo of Mr Matika's orchard

2.3. Market information

The market channels of Royal Macadamia and Green Farm for macadamia nuts were common among the visited projects. The market limitations for most small growers in their first few years of harvesting show low yields, which discourage the market, i.e. not able to reach a tradable quantity of market. Therefore, there is an urgent need for transformation of these kinds of projects in terms of yield and volume consistency in order to remain in the market.

2.4. Challenges observed

There are some common challenges among the smallholder macadamia growers, including shortage of water and irrigation systems (e.g. water storage and pipes); the use of traditional methods to dehusk the nuts (dehusking by hand and using stones), and damage by pests (e.g. baboons and monkeys).

2.5. Conclusion

There is no doubt that smallholder macadamia growers have the potential for transformation and to make a significant contribution to the value chain; however, the availability of land for expansion remains a major constraint. Most farmers are replacing their existing plantations (e.g. litchis, mangoes and avocados) in order to expand their macadamia orchards. Generally, the smallholder farmers operate on 5 ha of land. It is the NAMC's opinion that more could be done if the government were to strengthen the working relationship with SAMAC to improve transformation interventions.

3. ADVOCACY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN: AFASA NATIONAL WOMEN'S DESK

By

Nontuthuzelo Motshegoa & Nomantande Yeki

3.1. Background

The African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA) National Women's Desk was established in 2018, derived from its mother organisation AFASA. The AFASA National Women's Desk has a clear mandate of increasing the visibility, participation and share in output produced by women in agriculture and the wildlife economy. The organisation seeks to cater for the

development of women farmers. The mission of the AFASA National Women's Desk is to facilitate the development of African women farmers; to actively engage in resource mobilisation; to actively play an advocacy role in women's matters; and to liaise with other stakeholders in pursuit of this mission. Furthermore, the vision of the AFASA National Women's Desk is "building globally competitive and sustainable commercial women agribusinesses".

3.2. Composition of the AFASA National Women's Desk

The AFASA National Women's Desk is led by a number of constituencies. There is a National Working Committee which consists of a chairperson, nine provincial representative and five additional members who provide advisory services to the Committee.

3.3. AFASA Women's footprint

Recently AFASA Women¹ has started becoming involved in policies, programmes and strategies that aim to transform the agricultural sector in line with the 2014 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo Declaration. To this end, AFASA Women's interventions have involved energising policymakers and other key stakeholders to intentionally include women in the current land reform programmes in South Africa.

Although AFASA has enjoyed some success in our advocacy work, there is a plethora of challenges that still need to be addressed to effectively engage women in the agricultural sector. Some key challenges include lack of capacity and lack of access to finance. Addressing these challenges will be essential for women farmers to take advantage of the recently launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

3.4. Conclusion

In conclusion, AFASA Women links women to high-value agribusiness chains so that they are afforded the same opportunities as their male counterparts, and this is done through policy advocacy, development and

¹ AFASA Women is an abbreviated term for AFASA National Women's Desk

resource mobilisation directed at women farmers. The core functions of AFASA Women are centred around key objectives that guide the activities of the organisation in order to achieve its mission. These objectives will be achieved through partnerships with stakeholders within the agricultural sector. With that said, the future for AFASA Women lies in continuing to build more stakeholder relations and influence policies to advance the lives of women.

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