

Progress Report January 2019 to March 2019 **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 a 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.



The whole family is needed to take the goats to the dip

3. Progress Report

CAHWs

As reported in the last report, there are a total of 206 CAHWs and 138 of them with vet kits. We started the CAHW pilot in October. There were two different models with 26 CAHWs participating, 13 in each group. The first pilot was looking at increasing the amount of vet kit top ups that we provide based on a one to one ratio based on their purchased medicines. They got an incentive paid to them based on the treatments they provide to project members and other goat farmers on a sliding scale. This was to incentivise them to do more work with the project members in ways we could capture so we could report more clearly to GAP partners about direct benefits to partners.

The second model focused on paying the CAHWs for a variety of activities such as preparing goats for mini-sales by tattooing and deworming them. These CAHWs went out to the farmers inform them of the sales and got them to commit their goats to the sale. This way we could give buyers ideas of how many goats will be at any particular sale and attract more buyers and get better prices for the goats on show. In this model, they were also paid for their support of activities related to GAP in the field and these include DARD at dip tanks, theme days, farmer trainings, goat dip days, stover processing and supporting experiments.



Trainings at dip tanks involve all livestock owners and herders

This pilot process has concluded and a workshop to unpack and understand the lessons from this will be held in March 2019. There are some interesting examples where CAHWs have sent out flyers to all the farmers in their area and getting a huge increase in call-outs. And others where they have been able to facilitate and earn money from goat sales by project members. In both pilots, the CAHWs averaged R1000 over the two-month pilot. Pilot 1 CAHWs benefited an extra R1500 in medicines to top up their vet kits initially. These monies also don't reflect the payments they received from farmers for treating their animals. The highest of these received R3500 from farmer payments although this would include some purchase of medicines.

Going forward, GAP selected what worked best in both models and will pay stipends based on this with a focus that promotes the use of vet kits, servicing farmers and commercialisation. The new contract specifies the activities that can be claimed based on the pilot learnings. GAP will begin paying stipends to all CAHWs effective 1 April 2019.

A process is being followed to train all the CAHWs on census taking and at the same time reinforce the understanding of the stipend amounts that can be claimed for different tasks. To this end new contracts encompassing lessons learnt from in field problems have been drawn up and are being signed by every CAHW and enterprises. These also cover the time frame that stipends can be claimed and the duration of the CAHW agreement.

GAP management will be supporting DRDLR to draft an internal memo to Senior Management in Pretoria to formalise a change in an Addendum to the MOU and SLA towards shifting monies in budget lines so as to make these monies available as it has been made clear to GAP that extra budget would not be forthcoming to the NGOs in their current austerity drive.

Enterprise Support- Enclosures, Goat Dips and Agrivet Shops

2019 New dips

Uthukela	UMzinyathi	King Cetshwayo	Zululand	Mkhanyakude
Dotani	Cwaba	To be selected February 14	Manzaneni	Hlambanyathi
Ihlolemfuyo	Ndunge		Nkwene	Gwegwede
Khenekhene	Nomathiya		Bazini	GG
Gwede	Nhlanyanga		Manzimakhulu	Manaba
Siphethwini	Sbumba		Ekubungazeleni	Muzi



Goat enclosures and Agrivet shops were visited as part of ongoing monitoring

As reported in the previous quarter, the five Eshowe/Nkandla 2018 dip tanks were in suspense because a disagreement about the verification of census results. A meeting was held on the 6th of February with municipal staff and all GAP partners and Livestock Associations in Eshowe. At this meeting, it was resolved that these dips be given another chance and a process of reconciliation be started by Rural Development officials facilitating a meeting between GAP and the Livestock Association (LA). The LA committed to resolving the tone of process to date and finding replacement CAHWs. The LA would also approach the traditional authorities and inform them of the problem and agree to restart the relationship. A further two dips will be identified in the thorn areas in Eshowe and three in Nkandla. These would then be the new 2019 King Cetshwayo dip tanks.

The outstanding goat dip launches for the ADA funded dips will all be done before the end of March 2019. Farmers, LAs and government officials will be invited to these launches.

All 12 Agrivet shops were monitored in January to check stock. All shops are selling medicines. One challenge that came out was packaging size that would make sense for farmers. Some of the medicines are sold in packaging that is too big for farmers and it sits on the shelf and expires. GAP will look into how to support this going forward.



Gugu Mchunu Zululand project assistant talking to a buyer

Auctions and Sales

GAP project has been negotiating with DARD for the last 12 months around renewing the Funding Agreement that stems from the 5-year SLA that they signed with the NGOs. We have approached various officials as has been reported in previous PPSCs. To date GAP has written a letter to the HOD and separately MEC requesting a meeting to understand the way forward. Although this meeting has not happened, we have met the DARD Extension representative and also met the Acting CFO of the Department who assured us that the agreement could easily be signed as the audit finding was an internal technicality and not linked in anyway to the GAP work, contract or agreement.

The agreement was then revised into a 3-year financial agreement backdated March 2018 with budget and milestones revised to reflect the short time period the work going forward. However, the CFO agreed we could claim retrospectively on work done inside the GAP program. This agreement as far we understand is sitting with the Legal Department for tidying up and then will be signed as soon as possible. The GAP program has not been able to implement a number of activities because of this uncertainty. Even currently we are not able to commit spending in any items. We have proposed to DARD that they pay for 5 district auctions through their own SCM processes before the end of the financial year.

GAP has embarked on a series of meetings in each of the 5 project areas to meet with The Livestock association of the area as well as relevant staff from DARD vet and production as well as DRDLR area staff. These meeting are to update these



Various forms of mini sales have been happening

project partners and enterprise owners on the current years planned activities as well as make them aware of ongoing work and achievement as well as challenges. The farmers also gave their feedback and highlighted challenges and problems.

The farmers raised the issue of the non-implementation of the sales and other Department Agriculture supported activities. They were shocked to hear that there has been no funding from this partner in the last financial year. A further problem was that the local DARD staff had no knowledge of this problem.

To this issue there have been problems reported of farmers accusing GAP project staff of misappropriating these funds as they have received no notice of this from the DARD. GAP has requested a letter from the management of DARD confirming the non-compliance to the agreement from their side. This has not been obtained at the time of writing of this report.

During the first month of this quarter, there were 273 goats sold at mini sales generating a revenue of R272,140. At the time of this report, December and January informal sales were being collected across all five districts.

Trainings

In September, the GAP NGOs submitted a tender for consideration to be part of a panel of commodity and industry organisations to operationalise farmer production support units in nine provinces. Our focus would be to help strengthen and operationalise the goat commercialisation part of the Farmer Production Support Units. It is hoped that if we are accepted to this panel, we could scale out much of the experimental and piloting work that we have been doing and offer it to other provinces and other municipalities where we have not been working. We would also be offering the SETA approved training to other areas and NGOs. At the time of

writing this report, GAP NGOs had not had feedback on whether or not they had been selected to be part of the panel.



Trainings happen where it's convenient for farmers and project members

uMhlathuze Municipality (Business Support Market & Tourism Unit) has requested a partnership with GAP to have 20 women trained on goat commercialisation. They have approached the National Development Agency (NDA) for funding. They have asked that GAP co-present to the NDA and agree on a way forward.

Various small farmers have approached GAP from the Empangeni area to request support of training and extension in their commercialisation efforts. Although GAP does not have a presence there, we do work closely with the Owens Sithole Research Station who we have approached to set up a training and demonstration site of GAP's interventions which we would use to support local farmers after a training process and link them with Owen Sithole staff who could provide close extension support.



Farmer theme day at Mboza, uMkhanyakude

CAHW Trainings

To prepare GAP for the pilot and future stipend rollout, GAP has focused most of the energy the last quarter on training all the 206 CAHWs so that by beginning of next financial year, they all have vet kits, they all are trained to a sufficient standard to use the vet kits and this has also given us an opportunity to replace CAHWs who have left because of the stipend problem and train their replacements up to the same level as the larger group. These trainings have been held by area and have been a week each. The next round will take place in March. Thereafter, they will be assessed and those who don't have vet kits will be given vet kits.

In addition to all of the CAHWs taking part in a two-day census taking training, CAHWs from all 5 districts will attend a MSD Learning Academy in February.

Training Materials

The indigenous cattle and chicken books are on hold awaiting the outcome of the Department of Agriculture funding approval.

Innovation platform

An innovation around looking at the monthly sales and auctions towards a broader commercialisation program has planned for the 4th quarter- by the end of March. This would include municipal officials to talk about the laws and regulations in the municipal areas around selling livestock and how these could be changed and at what level to support commercialisation. It would also pull in speculators, buyers and sellers that have been taking part in auctions and sales so far to get a better sense of what is and isn't being sold and how we could tweak the process so as to come up with better commercialisation models in terms of volume and spread into these rural areas. Other NGOs and stakeholders, including Afasa and LED people will be invited. We hope to plan it around an auction, but this is also reliant on the signing on the Funding Agreement with DARD. If the auctions take place in March through DARD's SCMs as requested, GAP will plan this innovation platform around one of them.

An exchange visit will take place in March 2019 to the Northern Cape and into Namibia to continue the research and learnings that was started in 2017 in the first visit to Namibia to look at goat imports from Namibia to South Africa. GAP hopes to include stakeholders from GAP partners, ARC and AFASA. This is currently being planned.



The piloting of dip tanks is a great success in reducing mortalities in summer

Research and Experiments

The GAP program has been requested to take part in a research proposal that is to be submitted to National Treasury to look at how a future extension policy can support rural small-scale farmers and especially livestock farmers. As currently there is no extension policy for government officials who work with rural farmers. There is also not an enabling environment around laws and government policies as this sector is often discussed but very few people what the numbers of small-scale farmers are, who they are, where they are successful and where they are having problems. Our work so far on livestock numbers, through censuses at diptanks is unique in the country and will be used as a start of future national livestock censuses. The assumption would be that study could feed into suggestions to StatsSA to add questions in the next census that would answer some of the questions around farmers, land reform and land, as well as productivity in rural areas.

Further research is being done at Cedara College research station. Research is being conducted to determine weight gain in indigenous goats across different areas as well how diet contributes to palatability and tenderness of goat meat.



Farmers who contributed goats to the Cedara experiment visit 'their' kids and Zandile Ndlovu (left),
A Msinga goat looks confused among a forest of kikuyu grass (right)

GAP farmers were identified, and four castrated goat kids were selected and set aside for the research from across project areas. Two kids from each farmer were brought to Cedara and two left in the home area. The ones at Cedara were fed pellets of various quantities. Throughout the 4 months the kids in both areas are measured and weighed monthly to see relative growth rates. This will address the farmers concerns that they have genetically small goats which contradict scientists arguments that they are just undernourished and are smaller as a result of this.

As a final step in the research, in April they will be slaughtered, and relative meat taste and tenderness will be checked scientifically and by the farmers in a cook off and meat tasting.

Two research proposals have been mooted towards looking at goat genetics both in terms of creating a database that our farmers could contribute towards through the Agriculture Research Council. One is with the University of Kwazulu Natal and Manqayi Kraai, Phenotypic and genomic characterisation of disease resistance and

climate change tolerance genes in indigenous goats in KwaZulu Natal. The other is with Dr Carina Visser at the University of Pretoria and a collaboration with collaboration with Illumina who creates the goat SNP chip for genomic evaluations. GAP indigenous goat hair samples will be included in the genetic database for the African goat genotypes.

Research is funded through the DARD funding, which has not arrived this year, however the two NGOs have been funding these activities from their own funding reserves.



A farmer's day in Jozini project

Monitoring

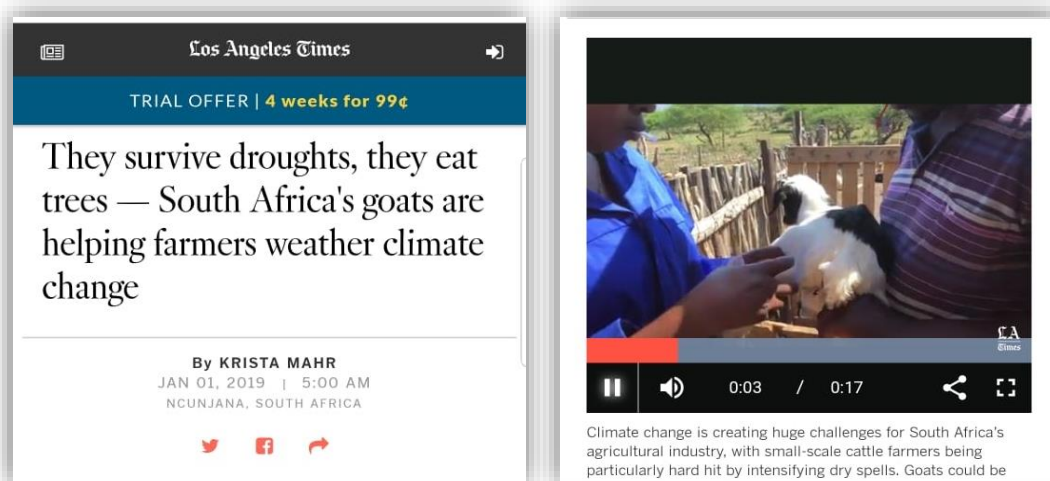
As reported above, GAP is currently carrying out censuses and December/January sales audit in the 90 diptanks. This will be completed by the end of February and the capturing of this data will commence. A dedicated person to capture and collate this information is being recruited. A summary of the data will be shared during the next reporting period.

As part of this process, the census form has been revised to better understand mortality figures as well as stock theft losses. The data around homesteads has also been revised so as to be better able to go back to these homes where necessary both for future references and for verification around census anomalies.

Municipality	Total Membership	Women	Men	Youth	Disability	Enclosures
Zululand	660	443	216	108	5	15
Thukela	565	353	193	48	5	35
Mzinyathi	1568	1025	437	98	14	133
Uthungulu	692	235	142	78	0	14
Umkhanyakude	1661	1133	448	234	22	32
	5146	3189	1436	566	46	229
Total groups						
Zululand	26					
Thukela	25					
Mzinyathi	75					
Uthungulu	25					
Umkhanyakude	59					
	210					

Other Stakeholder Meetings and visibility activities

An article on the goat project was featured in the Los Angeles Times. The article focused on how goats could deal with pushing back the effects of global warming as well as offering commercial possibilities to farmers.



The article on GAP in the Los Angeles Times

Community participation

As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the project, the GAP management has visited each and every LA in the project area to get a sense from farmers' representatives on how the project is going and any critical feedback or suggestions on this year's activities. It also offered an opportunity to discuss how the project's successes and challenges to date and changes in staff and management processes. Much of the feedback was around the lack of auctions and CAHWs not being paid and leaving. To this issue, the pilot and the proposed way forward of paying stipends built into the new agreement was also discussed so that farmers would be prepared for it and be able to support it. The LA chairs would be signing off on some parts of the CAHWs stipend claims so they needed to understand the details.

A proposal has been put to Operation Jump Start and the Lottery to get more funding to support GAP activities that are not covered by DRDLR or DARD funding going forward.



Zandile Ndlovu, research leader of the goat experiment explains the feeding regime of the kids

3.2 Progress in relation to pre-determined milestones

4th Quarter Year 3

Milestone	Year 3	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	There is a total of 206 CAHWs and 138 in the field with vet kits. All CAHWs received training in census taking in February.
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	All 90 existing diptanks are carrying out their annual census in February. Additionally, a December sales audit will take place. 25 new dip tanks have been selected and the censuses will take place in March/April. Annual baselines will follow in April/May.
Auctions	14 sales yards (non permanent sites) are having regular auctions (2 per livestock association)	273 goats have been sold through mini sales in this reporting period resulting in R272,140 in sales. There have been no auctions. Auctions have slowed down due to not having a funding agreement with the Department of Agriculture.
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	There are 12 agrivet shops established. They are going very well. A monitoring visit took place in the past month at all the Agrivet shops to check stock and hear challenges.
Experiments	1800 women are taking part in experimentation groups around goat nutrition and productivity (20 per 90 dip tanks)	We have 210 groups in the 5 districts with 3189 women taking part in experimentation groups. Total membership is 5146.
Goat enclosures- kid feeding	195 goat enclosures for kid feeding are being used (3 per 65 dip tanks)	134 have been built to date. Ongoing research around these enclosures is taking place.
Innovation platforms and research	Quarterly innovation platforms are taking place with proposed research topics emerging and lessons learned are being documented and disseminated	Research is funded by Agric and this funding has not come this year. However, research projects have continued. Currently, there is a research project with Cedara and GAP farmers looking at growth rates on different feed. The goats will be slaughtered in April and the meat will be analysed for tenderness and palatability. Additionally, the project is taking part in two other research projects related to indigenous goat genetics.
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	90 dip tanks have received bi annual trainings	These are ongoing.
Herd commercialisation	3500 farmers have commercialised their herds (500 per LA)	Farmers are selling their goats more regularly as can be seen with the increasing number of monthly sales. Informal December and January sales are still being counted and will be reported on in the next quarter. Monthly sales were at 273 goats for January. 5146 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.	Farmer exchanges are happening regularly and farmers' theme days. There was a farmer exchange visit to Cedara where farmers visited the goats they sent from their districts. Theme days are happening weekly.
Ongoing monitoring and evaluation	Ongoing collection, compilation and analysis of data. Lessons learned collected and shared. Annual surveys. Ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders.	90 censuses are being carried out in February. A Facebook site has been developed and content is posted regularly.



Mvezelwa Mchunu's son keeps a close eye on the goats as they are checked for diseases

Conclusion

The project is going well.



A project member and his sons bringing goats to Dungamanzi goat dip