

Progress Report on July-September 2017 **Goat Agribusiness Project**



Piloting monthly goat sale in Hlabisa

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 a 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.

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

During this period, the remaining 23 CAHWs who did not pass the assessment by June received additional training, were reassessed and have now passed. There are now 80 paravet CAHWs who have their vet kits and are using their vet kits. An additional 8 CAHWs in the Umhlabuyalingana municipality passed their assessment and will get their vet kits in the third quarter.

Also during this period, 50 new paravet CAHWs were identified and have received initial training.

A SETA training was held for all leather CAHWs. The leather equipment will be delivered in the third quarter.



SETA training for leather CAHWs

The total number of CAHWs we currently have are 160 paravet CAHWs (including 22 funded by NGOs) and 29 leather CAHWs. We have 80 dips we are working with. The target for year 2 is 65. We have delivered supplemental feed set up kits to the 25 new dips.



**The CAHW for Dungamanzi
Diptank heads of to treat goats**

Exchange visits

In August, a team lead by GAP took the ADA, provincial Department of Agriculture and Msinga Livestock Association representation to Tete, Mozambique for a fact-finding mission. The objective was to see goat value chains, specifically markets and abattoirs. We were welcomed by the governor of Tete province and the head of the Department of Agriculture. We were hosted by the head of the Veterinary Department of the Province, Dr Claudio Gule.

The main highlights of the visit involved visiting a meat processing plant called Canelfood which seemed to be a public-private partnership. Their processing included freezing carcasses to be sold whole and cutting them into different pieces

for supermarkets. Goat meat is primarily exported to Maputo, an 18 hour car drive away. Goat meat is also available in the local shops and supermarkets.



Carlos from Canal Foods shows the visitors the processing plant

We then visited the abattoir that supplies the carcasses to Canelfood. It is a continuation of the public private partnership that is also supporting the processing plant. It was a state abattoir that is becoming privatised under this initiative. And is made available to the Canelfoods at a subsidised rate. As a result of this subsidisation, we were unable to get a clear idea of whether any of these initiatives could be financially sustainable.

The abattoir itself has a dual functionality of cattle and goats. It can handle a maximum of 300 goats a day during the Halaal period. But generally, it takes 100 a week. Some interesting innovations were observed like pumping the carcass with compressed air to make it easier to skin. Chopping the horns off so they are easier to handle. Taking the lymph glands out of the goat so as to make it not have the “goat smell and taste”. A state vet is present to check each carcass and give it the seal of approval. The carcasses are frozen. The offal is sold to local traders. The skins are sold to the local crocodile farm as feed. Although the goats appeared healthy with almost no tick load, there were very obvious signs of quite heavy worm infestations, both tapeworm cysts and nodular worm.



The goats are slaughtered in the Halaal tradition

The third part of the visit was to a local market to see a marketing initiative that has been piloted by the Tete state department. This market takes place twice a week and involves all livestock, including cattle, chicken, goats, sheep and guinea fowl. The buyers are generally from Tete urban areas and come in their own vehicles. Goats are purchased individually from farmers for cash and a state permit is issued by the local officials. The goats were selling at very low prices compared to South African goats. A female that would sell for R1200 in KZN was selling for R300 in the market. It was interesting seeing how the goats were transported on bicycles and motorbikes and even carrying with a system of tying the goats 3 legs together to pacify it. Goat meat was being sold cooked and raw in the market. Where we could on the trip, we ordered goat meat which was very good.



Goats brought to the village market

The group also visited some farmers who were working with the government and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat). There were also some Agrivet shops we visited but the availability of medicines was in some crisis as the state had blocked all veterinary imports pending re-registration by the state.

In addition to the Mozambique exchange, we also had several farmer exchange visits around dip tank launches. Additionally, groups at the dip tanks have farmers days around chicken vaccinations where they also discuss problems facing their flocks and livestock and management interventions that could help. This also gives the CAHW an opportunity to show his knowledge and skills so that the farmers trust more in him and use him more often. It also gives the GAP staff and government staff opportunities to see how well these CAHWs have been trained and if there are any gaps where additional training might be needed.

Enterprise Support- Enclosures, Goat Dips and Agrivet Shops

Enclosures

As referenced in the PowerPoint presentation to Chief Director Mdaweni, we underbudgeted on goat enclosures. We only budgeted for one enclosure per dip tank for the entire project- 140 enclosures. The plan was to do 10 per dip tank. We have done more than 3 per dip tank to date or 158.

We'd like to propose 3 per dip tank going forward. For this year, it would mean an additional R375,000 for enclosures.

We take R172,925 from winter feed training for year two and put towards goat enclosures and experiments. We will be able to still provide the training but combine it with supplementary feed training.

We would then use R172,925 from supplemental feed equipment.

This will give us R345,845 for enclosures for the year.

We are not asking for additional funding. We are asking to shift money because we carried out some trainings more efficiently than anticipated.



Goat dips are built by farmers themselves and the GAP project supplies materials

Goat Dips

As part of the pilot, the 3rd innovation platform was around looking at more effective and efficient ways of dipping goats to cut down on diseases. Currently, we use a pump sprayer which is good for small herds but once farmers get into larger numbers, this becomes less efficient.

A dip tank system for goats is now being piloted in 7 areas. Since the last reporting period, we have launched 6 more dips. They are functioning very well. We have been launching them initially one per area where we invite the municipal staff, political figures in the area as well as farmers' associations and farmers. This is done to showcase the dip system and ascertain whether other dips would be interested in following this example before we decide how to proceed with the rollout. We also have been allowing various designs to be tried by farmers towards getting an optimal design.

They are currently costed at R3000 and the proposal is to construct them at the other 58 dips. So, an additional R174,000 is needed. We have been saving on costs and getting community buy in by only paying for the materials for each of these dips. Labour is provided by farmers.

Agrivet Shops

We have launched six agrivet shops to date in Nkandla (2), Pomeroy, Weenen, Nongoma and Hlabisa.

The package handed over includes 2 shelving units, equipment and suppliers for making blocks, an initial supply of blocks, training materials, posters and medicines to support the vet kits that the CAHWs have been given. The livestock association chair as well as DARD staff are involved in the handover. The shop owner signs an agreement that commits him/her to working with the livestock association and the CAHWs to sell medicine at a fair price and keeping a supply at his own expense going forward. The ongoing relationship with the shops is with support of training of the shop staff in basic animal health and medicine dispensation.



Mr Mthethwa at his Hlabisa, Esqhiwini Chemist/Agrivet shop

MSD held a 5 day training in September for staff and Agrivet shop owners. All attendees successfully passed the exam at the end of the training with average marks being 80%.

Since then, MSD has approached us to negotiate us to set up some structure which will allow CAHWs and shop owners to get medicine at wholesale costs.



The MSD training in Malelane training centre, Mpumalanga

Also in the longer term, a system where the livestock association members would be given cards and when presenting the cards on purchases they would get a further discount so as to create a loyalty system between the shop and the livestock association. We also plan to negotiate discounts with our suppliers that we would pass on to the shop owners. The GAP project will also start using the shop as a supply system for the replenishment of the CAHW vet kits and block making supplies.

We will be setting up six more shops in the last two quarters of this year. In Nkandla we are negotiating with the municipality to make a better site available.

Trainings

Trainings of Livestock Associations, dip tanks and farmer's groups continued during the second quarter all being AgriSETA accredited.

We continue to include DoA production and Vet sub departments into all of our work and trainings. We hope there will be a deeper commitment from them based on the signature of the SLA. Where the vet kits have been handed out we have done assessments together with these departments to ensure all project partners are comfortable with the level of competency of the CAHWs before we hand the vet kits over.

In July, there was a practical training on veterinary skills and post mortems conducted by MSD staff.

The number of people trained are reflected in the table at the end under Skills.



New CAHWs are given their induction training and practicals at the HPSA offices

Auctions

The auctions for this period have been postponed as a result of a request by our GAP partner, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, to incorporate the planned auction into a MEC launch of the GAP project. The launch was going to include a goat expo with local farmers bringing their best stock to expo and/or sell so as to support the MEC's goal of promoting indigenous livestock. The launch would be also tied to food security and the GAP programme's long term goal of reducing imports by producing enough local goats. With the catch phrase of 1 Million Goats a Year. The location was to be at Makhabeleni which is in the Kranskop Valley

bordering the GAP program area. A number of meetings were held with the office of the MEC, his Communication Department, local staff and GAP. But to date, the final date seems elusive. And GAP has put a deadline of 15 November on the latest we could hold the auction before it starts becoming too close to the end of the year. The GAP staff however have been very busy in the field motivating farmers in the three municipalities bordering the proposed launch as well as preparing goats that have been offering for auctioning by tattooing and treating them. These goats and farmers are impatiently waiting for the final date.

An auction is planned in Weenen and Jozini. The one in Weenen will be the first in the Inkhosi Langalibalele municipality. To date, 300 goats have been offered.

As planned, the project is also moving onto the second and third level sales that would be more frequent opportunities to sell goats. The GAP staff have been visiting the areas where goat sales are happening or could happen and looking at examples we could start piloting supporting sale systems to the current farmers and sellers. To this end, we have handed over 10 gates per municipal livestock association which will be brought to these less formal sales by the Livestock Association and set up in a way that promotes more regular and formalised sales. To date, we have three sales at Nongoma at the Mona Market.

Innovation platform

The next innovation platform is being planned for the first week of December. The purpose will be to look at indigenous goat research- what relevant research has been carried out and where gaps are.



Goat sales Nongoma

Monitoring

All censuses have been completed for the 65 dips. We now have year one and year two for the 40 dips and year one for the additional 25 dips. For each of these dips, we also have group membership numbers as reflected below with a breakdown of gender, youth and disabilities as requested in the previous PPSC meeting.

Municipality	Total Membership	Women	Men	Youth	Disability	Enclosures
Zululand	340	208	62	70	0	15
Thukela	336	238	98	38	3	30
Mzinyathi	1315	911	364	88	14	69
Uthungulu	198	95	79	24	0	14
Umkhanyakude	1225	558	186	130	17	30
	3414	2010	789	350	34	158

We have hired a full-time person to do data collection and analysis for the GAP program. He has collated information on each dip and it has been posted on the GAP KZN website.

There have been queries that led to concerns around the collection and sharing of POEs between GAP partners, especially DRDLR. We have established a system to try and mitigate against this where we have changed the way report handover of capital items to enterprises. We have further put together a central repository of all POE documents separated by Districts into a Dropbox system where any of our partners can go directly into the Dropbox folders and find documents that are missing or not been received and download them and print them.

Other Stakeholder Meetings and visibility activities

As part of our commitment to DARD we have taken on piloting an extension of the project through government staff at Vulamehlo near Scottburgh. We have had several meetings and the Vulamehlo staff and farmers have visited the GAP project in Msinga. Two CAHWs received animal health training and training on doing censuses. The census was conducted and paid for by GAP NGO partners. A meeting is planned at the end of October to take this to the next step.

As part of the SLA with DARD, we have monthly meetings to update on progress.



Goat sales gates are handed over to the Jozini Livestock Association

SLA DARD

The only outstanding issue from the PPSC discussions was that the Goat Master Plan needs to be signed by HOD or MEC but given the staff changes in the department, we have been requested to wait until things settle down before we submit it for signature.

Having signed the SLA, one of the urgent activities is to reprint the calendars and the goat book as there had been a problem with the printing in the initial phase. A lot has been learnt by the GAP project since the last book was written. So, a total revision has been necessary of the livestock calendars and chicken, cattle and goat books. This has taken a lot of time to line up the books, calendars, PowerPoint presentations and AgriSETA materials. The revised goat book should be ready by the end of the year.

Community participation

An outstanding issue from the last two quarters was the collapse of the Nongoma LA. An initial meeting made it clear that there were competing interests based around the Mona market and its future. We facilitated a meeting with each of the parties including DRDLR, municipality, Local Economic Development committee for Nongoma, DARD, Livestock Association, goat sellers in Nongoma and Mona. At this meeting, we discussed reinvigorating the Mona goat market through supplying gates to be used on Mona market days. We also got buy in from the local vet department to oversee the sales and to ensure the goats were in good shape and receiving food and water while in the pens. DRDLR also included a slot about a proposed feed lot for African farmers in the area. As it stands, the Nongoma LA is functioning again, meeting regularly and working with the GAP program on goat sales and support.

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones



A demonstration on goat health at Jozini by local CAHWs

2nd Quarter Year 2

Milestone	Year 2	Progress
Animal Health and leather CAHWs identified and trained- 3 per dip tank	There are a total of 195 trained animal health CAHWs with vet kits and uniforms	An additional 50 animal health CAHWs have been identified and trained. Leather CAHWs received SETA training on sewing.
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 65 diptanks	Completed
Auctions	14 sales yards (non permanent sites) are having regular auctions (2 per livestock association)	Two auctions were held in the first quarter. Two more will be held in Weenen and Jozini in the 3 rd quarter. Procurement of sales yard gates has been done and handed over to 7 livestock associations. Sales have started using the sales yard gates. 3 in Nongoma at Mona market.
Agivet shops	12 agrivet shops are equipped and selling in Keatsdrift, Pomeroy, Weenen, Tugela Ferry, Nkandla top, Nkandla bottom, Nongoma, Jozini, Mkuze, Hluhluwe, Hlabisa, Manguzi	In the first quarter, 3 agrivet shops were launched. Three more were launched in the 2 nd quarter with the remaining 6 to be done in the second half of the year.
Experiments	1300 women are taking part in experimentation groups around goat nutrition and productivity (20 per 65 dip tanks)	There are 3,414 members are active in the 65 dip tanks and 132 farmer's groups.
Goat enclosures- kid feeding	195 goat enclosures for kid feeding are being used (3 per 65 dip tanks)	Only 120 have been built. See further notes around budget issue on this line item. We propose an additional 3 in the 25 new dip tanks for a total of 195 if our budget realignment is approved.
Innovation platforms and research	Quarterly innovation platforms are taking place with proposed research topics emerging and lessons learned are being documented and disseminated	An innovation platform will be held in December to look at goat research- what has been carried out and where the gaps are.
Increased productivity	Goat productivity has increased by 25%	A data specialist has been hired and will start analysing data. In experiment groups, kid mortality has been reduced in the experimental shelters. This needs to be scaled out to the large group.
Livestock Association training	7 livestock associations have received quarterly trainings in agreed upon topics	Livestock Associations are being trained quarterly.
Dip tank trainings	65 dip tanks have received bi annual trainings	In the second quarter, 45 trainings

Herd commercialisation	1750 farmers have commercialised their herds (250 farmers per livestock association)	350 were bought from farmers in the 2 nd quarter and sent to Jozini. Additionally, R90,000 was generated at Mona Market goat sales.
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.	An exchange visit to Mozambique was held in the 2 nd quarter. Additionally, farmer exchanges are happening regularly and farmers theme days.
Ongoing monitoring and evaluation	Ongoing collection, compilation and analysis of data. Lessons learned collected and shared. Annual surveys. Ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders.	65 censuses have been carried out in the first quarter. A baseline form going into more detail was developed and over 600 interviews conducted across the province. A follow up survey will be conducted annually to compare progress. An audit of all records has been completed with records being captured electronically, analysed and posted on the GAP KZN website.



A vet kit handover ceremony in Nkandla with the farmer's groups and the local dip tank committee

Total farmer groups in each DM	
Zululand	14
Thukela	12
Mzinyathi	65
Uthungulu	7
Umkhanyakude	34
Total	132



Stover processing by CAHWs carried on through the winter

The project is going well.



In bad weather dip tank and farmers' trainings are held inside a local home