

PROGRESS REPORT
April to June 2016
KZN Goat Agribusiness Report

1. Introduction

The KZN Goat Agribusiness Project is a partnership between Department 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 an MOU and an SLA has been entered into and the program involving contributions from all four partners was signed in August 2015, and the SLA in March 2016.



Goats in Msinga

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, 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

CAHWs

The project is moving forward well with CAHWs having been chosen through a process of community meetings called by the Livestock Association. Local, interested, energetic, literate, preferably female, young persons are nominated to be trained as a prospective CAHWs. A letter of appointment is signed by the enterprise (Livestock Association) to formally approve this person for a training process. In parallel, the traditional authorities and other civic bodies

are used to appoint someone in the same way to represent women farmers in the area. In this way, we have now have two CAHWs per dip in all the 40 dip tanks we had set as a milestone for the first year. Post the first set of trainings, CAHW principles and training in census taking, the CAHW is then deployed to do a census of the dip tank area they are representing. These census documents are captured by the NGO project staff and are made accessible to local and provincial vet and production staff.



A training on goat handling and treatment in Hlabisa

Training

All these CAHWs have been trained in goat production and the basics of primary animal health care. They are also trained in winter feed processing and supplement production. The winter feed processing and supplement production has been moved forward in our milestones as a way of prioritising drought feeding for farmers in the next 6 months.

As part of this prioritisation, we have purchased a block maker for each dip and we have procured 5 mixes per dip. The assumption is that the two CAHWs per dip will work together to mix blocks and sell.

The issuing of vet kits is planned for the next quarter after an appropriate number of trainings has been done. The assumption currently is that up to the next quarter we will have two CAHWs per dip that will share the feeding and animal health processes. Once we have a clearer idea of the possibility of the stipends that we have requested, we will be able to scale up these numbers of CAHWs either by having more skills available per dip tank or increasing the number of dip tanks so that the CAHW enterprises don't cannibalise each other and have a better chance of becoming sustainable business units. These issues are tabled for the next PPSC quarterly meeting.



MSD provided a vet to do a dissection and post-mortem of a goat at Dundee Research station

Trainings of CAHWs, farmers, dip tanks and Livestock Association EXCO members are continuing. The numbers are reflected in the table below per district. As previously mentioned, the trainings we have been focusing on are around goats and feeding. In the next quarter, we plan on moving onto leather processing and more advanced animal health topics.

The staff of both organisations were also involved in a training on animal health at Dundee research station by MSD Animal Health which included a post mortem on a goat the NGOs had supplied.

Enclosures



Training in enclosure for winter feeding in the Mpofana area of Msinga

Enclosures to feed goat kids through stress periods are being built in each dip tank area. These enclosures are a meeting point for staff and farmers to learn from each other and expand the implementation of these structures. The enclosures are used by farmers together with the blocks and processed stover to increase kid survival rates and thus goat productivity.

Auction

A goat auction has been held in Jozini as a joint process with all four MOU partners participating and ensuring it is a success. Although it is centred on the livestock centre at Jozini, farmers from all surrounding GAP projects have been invited to contribute goats. A tent exhibiting and promoting CAHWs, the block maker and stover processing showed farmers the alternatives they could start having.

Innovation platform



The GAP innovation platform was well attended by people inside and outside the province

The first GAP Innovation Platform Meeting was held in Durban on the 26th April, 2016. It was well attended by over 40 people from all over the country as well local actors state officials and the livestock association heads. The discussions led to a number of future themes to be tracked and the next meeting topics were agreed on. The formation of this Goat Agribusiness Innovation Platform – it was felt by participants - would stimulate appropriate, effective, and sustainable production, marketing and policy strategies and technologies. The next platform meeting is scheduled late July. The presentations and workshop report have been posted on the Mdukatshani website.



A farmers day at Jozini demonstrating blockmaking and stover processing

Exchange visit

The first exchange visit took place in Msinga on the 14th June 2016 project staff from both NGOs as well as CAHW from all the areas. They were there to learn how to build enclosures and how to use them. They also had a discussion and training in how to process stover and use the hammermill. The DRDLR staff as well as local farmers and livestock association heads were also present.

In the news

The project has been covered in an article both in the Natal Witness but also in the Ilanga newspaper. There has also been an article in the Farmers Weekly.



The project was covered in the Natal Witness and Ilanga

General

The project is progressing well with milestones being reached. Ongoing meetings and collaboration with Department of Agriculture staff continue including meetings with the HOD Dr Mkhize. We are in discussions with the ADA around presenting this project to their board and meeting project staff separately to discuss the proposed goat abattoir. Meeting have also been held with the Veterinary sub-Department to discuss the implementation of their Dip Tank Technician project and how we ensure it is not counter to the current GAP CAHW project.

The drought is a very real danger to the project and its farmers. To this end the feeding, blockmaking and stover processing parts of the project have been prioritised over the vet kit hand out. The fear is that if there isn't feeding over this drought period the project could lose a whole year of production of kids. It also gives a good way to promote the system of winter feeding so that farmers can see that even in the most extreme circumstances it can help their flocks. Access to stover has been a problem as few farmers grew any dryland crops last summer (December 2015) so there are few reserves of plant material in the fields. To this end the project has been forced to buy Lucerne bales to supplement the blocks.



Part of the GAP Innovation Platform was a visit to a goat market in Kwamashu

3.1 Community participation

The project continues to work closely with the Livestock Associations as they are the main link into the community in our Enterprise developments.

The process to bring in KZN DARD management and staff continues. A meeting was requested from Mr Theo van Rooyen on the 18th May in Dundee to meet all senior managers in each of the municipal areas the MOU covers but this meeting was poorly attended and the agenda shifted to dip tank technician rollout. A meeting on the 26th May was held to resolve this and a further meeting is planned in the hope of getting the senior managers on board.

The municipal level technical committees have been established in each area and these meetings continue with a small change from the original in that there was a request that Veterinary and Production sub departments be invited separately.

Meetings have been proposed to municipal managers in these local municipalities where the project is starting but for the sake of continuity these are waiting August elections so the meetings do not need to be repeated in a short space of time.

The first PPSC was held in April and the issue of the training stipend was tabled as well as a proposed budget should this be accepted.

Meetings are being planned with the HOD of KZN DARD, ADA and the office of the premier all to discuss elements of the project and get buy-in.

As a work and communication tool we have taken the three founding documents of the Goat Agribusiness Project and amalgamated them into one document. This document serves to inform partners and staff on the thinking and implementation steps of the project.

Further to this a website is being developed to facilitate the sharing of information and progress between all four partners. The site is under construction but is www.gapkzn.co.za

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones

Milestone	Status	Issues or explanation
Meet all stakeholders in 40 dip	Done	All Ndunas and Livestock associations at the affected dips have been consulted. Farmer groups have been set up.
CAHWs identified and start census in 40 dips- availability of census	Done	CAHWs have been identified in all dips, two per dip, a census has been done in all but 7 dips The census information is kept at Heifer offices and has been made available on the website of the GAP program www.gapkzn.co.za
Training of CAWHs in animal health	Started	CAHWs are being trained in the agreed curriculum in animal health. Due to the drought, training on winter feed production and blocks is being prioritised.
Recruit further CAHWs for feed, blocks, skins	Started	Each identified dip is receiving a blockmaker and 5 mixes. The next quarter, we will begin identifying CAHWs for skins.
Procure vet kits and uniforms	Next Quarter	This will happen from July-September
Training Las	Next Quarter	We will begin training LAs in the next quarter
Training dip tanks and farmers	Ongoing	We have trained approximately 1,389 farmers and dip tank members this past quarter
Negotiate sales yards locations with LA	Next Quarter	An auction was held at the Jozini Livestock Centre on 23 rd June. We will be looking at ongoing auction sites in the next quarter in addition to what currently exists in Msinga and Jozini.
Recruit women farmers	Ongoing	Women farmer groups are actively being formed (with many already functioning) and women are being selected for experiments, including the enclosures. Trainings are ongoing.
Set up innovation platform meeting and invite all stakeholders	Ongoing	The launch of the first Innovation Platform happened in April with the second one being planned for end of July.
Exchange visits	Ongoing	The first exchange visit on goat enclosures has happened between all 4 MOU parties. The NGOs will potentially go on an exchange visit in September to the International Goat Association Conference in Turkey where they will showcase the project and innovations.

District	Enterprise support	Jobs	Skills
Umzinyathi	15	20 Census 10 Enclosures	240
Uthukela	10	20 Census 8 enclosures	146
Zululand	15	29 census and baseline 10 enclosures	142
Umkanyakude	5	17 census and baseline 20 enclosures	964
Uthungulu	15	10 census 10 enclosures	249

4.Conclusion



A CAHW from Hlabisa shows farmers the stover after being put through the hammermill

In conclusion, this past quarter has been one of establishing necessary institutional support mechanisms like the PPSC and the District Technical Committees. A large number of activities have been carried out such as an auction in Jozini, the first Innovation Platform and exchange visits. Most importantly in the areas of job creation, enterprise development and skills, 60 enterprises were created, 1741 farmers were trained, women's groups have been formed with 58 enclosures being built, 40 blockmakers and 200 mixes bought and being delivered and 80 CAHWs being trained.