Grain SA

Phahama Grain Phakama Farmer Development Programme

‘Growing local smallholder resilience through knowledge transfer, skills transfer & access facilitation’

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14 March 2023
FARMER DEVELOPMENT: PGP
FDP Programme Aim

• Sustainable and profitable grain production for:
  – Profitability and sustainability of grain farmers, irrespective of scale
  – Household food security
  – Job creation and local rural economic development
Farmers supported through the farmer development programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hectares</th>
<th>Farmer Category</th>
<th>Farmer Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.5 – 10 ha</td>
<td>Subsistence</td>
<td>9241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5 – 100 ha</td>
<td>Smallholder</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 100ha</td>
<td>Potential Commercial</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 ha +</td>
<td>New Era Farmer</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Hectarage</td>
<td>Group Members (i.e. cooperatives)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- There are **5 244** active male farmer members, and
- There are **4 650** active female farmer members.
Subsistence farmers

- Generalisation of challenges (area/farmer specific)
- Many smaller farming systems; more adaptable to climate change than large systems
- Many smaller farmers more open to change than large farmers
Subsistence & Smallholder farmers:
Challenges/Capacity constraints

• Access to high quality inputs (local availability, distance and packaging of inputs)
• Cannot act fast against unforeseen pests/diseases
• Reliable soil sampling services and recommendations (means to address)
• Access to real-time information (smartphones, digital infrastructure in rural areas)
• Terrain: Hilly in some areas = runoff/leaching
• No formal markets (mainly informal)
• Some cases: assistance - incorrect input type/quantity/timing
• Poor road infrastructure (access)
• Training limited (expensive)
POTENTIAL ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS

- Local input depots (Suppliers)
- High quality inputs readily available (Suppliers)
- 1ha volumes in packaging of inputs (Suppliers)
- Communication on soil sampling procedures and facilities (Commodities)
- Training and skills development (All stakeholders)
- Access to affordable technology i.e. smartphones, internet access (Private sector & Government)
- Terrain: Contouring projects (Private sector & Government)
- Roads maintenance in rural areas for access (Government)
- Local silo’s (Private sector/Grain buyers)
Farmer development programme: Successful efforts

• Study group: Entry level (Trusts & Partners)
  – Monthly meetings
  – Training courses
  – Trials
  – Farmers days
  – Input assistance where possible

• Farmers with growth potential (basic track record)
  – Liable for soil corrections, mentorship, insurance (Trusts)
  – Input costs, revolving loan basis (Partners)
  – Advanced farmer training courses (Trusts and partners)

• Advanced farmer support, one-on-one (Partners)
• Commercial bank and Dev. Fund loan funding (Partners)
Performance of farmers that previously participated in the Beyond Abundance Project

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>1674</td>
<td>2905</td>
<td>3804</td>
<td>5251</td>
<td>5088</td>
<td>2780</td>
<td>2478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>1776</td>
<td>4120</td>
<td>5173</td>
<td>7251</td>
<td>7018</td>
<td>3155</td>
<td>4047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield per ha</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farmer contribution per ha:
- 2019/20 = R3500/ha
- 2020/21 = R4000/ha
- 2021/22 = R4500/ha

High BA Performer Highlights (FROM FEW BAGS)
- Matabane Co-op Study Group – 11 tons/ha
- Makgukubjane Study Group – 4.6 tons/ha
- Syferfontein Study Group – 6.4 tons/ha
- Zaaiplaas Study Group – 7.7 tons/ha
Research
Human Capital Development - Background

• A strong bio-economy is inherently knowledge intensive. For this reason, Grain SA & DSI have invested in human capital development, in the form of making funding available for
  – Bursaries to Honours, MSc and PhD students as well as postdoctoral fellows
  – Internships
  – Technicians

• For the period 2018-2022, 92 bursaries have been awarded by Grain SA, which was made possible by co-funding between the DSI and industry (SACTA & SASOL Trust)
Human Capital Development - Approach

- Consortium-based approach to capacity development

- Beneficiaries are identified based on merit, and are awarded to deserving Black, Coloured and Indian South African students

- The beneficiaries form part of the Grain SA research projects
  - This strengthens local research capacity
Demographics of students supported between 2018-2022 (DSI funded)
Thank You
Re a Leboga
Dankie
Enkosi

• www.grainsa.co.za