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## Report for the Small Scale Farmers workshop

### 1. Background

Nkuzi Development Association NPC convened a day workshop with small scale farmers in Limpopo Province on the 13 December 2018 under the banner of LandNNEs. The workshop managed to pull small scale farmers from four key districts, i.e., Mopani, Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Vhembe. The participants were from LAMOSA, LPM, TCOE/Inyanda and Nkuzi working areas. A total of 31 people, comprising **19 women** and **12 men** attended the session, excluding Nkuzi team.

### 2. Purpose of the workshop

- to share on different farming activities they are involved in, in their different spaces
- To facilitate discussions on the Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producers Development Support.
- To brainstorm on support that they get from different sectors i.e., government, private sector and civil society organisations;
- To identify and discuss challenges that hinder them to use the land productively; and
- To explore strategies that could help enhance their productive use of the land.

### 3. Summary of discussions at the workshop

#### 3.1. Land access and ownership

Some of the farmers own land while others operate on the land allocated to them by the traditional leaders or leased from private entities. The groups which own land acquired it through either land restitution or land redistribution programme. These include Mavungeni, Munzhedzi, Lebelo and Koka/Matlou.

The group working with LPM in Collins Chabane Municipality farm are utilising the land along the local streams and rivers. The land used has been clear under the adopt a river campaign which is run in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs. This was found to be an innovative way to secure land for agricultural production at a small scale in communal areas where land access is a serious challenge.

Some farmers under the umbrella of Mopani Farmers Association practice farming in their backyards as individuals and they are able to produce for household consumption and sale.

### **3.2. Farming practices and crops produced**

Different farming practices are deployed by farmers in line with their contexts. Some practice dry land farming while others practice irrigation, organic or livestock farming. The farm produce include cash crops, livestock, vegetables, medicinal plants and broilers.

### **3.3. Support services**

Some farmers indicated that they receive support from government departments in the likes of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, Local Municipalities, Social Development and Environmental Affairs. Support often takes the form of infrastructure development, stipends, seeds and extension services. Support from Rural Development is mainly through the Recapitalisation Programme wherein strategic partners are allocated and related support to operationalise the business plan.

### **3.4. Markets**

A few farmers have secured markets while the majority are still struggling. Secured markets are in the form of contract with local supermarkets, agroprocessing companies for cash crops (macademia nuts), local communities for some vegetables and broiler chickens.

### **3.5. Storage facilities**

Only farmers in Mavungeni, Mopani and Koka Matlou have storage facilities. The facilities were part of the land transfer support service for Mavungeni and Koka Matlou while the Mopani storage facility was donated by Greater Giyani Municipality.

#### **4. Common Challenges**

- Lack of ownership of land and tenure security
- Lack of water rights
- Invasion of land by neighbouring communities.
- No access to markets which leads to produce being harvested for waste.
- Local supermarkets set prices to buy produce at a low price and farmers left at working for a loss
- Lack of farming infrastructure and resources lead to farmers with no option but leave land fallow
- Drought, climate change and pests
- Exploitation by bogus land owners who often demand rent from the farmers.
- Interference of traditional leaders in some of the farm operation in the disguise of them having control over every activity within their jurisdiction or wherever their subjects are involved.

#### **5. Mitigation factors**

- Embark upon land acquisition processes – leases and ...
- Engage the Department of Water and Sanitation, and municipalities on securing water rights.
- Seek mediation services to curb land invasion
- Robust engagement with local super markets on the prices for produce prior harvest.
- Participate in municipal IDP/Budget processes to input on infrastructure needs, approach other institutions for support
- Practice alternative farming such as agroecology, organic, etc.
- Horizontal exchanges , seeds exchanges and joint exhibitions

- There is an need on land ownership audit at a municipal level to ascertain who owns which land , current and alternative use thereof.

## **6. Results**

- Launched a provincial small scale farmers platform with a task team to lead stakeholders engagement processes.
- Farmers were able to share on various farming activities and related livelihoods initiatives in their respective groups and areas.
- Farmers learned about the Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producers Development Support
- Stakeholders mapping which resulted from groups' discussion on various forms of support which farmers are already accessing

## **7. Way forward**

- Task team to have a follow up meeting by the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to work on the stakeholders engagement plan
- There is a need for regular meetings of the small producers to learn from each other at the district and provincial level.
- There is a need for a dedicated session on response to climate change.

## **Attachments**

1. Attendance register
2. Financial report
3. Proof of expenses.