

Louisa Maloka-Mogotsi
Citrus Farmer



COMPANY NAME: HEALTHY LIFE for ACHIEVERS

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ABOUT THE ENTERPRISE

I am a Social Worker by profession, and acquired my farm in 2016, through the then Department of Rural Development and Land Reform PLAS programme. The farm is 66ha. The enterprise is guided and upskilled by the Citrus Growers Association – Grower Development Company, in that they render extension services, skills development, training and financial grants. Also, exposure to lots of information on research through summits, symposia and workshops. The core business of this enterprise is Citrus and the different varieties planted are Valencia, Premiers, Mids, Clementines and Lisbon Lemons.

MARKETS

- Magalies Citrus Co-op (juicing)
- Sir Fruit (juicing)
- Informal markets – hawkers

SUCCESSION PLAN

My son Thuso Moagi Mogotsi is being groomed and trained in Citrus Farming and is currently also employed at the farm. I am over 60 years of age and proud to say so, but the energy, will and knowledge I have.

FUTURE GOALS

- Expansion – cultivation of more exportable cultivars.
- Revamp and improve the current irrigation system.
- Create employment for Agriculture graduates.
- Share knowledge, plough back and increase number of Black Citrus Farmers in the province.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Female Entrepreneur Award Smallholder Category Winner 2018. I am grateful for the prozes. Some of the money was used to procure production inputs, and the amount said to be of infrastructure has not been used up to date, and also the projects not completed yet.
- Speaker during Citrus Growers Association summit on Black Grower Development 2019.
- Serve as a member of Citrus Growers Association-Grower Development Company chamber member and Chairperson NW Growers Study Group.
- Nominated as observer in the Citrus Research International Board of Directors Forum.

- Recently obtained Global Gap Certification. I am confident to say we are ensuring safe and nutritional food for all, because whilst it may seem daunting, this is how us as women do things. Safety culture is built in, in us. Food safety is a woman thing from family level.
- Actively participates in the recruitment and encouragement of community emancipation in that the youth of my immediate community are being trained in the AgriSeta NQF Level 2 Plant Production Learnership, and also AgriSeta NQF Level 4 Citrus Business Management, in line with the CGA Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers (ETBCG).
- Hosts on the farm from time to time, interns and learnership students from Taung College of Agriculture, Fort Cox College of Agriculture and Scientific Roots Training Provider Reg 2004/009585/07

CHALLENGES

- Need for more financial support and involvement from the Department.
- Introduction and recognition of Citrus Growers by the North West Provincial Government.
- Communication and completion of on farm projects by the department officials.
- I invite you Minister to please make time and visit us as Citrus Growers in the North West.