



Progress Report January to March 2020 **Goat Agribusiness Project**



1. Introduction

The KZN Goat Agribusiness Project is a partnership between Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), Department of Agriculture KZN (DARD KZN), Mdukatshani Rural Development Project (MRDP) and Heifer Project South Africa (HPSA). To this end a MOU and an SLA has been entered and the program involving contributions from all four partners was signed in August 2015, and the SLA in March 2016.

2. Background

The KZN Goat Agribusiness Project seeks to improve home food security and rural livelihoods and lead to helping to lift farmers in the 5 local municipalities of UMzinyathi, Zululand, uThukela, uMkhanyakude and uThungulu out of poverty. This will be done through a process of improving goat productivity and increasing commercialisation of homestead herds in these areas.

The project will create microbusinesses for local unemployed youth who will support farmers' productivity with these businesses. These young people will broadly be known as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW). They will be trained up and given equipment to set up their small businesses.

3. Progress Report

CAHWs

The majority of the work for this quarter has been around administrative issues with the CAHWs. The current pilot to pay the CAHWs a start-up stipend is coming to an end as agreed with DRDLR. The contracts that were signed last year, also as a

result, come to an end this quarter and new contracts reflecting this change of stipend regime are currently being discussed and negotiated with CAHWs and new contracts drawn up and signed. There is still no clarity around which is the best funding model for stipends although we can report that paying of stipends to CAHWs has made them work better and more efficiently in the communities. There has also been markedly less turnover of the CAHWs in this period. To this end, we have been working, as part of our M&E process to track the turnover of CAHWs since the start of this project, how many have been trained in total and what has been the predominate reasons for leaving. The patterns emerging from this will help the piloting process as we will be able to plan a better CAHW program in the future. There have been 447 trained and of those 212 have left for various reasons, with the most common reason being better opportunities of permanent employment as well as recruitment by other NGOs who seem to be targeting CAHWs as they have already received training. There are currently 41 CAHWs that need to be replaced at current dips and a further 50 at new dips for 2020/21.

The payment system through the ABSA cards has also been going well although there were start-up problems around people understanding how the cards worked and some of the limitations of the system like being unable to move money out of a lost card to a new card or transferring the current credit to a new card. Altogether it has made payment of CAHWs more efficient and from an organisational view we can track monies paid out and verified they were paid out to specific people.



GAP staff assist with monthly vet kit inventories, check records and sign off on claims

Vet kit inventories by staff have also been able to ensure that they all have a functional vet kit and that they are getting their top-ups.

The goat diptanks for individual commercial farmers have been further developed and are going to be piloted by 3 families to get ideas around functionality, volume and ease of use. Some of the factors involved are being able to catch that many goats as one or two farmers, not wanting to have a large diptank as it will become too expensive to just dip their own goats but also have the dip deep enough and big enough so that goats do not hurt themselves. Also, seeing this dip will be closer to individual homes, what options would be necessary to prevent children or other livestock being endangered by the dip. Once a version has been agreed on, it will be tested and rolled out as a pilot. It is however, important to have such a dip for the larger farmers who are commercialising as they cannot drive their herds long distances to communal spaces.

Agrivet shops are continuing without further top-ups from GAP. However, the evaluation of these shops also raised the suggestion of CAHWs that would carry stock that they would sell to farmers that didn't want a CAHW injecting for them but wanted to buy medicine. As the CAHW is mobile, they can make money from mark-up from selling medicine to farmers as there are farmers who are commercialised already and inject and dose for themselves. This is being considered in the future CAHW program. A further business module would need to be added to the trainings as they currently stand.



Agrivet shops are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure stock and quality is maintained

25 new diptank enterprises for 2020/21 have been identified with the Livestock Associations, traditional authorities, municipal and Rural officials that we work with. The criteria for selection being an area that already has goats, has potential for more goats, is accessible to GAP staff and is not too far away from current GAP supported dips. The names and location of these is being communicated to GAP partners. Inception meetings with all the local farmers and officials are being held currently to introduce GAP and to ensure that farmers and officials are clear on GAP's mandate and activities as well as the responsibilities we expect from project partners and Livestock Associations. The CAHW selection and census then follows from this process.



The centre of all new enterprises to be reported on are dip tanks. Staff and farmers have been busy taking GPSing the 2020/21 areas.

Auctions and Sales

As a result of the National Minister of Rural Development, Thoko Didiza, banning all sales and auctions of cloven hoof animals, there have been no sales or auctions that group animals from different areas as this would lead to a larger chance of foot and mouth spreading. There have been some sales of farmers to speculators. These are seen as direct sales as goats from one herd go to one speculator to be sold and thus fall outside of these restrictions. That said, the effect on all livestock farmers from this livestock ban received a lot of press and negative publicity as this November to January period is when most sales happen for end of year celebrations and family gatherings.



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

11 December 2019

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE FMD TECHNICAL TASK TEAM ON THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK LIMPOPO

No further cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) were reported in the past week, but livestock owners and the general public should remain vigilant for clinical signs of FMD in their animals.

The prohibition on the gathering of cloven hoofed animals from two or more properties, for distribution to two or more properties, has been published in the Government Gazette on 4 December 2019 and is applicable to the whole country. This resulted after the Veterinary Authorities identified that the short-term congregation and redistribution of cloven hoofed animals played an integral part in the spread of the disease in this outbreak. This notice does not prohibit the movement of livestock from farm to farm, or private auctions of individual farms. The gazetted notice is available on the DAFF website <https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Home/Foot-and-mouth>.

Animal auction ban hits hard

2019-12-17 15:25

Clive Ndou, The Witness

The Witness



KZN cattle farmers who had been looking forward to a bumper festive season, now face a bleak Christmas following government's national moratorium on livestock auctions imposed to curb an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Limpopo.

The moratorium, which is effective in all nine provinces, has had a catastrophic impact on small scale and communal farmers, butcheries and braai-meat outlets.

Pietermaritzburg-based Karen Melouney, owner of AAM Livestock Agents and Auctioneers (AAM), which facilitates the sale of more than 2 000 cattle a week, said business had gone down by 90% since the moratorium was announced earlier this month.



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The DRDLR ban on livestock auctions was met with dismay by GAP farmers. December is when most goats are sold and bought.

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The project will have to assess from the upcoming census and December sales figures how profound this effect was. As of writing this report, this ban has been lifted and monthly sales are being planned however as reported around the Department of Agriculture (DARD) finances, the auctions have been stalled by DARDs continued non-payment. All the auctions from the last two quarters have yet to be paid for. A meeting has been requested once again to try and resolve this and a report on this will follow.



Monthly sales have started again after the livestock sales ban was lifted in February

Trainings

Although this time is generally difficult to get full attendance at meetings as January and December farmers are busy with family obligations, nonetheless trainings have taken place for farmers at diptanks and refresher trainings for CAHWs. CAHWs are also being readied for the upcoming census that will start this quarter, in March 2020.



Trainings with farmers and diptanks continued during the holiday season, starting up again this quarter

Trainings are planned for this quarter to train new CAHWs that are replacing CAHWs who have migrated out of the system as is reported in the CAHWs and the 50 new 20/21 CAHWs.

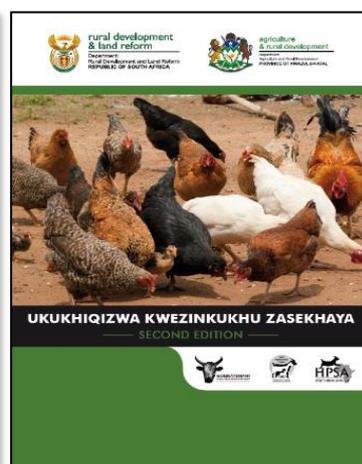
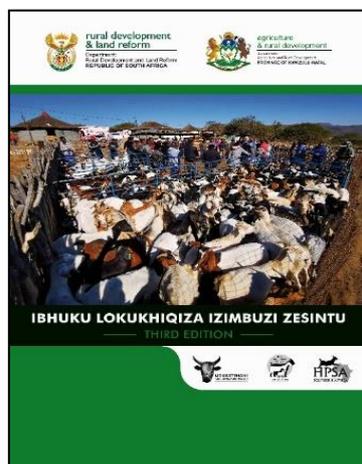


Practical hands-on experience helps CAHWs become more confident in their jobs

The issue with POE verification raised in the previous reports seems to have been resolved as there have been no further POEs returned and given to the project partners. However, there is continued concern about POEs being sent back because they apparently are for old diptanks which are no longer registered on the DRDLR system. We have questioned this with the municipal based project partners but are unable to reach any consensus. This will be discussed the next PPSC as there is no consistency across the municipal areas or between province and the municipalities. Currently, the staff keep a list of submitted POEs and accepted/rejected POEs so there is record of the overall work, even if it is not logged in the DRDLR system.

Training Materials

The English version of the Indigenous Chicken Production Handbook, under the auspices of the GAP project, has now been printed and is available as a companion to the Indigenous Goat Production Handbook. Both of these books have been completely translated into Zulu, not a small feat given that combined they are 150 A4 pages of complex, and often technical, information. In this quarter, they will be proofread by DARD staff so that they can be used by Agric Department staff. These also have been printed under the DARD agreement but not yet paid for. The further printing of the Zulu versions will await clarity on the DARD budget.



The latest editions of the GAP livestock production handbooks now in Zulu

Research and Experiments

Research is continuing in these areas with the University of KZN. The Mangosuthu Tech has been in discussions with GAP around creating a Livestock Production book for a larger range of animals to replace the now old Keeping Your Animals Healthy handbook. Some initial thinking and work have already been done on this book. These other livestock types would be an important addition to skills that CAHWs need to be trained on to become more wide-ranging in the animals that they would be treating for farmers. This has been brought up by the CAHWs as a requested training area going forward as they are often asked by farmers to treat other animals that they haven't been trained on and it would not be a big departure from their current skill set or vet kit.

Farmers that GAP works with, especially the women farmers, have approached GAP staff with requests to support learning around household chickens both to increase productivity but also to commercialise these. To this end, they have requested experiments on protecting and feeding chicks to ensure survival. They have also requested an indigenous live chicken sale alongside the monthly sales and auctions. This work, although not part of GAP's objectives is being supported as it links directly with both the farmers and the commercialisation activities of GAP.

A research paper is being completed with Professor Tim Gibbs, a lecturer in African History at University of College of London on the success of diptank associations in KwaZulu Natal and how the GAP program has been supported and has helped the success of these diptank associations. This is in contrast to the ex-Transkei where the whole system has collapsed and there are no structures supporting livestock farmers.

Monitoring

The GAP website is being updated on an ongoing basis. The statistics of work to date have been added to the landing page and as part of the M&E process the monthly statistics of work done as well as location of diptanks and contact numbers for project partners among the farmers will be posted on the website. The analysis of the census figures will also be presented post the current census. A research paper is being published by the Grassland Society of South Africa in a special drought focus looking at GAP's livestock figures and highlighting the issues faced by GAP farmers and surrounding communities in ongoing droughts and future climate change. The full paper will be published on the GAP site as will the Goat Master Plan and the paper on smallholder livestock in South Africa commissioned by the European Union.

Other Stakeholder Meetings and visibility activities

In December 2019, GAP was invited to a meeting to discuss an amalgamated red meat policy for DRDLR. This meeting included officials from National DRDLR and National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC). Some thoughts were put together from this meeting but the larger outcome was that a follow up meeting was planned to look more specifically at goats. In January, a 3-day consultation and field visit with NAMC, GAP, DARD and officials from National DRDLR. GAP was asked to write up and present a draft Goat Master Plan that would look at GAP activities and success so far and suggest intervention points around a Goat Master Plan for the country. DARD hosted the meeting at Cedara and after a day's discussion around options

and concerns, a field visit was held in Msinga. This was well attended by officials from both departments as well as NAMC officials. GAP was tasked with completing the Goat Master Plan and forwarding this to officials to add to a presentation for Parliament and the Minister. A follow up consultation of stakeholders is expected in this quarter. The Master Plan also looked at extending the GAP project outside of KZN into two other provinces and expanding its current footprint inside KZN. Other suggestions were floated around making eThekweni an agri-hub to concentrate goat sales for the whole province. It seems that this might be on other agendas also as the Agricultural Development Agency also approached GAP around a goat program in eThekweni and what needs to be considered in such a plan.



DRDLR National and NAMC visited GAP in the field to further inform the Goat Master Plan

GAP is currently working a proposal to extend the project for another 5 years with a more national focus towards commercialisation and expanding the role of CAHWs into more specific and broader business initiatives. We have been approached informally by commercial goat farmers in Limpopo Province who have asked that we visit the province, meet with them and provincial officials to discuss both an area and a proposed pilot of goat production in their area.

The project looking at Employment Intensive Land Reform options is planning a feedback workshop 25 March with DAFF, DRDLR and Treasury officials as well as colleagues from Jobs Fund, EU and academia in Pretoria. This will also feed into both the longer-term plan for GAP as well as the Agricultural Master Plan currently being developed for Minister Ms Thoko Didiza.

Municipality	Total Membership	Women	Men	Youth	Disability	Enclosures
Zululand	1149	616	352	168	13	15
uThukela	703	371	216	59	6	36
uMzinyathi	1872	1045	461	116	16	137
King Cetshwayo	1080	503	389	146	12	16
Umkhanyakude	1977	1007	672	254	24	32
	6781	3542	2090	743	71	236
Total groups						
Zululand	51					
uThukela	26					
uMzinyathi	89					
King Cetshwayo	41					
Umkhanyakude	66					
	273					

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones

4th quarter- Year 4

Milestone	Year 4	Progress
Animal Health and leather CAHWs identified and trained- 3 per dip tank	There are a total of 245 trained animal health CAHWs with vet kits and uniforms	There is a total of 447 CAHWs who have been trained since the start of the project. 212 have left for various reasons. 50 new CAHWs are being selected for the 25 new dip tanks for FY20/21. Existing CAHWs have received refresher trainings and new contracts are being signed.
Censuses/diptanks	25 additional diptanks have had a census with relevant agreements in place with diptanks, LAs, tribal authorities and municipality for a total of 115 diptanks	CAHWs are currently getting refresher trainings on census taking and the existing 115 dips will have their censuses carried out in March. The new diptanks will have a census in April.
Auctions	14 sales yards (non permanent sites) are having regular auctions (2 per livestock association)	In this quarter, farmers have generated R101 450 in in monthly sales which started in February. No sales were allowed in January because of the ban. No auctions have taken place during this period because of the ban and non-payment from DARD.
Agrivet shops	12 Agrivet shops are equipped and selling in Keatsdrift, Pomeroy, Weenen, Tugela Ferry, Nkandla top, Nkandla bottom, Nongoma, Jozini, Mkuze, Hluhluwe, Hlabisa, Manguzi	The 12 Agrivet shops are going very well. Ongoing monitoring is happening.
Experiments	2300 women are taking part in experimentation groups around goat nutrition and productivity (20 per 115 dip tanks)	We have 273 groups in the 5 districts with 3542 women taking part in experimentation groups. Total membership is 6781.
Goat enclosures- kid feeding	195 goat enclosures for kid feeding are being used (3 per 65 dip tanks)	229 have been built since the start of the project. Ongoing research around these enclosures is taking place. A pilot has been ongoing with 100 kids or more. This has been rolled out to the five districts and there are currently 12- 100 kid enclosures.
Innovation platforms and research	Quarterly innovation platforms are taking place with proposed research topics emerging and lessons learned are being documented and disseminated	No innovation platform has taken place during this quarter. There is ongoing research on goats contribution to household food security.
Increased productivity	Goat productivity has increased by 50%	This milestone is being achieved. Based on census data, productivity is measured is 60% which is an increase over the previous year of 23%. It is likely to continue to increase in the

		coming years as herds recover from the 3 bad years of drought. 60% is a good productivity rate in indigenous goat herds.
Livestock Association training	7 livestock associations have received quarterly trainings in agreed upon topics	Livestock Associations are being trained quarterly.
Dip tank trainings	115 dip tanks have received bi annual trainings	These are ongoing.
Herd commercialisation	5250 farmers have commercialised their herds (750 per LA)	Farmers suffered this quarter due to the ban on livestock sales and all sales came to a halt unless it was farmer to farmer. 6781 farmers are active in the project.
Exchange visits	At least one exchange visit per project (5 total) has happened with lessons learned documented. At least one visit to another country has taken place where goat markets are formalised.	Farmers exchanges happen on an ongoing basis.
Ongoing monitoring and evaluation	Ongoing collection, compilation and analysis of data. Lessons learned collected and shared. Annual surveys. Ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders.	M&E Officer currently getting further training. The GAP site has been updated with reports and data for the project.

4. Conclusion

The project is going well.

