Interview: Boniface

1. Date: 2021-01-06
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 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? Boniface  RQ2: Where do you live? Bathlaro.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Matric  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 59   * Do you farm? Yes, * What do you farm? Livestock (cattle) * When did you start? I started in my early childhood. | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Bathlaro |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been farming here? | |  | I started as a child looking after family livestock |
| The John Taolo Gaetsewe Agripark, launched in 2013, is a (proposed) 50 hectares site located on communal land. The JTG builds production capability by focussing on the production of commodities e.g. large stock (beef), small stock (sheep), vegetables, etc. As a Mega-park John Taolo Gaetsewe aims to advance the economy of the municipality; further the development and training of quality, experienced, previously disadvantaged farmers. It aims to create valuable partnerships with government departments to develop infrastructure like roads and water that support the Mega Agri-Park value chain. JTG is managed by the local economic development unit. The project is yet to take off. | | | |
| RQ8: How did you get access to the land? | |  | The land is under the local chief, we farm communally. |
| RQ9: Do you own the land? | | No | Communal land. |
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| RQ10: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | I grew up in the village, I look after my family livestock |
| RQ11: Have you received any training on farming? | | No. | I learned a lot from my family, I talk to experts in cooperatives. |
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| RQ13: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | I earn a state pension and sell livestock. |
| RQ14: How do you support your family? | |  | I survive from my pension and sale of cattle. |
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| RQ15: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | I have a herdsman who looks after my cattle. | | |
| RQ15: What other forms of support do you get? | None. I use my own resources for tending and upkeep of the cattle. | | |
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| RQ16: When did you get involved in the Agripark? | I’m not involved in Agriparks. | | |
| RQ17: Where did you hear about Agriparks? | I heard from the councillor, I went to the local economic development unit for information. | | |
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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 bought feed and medicine to improve my stock, it looks good. |
| RQ21: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. | I sell at auctions and walk-ins for community funeral or weddings. |
| RQ22: When did you start selling? | |  | I started selling during my parent’s time, I still do. |
| 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? | |  | We every support possible from the state if we are to compete with white farmers who own vast track of land and best breed of cattle. We need financial services, the commercial unwilling to give us loans. |
| RQ25: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | Agriparks must reach out to the villages and provide services, feedlots, dips, borehole water, supplements and veterinary services and fertilisation techniques. We need state support to buy more grazing and land and infrastructure such as dips and slaughter houses. |
| RQ26: Did hear about the Covid-19 pandemic and how were you impacted? How did you learn about Covid-19 | | Yes. | I heard from the news and radio. Our farm is close to us, we could walk to it and work.  As rural areas we could still attend to our animals. |
| Did you benefit from Covid-19 relief grant? | |  | No |
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| RQ27: Have you benefited from working with youth or women? | | Yes. | We keep livestock farming within the family, everyone gets exposed to it. |
| RQ28: Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | We are concerned about the future of the Agripark, we would like to know what is going to happen to it. |
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Observations: Boniface has over 20 cattle, the breed is mixed, grazing on (over grazed) communal land. Without financial support black farmers are doomed. He reckons that the Agripark will boost the district economy and create jobs.