

Buhle Besivuno Profile



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BUHLE BESIVUNO FARMERS

Project / Farm name	:	Buhle Besivuno Farmers
Contact Person	:	Mackson Magagula
Gender	:	Male
Location	:	Nyongane
Local Municipality	:	Mbombela
District	:	Ehlanzeni
Coordinates	:	S 25° 03'37.0" E 031° 12' 27.6"
Commodity	:	Vegetable and Grains
Number of beneficiaries	:	35
Extension officer/s	:	Magagula Phumla Francene



BACKGROUND

Buhle Besivuno Farmers is a project situated in Nyongane Village, which is 5 km away from Hazyview at the Ehlanzeni district in Mpumalanga Province. The project has 5.7 hectares. The project produces both vegetables and grains but more of vegetables. The project uses water from the nearby dam which was built by the (DARLEA) and the farmers pump the water from the dam to the farm using a diesel pump engine.

The project has participated in the Smallholder Horticultural Empowerment Program, which is a program that guides the farmer to start at the market and end at the market, to increase the profit and avoid the situation where the farmer will have their surplus on the field and left to rot because the farmers don't have a market.

FUNDING

Year supported	Amount Spent	Activities	Source	Non-Financial support
2017, 2018 and 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They were assisted with production inputs and agricultural advice	ERP	Extension and Advisory support
2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing• Pack house• Irrigation system and pump engine	Ehlanzeni Municipality	

PRODUCTION

The cooperative produce throughout the year, both summer and winter crops. In winter, they plant vegetables such as onion, beetroot, spinach, tomatoes, and chillies. In summer, they plant butternut, tomatoes, green pepper and maize.

BUTTERNUT PRODUCTION



TOMATO PRODUCTION



DRY BEANS PRODUCTION



MAIZE PRODUCTION



FERTILIZER APPLICATION

The project has a fertilizer program in place to make sure they applied the correct fertilizer at the right time and when the plant needs it most.

IRRIGATION SCHEDULING

The farm is having allocated 10-hectare water rights for irrigation. The farmer is using both drip and sprinklers, most hectares are under drip irrigation. The project has an irrigation schedule in place according to the crop requirements. The project uses a diesel pump to have access to water from the river.

PUMP ENGINE



DRIP IRRIGATION



MARKET

Our pre-market research (Market Survey) has shown the market to have sufficient room for a business such as Savutha intends to run. The management style is flexible, progressive, energetic and innovative. The enthusiasm of the management, as well as the employees, will greatly stimulate the envisioned growth.

Spinach ready for the market





Butternut ready for the market



The farmers have an informal market, whereby customers come to the farm and buy. The farmers also take the produce to the roadside markets to sell. The project also sells to Spar and other formal markets in town. To increase their profit to sustain production cost, they participated in the Smallholder Horticultural Empowerment Programme where it involved the farmers did a Market survey where they did market research on what the market's needs. Out of the five crops they got they choose only three, which they will concentrate on to produce and sell to maintain production costs and attend meetings.

EMPLOYMENT

Project has 33 potential jobs, which are being held the beneficiaries, which are on the farm.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION

The project participated in the Smallholder Horticultural Empowerment Program (SHEP) to be able start practicing 'grow to sell' instead of 'grow and sell' to be able to sell the surplus and sustain production costs. Through SHEP, the project is able to sell their produce to Spar and other supermarkets. The farmer has bought a small pump engine, which they use to pump water from the nearby river to be able to irrigate the crops.

The project was provided with assistance from Ehlanzeni Municipality with protective clothing, bigger pump engine, drip irrigation and the municipality is building a mini pack house for the project.

ADDITIONAL PROVINCIAL SUPPORT

None.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE FARMER

None.

MEMBERSHIP /S

1

CHALLENGES

They need tunnels to start producing vegetables throughout the year e.g. if the play spinach in summer and tomatoes the crops get blackish sport just after the rains start so under the net rainwater is limited. The project needs proper ablution facilities, which has proper drainage.

Theft is a challenge because thieve come, break into the project, and still stuff from the storeroom, sometime the produce. Lack of storage and packinghouse create problems.

SUGGESTED MITIGATING MEASURES

None

FUTURE PLANS

- The farmers are working on the goal to be able to produce the Mkhuhlu Agrihub and Fresh Produce Market. The project will strive to get the SAGAP and Global GAP certificate so they can produce their produce to all the markets in South Africa. The project will create more jobs that are permanent. The project aims to pack and package their own produce in future.

EXIT STRATEGY

- According to the Phezukhomkhono policy, the farmer is to exit after three years the farmers will be able to produce on their own and assist other emerging farmers to grow.