

Progress Report on October- December 2016

Goat Agribusiness Project



A Jozini goat kid that survived the drought

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, 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.



A community report back meeting

3. Progress Report



Record keeping in the community

During this period, there has been a split in trainings between the SETA approved trainings and the continued trainings run by both NGOs. The CAHWs have been expanded from 2 per dip to 3 per dip with the addition of a CAHW who will start doing leather goat skin processing and leather working. A SETA approved training was conducted by Impela Trading. This was a preliminary training but has used up most of the budget that was planned for this. The next steps for this is to approach AgriSeta provincially to provide learnership grants to pay for the next set of trainings. We are currently in negotiations Impela Trading and AgriSeta to submit these before the deadline. Once the second training has been implemented, a process of procuring leather equipment will be embarked on.

The Department of Agriculture Provincial has been training the CAHWs on a SETA approved course. This has also been at minimum cost as we do not have a lot of budget for third party trainees. In the SLA we have just signed with the Department of Agriculture, some SETA training is catered for.

The current CAHWs are being paid through own contribution by both NGOs as it was agreed that given the current financial situation of these projects any changes to the budget would have to be entertained from April 2017 onwards. This has also restricted the number of CAHWs to only 3 per dip compared to the 5 that was agreed upon. These changes were agreed at the PPSC meeting in September.

In this next quarter, we have planned to purchase and hand out vet kits for our best performing CAHWs. To this end, we have started assessing competency levels of all the CAHWs. We do this in a process that involves DARD Vet Section as well as chairs of the Livestock Associations. The chairs and departmental officials agree on whether they feel the CAHW has the competency sufficient to receive a vet kit and which CAHWs should receive more training.

Uniforms that purchased in the second quarter were handed over to the 80 CAHWs. The remaining uniforms will be purchased in the coming quarter.



Innovation platform meeting

Exchange visits

A staff exchange visit was held on the 11th of November in Jozini. This was to expose staff to preparing for an auction through mobilising farmers, getting goats healthy and tattooed as well as taking part in the auction so they are better able to plan for auctions in their own areas.

As this is a pilot programme, the project encourages other organisations and governments to come visit, see and learn and in this way be able to question and encourage the work they are seeing but also take it back to their own organisations/countries. In this last quarter, we have had the following visits:

Heads of African farmers' organisations from East and Southern Africa- there were 25 members in the delegation. They came through an EU funded organisation called CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation). Their representatives from South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Swaziland, Tanzania and others.



A CAHW at work

German exchange visit- Miseror, one of the funders of Mkukatsani sent out a group of 20 students who are student teachers wanting to look at how development and education intersect. They are currently working on a project using the goat project to create materials around learning.

Swaziland exchange visit- 20 Senior Swaziland officers of the Ministry of Tinkhundla, the Principal Secretary (CEO), Directors and other section heads in community development visited and want to do a similar project in Swaziland which can share information and learnings between the two projects.

PACSA exchange visit- PACSA, a NGO based in Pietermaritzburg sent 20 farmers from their projects around PMB and the Trust Feed area. They also want to expand the goat project into their NGO and the Umgungundlovu area.

Office of the Premier Poverty Eradication section has once again approached GAP to work together in areas where there are shared projects and where there are communities that could benefit from the GAP programme. There has been agreement in principal that we will start such a process and evaluate further on based on what it has meant in time and staff whether we have the capacity to continue with this.



German exchange visit

In the final quarter of the year, there will be the following exchange visits:

- Mozambique and Zimbabwe in January with ADA to look at goat abattoirs
- Namibia visit in February to look at value chains and sales
- Staff exchange in January
- Farmer exchanges



Leather CAHW training

Filming

As was reported last quarter, MRDP and HPSA collaborated around getting a local filmmaker to come and professionally film the work we are doing and the various the innovations we are trying out so as to create media for training and publicity. Filming was discussed with DRDLR Communications and carried out with DRDLR staff, DARD staff and NGO staff in Jozini, Nongoma, Nkandla and Msinga. The final products will be made available to DRDLR and other GAP partners in both edited and raw format as necessary.

The video has been slow as a result of us trying to get the SETA accreditation. WE plan on having the video finalised by the end of this quarter. The other products like training videos, etc. will follow at a slower pace as the SETA trainings and the other training processes start lining up.

Enclosures

One hundred and twenty enclosures have been built (3 per dip tank). This has expended most of the budget that was allocated towards enclosures. Both NGOs have put money into building enclosures at their own costs. The amounts budgeted for building enclosures was incorrectly calculated and the numbers of enclosures will need to be negotiated with DRDLR and if possible, some budget, reallocated from other line items within the SLA.



An enclosure in a home

Trainings

Trainings of Livestock Associations, dip tanks and farmers groups are the trainings that are not SETA approved but are continuing anyhow. Where it has been possible, DoA and Vet have been drawn in to ensure that these trainings are of a sufficiently high standard. Training of Livestock Associations on topics of their choice have been carried out.

Livestock Associations will be trained in good governance topics will be carried out in the coming months. Where possible, third party SETA approved trainers will be used.

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



Explaining GAP to international guests

Auctions

An auction was held by the Jozini Municipality on the 11th of November. The municipality had budget to spend on an exhibition so the auction was a joint goat exhibition and show day as well as an auction. As it was run by the municipality, HPSA was supporting a new partner in goat auctions and the normal processes of the different partners taking agreed on roles on how to make the auction happen did not happen. This meant that, although the auction was a success, a little haphazard and would need to be planned differently if it were going to happen in the future. One of the ongoing issues with auctions is DARD approaching DRDLR for support and being referred back to the project. Although both partners are very aware there is very little spare budget in the SLA. The new SLA with DARD does have a better budget and we hope that this budget starts becoming available in this quarter so that we can cover the outstanding auctions in Nkandla and Msinga. These auctions were planned for November but have pushed forward to February next year by DARD because of their

own internal processes. In terms of the smaller, more frequent monthly auctions at a dip tank level, we are planning to pilot these type of sales in 3 areas of the GAP programme of next year. This is necessitated by feedback from communities and livestock associations who can't conceptualise what these would look like and how they would work in the 3 areas. Each of these sites will also pilot an agrihub in a centralised area that would generate enough traffic to become viable.

There have also been further goat sales from Msinga to Limpopo. These are reflected in the POE numbers.



Innovation visit to a Jozini home

Innovation platform

The second innovation platform was held on 28-29 September. This was an in field visit with members of scientific and research part of Cedara, as well as other researchers from UKZN and Institute for Natural Resources. Officials from both DRDLR and DARD were also represented. The visit focused on Jozini and Hlabisa. Numerous issues were picked up around nutritional stress in the goats making them more vulnerable to diseases, parasites and other conditions. The meeting finished at Bartlow Combine research station with an agreed upon way forward on key research areas that will be explored. A third innovation platform will be held around value chains and commercialisation in the final quarter of the year.

Monitoring

Part of getting the CAHWs motivated and busy, we have been paying them out of our own contribution monitor the enclosure experiments. Each CAHW is responsible for monitoring three enclosures. This is also giving us an opportunity to determine which of them are committed. So, we are clearer which ones can be given vet kits. In the coming quarter, we are also planning to do the follow up census of livestock and farmers in each of the dip tanks we are working in. We will also be identifying the 20 new dips and two new CAHWs to be associated with those dips.



Goats ready for treatment

ADA meeting

As part of the SLA with DARD, we have started partnering with ADA around goat focused activities. The major one that has been taking our time has been the building of a goat abattoir in Pomeroy that was launched by the previous DARD Premier of the province, Senzo Mchunu, but has never taken off because there are no goat abattoirs in the country and no engineering firms are prepared to take on the responsibility of making one of these. The community are also unclear who the goat abattoir would serve. We had a follow up meeting with ADA on 8th of November with the local staff from the Msinga office of DARD as well as the chief Mombaso as well as the committee that had been set up to facilitate the abattoir. We presented a plan to have an exposure visit to goat abattoirs in neighbouring countries in the first couple of weeks in January. The ADA and community were in agreement. A visit is planned to Tete Province in Mozambique to see goat and goat/cattle abattoirs. As well as Zimbabwe to see goat and cattle abattoirs. On our return, we will then be able to start the process of getting the abattoir functioning.

A joint project between the functionaries of ADA and DARD facilitated a workshop led by Goats Unlimited Project to discuss goat agribusiness value chains. The GAP members were asked to present at this conference. It was very well attended. GAP members are following with Goats Unlimited, Ithala Bank and Durban Municipality.

Key speakers at Goat Agribusiness conference in Durban where we highlighted the project



Meeting Agriseta officials in Pretoria

Agriseta accreditation

As part of a request by DRDLR, GAP is working at getting their Animal Production courses AgriSeta approved. This has meant a number of meetings between DRDLR staff, Provincial AgriSETA representatives and GAP staff with further meetings with national staff in Pretoria to agree on the format and the positioning of these SETA courses as well as getting appropriate templates so that we can fast track the AgriSETA approval. The AgriSETA documentation and training materials will be submitted in the first week of December and we will be assured that this should take 3 weeks to get approved if all is in order.

SLA DARD

After a meeting with HOD S Mkhize, it was agreed that part of ensuring viability and sustainability of this project a separate and parallel SLA would be negotiated and signed with the provincial department of Agriculture through the member of this committee, Theo van Rooyen. This agreement has since been signed. Meetings have been planned with relevant officials to agree on expenditure and timeframes.

Community participation

The GAP partners have been continuing to work closely with livestock associations and women farmers groups. This is not only through trainings but also through collaborating with livestock

associations and traditional authority structures to police the work of the CAHW in the census. We have had these partners call community meetings to popularise the usefulness of mineral blocks and processed stover. They have also partnered in testing the CAHWs in practical trainings so they are comfortable to promote these people.

We continue to address meetings and gatherings on the GAP program to get the project well understood and taken up more widely.

Many farmers have been engaging through the drought feeding support through the blocks and stover getting their goats through this winter.



A proud farmer

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones

Activity	Detail	Milestone	Status
Meet Dip tanks Livestock associations Traditional authorities and the district municipality	Total of 40 dips and 5 municipalities	The local leadership are on board and send representatives district meetings	Done re diptanks Planned for municipalities but waiting for post-election municipalities to form so we can request meetings rom new councils
2 CAHWs identified per dip tank and start census	Total of 40 dips	A census per dip is finalised and available for 40 dips	Censuses completed – availability on website by dip tank
Training of CAHWs in basic animal health	80 CAHWs are trained in 2 modules and mentored in the field	Preliminary Training of 80 CAHWs is completed and the CAHWs pass practical test	Started late awaiting stipend finalisation 80 CAHW's trained practical tests done after trainings – final practicals underway with Livestock association and vet department oversight
Recruit further CAHWs for feed/blocks and skins processing	120 CAHWs recruited to start other micro businesses (40, one per dip, for each type of microbusiness)	120 CAHWs are recruited in a fair open transparent manner and are brought on board the CAHW program	40 skins CAHWs recruited to be trained in this quarter – other CAHW recruitment awaiting stipend issue
Training of 120 CAHWs for feed, blocks and skins	120 CAHWs are trained in their specialty of blocks, feed or skins	Preliminary Training of 120 CAHWs is completed and the CAHWs pass practical test	Training carried out for blocks and mixes and block makers handed out to each of 40 dips
Procure vet kits and uniforms	80 vet kits and 700 uniforms for all of the CAHW positions for the project	The existing trained animal health CAHWs have received vet kits and uniforms. The 120 other microbusiness CAHWs have received uniforms.	Vet kits to be procured next quarter awaiting practical test and agreed on 4 trainings. 80 Uniforms procured and branded to be handed out in current quarter Rest of uniforms await stipends issue
Procure microbusiness equipment and supplies	Buy hammermills, blockmakers, mix and skin equipment for 12 groups (120 CAHWs in 10 per group)	12 Microbusiness groups have are equipped to start producing blocks, winter feeds and goat skins.	40 blockmakers procured and handed over 5 hammermills procured and handed over Goat skins equipment awaiting training
Training LAs	4 trainings- one per quarter have taken place in management and good governance and two other topics of their choosing	7 Livestock Associations have been trained in management and good governance and two other topics of their chosing	Planned but not started

Training dip tanks & farmers	2 trainings in Animal Health in the 40 dip tanks (80 trainings total 1 st year)	40 dip tanks have received 2 trainings in animal health.	Trained and ongoing
Negotiate sales yard location with livestock association	14 possible sites (2 per livestock association). Equipment will be portable. These are not permanent sites.	14 sites have been agreed upon with the 7 livestock associations.	Agreed in Msinga, Nkandla and Jozini
Auctions in each livestock association	Led by DARD Rural Dev division	At least 7 auctions, one per livestock association area, have been held	Auction in Msinga and Jozini
Recruit women farmers in each district	20 per dip, 40 dips	800 women have been identified and are willing to take part in experimentation groups around goat nutrition and productivity	Women recruited -- 3 structures per dip Mzinyathi 2 for other 4 areas
Build pilot and experimental goat enclosures for kid feeding	400 (10 per dip tank)	400 goat enclosures for kid feeding are being used.	3 structures per dip Mzinyathi 2 for other 4 areas
Set up initial innovation platform meeting	Starting with existing goat interest group	Initial stakeholder workshop held with further stakeholders identified	Completed
Recruit additional members/stakeholders to cover all areas of VC	Farmers, livestock associations, dip tanks, research, government, NGOs, sellers, animal health suppliers, auctioneers	Additional members for innovation platform identified	Completed
Hold 4 innovation platforms	Agree on research agenda to start funding/bursaries; also identify places to do exchange visits	Four innovation platforms have been successfully held	1 held second one to be held in this quarter
Exchange visits	Exchange visits- project to project and visit to Namibia, Kenya or other countries where goat markets are formalized (yearly).	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.	2 Exchange visits between projects done Exchange visit to Mozambique abattoir planned with ADA

3.4 expenditure narrative

Expenditure is on track for this quarter the milestones that were set have largely been achieved. The process of POE and signing off of equipment delivered to enterprises seems to be on track and being done to DRDLR requirements.

4. Conclusion

The project is going well and is on track both in terms of what needs to be done but also in terms of timing. We are ahead of some targets and oversight and expenditure is happening as was planned.

There is a Service Level Agreement being negotiated and the department Agriculture has been committed and supportive. Reporting in terms of POE processes and systems is getting better although changes present challenges.

There has been a huge interest in the project and as a result many structures and NGOs setting up parallel products and processes. The project was able to get out in front of the drought in terms of rollout of energy blocks being made and distributed by CAHWs.



The international delegation



Agriseta materials