**Victor’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: 27

Sex: Male

Highest Level of Education: Diploma (incomplete)

Role in agro-food system: Forklift Driver

Do you have other occupations? No

How long have you been involved in the business? Since 2016

D. **PROCESSORS**

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| What do you process? | | All fresh produce on the market floor. I also collect packing orders from Hall A either from morning dew or Rebelo and assist to offload deliveries from the farm | |
| Is this the only thing you process? | | Yes | |
| Have long have you been processing this? | | Since 2016 | |
| Have you always processed here? | | No. I used to work for another market agent company. I moved with one of the managers when he left the company | |
| How did you start this business? How did you hear and learn about the business? | | I had come to Johannesburg for better opportunities after quitting my job as an intern in Newcastle, KZN. A friend of mine said I could find a job here [at Joburg market] since I also had a forklift license. I walked around the halls and my manager took a chance on me | |
| Where do you source the produce, you process? | | They produce mostly comes from Krugersdorp, Elspark, Limpopo, Blomhof. The rest is from all over the country | |
| 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 * Market agent floor   The equipment is serviced by a person my boss knows sometimes it is taken to the factory somewhere in Boksburg. | |
| 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. On Monday both the day and night shifts are very busy | |
| Why source from these places? | | Quality. The company I work for only sells and uses the best. | |
| Do you employ any people and if so, how many? | | Not personally. But the floor has 14 employees including the night shift. | |
| Who do you sell to (probe wholesale/retail ratios) | | Based on loads I take, I think the packhouses around the market are our biggest customers, but the Maputo Mama’s give me a run for my money sometimes. | |
| Are you part of any association or organisations? | | No | |
| Do you have any other collaborations with others | | No | |
| Since this time last year, has there been any changes, and if so what changes and when and if there was a change what caused the changes, in | |  | |
| 1. *What do you sell?*   No   1. The prices you sell for.   Yes. This place is about supply and demand. Fewer stock means higher prices like what is happening with cabbages right now. They are scarce so people are willing to pay more for them.   1. In your cost of doing business.   Yes. The forklift fuel has become more expensive   1. Frequency of purchasing inputs.   Based on my job, I don’t think I make any fewer loads. The answer is no   1. People you collaborate with   No   1. The number of people you work with.   No   1. The organisation of the market   Yes. Spaces of operation on the floor change every 6 months based on performance   1. The government regulations or taxes or other government interventions?   No   1. How you travel to get your inputs and the transport used?   No   1. What has been the biggest impact of Covid-19 on your business? Do you think this is a short-term impact or long-term?   **The business is not mine. I am an employee.** To Covid only affect the business at the beginning of the lockdown because hawkers were not allowed on the floor. Now the problem is market conditions, like bad weather and high demand from our supermarket buyers   1. What were the impacts of the lockdown on your business? Have you recovered from this?   I would not now. I do not see the numbers   1. Have there been any other impacts in your life from Covid-19 and lockdown?   I lost some family, back home in KZN. | |
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**H. COVID-19 and COVID measures**

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| What do you know about government responses to Covid? | The Covid 19 lockdown is in place to protect the people of the country. There are alert levels that country is under according to the national disaster management act. Based on the spread of the virus, we move up and down the different alert levels |
| How did you hear about Covid and the government responses to it? | Over the radio. I always listen to the news when I am driving my forklift. I also saw some stuff on Facebook |
| How have these responses affected you? | I have to wear a mask at all times at the market. Failure to do so will result in an R250 fine. |
| How have Covid and Covid measures affected your household and reproductive work? Any effects on economic activities | I live alone. My 3 children are based in Newcastle. So, there are no changes to my household work |
| How have you responded to the changes brought by Covid? | I come across a lot of people on the floor. I have to be vigilant. I always wear my mask on the platforms and sanitize whenever I can. I also never take off my mask when I am in the taxi going or coming to work |
| Have you benefitted from any Covid related government or non-government support? If so, what support was received? | No |
| How have you responded to the changes imposed by the government? | 1. What did they do 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 |
| Has there been any change since Covid in what you and your family eat? |  |

**Additional notes**

Alert Level 5 | Transport problems

Victor was adversely affected by the public transport restrictions imposed during alert level 5 of the national lockdown. Despite being issued a permit by the company Victor had trouble coming to work on time because he used public transport.

Victor stays in a flat in Germiston CBD about 20 minutes (+/- 12kms) from Joburg Market. Before Covid Victor reported for duty at 4 pm. However, alert level 5 regulations limited passenger numbers and operating times for public transport. The operating times fell outside his travel times of 3h30am and 11 am. Victor recalls a time when he could not find a taxi to take him home. He tried to hail a cab, but it would cost almost R200 which he could not afford given the added responsibilities he had back home in Newcastle after 2 of his siblings lost their jobs. Victor says he had no choice but to walk the 12kms home. He bought an energy drink, a packet of chips, and put on his earphones and walked. It took almost 3 hours to get home. This happened numerous times and resulted often exhaustion and frustrated.