Interviewee:Gugu

1. Date: 2021-03-11
2. Time: 14:00

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | |
| 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? Gugu  RQ2: Where do you live? Westonaria.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Below 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. | I’m at Westonaria Agripark. |
| RQ7: How long have you been on this farm? | | +6year | Since 2014 |
| I started farming with other women from the township and then move to the Agripark. | | | |
| RQ:8 Where do you farm? | | Westernaria Agripark | The size is about 5000m2 hectares covered by a net. |
| RQ9: What do you grow? | | High-value crop | I grow basil, butternut, coriander, spinach tomatoes, pepper bells, lettuce, and carrots |
|  | | | |
| RQ10: How many hectares do you farm? | | 5000m2 |  |
| RQ11: How did you obtain this land, and under what tenure? | |  | I joined other women who came here to ask for land to farm. I was allocated this land on a fixed term contract. |
| 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. |
|  | |  |  |
|  | | | |
| RQ13: How did you start farming? | I started farming with women who had land in the township. | | |
| How did you learn about the Agripark? | I joined women who told me about the opportunity, we all came together. That is how I came to know about this place. | | |
| Where did you obtain the capital? | I used my own money to come here every day, I received all the other service from the government. | | |
| RQ14: How many people work here, temporary and full-time? | I am the main farmer; the other women have piece job elsewhere. However, they do come when they are free. | | |
| RQ:15 What are your main inputs? | Seedlings, water, pesticides, and fertilizers. | | |
| RQ18: Where do you get your input from? I get all my inputs from the government.  How can Agriparks improve support? I think Agriparks are important to us, I have been able to make money from farming here, I provide food for myself and family. We need a variety of seeds so that we can produce other crops, we need equipment because I use my hands all the time. We also the need training, I want to build a farming business.  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 tomatoes, pepper bells, lettuce, and carrots |
| * How often? | |  | Once a week |
| * How did you get the market? | |  | Buyers come here, it’s by word of mouth. |
| * Are produce collected or delivered? | |  | Some products are collected and the others I 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. We have facilities like a warehouse and a security fence around the place.  I was coached by an intern which was helpful.  I have not signed my contract yet, and that worries me. I’m assured that I will sign it. Sometimes officials do not deliver services on time and delay our work. We storage and fridges otherwise we are forced to sell as soon as we harvest. |
| What market works best, and why?  What could be done to make markets work better? | |  | I have not explored other markets, I have not problem with way I sell.  It would be good if the government bought our products and resell. It will give us certainty and help sales. |
| * 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? I talk to the other farmers and share ideas, that is helpful. | | | |
| * has there been any changes in your farming? | |  | My crops improve with each season, the quality and quantity of products is good. I have improved as a farmer. |
| * 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 experience a lack of income, at home I had to spend more on food and basic commodities.  I stayed home.  I did not apply or benefit from the relief grant. |
|  | |  |  |
| Any other issues, you would like to raise? | | No. |  |
|  | |  |  |

Observation: She works hard, and want to stay a little longer until she financially strong to move on to her own farm.