Interview: Mpho

1. Date: 2022-11-02
2. Time: 12 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? Mpho  RQ2: Where do you live? Malamulele.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Graduate  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 58   * Do you farm? I’m a fresh produce farm worker (horticulture). * What do you farm? Spinach, tomatoes and macadamia nuts. * When did you start? I started in my early childhood. | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Malamulele |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been farming here? | | +5years |  |
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| RQ8: How did you get access to the land? | |  | It is communal land under the local chief, he together with his council assign land to community members. |
| RQ9: Do you own the land? | | No | Yes. It was allocated to me by the tribal authority. |
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| RQ10: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | I grew up here in the village, I joined my mother and siblings when they farm. |
| RQ11: Have you received any training on farming? | | No. | I learned a lot from my family, I read and consult with experts in the field. |
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| RQ13: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | I am full-time community development worker. I also eat what I grow. |
| RQ14: How do you support your family? | |  | My salary and income from tomato sales. |
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| RQ15: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | Mainly manual labour, hoes, spades shovels, and other innovations. I had experts help with the nurturing of macadamia trees and hired a plant machine to clear the area and build a bridge to protect my farm from water rise and flooding. | | |
| RQ15: What other forms of support do you get? | None. I use my own resources for the development and upkeep of the farm. | | |
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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 visited the Levubu farms and spoke to the people there. | | |
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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 built tunnels leading to the macadamia trees, had them pruned and the tree are growing well. |
| RQ21: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. | I sell the tomatoes that I grow on my yard to street traders and walk-ins. |
| RQ22: When did you start selling? | |  | It is a family tradition, I follow in the footsteps. |
| RQ23: Have you been involved in planning meetings and deciding on priorities? | | No | I have attended meeting organised by macadamia nuts growers and agents to understand the trade and markets. |
| RQ24: What concerns and issues have arisen concerning the Agripark?  How are the issues resolved? | |  | I not able to get support from the Agriparks or other government departments, I use my own money and resources. |
| RQ25: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | Agriparks must reach out to small-scale farmers and provide services, coaching and mentoring. |
| 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. |
| Did you benefit from Covid-19 relief grant? | |  | No |
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| RQ27: Have you benefited from working with youth or women? | | Yes. | The family is mixed women and youth they all assist. |
| RQ28: Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | What are government’s plans with us who farm in the village? We want to grow and sell in markets in the city. |
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Observations: Ambitious and hardworking, he is committing his resources to his farming project. It take time for the nuts to grow, especially to the standards approved by the agents for foreign markets.