Interview: Kgosi

1. Date: 2022-11-07
2. Time: 10:00

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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? Kgosi  RQ2: Where do you live? Gathlose  RQ3: What is your highest level of qualification? Matric  RQ4: Gender: Male  RQ5: Age: 59 | | | |
| 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? | | I farm with livestock. | It is in my family history and tradition from grandparents, parents and my offspring.  Gathlose. We moved around during force removals but are back now. I’ve learned a lot over the years on disease control and fertilisation, I can do that though I did not train. |
| How long have you been in this farm? | |  | 11 years |
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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? | | Yes, as part of the returned community. Ancestral land.  Communal Property association decides on land uses. | The land was returned through land restitution. I’m a pensioner, no other income other than cattle sales. |
| RQ8: How do you sustain/ maintain your livelihoods? What are your livelihoods priorities and how are they met? Are there alternative means of income? Do they impact on your farming? | | The pension and savings maintain my livelihoods. | Priorities: food, water, health electricity, clothing, airtime, TV.  Livestock expenses: borehole water, feed, pesticides. |
| The Gathlose farms were returned by Department of Land Affairs land redistribution programme, allocated to a Communal Property Association. Only a few people returned, he uses two farms. | | | |
| RQ9: What form/s of labour or equipment do you use, if any? Do you farm for self-consumption, or selling or a combination of both, explain? What informs your decisions on these options? What are the comparative outcomes of each decision? Is any of these decisions supported by the private actors? | | Has 50 herd of cattle, 30: a mixture of goats + sheep and few live chickens. | He works for himself, there is not need for other labour. Only when he takes cattle to the auction does he get a truck to help. I sometime sell to local people during funerals.  The chicken is for self-consumption  No support from the state or private sector. |
| RQ10: Are you a beneficiary of the state support programme? How did you get involved? Why did you decide to be involved? For how long have you been involved? What did you do to be involved? How are you involved, part time or fulltime? What entry criteria, if any is used? Is any other member of family benefitting, if so how? | |  | Registered as a local beneficiary after invitation from the municipality yet to receive any support. Attended economic development meetings. I was invited as rancher to participate.  No other member/s of the family benefits. |
| Kgosi was invited by the LED to register as a beneficiary, he had not signed a contract because the project was still under construction but attended meetings. He did not pay any money, he was promised that he will be provide with extension service, access to vet’s feedlot, abattoirs facilities, buyers. | | | |
| RQ11: What state support do you receive (credit, access to markets, training, logistics, supply and distribution etc.)? Who decides, why? How is it delivered? What improvement, if any has it brought? Is there a lap between your expectations and what is offered? Do you have additional source of support, where? How is it managed? | | None | Since registering as a beneficiary, the project stalled, he does not know the reasons. None of the promises made were met. “I have lost complete confidence in the whole thing”.  They promised us training and capacity building on breeding and management. We need research to inform and develop our farming methods, so as to compete globally. Animal husbandry and disease prevention are important skills. |
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| He expresses disappoint, the state is not supporting black farmers, it is bias toward big white owned farms. “I have no money, I can’t borrow from the bank, I can’t buy from the auction because I have no money. He insists that the white farmers collude beforehand, “they sell expensively to us and sometime they travel to remote areas from auctions. I was planning a cooperative with other farmers | | | |
| RQ12: Do you have access to product markets, local or abroad or a combination? How were the markets identified, how are they regulated? How do you access the markets? How is this process or relationships with the markets structured? | I sell at the auction, there is one every month. It has been there for all these years. It used to serve only white farmers during apartheid, now it is open to us. It is still run by the whites. You register either as a buyer or a seller there is fee you pay, the highest bidder wins. If I have cattle to sell I sometimes put in on WhatsApp or talk to friends then word gets around. | | |
| RQ13: What is the actual support provided by Agriparks in regards to credit facilities, extension services, logistics, methods and technology? Who are the main suppliers of servicer to farmers? ‘What are the beneficiaries even achieving? What change are they making? What are the characteristics of the policy and programmes with regards to equality, gender and class? | I have not benefitted at all. I hope they will open, I need credit to buy stock and, Ofcourse the marker to sell. I think the idea is a good one, the old Bophuthatswana supported farmers in the homeland. | | |
| RQ14: In the period leading up to the development of the state support programmes, what were the underlying understandings? What were the various stakeholder influence? In what ways do the lived experience and practice in the sites inform progress? Is the programme perceived to have taken a leadership role in shaping practises? If so, in what respects? | I was invited to the meetings by the extension officer, told me that the Agripark will be launched to support livestock farmers. I was told about the business plans, I did not see them, and that the land has been identified and the chief agreed. It held a huge promise, had it materialised. I’m disappointed. | | |
| RQ15: What are your actual experiences? How are you evaluating your participation? What issues and concerns have arisen in connection with the functions of Agriparks? What efforts are made to address these issues and challenges? What systems have been established by Agriparks to deal with the changing functions of emerging black farmers? How can they be improved? | I have seen the land from a distance, there is a new kraal build there but nothing else. I’m not sure about the future plans, there is no feedback on what is to happen.  There is still need for state support, fiancé, credit, logistics, access to markets and basic infrastructure. | | |
| RQ16: In the form of experience, in what ways do the lived experience in practice in the sites inform progress?In what ways, if any, is there a disjunction between experience and formal policy statements adopted and announced by policymakers? | I think, had it happened it would have been a good idea. We need infrastructure, roads, abattoirs, credit, market and leather industries. We told there would be a diary as well. | | |
| Kgosi, is part of the CPA, the land he is farming is part of the Restituted land. He lives by himself on the farmhouse. He just affords his basic need, survives on the money from the sales. He buys his own feed, electricity for the bore hole pump and any other material he may need for the farm and farming. Despite his age looks energetic and still has ambition to farm extensively. | | | |
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| RQ17: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | Radio and tv |
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| RQ19: How did Covid 19 affect you? | |  | I’m on the farm not much changed, I could do my work. However, under Covid-19 I could not go to the auction, people stopped buying cattle because of the regulations- I could not access the stockist because they had closed. There was confusion and uncertainty, especially during the first period. |
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| RQ18: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | No, I applied for a state support grand but yet to receive support. |
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Comments and Observation: Hardworking and committed to the community and farming.