Interview: Boniswa

1. Date: 2021-02-24
2. Time: 15H00

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| Hello, I am Zakes Hlatshwayo, I am a Ph.D. candidate doing an academic study on: Emerging black farmers’ practices and state support to them: a study of three government Agriparks in South Africa. This study will explore the practices of emerging black farmers and their successes and challenges in three selected areas where Agriparks exist. Thank you for your willingness to participate. We are interested to understand your role and experience. 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 me 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? Boniswa  RQ2: Where do you live? Rooiwaal.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Matric  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 31 | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Rooiwaal |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been farming here? | | +2years | 500m2 |
| RQ8: What do you farm? What do you farm? Spinach, Pepper-bells, carrots, kale and tomatoes. | | | |
| RQ9: How did you get access to the land? | |  | I first came here as part of a cooperative but I applied for my own land parcel. |
| RQ10: Do you own the land? | |  | The land is owned by the local municipality, the farming project is supported by the Department of Agriculture. |
| RQ:11 When did you start? I started in the early 2019. | | | |
| RQ12: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | I learned farming from the women I came with here, they had lots of expertise. |
| RQ13: Have you received any training on farming? | | Yes. | I Participated in several workshops on my own accord, some were organised by Indaba Zokudla. |
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| RQ14: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | I’m still with my parents, the income from my farming goes to the family coffers. I provide catering services with a company I’m part of. |
| RQ15: How do you support your family? | |  | See above |
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| RQ16: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | It is hand labour, I use implement such hoe and spade. Now that I’m on my own my parents do come to help. | | |
| RQ17: What other forms of support do you get? | I receive emails with help tips and information from Indaba Zokudla. | | |
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| RQ18: When did you get involved in the Agripark? | I started farming here in 2019. | | |
| RQ19: Where did you hear about the Agripark? | I came to about Agriparks from the women I initially worked with, they got the information from the district office. | | |
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| RQ20: What actual support have you received from Agripark? | |  | I have open piece of land about 500m2, I receive seed fertilizer and pesticides. There is borehole water and tank for wittering, we also have a good security fence. |
| RQ21: Other services | |  | We have the intern who come here to give us ideas on farming new practices. |
| RQ22: What improvement has been brought? | |  | I have developed as person, which is important. I able to farm in business-like manner and make an income. |
| RQ23: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. | I sell the bulk of my produce at the Tshwane market, small traders who come here, and bakkie off-takes who buy and sell to others. I also sell directly to the community in Soshanguve. |
| RQ24: When did you start selling? | |  | Since I came in here we have been selling our produce.  I sell the same products, mostly to bakkie trade and to the catering company. |
| RQ25: Have you been involved in the Agripark planning meetings and decided on priorities? | |  | I have participated in their meetings, I also approach the official for information and share my ideas. |
| RQ26: What concerns and issues have arisen concerning the Agripark? How have they been resolved? | |  | I farm an open space with not net and fence, this is not good for me. Sometimes the farm inputs arrive late and complains take time to be attended to. |
| RQ27: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | The farmers must take control of the management of the Agripark, we need a representative structure. This will make sure that we all participate in the decision making and execution of the plans. |
| RQ28: Did you hear about Covid-19 and how?  Have you been impacted by Covid-19? | | Yes. | From the radio news and tv announcement, we also got a briefing from the management.  I lost a harvest and income. |
| Did you Covid-19 relief fund | |  | The department has applied on our behalf, still waiting. |
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| Have benefited from working youth? | | Yes. | I consider myself a youth, I have benefitted from the interns. |
| Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | I will like to know the future of this programme, I hear of budget cuts. It is important to know so that we can plan. |
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Notes: She has approached a commercial bank for a loan but t was rejected because she does not a permanent job. She reckons funding is important to allow farmers to develop.