Interview: Baba

1. Date: 2021-11-7
2. Time: 13:00

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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? Baba  RQ2: Where do you live? Bendell  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Graduate  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 71 | | | |
| 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?  your decision? Where is the farm located? | | Livestock farmer | I farm with cattle, Bosman and Nguni, I took from my father who were farmers of cattle and sheep. It was logical that I would follow, my father was a chief and I took over. |
| How long have you been on this farm? | |  | Since childhood. |
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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 source exist? How do you sustain your farming practices? Is there a family history to farming? Who decides on land use? | | Permission to Occupy. | I’m the chief, like all others I have permission to use the communal land, we have a tribal council that allocates the land. I sit as the chairperson of the council. I was miniate for education in the Bophuthatswana government, and Anglican priest- I have a good pension. |
| 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? Who decides on land use? | |  | The land belongs to the community, I use it like all other members, there is rent or any form of payment other than when the is a community need for water or any other such services. |
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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 community, no formal training. Agri-cooperative gave farming advices, I learned that way. |
| RQ10: What are the sources of your livelihood (that is how do you support yourself and your family)? | |  | I survive on my pension, I sell and buy cattle at the auction, providing income |
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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? | |  | I employ a herder, taking care of my cattle, drives to the auction and get feed or other service. I own a truck and trailer, I have my own borehole for water and a feedlot. I farm as a hobby and a business. |
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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? | I became aware from the extension officer who told me about it, also from the cooperative where I buy my cattle feed. I would have liked to participate but the initiative stalled, not sure why. Nobody seems to know why things came to nothing. From my experience in the Bophuthatswana government such state support is critical for family farms. It helps with good breeding, quality of stock, boast local small businesses. It could help farmers reach overseas markets and support local processing of meat products. | | |
| 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? | There is nothing I could do to register, nobody really knows what happened to the initiative, the officials are not informing us. | | |
| 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 sell at the auction which has always been there, we’ve always used it. I also sell to individuals for funeral or occasions, sometime I talk to local butcher who buy, slaughter and sell to the public. It is an old way of operating.  . | | |
| 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? | It is always difficult using community land, there is no proper demarcations, fences, cattle roam around, there are diseases and conflict because of over grazing and water resources. I have spoken to my council, people don’t want to cooperate but want to benefit, we’ve fined people it does not help, hopefully things will change. I have spoken to the extension service officers, they can’t help. | | |
| 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? | From my experience, it would have helped with infrastructure, roads, abattoirs, slaughters, markets and processing of meat products. There are mines around we could benefit if we produced quality and were reliable and efficient. Address fundamental challenges the climate crisis, inequality, infrastructural decay. | | |
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| RQ17: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | I read in the newspapers. |
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| RQ18: How did Covid 19 affect you? | |  | Not much, I remained home, the herder was the one who went about things. He did not complain, it is the unpredictability that was a problem. The herder could get what we needed from the cooperative. It was the selling that suffered a bit, even that was not too much. |
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| RQ18: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | I did not apply for support, I was discouraged by the amount of money given to others. It was not worth the effort, I think. I think government must support the sector than with grant, for instance bring the Agriparks. |
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Thanks for your participating in the research

Comments and Observation: