

NEW RECRUITED PROJECTS FOR 2017

MASDT is proud to announce that the company has recruited 23 new projects for 2017. These new projects are spread all over Mpumalanga, Limpopo and have a good balance between animal and crop producers.

Most of the farmers who produce broiler chickens supplement their income with vegetable production.

Welcome to the following projects ;

- Phethola Moobu Agricultural - Broiler and Maize Production - Stoffberg, Mpumalanga
- La Matege Business Enterprise - Broiler, Soya beans and Maize - Stoffberg, Mpumalanga
- Ga Mohlala Agricultural - Broiler, Soya beans and Maize - Stoffberg, Mpumalanga
- Napo A Nkudi Agricultural Co- operative Limited - Broiler and mixed Farming - Stoffberg, Mpumalanga
- Masekama Agricultural Primary Co- operative Limited - Broiler, Soya beans and Maize - Stoffberg, Mpumalanga
- Siyatfutuka's Poultry Farming (Pty) Ltd - Broiler chickens - Nelspruit, Mpumalanga
- Sukumani Sente Agricultural Co-operative Limited - Cash crop vegetables -Nelspruit, Mpumalanga
- Tho-Tho Farming Primary Co- operative Limited - Cash crop vegetables - Bushbuckridge, Limpopo
- Hi Rhandza Nhluvuko Farming Co-operative - Cash crop vegetables - Bushbuckridge, Limpopo
- Marisana Trading - Cash crop vegetables - Bushbuckridge, Limpopo

- Xalamukani Va ka Hina Agricultural Co-operative - Cash crop vegetables - Bushbuckridge, Limpopo
- Mmoledi Boerdery - Broiler and vegetable production - Bushbuckridge, Limpopo
- Siyatondla Primary Co-operative - Poultry and vegetable production - Nkomazi, Mpumalanga
- Imbomula (Pty) Ltd - Poultry production - Nkomazi, Mpumalanga
- Njongo Chicken Farm (Pty) Ltd - Poultry production - Nkomazi, Mpumalanga
- Happy Nelson Construction (Pty) Ltd - Poultry production - Nkomazi, Mpumalanga
- Ntai Organic Farming - poultry and vegetable production - Tzaneen, Limpopo
- Maela Enterprise (Pty) Ltd - Broiler production - Tzaneen, Limpopo
- Stenteng: The Willows Farming primary Co-operative - Broiler and vegetable production - Tzaneen, Limpopo
- Team Green Production EST 15 (Pty) Ltd - Cash crop vegetables - Phiring, Limpopo
- Atameleng Trading (Pty) Ltd - Cash crop vegetables - Phiring, Limpopo
- Dikgapa Environmental Primary Co-operative Limited - Vegetables and animal production - Phiring, Limpopo
- Crocodiles Farming Produce - Cash crop vegetables - Phiring, Limpopo

Hereby wishing the projects all the luck and goodwill, hoping they will be inspired by the MASDT experience, enriching their lives.



Shout out

Chris Botha - MASDT's Procurement Officer has been hailed at the last Business Development Officer's monthly meeting for the outstanding job he has been doing. Staff praised Chris for his efficiency in procuring production inputs for clients, as well as his turnaround time from the time of orders placed to delivery to the projects and quotations requested. This man certainly has a tough job trying to locate new quality suppliers for all MASDT's clients' needs and often has to negotiate in order for clients to get the best deals around. Everyone at MASDT appreciate the work you are doing Chris!!

LOCAL FARMER AND MASDT MENTOR GIVEN GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Ntando Shadrack Sibisi was recruited by MASDT to be a mentor for the British American Tobacco South Africa (BATSA) projects in the Buffelspruit area near Malelane in Mpumalanga and has assisted the tobacco farmers in the region for the past six years. Being a resident of the area, he knew the community well and has even acquired his own piece of land from the Local Tribal Authority to plant tobacco for BATSA.

Shadrack was recently invited by the Soweto Business Access to attend the Action Indaba that will take place in July 2017. They asked him to do a presentation to inspire other entrepreneurs, recalling his own experiences. It was a great honour for the humble man and farmer, something he says he will cherish forever. The following is his essay which he will be presenting ;

"My name is Ntando Shadrack Sibisi and I am a mentor for Mobile Agri Skills Development and Training (NPC). I am currently mentoring a group of farmers and farming tobacco in the Buffelspruit, Schoemansdal and Jeppe's Reef area. I have been involved in the project since 2010 when British American Tobacco South Africa's (BATSA) SCV tobacco project started in the Nkomazi region.

Before BATSA's involvement the farmers were only farming for subsistence purposes because they didn't have capital to grow their businesses into successful commercial farms.

For the first time farmers could now earn an income as well as provide employment to others in the community. Buffelspruit has the ideal climate for growing Sun Cured Virginia Tobacco (SCV) and there is a sustainable market for it, which means they can receive a good price and make more money than they used to generate before. First grade tobacco reaches a price of up to R33/kg. Lower grades can be sold at around R22/kg. For the 2016/2017 season they are projecting around 2.2 tons per hectare per farmer. Since the preparation of this document 95% of the farmers have already hit this projected mark of 2.2 tons.

Besides the farmer himself, each farmer employs 1 permanent worker per hectare of tobacco and when it is time to harvest he adds 3 temporary workers for 5 months. Three more people are also employed to do weed control on the lands thus each farmer creates 7 jobs in the process.

During the 2016/ 2017 season the farmers made between R8 000 - R10 000 each by the sale of their green mealies alone , after this they sold an additional 6 tons of dried maize. The market price at the moment for dried maize is R100/50kg which calculates to about R 12 000 on dried maize per farmer. Besides this the farmers could also barter with the left over dried maize for livestock. Some of the meal they grinded themselves for mealie meal for their own consumption and this meal will last them well until the next season's harvest.

Farmers have even turned into entrepreneurs and learned marketing skills - they take the maize to the mill where it is turned into meal which cost them about R25- R27 and in turn they sell the meal for R250/50kg. This end product then gets sold to shops and individuals. In 2016, 40 more farmers have been supplied with maize seedlings, averaging one hectare per farmer, which means during the 2016/2017 season BATSA have offered over 60 hectares of seeds to 60 farmers in the region.

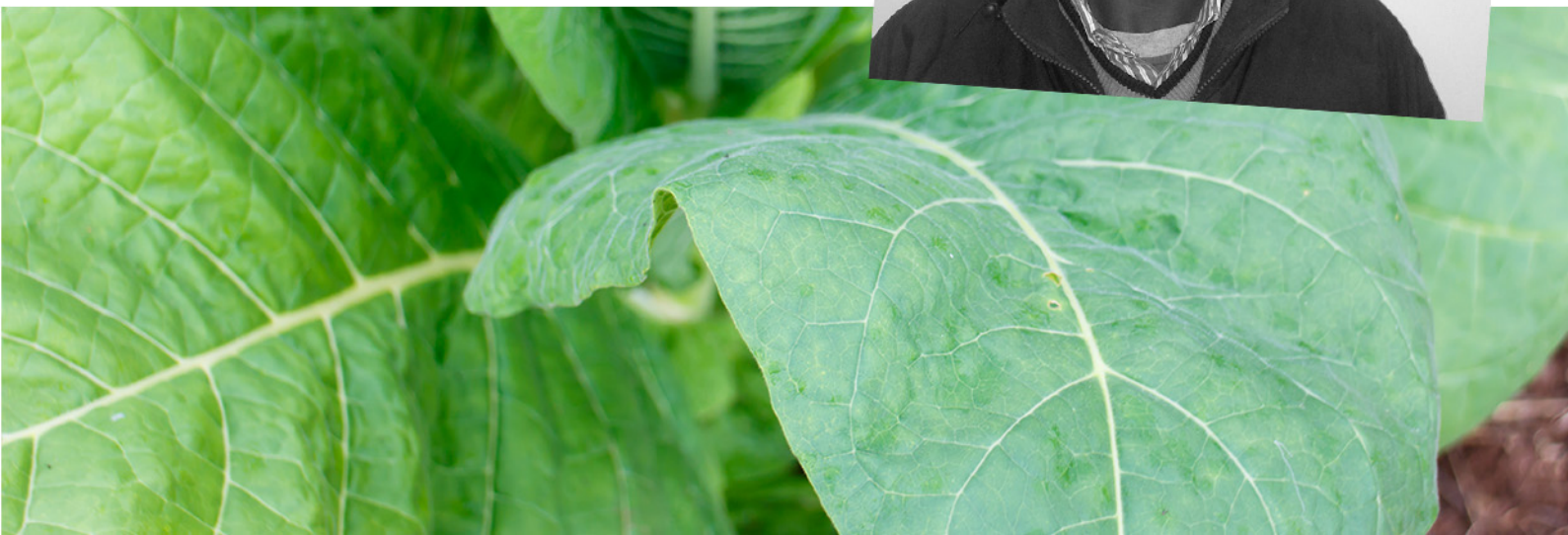
The vegetables mainly consist of sugar beans and in the 2015/2016 season each farmer was able to harvest on average on half a hectare of planted sugar beans, 6 bags of 50kg each, and sold locally for R1 200 per bag.

Smaller amounts were also sold per cup for R5 to those who didn't want to buy a whole bag. This created more job opportunities in the community for vendors and boosted the local economy as vendors could buy whole bags and sell at a profit. Other vegetables consisted of cabbage, beetroot and spinach which is sold on the local market.

The farmers are still negotiating with 4 local schools to procure the vegetables for consumption instead of buying it from further afield. As one of the locals who was born and raised in this area, I can definitely see the improvement in the standard of living throughout the whole community and not only the affected farmers since BATSA's financial injection.

One of the farmers - Mr Joseph Mampawa Ngwenya who was a man struggling to make ends meet through his subsistence farming, is one of the farmers who is benefitting from BATSA's involvement and now has the capital to build his own grocery shop in Buffelspruit. He is now not only a successful farmer, but a true entrepreneur by being a green grocer as well, providing jobs for his whole family."

"This publication was made possible (in part, directly or indirectly), as a result of a Grant from the BATSA Signature Trust. The statements made and views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the BATSA Signature Trust, but remain the sole responsibility of the author."





BARBERTON AGRICULTURAL EXPO

Unemployment under the young generation of South Africa is rife and South Africa need to prepare the youth to be our country's next economic contributors. It is important that all stakeholders in the economic mainstream, including government, participate in working towards a sustainable socio-economic opportunities for all citizens.

June is youth month and to perpetuate the future generation of South Africa the national government and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) decided to host various Expositions across the country. The aim is to target the empowerment and development of the youth of the country, especially in the agricultural sector, to ensure a continuous and escalating food production curve.

On 15 June DAFF presented an Expo at the Stadium in Barberton - Mpumalanga and the affair was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Hon. Min Bheki Cele and members of the Executive Management of DAFF together with members of the Executive Council of Agriculture and Rural Development, Heads of Departments in respective provinces, Heads of the Provincial Departments, business leaders and Chairpersons of Board from the various State Owned Enterprises (SOE's).

Prominent youth structures such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Commercial Agri Youth Chamber and Farmer's unions also joined the proceedings.

MASDT was invited to exhibit their services at the Expo and it was decided to display the Mobile Laboratory. MASDT's IT and Fleet Officer - Pieter Jordaan, Business Development Officer - Collen Mashigo and Business Support Clerk - Busi Milazi attended the stand on behalf of MASDT. They had a very busy time as almost all the Expo visitors were extremely interested in the laboratory. Collen Mashigo gave an in depth presentation of the services rendered by MASDT and Hon.Min. Bheki Cele even made an appearance and was shown the lab which he was very impressed with.

