Interview: Sussan

1. Date: 2021-03-02
2. Time: 10 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? Sussan  RQ2: Where do you live? Soshanguve.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Below matric  RQ4: Gender: Female  RQ5: Age: 41   * Do you farm? I’m a fresh produce farm worker (horticulture). * What do you farm? Spinach, Pepper-bells, carrots, kale pumpkins, and tomatoes. * When did you start? I started around 2019. * How did you start? I always worked in my family’s garden. * Why did you start? It was a family chore, which helped the family save money. | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Rooiwal |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been working here? | | +3year | I do work in four tunnels including an area outside, I work three others, |
| Sussan works for a farmer in the Agriparks, she gets a weekly wage. | | | |
| RQ8: How did you get access to the land? | |  | The land is owned by my employer. |
| RQ9: Do you own the land? | | No | No. |
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| RQ10: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | I’m from the township we grow a few veggies, my mother is a street vendor. She buys, not from this farm, and sell veggies. |
| RQ11: Have you received any training on farming? | |  | I have benefited from the coaching I receive from the officers and the interns who come to help us. |
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| RQ13: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | I earn my living from this business; my mother is very supportive. |
| RQ14: How do you support your family? | |  | I rely on my income and what my mother gives me. |
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| RQ15: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | Mainly manual labour, hoes, spades shovels, and other innovations, and water gallons used as sprinklers. | | |
| RQ15: What other forms of support do you get? | None. Sometimes the farmer brings more hands to help with the harvesting. | | |
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| RQ16: When did you get involved in the Agripark? | Above. | | |
| RQ17: Where did you hear about Agriparks? | I think from my mother I’m not sure anymore. | | |
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| RQ18: What actual support have you received from Agripark? | |  | I have benefitted from the coaching, I better understand how farm and look after my plants. |
| RQ19: what other support and services have you received? | |  | There is water and seeds provided to the farmer. |
| RQ20: What improvement has been brought? | |  | I think it has made it easy for black to get into farming with state support, in this way not put up a lot of money. |
| RQ21: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. | Yes, the farmer sells all of what is produced. |
| RQ22: When did you start selling? | |  | The farmer started selling long before I came here. |
| RQ23: Have you been involved in planning meetings and deciding on priorities? | |  | I have participated in several meetings called by the officials, but these were more about announcement than planning. |
| RQ24: What concerns and issues have arisen concerning the Agripark?  How are the issues resolved? | |  | There are complaints about the poor service provided, nothing works all the time. The borehole and other equipment breakdown or get lost with anything being done. There is need for properly scheduled training for both us the worker and the farmers, this will make us all productive. |
| RQ25: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | We need better roads and transport coming to this place, we also need space for women to benefit more. |
| RQ25: Did hear about the Covid-19 pandemic and how were you impacted? How did you learn about Covid-19 | | Yes. | I got information from the radio and tv, everybody was talking about it. |
| Did you benefit from the Covid-19 relief grant? | |  | The department has applied on our behalf, I am still waiting to hear from them. |
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| RQ25: Have you benefited from working with youth or women? | |  | I work well with the other women farmers and the interns that come here. I hope the interns get work here. |
| RQ26: Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | No. |
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Observations: She hope to get her own tunnels as soon as their become available, the farmer is prepared to help her.