Interviewee:Bongi

1. Date: 2021-06-24
2. Time: 10:00

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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 in understanding your farming practices and experience and 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? Bongi  RQ2: Where do you live? Levubu.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Matric  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 30 | | | |
| RQ6: Do you farm? If so what do you farm? When did you start? How did you start? Why did you start, what informed your decision? Where is the farm located? | | Yes. |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been on this farm? | | +4 years |  |
| The Tshakhuma land were confiscated by the apartheid government and incorporated into the now defunct Venda homeland. The Venda government, with the help of the apartheid South Africa established the Tshakhuma farms, and market, it produced avocados, bananas and macadamia for export. The land is now registered under the Communal Property Association (CPA) which manages the land on behalf of the community. The Tshakhuma Barotta farms are in joint venture agreement with Univen Innovative Growth Company (UIGI). The farms are designate an Agripark site though the majority are unaware and the farm has not received any support under the CRDP. | | | |
| RQ:8 Where do you farm? | | Tshakhuma |  |
| RQ9: What do you grow? | |  | Avocados, bananas, litchi and macadamia nuts |
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| RQ10: How many hectares do you farm? | |  | +30 hectares |
| RQ11: How did you obtain this land, and under what tenure? | |  | Restitution of land rights claim. |
| Bongi is a seasonal worker on the farm, she also buys and sell avocados and bananas. | | | |
| RQ12: Have you always produced and sold the same things? | | Yes |  |
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| RQ13: How did you start farming? | I started farming in the village and joined the farm. | | |
| How did you learn about the Agripark? | I have not heard about Agriparks. | | |
| Where did you obtain the capital? | We received the government’s post settlement grant, we are now joined by UIGI. | | |
| RQ14: How many people work here, temporary and full-time? | Full-time we are 20 but the number increases seasonally when we plant or harvest. | | |
| RQ:15 What are your main inputs? | Seedlings, boreholes, pesticides, and fertilizers. Tractors, thrashers, tunnels, storage, fridge and conveying machinery. | | |
| RQ18: Where do you get your input from? We buy.  How can Agriparks improve support? It can invest money into the full development and utilisation of the farms, some of the farm lie fallow because of lack of capital.  RQ19: Where do you sell? Street traders, agents and Joburg market. | | | |
| RQ20: What do you supply? | |  | Avocados, bananas, litchi and macadamia nuts |
| * How often? | |  | seasonal |
| * How did you get the market? | |  | The street traders have always known the place, agents buy for the other markets. |
| * Are produce collected or delivered? | |  | Some are collected and most are delivered. |
| * What quantity or value of each crop produced?   RQ21: What actual support have you received from Agripark?  RQ22: What other services do you receive?  RQ23: How can support and other services be improved? | |  | The quantities are not stable.  None  We accept training students who do their internships from Tshakhuma Agriculture College, they coach us, introduce new farming ideas and technology.  We need funds, training of workers, investment in infrastructure such as roads, facilities like ablution, storage, packaging and markets. |
| What market works best, and why?  What could be done to make markets work better? | |  | We have challenges with the Joburg market, especially the role of agents. The agents are white and part of the old Venda regime.  Contracting farming and pre-orders bring certainty in farming, we need that. |
| * Have you sold elsewhere before, if so, where? | | No |  |
| * Are you part of an organisation or association? CPA * Do you have any other collaboration, individual or group? UIGI. | | | |
| * has there been any changes in your farming? | |  | We have improved production since partnering UIGI. |
| * How did you hear about Covid-19? * How did Covid 19 affect you? * How did you respond to the government’s lockdown? * How did you hear about the government’s response and how did you benefit? | |  | Radio and tv  We stayed at home until we got the clear signal.  Management applied and received R50000. |
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| Any other issues, you would like to raise? | |  | We need state support. |
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Observation: The farms are huge, under utilised with weeds and wild trees, the buildings and roads are dilapidated, the tractor and bakkie are old, the tunnels are broken and the fence is broken. The farmers complain of theft of crops and vandalism of infrastructure. The spirit o f solidarity is high and sense of optimism is high following the intervention of the UIGI. Before the intervention of the UIGI, because of internal fight within the community, the farm were abandoned and fallow.