Interview: Botho

1. Date: 2021-11-08
2. Time: 14:00

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| Hello, I am Zakes Hlatshwayo, a Ph.D. candidate at UP, conducting a study on emerging black farmers’ practices and state support to them, the study is conducted in three provinces. This study aims to understand emerging black farmer practices and how they are supported by the state. Thank you for your willingness to participate. I am interested to understand your farming practices and experience, as well as the support you receive. Information will be used only for academic and research purposes. You do not have to give your name if you don’t want to and can decline to answer any question. I appreciate your assistance and request you provide as much information as possible to help us understand your work.  The research study has been approved by the University of Pretoria’s Research Ethics Committee. Your privacy and confidentiality will be secured. No direct reference will be made to you, I will use a pseudonym, codes and categories to keep information about you confidential, and to protect it from unauthorized disclosure, tampering, or damage. You are not required to use your name, do not write your name on any of the documents. The data will be kept for 15 years in a password-protected format and used for University of Pretoria research only.  For the purpose of this research I will use semi-structured questions, with your permission I will record the interview and take notes. The interview will not be longer than 50 minutes. Hopefully, the information will help policymakers, practitioners, officials, and managers to make informed decisions on such programmes in the future. | | | |
| RQ1: What is your name? Botho  RQ2: Where do you live? Kimberley  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Post-Graduate  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 31 | | | |
| RQ6: Are you a farmer, what farming practice are you involved with? When did you start? How did you start? Why did you start farming, what informed you?  your decision? Where is the farm located? | | Livestock farmer | I am from the village, I looked after sheep and goats. I saw the public works advert for farms on lease and I responded. The farm is not far from the Orange river. |
| How long have you been in this farm? | |  | 2 years. |
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| RQ7: Do you own the land? How was the land obtained? Is farming the only source of income, if not what other sources exist? How do you sustain your farming practices? Is there a family history to farming? Who decides on land use? | | No. | I’m leasing the farm on a three-year renewable contract. I have an income I also buy and sell livestock. I sustain it from my income. |
| RQ8: How did you get access to the land where you farm? Do you own it, rent it, have permission to occupy, or another type of right to the land? | |  | I lease it from public works, I pay a monthly rental. The farm is demarcated for livestock. |
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| RQ9: Where did you learn farming? Have you ever received training or advice on farming and if so from whom? Were your parents farming? | |  | I learned from my parents who kept livestock, chicken and a garden. |
| RQ10: What are the sources of your livelihood (that is how do you support yourself and your family)? | |  | I support both myself and farm from my income. Also, from buying and selling of livestock. |
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| RQ11: What forms of labour or equipment do you use, if any? Do you farm for self-consumption, or selling or a combination of both, explain? What form of support do you get and from whom? | |  | Feedlot, animal shelter, storage, salt, dip and fence, supplements. I employ a full-time herdsperson. I farm to sell.  I receive my support from the extension officer, cooperative and the vet. |
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| RQ12: Are you aware of the state support programme to emerging black farmers? If so, how did you become aware of it? Why are you not participating in the Agripark? Did you intend to participate, if not, why not? | Yes, I was informed by the extension officer. Farming is labour- and ingredient-intensive, it is important for government to get involved and subsidise farmers. I have not learned of any progress on the Agripark, I’m not receiving any support. | | |
| RQ13: Did you do anything to be allowed to participate, if so, what? Do you know why you were not included? Is any other of your family benefiting, if so, how? | I was told my name will be submitted when it happens. I’m keen to get participate and contribute to the initiative. None of my family members benefits. | | |
| RQ14: Do you sell any of your agriculture produce, if so, what do you sell? Where do you sell them? When did you start to sell there? How did you come to sell there the first time? | I’ am not selling my own stock, yet. I buy from the auction and sell in the township. | | |
| RQ15: What are your actual experiences? What issues and concerns have arisen in connection with your faming? What efforts are you making address these issues and challenges? How can support to black farmers be improved? | We greatly and urgently need a lifeline from the government. The prices of animal feed, supplements and other inputs have gone up. I cannot amend the high prices of goods and services, we need government to support us. High staff turnover of extension officer is not helpful to farmers. | | |
| RQ16: In what way can Agriparks be improved, do you have any recommendations? Are there any other issues that you suggest I should look into? | We need a structure that can help black farmers compete with establish white farmer who collude to keep prices high. For instance, the cooperatives are owned by them and the vet are white, they all belong to the same coop. | | |
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| RQ17: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | Radio and tv |
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| RQ18: How did Covid 19 affect you? | |  | It restricted my movement, I could not visit the farm. |
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| RQ19: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | I was finally allowed to go to the farm.  No, I did not qualify for the grant. |
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Comments and Observation: