

## Youth and Women leading the food production business to create employment.



Tse di Tala Primary Cooperative limited is a laureate for the F'SAGRI Call for micro-projects and is operating on Lafata Agricultural Project Trust Farm which is situated 5 km from Mokopane town in Limpopo Province, South Africa. The farm has been in existence since 2004 consisting of 408 hectares.

The cooperative has been formed by six members (4 youths and 2 women) in 2019. The cooperative started operating as a private company Phumakatso Pest Control in 2015 doing business in Vegetable and Broiler Production. Phumakatso Pest Control was founded by one person, the Agricultural Scientist Madumetsa Judith Mabitsela who holds a National Diploma in Plant Production from Tshwane University of Technology, an Accredited Pest Control specialist and a Trustee in Lafata Agricultural Project Trust. She was later joined by Mokgadi Rasethaba who holds a certificate in Vegetable Production from Buhle Farmers Academy and Chika Mabitsela who holds a Project Management certificate from Wits University. The other three members Makgomo

Mabitsela holds a qualification in Electrical Engineering, Thabo Rasethaba learned poultry production and vegetable production on the farm while Tebogo Tebogo has done Marketing Management courses.



The youth in the cooperative are aware that the society is doomed without food and that Agriculture is the panacea for food security. We therefore started planting vegetables on a four (4) hectare space from 2016 and 10 hectares' dry land cultivation of green mielies and white beans in 2019.





Tse Di Tala Primary Co-operative is situated about 2-4 km from the nearest community. They have created opportunities for full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary employment opportunities. The organization has assumed the duty and corporate responsibility towards contributing to the development of the neighbouring RDP settlements and nearest township, Mahwelereng. Currently the co-operative has seven part-time workers and two directors (also working on the farm), seven workers due to become full time employees from 1 August 2020.

needed practical exposure, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiated by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (2017-2019) and IDT in 2019/20 March.

The 2020 winter season brought a severe unforeseen loss of their okra production to frost. The crops were nearly harvest ready when frost battered the fields leaving the produce as unmarketable waste (pictured below).



Since 2016, the laureate has been accommodating unemployed graduates from Department of Rural Development who

It is conditions such as this that motivated the laureate to apply for the F'SAGRI call for micro- projects to erect a greenhouse structured to be better prepared for adverse climatic conditions.

## A crime hotspot turned into farm on the outskirts of the town of Makhado



The second call in 2020 for the submission of micro project proposals, had Mr Lutendo Nengudza a farmer in the town of Makhado (formerly Louis Trichardt), Extension 12; in high hopes as he submitted his application for funding.

The jury evaluations had the food security micro project selected for funding, at that point it prompted a visit to the farm to assess its relevance in the project and verify claims in the application by the F'SAGRI team.



rotational basis. It has a dam with which irrigation water is sourced from and livestock it has two boxes of bees, pigs, indigenous chickens and a hobby fish pond on the

The Farming operations of *Staan Daar General Trading* is undertaken on a 10,5 ha plot of land which the Department of Agriculture and the Makhado local municipality allocated to Mr Nengudza upon his request. The request for the plot was gladly received by the municipality as the land was now notorious for the constant crimes committed on it which include robberies, several murders, etc. Only about 5 ha of the 10,5 ha plot is de-bushed and operational.

The project has employed four fulltime workers, two of whom are women. The produce is distributed directly to the community, whereas a proportion of it reaches the formal markets such as the local Spar Supermarket, Tshwane Fresh Produce market and City Deep Market through African Farmers Harvest.



The farm on the 5 ha currently under use produces cabbages, tomatoes, garlic, ginger, butternut. The vegetables are produced on a property. The farm is not connected to the electricity grid and this skyrockets production costs due to the use of a diesel water pump for irrigation.

With the funded micro project proposal Mr Nengudza plans to curb theft by erecting a fence and purchase of water tanks. The project plans to continue its newly found role

in the food security of Makhado and the Vhembe district as it aims to sell a minimum of 70% of its produce in the local communities.

