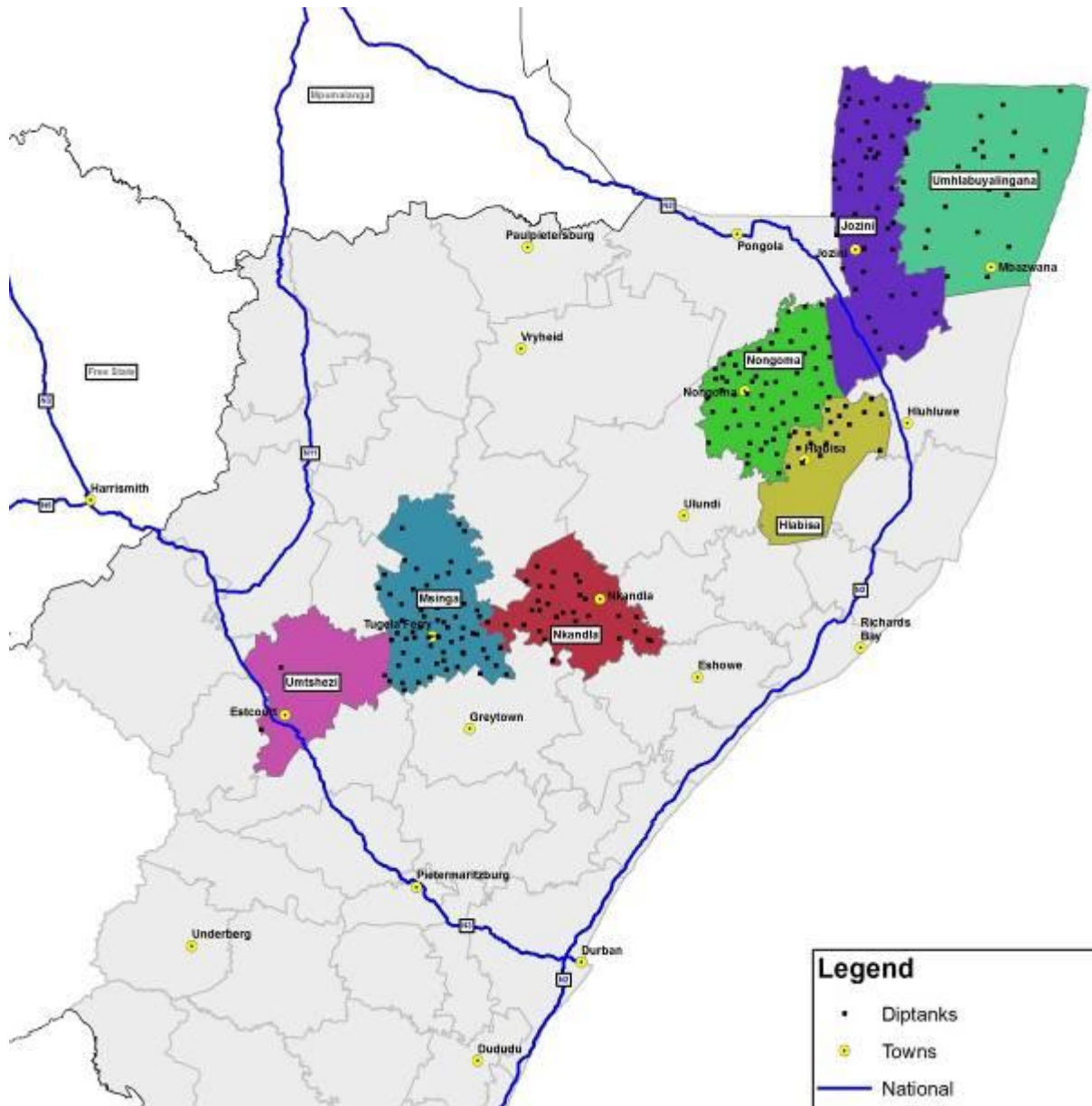


PROGRESS REPORT

KZN Goat Agribusiness Report

1. Introduction

The KZN Goat Agribusiness Project is a partnership between Department Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture KZN, Mdukatshani Rural Development project and Heifer International. To this end an MOU has been entered into and the program involving contributions from all four partners was started at the end of 2015.



A map of the project areas shaded and dip tanks dots

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 municipalities of Umzinyathi, Zululand, uThukela, Umkhanyakhude 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

The KZN Goat Agribusiness project has been started in the 5 District Municipalities as was planned. The project has been adopted by the KZN Department of Agriculture. A meeting with Msinga goat farmers was held to discuss and promote the goat energy blocks, which are made and sold by Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), as a drought management measure. This meeting led to the Goat Expo and Goat Dish Competition where MEC Xaba and the Zulu King Zwelthini jointly launched the project. Premier of KZN Mchunu turned the sod of a goat abattoir that forms part of this project the following week. See report attached.

The original work plan was set for the beginning of December. Progress to date has been good. Many of the milestones have been exceeded. Much of the capital expenditures will begin from the beginning of April onwards.

3.1 Community participation

For the first 6 months of this project funds were used to get the projects set up, project introduction to the community stakeholders, meetings with Rural Development, staff, dip tanks, livestock associations and farmers

The Terms of Reference for the KZN Goat Agribusiness Provincial Technical Steering Committee have been drawn up. The Committee has met at an inaugural meeting and a second full meeting is planned this month.

A Goat Master Plan has been drawn up by Department of Agriculture KZN which aligns this project with the overarching MOU.

The training materials, including a Goat Production Handbook and 8 training modules, have been finalised and are currently being printed by DARD KZN at a budget of 1.5 million. The project has been officially launched by DARD KZN (MEC Xaba) through a Goat Expo and Goat Dish Competition attended by King Zwelethini, provincial and local dignitaries and other stakeholders.

Meetings were held with the EXCO's of each of the livestock associations involved in the initial have been consulted and are on board in all the areas the project. Traditional authorities have been consulted and are on board in all these areas also.

Meetings at a district level of Department of Agriculture officials have been held to get buy in from all levels of officials.

There have been no programme deviations so far. Pending the finalisation of the SLA and release of funding, some of the milestones have been pushed back by a quarter. This has been done in consultation and discussion with DRDLR staff.

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones

The project has launched and started in the 5 municipalities as envisaged in the SLA.

The project have completed the census and are training and working in 40 dip tanks that were in the plan.

We have set up working agreements with the 7 livestock associations we had agreed to partner with and much of the work and CAHW recruitment has gone through them. They were invited guests at the launch of the goat master plan.

We have started training 2 youth per dip tank in 40 dip tanks, 80 youth, in the CAHW concept, animal feeding and basic animal health.

We have procured materials for 32 businesses to create and sell blocks to farmers.

Publications and training curriculum have been developed so as to be able to capture these learnings and be able to share them outside of these pilot areas and outside the province. A Goat Production Handbook has been developed based on work on the ground and is currently being printed in English and Zulu as mentioned above.

The project is involved in a process to develop a National Goat Development Strategy. Eight animal health training modules have been developed and are being printed as noted above.

Unforeseen and unplanned positive effects are that goats have become a major point of interest nationally and provincially and many other areas and people have approached the project for assistance and interventions in their areas.

3.4 Expenditure narrative

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A drought feeding meeting with Msinga goat farmers



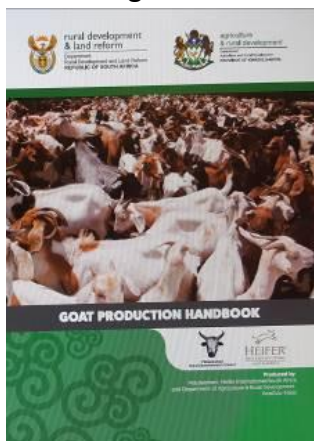
Gugu Mbatha, Mdukatshani Project Manager discussed goat feeding options



The Zulu King is shown some of the joint products developed for the Goat Agribusiness Project

3.4.1 Goat training materials

A Goat Production Handbook and training manuals were finalised during this period. These will be to support farmers and government officials in supporting goat productions. The Department Agriculture has starting printing these in Zulu and English. The Department Rural Development logo has been added to all these publications as a reference to the Goat Agribusiness partnership. There were staffing costs that went to this process in both writing it and translating the material.



3.4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

A census has been conducted in the 5 dip tanks of each of the areas shaded on this map -this census captures data on all livestock of each of these areas at every home in this area – this gives a ratio of livestock ownership patterns and investment in livestock so as to have a snapshot of current livestock trends and what people invest and spend on livestock. This data

will be revisited as the project progresses to measure changes in these trends and linked productivity. This process was done after the consultation process described above with necessary stakeholders. Two local youth per dip tank were trained in census taking and paid a stipend to collect information. These young people are to be integrated in the future job creation part of the goat agribusiness project.



Doing a census in the Jozini area

3.4.3 Trainings & Facilitation in Animal health

The Community Animal Health Worker training has started with 40 CAHWs getting two, week long trainings in the Mzinyathi and Thukela areas. There have been two trainings in the Nkandla, Zululand and Jozini areas with 38 CAHWs. Training in both of these areas has been in the Goat Agribusiness concept, Community Animal Health Worker concept and basic animal health. More trainings are planned in the next months.



The Goat Agribusiness CAHW finishing a training

3.4.4 Supplementary Feeding Set Up

As part of the launch of the project an animal feed block for goat farmers has been developed using an adapted brick maker. These have been purchased and supplied to each area where work is to commence. They are signed off to the local livestock association where they will be signed off by the livestock association head. This way if they are not utilised they can be retrieved and reallocated to people who will utilise them.



The adapted brick maker

3.4.5 Supplemental Feeding Training

At each area a training was held with the local youth and farmers to promote the product and initiate demand for the blocks to feed goats. A brickmaker at every dip tank where the work will start is being scaled out. Trainings involve using mix ingredients and offering samples to farmers to try out on their livestock and a small stock of bricks to start selling.



A training demonstration at Mhlabuyalingana

3.4.6 Winter feed business

The winter feed business has entailed sourcing and purchasing small hammermills to process stover, that is usually thrown away, so that farmers can feed these products to their livestock. It is envisaged that these hammermills will form part of future small businesses.



A hammermill processing maize stover

3.4.7 Research

The Goat Agribusiness Project partners have been involved in creating a National Goat Development Strategy with an initial meeting held in Middelburg with all national goat organisations. The launch of the goat innovation platform is planned for April 2016. The partners continue to present research and joint work at national workshops like the South African Animal Science Society.



Manqayi Kraai presenting some of doctoral work on Msinga goats as SASAS

4. Conclusion

The project has started well and is progressing at a good pace. It is going as planned according to our milestones. The upcoming drought will be a good time to establish the practice of animal feeding in these areas, this will enhance demand on products the CAHW are selling and create a good reputation for the project and its processes. Once the project is in full swing a lot more activity than is seen in this report is expected. The only unforeseen issue is the drought that all of these areas are in the grip of. We plan to accelerate our winter feed program so as meet this challenge head on.