

# NGUNI CATTLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN LIMPOPO

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A TRULY SOUTH AFRICAN BREED WITH GLOBAL POTENTIALITIES**

Nguni Cattle is an African cattle breed known for its ability to perfectly adapt to South Africa's natural environment. Nguni cattle are known for the quality of their meat and leather which attract the South African industry and exports markets. To ensure that the Nguni cattle's huge potentialities benefit rural communities and emerging farmers, the IDC (Industrial Development Corporation) enhanced several Nguni cattle development Projects in various provinces.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SET UP: FROM STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION TO PARTNERSHIP**

In Limpopo Province, the IDC teamed up with the University of Limpopo (UL), the Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) and farmer representatives to form the Limpopo IDC Nguni Cattle Board of Trustees which was registered in late 2006. The Board of Trustees appointed as Project Manager the LDA member of staff seconded to the Board.

## **FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS: A COMMON POT VALUING ALL PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTION**

The Board of Trustees developed the Nguni Cattle Development Project in Limpopo Province that successfully managed to mobilise funds from all partners.

- IDC as main contributors provide a financial assistance in the form of a loan to acquire Nguni cattle and a grant to provide support services to beneficiaries.
- LDA mainstreamed Nguni cattle development activities by deploying necessary technical support staff while the infrastructure rehabilitation programme considered the selected farms as investment priority. They also provide additional funds for the procurement of animals.
- UL allocated staff and resources from various units of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture: Department of Animal Production, Experimental Farm, Centre for Rural Community Empowerment.
- Selected farmers commit time and available farm resources.

Other stakeholders such as Municipalities, the Nguni Cattle Breeders' Society and the private sector are also associated with the project.

## **AIM OF THE PROJECT**

To enhance Nguni Cattle production within the farming communities (individuals & groups) in Limpopo Province.

## **SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES: COMMITTED FARMERS WITH UNTAPPED RESOURCES**

SLAG (Settlement Land Acquisition Grant) and LRAD (Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development) farms have been given priority, taking the following into consideration:

- Their experience in cattle ranching and their willingness to venture into Nguni Cattle
- Their grazing capacities to allow the herd to prosper without undue pressure on natural resources
- Their existing infrastructure capacities
- Their institutional and organisational development in terms of inclusiveness (gender, youth) and their contribution to poverty alleviation.

The project firstly focused on 2 districts (Capricorn and Sekhukhune) and it has now expanded to other districts in the province.

Municipalities have been crucial in assisting the Board of Trustees to reach beneficiaries in synergy with their respective IDPs (Integrated Development Plans). Farmers are also being identified through the public advertising system (radio, local newspapers, posters, etc.).

## **THE MODEL: A LOAN IN KIND OVER A 5 YEAR PERIOD WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

A package consisting of 30 pregnant heifers and 1 bull is allocated to a particular farmer(s) in the form of a loan that is to be paid back to the Trust in kind within a period of 5 years.

All animals are stud animals to ensure the development of a top quality herd whose products can fetch better prices in the market. Procurements are done under the auspices of the Nguni Cattle Breeders Society while the Northern Nguni Club is being used as the vehicle in sourcing the animals from various breeders as per the Trust specification.

Capacity building and extension services are provided by both LDA and UL staff in all key areas: reproduction management, veld management, health, institutional and financial management, access to markets etc.

A crucial link has been established with the Nguni Cattle Breeders' Society to benefit from their experience and guidance through a structured mentorship programme and other strategic levels of development support.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS: STUD ANIMALS IN THE HANDS OF EMERGING FARMERS**

Ten farmers have been established from the project. Amongst the farmers we have 7 farmer groups who are beneficiaries of government redistribution programmes i.e. LRAD, SLAG, etc. and 6 individual farmers.

The beneficiaries are distributed amongst the five provincial districts namely, Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Waterberg, Vhembe and Mopani Districts.

The total of 512 animals have been procured and distributed amongst the 16 farmers. Each farmer signs a contract detailing all duties and responsibilities of each party on the day of reception of the animals.

Four beneficiaries have already registered with the Nguni Cattle Breeders Society of SA, which in our view represent an important milestone in achieving the project objective.

### **For more information:**

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