Interview: Sussan

1. Date: 2021-11-08
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? Sussan  RQ2: Where do you live? Kimberley  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Post-Graduate  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 40 | | | |
| 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 you?  your decision? Where is the farm located? | | Livestock farmer | I have no previous farming experience, I read books, watched tv and programmes on livestock farming. |
| How long have you been in this farm? | |  | 4 years. |
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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 sources exist? How do you sustain your farming practices? Is there a family history to farming? Who decides on land use? | | No. | I’m leasing the land from the department of public works. Through the previously disadvantage groups programme. It is a monthly lease agreement it is extended at a cost (not subsidised). I’m responsible for the decisions, the farm is designated for livestock. |
| 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? | |  | I lease the land, I pay a monthly rent. The land is good for livestock farming, which is what I’m farming. I have to inform the department if I want to deviate from the land use agreement. |
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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 have learned books and videos, I take advice from the extension officer from the department of agriculture. My parent kept a few sheep and goats. |
| RQ10: What are the sources of your livelihood (that is how do you support yourself and your family)? | |  | I support both myself and farm from my income. My husband contributes. |
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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 have a feedlot, shelter, dip and fence, I full time herdsperson for security from theft. I get support from the extension officer and talk to other farmers. I farm for business, but I’m not selling yet. |
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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? | Yes, I was informed by the department of agriculture. Agripark are a good idea, there is need for intervention. Private banks are reluctant to take the risk without government guarantees. I would l like to participate but it is quite. | | |
| 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? | I was told my name will be submitted when it happens. I’m keen to get involved. | | |
| 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 m not selling, I’m still building a sizeable number. I will surely sell at the acution. | | |
| 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? | I think there is lack of political commitment to transformation, the budget cut is a clear indication. The extension officers are ill equipment and often complain of being under resourced and overworked by government. Deployment of fund and recruitment of personnel is important, then the development of infrastructure | | |
| 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? | I’m concerned about the month-to-month agreement, it makes investments difficult and you cannot get a bank loan under such an arrangement. The issue of agrarian reform remains elusive, I hope your study will clarify issues. | | |
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| RQ17: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | Radio and tv |
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| RQ18: How did Covid 19 affect you? | |  | It restricted my movement, initially it was struggle to get permission to travel to the farm to tend to the cattle. There was confusion with the issuing of permits. |
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| RQ19: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | I had to negotiate with the police, most were reasonable and allowed me to go the farm.  No, I did not qualify for the grant. |
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Comments and Observation: