Interviewee:Lihle

1. Date: 2021-02-11
2. Time: 9:AM

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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? Lihle  RQ2: Where do you live? Westonaria.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Matric  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 32 | | | |
| 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. | I’m at Westonaria Agripark. |
| RQ7: How long have you been on this farm? | | +6year | Since 2017 |
| I started farming with a group of women from the Bekkersdal township and then move to the Agripark. | | | |
| RQ:8 Where do you farm? | | Westernaria Agripark |  |
| RQ9: What do you grow? | | High-value crop | I grow basil, butternut, coriander, spinach, pepper bells, lettuce, and carrots |
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| RQ10: How many hectares do you farm? | |  | Tunnel farms at 2x300m2 |
| RQ11: How did you obtain this land, and under what tenure? | |  | We heard from other farmers and walk in for an application |
| A contract to use the land, which is owned by a local municipality, is valid for 3 years, renewable. The farmers had mentors from the African Grow Company who were paid by the mine. | | | |
| RQ12: Have you always produced and sold the same things? | | Yes | I produce and sell the same crops; the volumes vary according to yield. |
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| RQ13: How did you start farming? | I started when we got the tunnels, I have learned from my colleagues. | | |
| How did you learn about the Agripark? | I heard from farmers who live in Bekkersdal, they farm here. | | |
| Where did you obtain the capital? | We did not have to pay for the land, we used our money to clear the tunnels which were overgrow with weed. | | |
| RQ14: How many people work here, temporary and full-time? | There is three of us, we get support from our family member as an when we ask them. | | |
| RQ:15 What are your main inputs? | Seedlings, water, pesticides, and fertilizers. | | |
| RQ18: Where do you get your input from? We get our inputs from the official, other we buy from retailers.  How can Agriparks improve support? I need exposure to sustainable forms of farming, that market is growing locally and abroad. I think the management is relaxed about providing training.  RQ19: Where do you sell? Community stalls, bakkie off-takers and take order from my neighbours. | | | |
| RQ20: What do you supply? | |  | Basil, butternut, coriander, spinach, pepper bells, lettuce, and carrots |
| * How often? | |  | Once a week |
| * How did you get the market? | |  | Referrals from the farmers, we work together in many ways. |
| * Are produce collected or delivered? | |  | Some products are collected and the others we deliver. |
| * 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, a sell per bunch and the prices vary.  Land, water, seeds, fertilizer.  I’ve learned a lot from radio and tv programmes on farming practices.  Introduce service such as packaging and agroprocessing facilities. |
| What market works best, and why?  What could be done to make markets work better? | |  | We are happy with our market.  If we package and brand our product we can approach retailer. |
| * Have you sold elsewhere before, if so, where? | | No |  |
| * Are you part of an organisation or association? No * Do you have any other collaboration, individual or group? We share ideas with farmers. | | | |
| * Has there been any changes in your farming? | |  | We are better organise in term of production routines and sale of the products. |
| * 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? | |  | From Agripark management.  I did not have an income, I use my bank savings to do purchases.  I stayed home.  I did not apply or benefit from the relief grant. |
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| Any other issues, you would like to raise? | | No. | We need more support to scale up our farm operations. |
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Observation: The tunnels are well kept; the spinach looks good. She intends studying agriculture with a TVET college