**Bright’s Interview notes**

**INTERVIEW INFORMATION**

Date: 6 February 2021 – present

Location: Vegetable Hall

Place of operation: Joburg Market, City Deep, Johannesburg

Interviewer: Makhanana Malungane

1. **PERSONAL INFORMATIONS**

Name/pseudonym: Bright

Age: 28

Sex: Male

Highest Level of Education: O-levels

Role in agro-food system: Processor (D) Distributor (F)

Do you have other occupations? No

How long have you been involved in business? Since 2016

D. **PROCESSORS**

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| 50) | What do you process? | - Cauliflower  - White and Yellow corn  - Table celery  - Brocolli  - Lettuce  - Cabbage  - Carrots  - Baby Marrow  - Spring onions  - Cucumber |
| 51) | Is this the only thing you process? | Yes |
| 52) | Have long have you been processing this? | Since 2016 |
| 53) | Have you always processed here? | No. I used to work for another market agent company |
| 54) | How did you start you start this business? How did you hear and learn about the business? | A friend introduced me to the business |
| 55) | Where do you source the produce, you process? | All over the country depending on the season. But most of the farmers are acquainted with my boss |
| 56) | What machinery and other inputs do you use? Do you own or hire inputs, such as packaging, electricity use, repair services needed such as sharing? | *Equipment (all equipment is owned by the company*   * Forklifts * Cold storage * Pallets   *Packaging*   * Packing is brought from Rebelo or Morning Dew based on our needs at the time |
| 57) | How often do you source the different produce? | Every day, there are schedules for when deliveries are dropped off. But the largest orders are delivered on Monday |
| 58) | Why source from these places? | My boss has long standing relationship with the farmers. Also, the produce we process if of good quality so it would be folly to go and source inferior brands |
| 59) | Do you employ any people and if so how many? | Not personally. But the floor has 15 employees including the night shift. |
| 60) | Who do you sell to (probe wholesale/retail ratios) | We have core orders from the surrounding packhouses and family-owned greengrocers. They comparise the bulk of our pre-packing orders. But holistically, I think the Maputo Mamas and the hawkers account for the majority of our customers. |
| 61) | Are you part of any association or organisations? | Not personally |
| 62) | Do you have any other collaborations with others | Yes. Some of the orders include produce we do not source on the floor so I have to source them from other market agents at the market. |
| 63) | Since this time last year, has there been any changes, and if so what change and when and if there was a change what caused the changes, in | Yes. I was not operational this time last year. I |
|  | 1. *What you sell?*   No   1. The prices you sell for?   Yes. Market prices change all the time it all based on supply and demand   1. In your cost of doing business?   No. Business has had more shocks than usual but all has remained the same   1. Frequency of purchasing inputs.   No. The frequency of purchasing inputs is determined by the amount of produce harvested and delivered to the market. For example the bad weather in February and March lead to fewer cabbages and carrots been harvested which lead to lower deliveries.   1. People you collaborate with   No   1. The number of people you work with?   No   1. The organisation of the market   The market floor changes every 6-months based on sales and volumes. However, this year there has been more changes as new market agents entered the market to replace those that had left   1. The government regulations or taxes or other government interventions?   No   1. How you travel to get your inputs and the transport used?   NA. The inputs are delivered to our floor   1. What has been the biggest impact of Covid-19 for your business? Do you think this is a short-term impact or long-term?   **The business is not mine. I am an employee.** To tell the truth little impact has been made to the business because of Covid. It is more weather related than anything else. Yes, there was fewer activity when hawkers when were banned but we have recove   1. What were the impacts of the lockdown on your business? Have you recovered from this?   None   1. Has there been any other impacts in your life from Covid-19 and lockdown?   I lost a couple of close friends and relatives. |
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**H. COVID-19 and COVID measures**

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| 103) | What do you know about government responses to Covid? | The government is trying to protect their citizens from the virus by imposing a lockdown |
| 104) | How did you hear about Covid and government responses to it? | Through a meeting with management |
| 105) | How have these responses affected you? | I am more careful at home. I always take a shower before I talk to my family |
| 106) | How have Covid and Covid measures affected your household and reproductive work? Any effects on economic activities | There has been no change. The market never closes it is open 24/7. But my household work changed. I began to take the night shift so I could take care of my 6-year old daughter and began to wash my cover-all so as not to spread the virus in case I was in contact with a positive person. |
| 107) | How have you responded to the changes brought by Covid? | I wear a mask and sanitize regularly but at times it can be hard to wear a mask all the time given the type of work I do. So I prioritize sanitizing more than anything else. |
| 108) | Have you benefitted from any Covid related government or non-government support? If so what support was received? | No |
| 109) | How have you responded to the changes imposed by government? | 1. What they did in response (probe any innovations, changes in equipment or technology)?   No   1. Participation in any associations? Has the role of that association changed?   No   1. Have you been part of or had any discussion with any government officials or leaders? If so with who/which level of government? Did you get any benefit or see any change from that discussion?   No |
| 110) | Has there been any change since Covid in what you and your family eat? |  |

**Additional notes**

Bright is in charge of all pre-packed orders on the floor. He is responsible for insuring that bulk items are properly packaged before collection. The orders are bound for the Food Lovers pack house located behind the market and various Spars and Family-owned green grocers in the area.

Before Bright started to work at the market, he was as professional football player. He moved to Swaziland after signing a contraction with a local team. Although he enjoyed playing soccer full-time his salary was not enough to send back home and take care of his needs in Swaziland. A former professional soccer player, Aaron who was a market agent at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, told him he could earn more in the fruit and vegetable industry in South Africa. Aaron offered him a job as a packer for the company he works for, paid for his taxi ride to South Africa and took care of his expenses for the first few months.

Bright adopted to the job quite easily and got promoted to a supervisor than manager of the packing department. He oversees a minimum of 4 packers a day (sometimes he takes on causal workers depending on the work).

According to Bright, the impact of Covid on the business has minimal aside from the dip in hawker sales and employee transport problems during alert level 5. He believes that weather conditions had bigger impact on the business and are the sole reason for lower sales during the period. For heavy rains and frost due to Cyclone Eloise limited the supply of carrots in February leading to unprecedented prices. However, he does agree that hawkers do not buy as regularly as they use to especially those that bought in smaller quantities.