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CONTENTS

- ***Training for livestock farmers in Northern Cape***
- ***Covid-19 disrupts NTL Baraka Eco-Farming's moringa exports***
- ***ARC trains provincial extension practitioners on climate-smart agriculture***
- ***Interest rates not to increase soon***
- ***Global Launch: World Macadamia Organisation***

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Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development



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Training for livestock farmers in Northern Cape

The training forms part of the Land Development Support Programme that is provided by DALRRD to assist Land Reform beneficiaries with infrastructure, cost input and capacity building to become financial viable and sustainable commercial farmers.

The training is aimed at increasing the participation of small holder and emerging farmers in the red meat value chain.

The training will also help in further developing the database of smallholder and emerging farmers.



Twenty-two livestock farmers in the Northern Cape who were assisted with land are currently receiving training on livestock management and identification traceability. The training forms part of capacity building and it is a partnership between the department and NERPO.



It is expected that at the end of the training, farmers will be able to record livestock using the GMP traceability management software solutions.

Training for livestock farmers in Northern Cape



The software allows for farmers to record individual livestock profiles with information such as medical history/vaccination, history of births, family tree, status, sex and origin.



During training, farmers went on site to the Rust and Vrede Farm to do practicals by tagging the livestock of one of the participants and assisted with the loading of her livestock on the system. The farm is located 10 Km outside of Kimberley and it was acquired through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS).

Covid-19 disrupts NTL Baraka Eco-Farming's moringa exports

By **Samuel Kgatla**

The Coronavirus has disturbed the exports of NTL Baraka Eco-Farming and Tourism. The farm is situated in the Eiland area near Tzaneen and is run by young Leago Ngwenya and her family, who lives on the farm. The 42,2 ha farm was established in 2011 by her hard-working mother, Nomsa, and it is famous as a producer of organic vegetables and herbs in Eiland and a few international countries.

It was acquired through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) programme of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development (DALRRD). It currently produces moringa, plum and tinker tomato varieties and other vegetables. Leago receives help and advice from her knowledgeable mother. She currently employs six permanent and 25 temporary workers. In 2019, Nomsa decided to let Leago run the farm and she is doing well.

Moringa exports used to generate more revenue for the farm and the economy of the country. The farm used to export two tons of moringa every month to France, the Netherlands and the USA before

to p 5



Mother and daughter Ms Nomsa and Leago Ngwenya hold the tomatoes ready to go to Spar supermarket.

Covid-19 disrupts NTL Baraka Eco-Farming's moringa exports

from p 4

Covid-19 disrupted them. The farm is in partnerships with DALRRD's LandCare programme, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Scientology Volunteer Ministers. Locally, the farm supplies moringa to hawkers and famous comedian Mashabela Galane for his moringa gin. It also supplies Spar supermarkets in Tzaneen with fresh tomatoes.

Some of the products that Leago produces from the moringa tree include tea, pesto, dried leaves, seeds and moringa powder. She exports some of her products to Europe and North America. The farm comprises of four nets including production, processing and packaging, training and development. The moringa seeds are very important for people who make biodiesel, cosmetic oil and vegetable oil.

Leago praised her mother for laying a proper foundation in farming for her. "What I learnt from my mother is that proper planning gives you proper products. Proper management of people and products gives good yields. If you have committed workers, like we do, then things will run smoothly. Planning is crucial for farming. There is

a broad market for moringa, specifically in European countries. We got an opportunity to grow moringa on the international market through the Centre for the Promotion of Imports (CBI) from developing countries. We are exporting our moringa through KP Botanicals in Cape Town because of their knowledge of the international market. We also want to venture into agro-processing," she said.

She had also received input vouchers from the DALRRD for her farm. The input vouchers were introduced by the department to help subsistence farmers to retain jobs during the pandemic. The farm currently faces a water challenge because it has a single borehole. She is pleading with government to help her with the maintenance of nets and more boreholes.



Ms Leago Ngwenya with moringa products.

ARC trains provincial extension practitioners on climate-smart agriculture

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) has collaborated with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on a training project funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The ARC was mandated to develop and host a series of modules, which were based on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) from January 2020 until July 2021.

CSA has become a necessity for food producers in South Africa, as the entire agricultural sector is extremely vulnerable to climate change and climate variability.

Higher temperatures eventually reduce yields of desirable crops while encouraging weed and pest proliferation. Changes in climate may also affect water availability and water needs for farming, leading to challenges in food production, availability and security. The objective of the training was to empower extension practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills on CSA technologies to equip them to advise the farmers they are serving on adaptation and mitigation strategies to cope with the challenges brought about on by climate change.

to p 7



Natural resources training on soil: rain-water harvesting.

ARC trains provincial extension practitioners on climate-smart agriculture

from p 6

Apart from the formal training given to extension practitioners, ARC researchers have also developed training manuals as part of a toolkit for extension practitioners and farmers.

Training

The target of the project was to equip a total of 100 extension officers from the Eastern Cape, North-West and Limpopo on CSA technologies for applications for production under six inter-related commodities. The foundation modules addressed concepts of climate change across South Africa, including aspects of agrometeorology, natural resources (soil and water) and wetlands influenced by climate and weather. The participating extension officers could then choose elective modules based on their interest and work needs. These courses were based on production of cereals, legumes, vegetables and fruit trees (C1 and C2) under challenging climate conditions; management of livestock (L1 and L2) including beef, dairy, goats, sheep, pigs; veld and fish (Aquaponics) production as well as aspects of pest and disease management. As part of their assignments, extension practitioners had to identify climate change related

problems in the area in which the work and make their own video illustrating how a suitable CSA technology is demonstrated to the farmers they are serving, for example mulching in order to reduce water loss. The theoretical training sessions were initially held on a provincial basis with practical activities, however they later had to be hosted virtually owing to Covid-19 restrictions during 2021.

to p 8



In-person and online training on aquaponics.

ARC trains provincial extension practitioners on climate-smart agriculture

from p 7

Graduation ceremony

The ARC hosted the virtual graduation ceremony on 26 August 2021. Extension practitioners and relevant stakeholders were invited to attend the graduation ceremony. The project leader, Prof. Sue Walker, gave an overview of the project and Dr Mphekgo Maila (ARC-NRE) gave the opening remarks. Ms Alexa Brown spoke on the “Climate Support Programme” on behalf of the funder GIZ while DALRRD was represented by Ms Zanele Mkhize who spoke on “Capacitating extension personnel on CSA as a response to challenges of climate change”. Mr. Sibonelo Mbanjwa from the DFFE gave a talk on “Mitigation and adaptation to climate change”. Ms Lentjie Mogano represented the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and spoke on “Continuous Professional Development (CDP) relevance” and Mr. Matiga Motsepe from DALRRD spoke on “The National Climate Change Strategic Framework”. The keynote speaker was Ms. Cecilia Njoki Njenga: Director: Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress from United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ms Njoki Njeka discussed “The Implications of Emerging Climate Change for the Science to Climate Smart Agriculture Extension Services in Africa”.

Ms. Noluvuyo Nqeno spoke on behalf of the Eastern Cape provincial department, Mr. Thulare Mashiloane represented Limpopo and Ms Khethiwe Seape from North-West attended the graduation in person. The participants were awarded completion of training certificates (upon meeting all training requirements i.e. tests and submission of assignments (written and videos) and certificates for attendance of modules.

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Interest rates not to increase soon

Nicky Weimar, Nedbank Group Chief Economist, informed delegates on Monday 20 September at the Agbiz Grain Symposium what to expect in terms of future interest rate increases. Interest rate cost is an important cost in the grain-handling and storage sector. She explained that, in terms of South Africa's monetary policy, the Reserve Bank keeps inflation within the inflation target, which is between 3% and 6%. However, the Reserve Bank targets the midpoint of 4,5%.

Nicky stated that the worst of the rising inflation is over. The inflation outlook is quite modest and the Reserve Bank's estimates indicate that inflation will be fairly subdued and contained at a 4,5 % midpoint. If the rand were to come under pressure, it would not result in any inflationary pressure.

Why is that? Nedbank's view is that South Africa is stuck in the longest economic downturn in its history. This started in late 2013 and it continued throughout. South Africa is still in that phase and that is keeping a lid on prices. It makes it very difficult for companies to pass cost increases to consumers without hurting their volumes.

"Interest rates will, therefore, stay flat until the end of this year and interest rates will not increase more than 100 basis points in 2022," she said.

"The Reserve Bank foresees that interest rates will go up by 25 basis points by November this year and 100 basis points (1%) in 2022 and another 100 basis points in 2023. The Reserve Bank may normalise interest rates but Nedbank does not believe that interest rates will increase more than 100 basis points."

She said the only reason the Reserve Bank might have to slightly hike interest rates is that it had to provide a buffer against the changing US monetary policy; the beginning of the unwinding of quantitative easing and the eventual normalisation of US interest rates. This may result in a more volatile rand.

In the short term until 2023, it seems that sharp increases in interest rates are not something that the storage sector and agricultural industry need to be unnecessarily worried about.

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Global Launch: World Macadamia Organisation

The newly-formed World Macadamia Organisation (WMO) has officially been launched and incorporated in Singapore, with a mandate to drive demand by creating a greater understanding and appreciation of this underrated wholefood.

Industry data and global supply forecasts show that the supply of macadamia nuts (in shell) will double by 2025, and possibly triple by 2030 to over 600 000 metric tons (mt). To ensure that demand meets supply, while still retaining the macadamia nut's premium positioning, the WMO has been charged with stimulating growth and helping to solidify the long-term foundations for a strong, sustainable market.

The founding CEO of the WMO, Jillian Laing, has an extensive background in global food marketing working across consumer, snack foods, dairy, ingredients and food service industries. Jillian is currently based in Auckland, New Zealand.

"The WMO is an independent not-for-profit organisation and is the global champion of the macadamia industry. We will position macadamias in the areas of health, luxury and natural goodness – where healthy meets

luxury in a natural way – and align with consumer trends towards mindful eating," said Jillian Laing.

The interim chairperson of the WMO Board is global industry expert, Larry McHugh, who is joined on the interim board by Myles Osborn and Pieter van der Westhuizen from South Africa, and Michael Russo and Richard Sampson Genest from Australia. Australia and South Africa have led the establishment phase of the WMO and are looking forward to welcoming other member countries to the organisation. Board elections will be held in the coming months and six directors will be elected at that time.

Member nations are eligible to have representatives on the Members' Council, which will meet at least twice a year. The first virtual meeting will be held in October and the first physical meeting is planned to align with the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC) in Dubai in May 2022. To date, seven of the world's largest macadamia producing nations have confirmed their membership including South Africa, Australia, Kenya, Guatemala, Hawaii/USA, Malawi and Vietnam.



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