Interview: Sputla

1. Date:2021-11-7
2. Time: 09:00

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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? Sputla  RQ2: Where do you live? Deurham.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Post-Matric  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 31 | | | |
| 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?  your decision? Where is the farm located? | | Livestock farmer | Started as a young boy herding family livestock, cattle, goats and sheep, it was family practice to be involved with herding. We live in Deurham in a communal area were we also farm our livestock. |
| How long have you been in this farm? | |  | It is a communal area, I was born here year 31 years ago. |
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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 source exist? How do you sustain your farming practices? Is there a family history to farming? Who decides on land use? | | Permission to Occupy (PTO) | We have a PTO, got form the village chief, common practice here. I sell and buy livestock, I help local farmers with livestock deworming, fertilisation and herding, that’s for addition income. I take decision about my farming practices. |
| 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? | | Family land. | My father owns the land, I use it with out rent as his child. |
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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 was reared a farmer, I worked for a wealthy livestock farmer who supported me through school and Technion where I studied animal husbandry. I received training from the local white farmer during my school practical. |
| RQ10: What are the sources of your livelihood (that is how do you support yourself and your family)? | |  | I support myself from the proceeds of the farm, it is not enough though. I’m still single, I get by. |
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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? | | Business Farmer. | I use the communal cattle dip, feedlot, I practically herd the cattle. There is a lot of cattle on the village you have to look after your herd to avoid cross breeding which will affect he quality of your stock. There is also theft, I can’t afford security. |
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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? | I became aware about the Agriparks from local talk, nothing official, never had a chance to talk to the official. I also know that it stalled, I would have liked to be part of that. It is important for black farmers to come together so that we work together, unity of purpose. I lot can work if we cooperate, we can get state support, which is coordinates and targeted. We can strengthen to local capacity and skill base of farmers. | | |
| 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’m still waiting, I will register if hit happens. There is lot of potential there. | | |
| 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 sell at the auction, it is where everyone sells or buy stock. I also sell to the public, I get better prices when I sell directly to people, funeral parties and so forth. My father before me did the same, so did my boss.  . | | |
| 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? | Land, we need land there is a lot of overgrazing happening in the village. More and more people invest in livestock, that compromise the size of the land to cattle, one cattle eats certain hectares of land per year, then it is quality of the grass water, soils and other extension service that are lacking. I have spoken to other farmers but there is no cooperation, the municipal extension officers are inefficient and few. We need land, capital, access to the value chain and markets. | | |
| 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? | It is difficult, to say, it was good start, we do need a one-point service centre like the Agripark with a concentration of different services. It will improve farming, livestock quality, preservation of the environment, improve local marker and economic development. What is the government’s intention with the Agriparks, will you update me on that? | | |
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| RQ17: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | From the news and local clinic. |
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| RQ18: How did Covid 19 affect you? | |  | Not much happened here in the village, the homesteads are isolated there is little contact. I herd my cattle in the open veld, there was not much police enforcement. |
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| RQ19: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | I stayed here, no significant changes to my way of living as a herder. No, I did not apply, I did not think I will comply. Most people complained about being rejected and thought Neh! |
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Comments and Observation: Sputla is a hardworking young person with ambitious of being a farmer, but capital and resources make it difficult for him. He wanted the Agripark initiative to happen, he believes it would have opened door for him. He can not get a bank loan because he is not employed or have collateral.