Interview: Tshepo

1. Date: 2021-01-06
2. Time: 14:00

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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? Tshepo  RQ2: Where do you live? Bathlaro.  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Below Matric  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 40   * Do you farm? Yes, * What do you farm? Livestock (cattle and sheep) * When did you start? I started in my early childhood. | | | |
| RQ6: Where is the land located? | | Bathlaro |  |
| RQ7: How long have you been farming here? | | +10 years |  |
| The John Taolo Gaetsewe Agripark, launched in 2013, is a (proposed) 50 hectares site located on communal land. The JTG builds production capability by focussing on the production of commodities e.g. large stock (beef), small stock (sheep), vegetables, etc. As a Mega-park John Taolo Gaetsewe aims to advance the economy of the municipality; further the development and training of quality, experienced, previously disadvantaged farmers. It aims to create valuable partnerships with government departments to develop infrastructure like roads and water that support the Mega Agri-Park value chain. JTG is managed by the local economic development unit. The project is yet to take off. | | | |
| RQ8: How did you get access to the land? | |  | The land is under the local chief, we farm communally. |
| RQ9: Do you own the land? | | No | Communal land. |
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| RQ10: Where did you learn to farm? | |  | My family and I grew up on a white man’s farm, that where I learned to farm and tend animals. |
| RQ11: Have you received any training on farming? | | No. | I learned a lot from the farmer. |
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| RQ13: What are the sources of your livelihoods? | |  | miner. |
| RQ14: How do you support your family? | |  | I survive on my income and that of my wife and sale of livestock. |
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| RQ15: What forms of labour/equipment do you use? | My father is living with us and take care of the animals. | | |
| RQ15: What other forms of support do you get? | None. I use my own resources for tending and upkeep of the cattle. | | |
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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 heard from my father, I did not do any follow. | | |
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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? | |  | My father has lots of experience and know what to buy and feed the animal, the progress is good but slow. |
| RQ21: Do you sell any of your products? | | Yes. | I sell at auctions and walk-ins for community funeral or weddings. |
| RQ22: When did you start selling? | |  | I few years after getting my stock. |
| RQ23: Have you been involved in planning meetings and deciding on priorities? | | No |  |
| RQ24: What concerns and issues have arisen concerning the Agripark?  How are the issues resolved? | |  | I have no information. |
| RQ25: In what way can Agriparks be improved, any suggestions? | |  | It will open opportunities for breeding and command of good auction prices. |
| 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.  As rural areas we could still attend to our animals. |
| Did you benefit from Covid-19 relief grant? | |  | No |
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| RQ27: Have you benefited from working with youth or women? | | Yes. | Sibling help with the farming, relieving his father. |
| RQ28: Are there any other issues you would like me to look into? | |  | Funding opportunities for small-scale farmers, he wants to retire. |
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Observations: Tshepo estimate that he has over 50 cattle and several sheep, grazing on (over grazed) communal land. He like the ideas of an Agripark, he believes it will benefit his farming providing facilities and services.