

## **Progress Report April to June 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**

The project has worked through the COVID 19 lockdown but being safe and sticking to government regulations. This has meant compromising many of our plans and having to adapt others. We feel that the project has been amazingly good at still delivering despite this global disruption. This report however will be truncated as a result of these circumstances.

As of Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> of May, we got in field project work started again with a focus on production and marketing and staff. We applied for and was granted an essential services lockdown permit in both level 5 and now in level 4.



**The many masks of the staff that were shared to promote making and wearing these masks**

We have developed a detailed GAP Covid Policy to be able to adhere to government guidelines which includes meetings and trainings. Where these meetings happen, attendees must be screened, wash their hands, wear masks and social distancing must be maintained and a register is maintained for contact tracing.

During level 5, staff and CAHWs practiced mask making at home. The staff sent in pictures of these, so we were sure everyone had one. Some were better than others! They have all been supplied with sanitiser, disinfectant spray and the SA government screening questionnaire to ask and discuss around Covid19 symptoms.

We have obtained contactless temperature gauges to screen people coming to meetings and there has been an agreement not to have anybody over 55 or an old age pensioner at community meetings. People with higher than normal temperatures will be sent home and advised to contact a health worker. The staff have also been instructed to only meet outside so they can socially distance. Staff send their temperatures in daily via our Whats App groups and document the temperatures of the meeting attendees.



**The new normal , CAHWs working on census's and vet kits inventories is made more difficult by masks**

At the end of this quarter, 520 CAHWs have been trained. Of these 71 are new to the project, either being added with new enterprise areas or replacing CAHWs that left for other reasons. The project decided to suspend all activities that the CAHWs were involved in during level 5 of lockdown. They were advised not to go to farmers yards even in their own time. As of level 4 and to date we are working intensively on getting them back to work, catching up on trainings, finishing the census so that they can be equipped with vet kits for this year.



As can be seen below, April had no stipends paid out as no work was done during this time. This is a great pity, to have this disruption as the CAHWs were starting to build up a very positive momentum in their activities in the field. This is also reflected in the figures paid out monthly.

CAHWs are now back in the field visiting farmers, carrying out vaccinations and getting sales going. CAHWs were trained on conducting a census and a census was carried out in all 140 dip tanks during this quarter. The results are currently being compiled and will be shared on the website.

CAHW payments by district								
Uthukela	Amount	# of CAHWs	Mkhanyakude	Amount	# of CAHWs	Zululand	Amount	# of CAHWs
June	R 9 070	12	June	R 7 820	19	June	R 6 025	6
July	R 12 940	16	July	R 16 621	32	July	R 2 869	9
August	R 9 025	16	August	R 16 983	30	August	R 12 367	20
September	R 11 312	16	September	R 10 346	21	September	R 6 129	15
October	R 6 639	12	October	R 22 394	36	October	R 10 501	17
November	R 20 638	24	November	R 25 376	37	November	R 11 770	17
January	R 13 784	21	January	R 25 319	28	January	R 19 584	20
February	R 12 051	18	February	R 28 362	36	February	R 10 408	20
March	R 16 581	22	March	R 36 206	33	March	R 24 780	22
April	R -	0	April	R -	0	April	R -	0
May	R 17 629	35	May	R 10 381	15	May	R -	0
Totals	R 129 669	192	Totals	R 199 808	287	Totals	R 104 433	146
Umzinyathi	Amount	# of CAHWs	King Cetshwayo	Amount	# of CAHWs			
June	R 21 259	26	June	R -	0			
July	R 6 317	11	July	R 12 694	12	Total	R 683 692	
August	R 15 775	28	August	R 7 269	13			
September	R 9 245	15	September	R 2 675	6			
October	R 9 403	17	October	R 9 577	16			
November	R 19 140	29	November	R 5 808	11			
January	R 11 190	21	January	R 5 033	10			
February	R 6 062	12	February	R 4 162	9			
March	R 38 724	28	March	R 21 942	21			
April	R -	0	April	R -	0			
May	R 27 876	29	May	R 15 631	20			
Totals	R 164 991	216	Totals	R 84 790	118			



CAHW training and safety protocols at Jozini medical department grounds where we found enough space to have a training and collect stipend claims

## Enterprise Support- Enclosures, Goat Dips and Agrivet Shops

With the lockdown, staff have been forced to use Whats-App and CAHWs to check on enclosures, dip tanks and Agrivet shops. As far as we can ascertain, they all seem to be going well although the Department of Agriculture is reported to not be delivering dip in many areas. The dipping is also disrupted by the need for many people to congregate in the same place and has led to farmers dipping individually or

suspending dipping as it is the beginning of winter this is probably not as much of a problem as it could be.

From the beginning of the project there was a question about what enterprises that are supported are actually called. The existed institutions in the areas that work in support GAP and benefit from its activities and as a result GAP built up these institutions as part of its work. These institutions which are dip tank committees then took on the identity in charge of the GAP enterprise. To try and line it up so that it is clear that these are GAP enterprises and not a dip tank that has a geographical location or a structure, it has been agreed going forward that the 2020/21 dip tank areas that have been agreed upon will be called Goat Agribusiness Project enterprises in terms of reporting. They'll be differentiated by the name of the dip tank being added to the title. This will mean that the stamping of the POEs of the enterprise will be done by the farmers affected not necessarily the chair of the diptank who is not necessarily part of the project.

The diptank that was built Owen Sithole Agricultural College was an experiment to move towards creating dipping processes for single commercial farmers with larger herds and although this process was interrupted, the week before lockdown, the single farmer goat dip was built in a farmer's yard and on the day of the first dipping a farmer's exchange was held so that other farmers could see and learn from this. Going forward this diptank system will be tweaked and rolled out into other areas. Although it was not set up as such this type of dip will probably be better for a new social distanced environment where farmers and young people cannot gather to dip as groups.



**Goat sales for the spirits at the last market before lockdown the new Chair of the Nongoma Livestock Association meets GAP staff, The GAP CAHW filling in sales records for the Association**

## **Auctions and Sales**

As has been reported in many previous reports, there continues to be a problem with the Department of Agriculture sticking to its funding commitments and we have not been paid for 2 years and have an outstanding amount of R5 million rand that has been submitted to them 8 months ago.

To this end, a meeting was requested with the new Head of Department and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, GAP partners were invited to come and meet with him at his Durban offices. It was a short meeting where we got an opportunity to describe what the problem is. He and his officials said they could not take responsibility from previous department decisions and were unaware of this problem which is not a correct representation. They asked us to give him 7 days to look at the documents



and decide on a way forward. These 7 days expired as the level 5 lockdowns were announced and we have been unable to get any correspondence from them since despite having sent reminders and requests for the promised decision. We have been informed that as of writing this report, many are still not back at work because of Covid fears. A further meeting will be requested. Till we have this funding, we cannot carry on with the auctions as the project have already covered five of them from their own funds.

The project has continued to promote and support monthly sales for each district. The lockdown has severely restricted these processes. Based on sales data the project has been collecting over more than five years, it is estimated in KZN alone, around R250 million rand was lost to rural goat owners. In the survey conducted during level 5, farmers stated lost livestock sales was having a significant effect on their incomes.

There were no sales recorded in April. Easter is the second busiest time for goat sales among rural farmers. This cancellation of Easter and Easter sales was felt more severely than if the lockdown had happened at any other time. In May as sales started picking up again in the five districts, 300 goats were sold with revenue of R356 000.

GAP staff have linked speculators directly to communities so that they can at least carry on some sales. Some speculators were stopped and fined for transporting goats during lockdown. There seems to have been confusion around this nationally but it's clear under stage 4 that it is now explicitly allowed however speculators are still being stopped and asked for permits to be operating under the new level 4 restrictions. Most rural people don't have these so we will be trying to establish a way to bridge this. GAP has been lobbying the decision makers to make it explicit that livestock sales should continue and it is noticeable that it is explicitly stated in the regulations for level 3.



**The Dip tank training before and after the lockdown, staff have to speak louder and find bigger trees to get everyone to fit**



## Trainings

We were not able to have any trainings during April due to level 5 lockdown restrictions. The problem of having trainings continues into level 4 and level 3 both in terms of size of trainings, initially restricted to 10 and currently 50 but more difficult to resolve for us is finding a venue to meet at, being catered for and sleep at. For safety, GAP is still trying to have any of the trainings outside with social distancing. A staff meeting and training was held the first week of June to look at work for this quarter, experiments and intensive training on Covid regulations and going through the Covid policies. There have also been some induction trainings of the 2020/21 CAHWs in the field in small groups and although we have had police and officials question staff having gatherings, we have been able to get through this with minimal disruptions. Now, under level 3, we are theoretically able to have larger, more organised trainings but with most of the accommodation sector still closed we have had to settle on two venues across the provinces area where we are now doing the training to catch up on the current CAHWs and get them into the field. As a result of the complexities created by the lockdown, it is a lot more expensive to have these trainings as there are restrictions on vehicle, room sharing and meals. We have resumed dip tank trainings for the new enterprises as well.



The future goat farmers who have volunteered their goats for the experiment

## Training Materials

The website has been extensively rebuilt and the various training materials have been updated and uploaded to the website for people to be able to access remotely. As the project looks at possibly expanding beyond the province, there will be a need for these training materials to be translated into other languages and for other types of livestock. According to our plans, GAP should be printing training and resource



materials during this time but the inability of DARD to stick to its commitments has meant that this has not been able to go ahead.



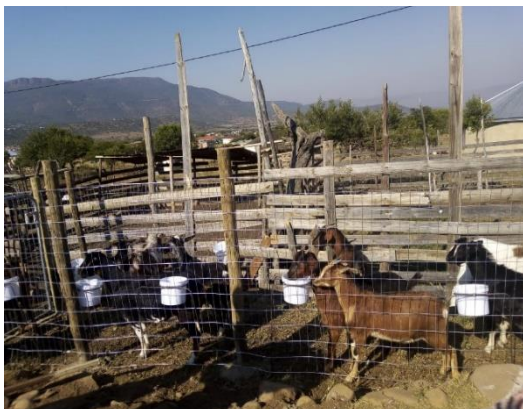
The pilot site, MamYengwas home in Ncunjane, where we tested goat feeding systems and how they could be separated and below the final product 2 litre plastic buckets in handmade metal hoops

## Research and Experiments

The project, with the EU and Treasury, looked at how agriculture can add to job creation in the country and has now been concluded. A rather voluminous document set has been generated. Two of these reports were authored by GAP. One of livestock in South Africa. The other a case study of the Inkosi Langalibalele local municipality. These are available on the GAP website and have been shared with National office in terms of future planning scenarios in terms of Covid and land reform.

A master plan was also developed in conjunction with NAMC for the National Red Meat Strategy. This plan, along with other commodity plans, have been submitted to Minister Didiza. Further engagement has been ongoing regarding expanding GAP's model and work nationally.

As a follow on to the original enclosure experiments, including the 100 kid experiment, that had been set up to feed kids to reduce mortality, an experiment suggested by our farmers and technical experts was to see what difference it would make to mortality and abortion problems to feed pregnant mothers in their last month of pregnancy and their first month of suckling. This experiment was piloted before the onset of the lockdown and after an initial period of 2 months, it was successful enough to start rolling it out to each of the areas that we work in. It is focused on women farmers and smaller than commercial herds. The rationale to experimenting in local areas is so that farmer exchanges can happen locally rather than provincially and so avoid lockdown problems.







**The one women dip tank being built and tried out, some tweaks to this will see a future distanced farmer dipping a commercial herd**

## **Monitoring**

The 2020/21 census has been concluded with 140 dips tanks with interviews taking place with approximately 28 000 farmers. Although it did slow in the month of April when we had instructed our CAHWs to stop moving around and we were also not able to train CAHWs in census taking, this did resume in May and the censuses are currently being captured and then will be analysed. This information has been shared and is currently being used as a basis for the keynote address at the Grasslands Society of South Africa (GSSA) talking about how livestock farming will need to change given climate change and the related changes in agricultural practices. It uses the data from the last 4 years to show how much farmers are losing in droughts as well as the different intensity goat and cattle farmers face with droughts.

A close out report looking at each part of the project's activities and reflecting on how it has gone and whether going forward there would be changes to the way the project would need to be implemented is underway. Once this is concluded will be shared with GAP partners.

As part of this closeout, a future proposal with an expanded geographical footprint as well as a more specific focus on commercialisation has been developed and is to be discussed with a proposed extension to the current MOU.

## **Other Stakeholder Meetings and visibility activities**

In the first three weeks of the lockdown, the project work slowed for Covid19, but staff, getting full pay, caught up on paperwork at home. During week 4 and 5- they phoned farmers and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) to understand how the shutdown has been affecting them. A summary of the 512 farmers interviewed was synthesised and shared. Both among colleague organisations, Rural Development and was published in a opinion piece around opening up informal markets. This was published in the local newspaper, the Witness, and on the online publication site BizHub.

The two papers that were published as part of the EU/Treasury project have received much attention and going forward will be shared more broadly with academics and decision makers. The Goat Master Plan, although a document as part of a future proposed policy, has also received much interest as there is currently



no document that pulls together both commercial and smallholder farmer viewpoints on the necessary policy and industry changes. It also describes a status quo of the industry which is not available anywhere else. The GAP program suggests a replication of many of the GAP interventions at a national level.



### Project membership

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
<b>Total groups</b>						
Zululand	51					
uThukela	26					
uMzinyathi	89					
King Cetshwayo	41					
Umkhanyakude	66					
	273					

### **3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> quarter- Year 5**

Milestone	Year 5	Progress
Animal Health and leather CAHWs identified and trained- 3 per dip tank	At the end of year 5, there are a total of 280 trained animal health CAHWs with vet kits and uniforms	There is a total of 518 CAHWs who have been trained since the start of the project. 212 have left for various reasons. 50 new CAHWs have selected for the 25 new dip tanks for FY20/21. 21 replacement CAHWs have been recruited. For a total of 71 new CAHWs. They have received census training and are currently receiving their induction training in the Agriseta Modules.
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 140 diptanks	The new diptanks will have a census in April and May. All dip tanks have had their annual census and livestock sales survey conducted.
Auctions	14 sales yards (non permanent sites) are having regular auctions (2 per livestock association)	In this quarter, farmers have generated R365 000 in May despite the Covid-19 lockdown. No auctions have taken place during this period because of the lockdown 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	2800 women are taking part in experimentation groups around goat nutrition and productivity (20 per 115 dip tanks)	We have 276 groups in the 5 districts with 3598 women taking part in experimentation groups. Total membership is 6781. New experiments have been launched for pregnant mother feeding to reduce abortions and kid mortality.
Goat enclosures- kid feeding and mother 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. 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. There is also a new mother feeding enclosure that is being rolled out across the 5 districts.
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 because of COVID. However, this was replaced with a learning exchange to look at mother feeding.



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	140 dip tanks have received bi annual trainings	These stopped because of COVID but have started up again in June.
Herd commercialisation	7000 farmers have commercialised their herds (1000 per LA)	Farmers suffered this quarter due to COVID and all sales came to a halt because of Lockdown. 6965 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 have started up again with the most recent being to look at mother feeding experiments.
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.



**The real workers, young boys separate and feed goats for their mothers, usually before school, but for now they happy for things to do and excited to take part**

### **Conclusion**

The project is going well.

