Interview: Thoko

1. Date: 2022-03-01
2. Time: 10 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 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? Thoko  RQ2: Where do you live? Mohlakeng.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Below matric  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 31   * Do you farm? I’m a fresh produce farm worker (horticulture). * What do you farm? Spinach, Pepper-bells, carrots and tomatoes. * When did you start? I started in the early 2016s. * How did you start? I always worked in my family’s garden. * Why did you start? It was a family chore, which helped the family save money. | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Mohlakeng |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been farming? | | +7years |  |
| She lives in Mohlakeng, the yards are spacious and that is where she farms | | | |
| RQ8: How did you get access to the land? | |  | It is part of the family yard, it is huge. |
| RQ9: Do you own the land? | | No | No. I do not own land. |
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| RQ10: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | My parent started the farming, I joined whiles still at school. |
| RQ11: Have you received any training on farming? | | No. | I’m coached and mentored by my parents who grew up farming in the village. I attended a workshop organised by a university, I can remember the name now. |
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| RQ13: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | I’m employed elsewhere and do the family in the afternoons and weekends. |
| RQ14: How do you support your family? | |  | I stay with my parents and share all responsibilities. |
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| RQ15: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | I use spades, forks and hoes, it is mainly manual. | | |
| RQ15: What other forms of support do you get? | My parents are available with advice or buy seeds and fertilizers. | | |
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| RQ16: When did you get involved in the Agripark? | I’m not part of the Agriparks | | |
| RQ17: Where did you hear about Agriparks? | From some of the farmers who live here in the township. | | |
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| RQ18: What actual support have you received from Agripark? | |  | None. |
| RQ19: what other support and services have you received? | |  | None. |
| RQ20: What improvement has been brought? | |  | I have a lot from radio programmes and magazines on farming, it helped a lot. |
| RQ21: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. |  |
| RQ22: When did you start selling? | |  | Since my parents’ time people would come and buy, I’m continuing that tradition. |
| RQ23: Have you been involved in planning meetings and deciding on priorities? | |  | No |
| RQ24: What concerns and issues have arisen concerning the Agripark?  How are the issues resolved? | |  | People there are generally happy, but complain of poor service from the official and service providers.  The negative attitude of the officials, that seed are fertilizer are delivered late and sometime the water is not available. |
| RQ25: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | Farmers must be given control of the Agriparks, they must decide what they want to prioritise and how to operate. The official must only come in as monitors. |
| RQ26: Did hear about the Covid-19 pandemic and how were you impacted? | | Yes. | I heard from my work place and stopped going to work until the lockdown was lifted |
| RQ27: Did benefit from the Covid-19 relief grant | | Yes. |  |
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| RQ25: Have you benefited from working with youth or women? | |  | When my relatives are here their children always take an interest in the garden, it looks great. |
| RQ26: Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | The issue of part-time farmers is a real one that need to explored and supported. I make a living from my garden, it supports me. |
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Observations: She is enthusiastic about her garden farm, she is not sure whether she would venture into the Agripark.