

GLEN COLE MAKINANA FARM

No farmers no future

P.O.BOX 166
UGIE
5470

VAT.REG.NO:4830203602 UGIE



SMALL FARM IN UGIE

BACKGROUND

From Umnga Flats

The Area has deep red soil, 700 to 1000mm of rain per annum. Suitable for both livestock, crop production, fruit trees and forestry.

We are thirty-five in the area.

On buying that farm it was an open grazing land with no boundary fence to separate from communal areas. We have no roads, no electricity and no dam dredging services.

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The government has ultimately done some boundary fencing, however it is not effective as it is composed of seven lines with three non-barbed wire lines.

Around 2005 we were able to conduct a single dam dredging and strengthened the internal field fences using the same boundary fences erected in the early 1960's.

The Department of Agriculture assisted us with a stock handling facility, a dragline irrigation and a small shed of 9m X 30m.

The Department of Land Reform assisted us with a single tractor with implements as well as farm worker houses.

We are farming grain, merino, angora goats and Simmental cross with Bonsmara cattle. We are partnering with two small scale farmers.

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CONSTRAINTS / CHALLENGES

FINANCE:

Land Bank applications get refused and turned down on emerging black farmers despite obvious challenges such as drought and fire.

Glen Cole last received relief assistance from Land Bank during the period between 2002 and 2003 during the Feros Lisa tenure.

The Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ACRDA) no longer approves the crop production loans.

2015 was the first and the only time we received a production loan from Humansdorp Co-Op, sadly that year was declared a drought and therefore that loan compensated as a drought relief.



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Again Landbank refused to recognise the necessity for the drought relief and repayments to the Humasdorp Co-op have not been honoured.

ROADS

Interlinks does not deliver to our sheds because of unpaved and terrible conditions of the roads in our area. Although treasury had made provisions in 2017 and identified our roads, to this day we still have to fetch our production inputs from a measurable distance.

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ELECTRICITY:

As stated earlier we do not have electricity.

We applied for 3-phase electricity in 2011 and the quotation from Eskom was R116 750,00 per kilometre, in 2012 it had gone up to R230 000,00 per kilometre, by the time we were able to raise this value, a year later, Eskom quoted R425 000,00 per kilometre. At this point we gave up on being able to raise the figure required by Eskom as we realised an outside intervention is the only solution considering Eskom is a State Owned Entity that rightfully should be assisting especially emerging farmers.

EXTENSION OFFICERS:

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The Extension Officers have no designated commodity, as a result individuals have no sense of responsibility for sectors, therefore negatively affecting the desired outputs. Furthermore there is no specified Continued Personal Development training for the Extension Officers, resulting in demotivated poorly performing candidates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Partnerships with available Commercial farmers.
- Subsidised interest rates to partnerships for the benefit of small scale farmers and partnered farmers.
- Special division within the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform, in line and support of the small scale farmers, therefore ensuring food security while commercializing the black and small scale farmers.

CONCLUSION:

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I would like to conclude in these few words,

“Agricultural transformation is a necessity, however it is to be implemented with clinical responsibility, adherence to NDP2030 chapter 6 is of utmost importance, while it is an achievable target, it is as easier to lose focus and run out of time as it is easy to rush and miss the constant and necessary food security needed by our beloved country.

Th world is looking at us as the last democracy in this continent, that is why I farm, I farm because I love this land, I have great passion for the sustenance of the human kind, I have love for all different kinds of Africans.

We aught to never destroy the confidence of our investors, It is always wise to turn the page when starting a new chapter, than to close the book only to get back and start searching.”

THANK YOU

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