



Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality

STATUS REPORT: MARCH- JUNE 2011

ORGANIC CLUSTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT MANAGER DETAILS	
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1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in Limpopo Province has identified organic farming as a means of creating jobs in the agricultural sector. The creation of "organic cluster for rural development" will contribute towards opportunities in the marginalised rural communities in order to reduce poverty and unemployment and also improve the food security for local people.

Furthermore, the cluster creates a competitive organic agro-processing industry in the Municipality which will introduce new higher value added products that are natural, environmentally sustainable and compliant with the BEE Charter for agriculture. The total livelihood to be impacted by the project is approximated to benefit 3400 people.

Organic farmers (15 off) will be trained by Agricultural extension officers in three years within the Ephraim Mogale municipality. The emerging Farmers are to be linked to commercial organic Farmers with secured market. The nursery and compost manufacturing plant will supply more than 15 farmers with seedlings and compost. In order to effectively realise the results an equipment pool and management company will aid beneficiaries to realise results by implementing the project activities.

2. Status Of projects

Current interventions we actively operate in are as tabulated:

Place	intervention	Hectors prepared	Employment		
			Field workers	security	Business Developer
Dichoeung	Magarola	15 hectors	25	3	1
Elandskraal	Moepaseromo	3 hectors	16	3	1
Phetwane	Phakamaseme	2.5 hectors	15	3	1
Toitskraal	Training site	4 hectors	18	2	1
Dichoueng	Farm establishing		9	3	0
SS Ntike consulting	Support office				8
Total			83	14	12

A total of **109** employees is currently working under the project.

Further support to the project after assessment will be at tabulated places:

Place	Intervention needs	Hectors	Prospective employment
Morarela(Ngwana Phaahla Projects)	Water, electricity and Fence	5	7
Moganyaka	Water, electricity and Fence	1	5
Matlala Ramoshebo	Water	32	15
Mmotwaneng	Water and Electricity	5	5
Hectors and membership will increase by 5 and 15 respectively upon starting activities.			

The interventions will need boreholes, electricity and fence to be installed. A further total of **32** employment opportunities will be created. By the end of the project we should have 160 jobs created in cooperatives, emerging farmers and supporting institution like the secondary cooperative.

The total hectares to be covered at the time will be amounting to approximately 150 hectares cultivated in crops.

Regae (Tsantsabela) village still does not have a cooperative established. After the first assessments we identified 40 members in which we found that they do not have land ready to farm. They have land which would need to be debushed and the electricity would be far (2km). The cost of starting a new cooperative at Regae will be high. At this stage, we are absorbing cooperatives and emerging farmers that are demonstrating some element of farming rather than starting with debushing activities which we have gone past.

3. Project Launch

The project was launched in April 2011 at Dichoeung. The launch went well and members of the cooperatives were charged with energy. The video of the launch is with the Municipality.

4. Training

The theoretical organic training occurred in February, March and April 2011. Twenty members from the cooperatives were trained and approximately 10 members from the Department of agriculture were also trained by the experts.

The organic training at Toitskraal is on-going since people are trained on different activities as the farm develops. Training that occurred are building a nursery, building compost and preparing compost into land. Planting, harvesting and processing will occur as the project advances in stages.

Business management and cooperative Training were done by LIBSA and 15 members attended.

The Corporate Governance started in June and the last sessions are completing in July 2011. The is facilitated by SEDA using the service Provider.

5. Mentoring of projects

Each project site is equipped with qualified personnel to help the beneficiaries on day to day. The mentoring is on Business development and keeping books, Farming operations like planting.

6. Details of Activities Status

Activity	Comments
1. Farm Implements	<p>The project is at a stage where we have enough implements to support the cooperatives.</p> <p>Most cooperative now have water, irrigation system and electricity. All existing site will be electrified by end of July 2011.</p> <p>The planting is starting at nursery to supply the farms in mid July 2011.</p> <p>The factory in Dichoueng is manufacturing bricks to be used in constructing infrastructure for vegetable processing. The factory also maintains and services implements used in cooperatives</p> <p>The vegetable processing plant equipment has arrived and will be commissioned August 2011.</p>
2. Tractors 2WD	
3. Tractors 4WD	
4. Compost Turner	
5. Fencing material	
6. Bore Holes	

Not Successful Assessments	
7. Kopano Disabled Farmers	The farm has all equipments, tractors however; there is contamination cause by aerial spray from neighbours.
8. Letebejane	We are awaiting their authorisation for minimum of extra 11 hectors. They have 4 hectors only. To be sorted this July 2011
9. Regae	The cooperative member land is still a forest. We have ended in terms of starting cooperative that would need debushing
10. Matlerekeng: Moutse West Cooperative	Farms within contamination (aerial spray) proximity
11. Mamaneng: Bareki (SAADC)	Farms within contamination (aerial spray) proximity

The unsuccessful assessments can benefit from the organic project by attending trainings in which they will be invited.