

Sicabazini Agricultural Primary Cooperative Ltd.

The Work Progress Report

June 2014

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1. The dry beans marketing

The marketing of dry beans have been started this month. We needed to give them some time to mature enough according to our target market produce specifications. They needed the bean pods to remove their green colour, have some red tints outside and the bean seeds to have some red spots as well.

They never needed them completely dry. We had to harvest them while they have a rubber hardness texture. We continued sending them the maturity status photos of the produce. Finally they approved their readiness for harvesting. We have harvested and sent 40 bags of 15kg priced at R90.00 per bag. We have managed to generate R3 600.00 last week and we do anticipate sending 50+ bags by Friday this week.

Photo 1: The field view of the dry bean plants with their leaves turning yellow



Photo 2: The closer view of the underlying bean pods showing signs of harvest readiness



Photo 3: The view of the bean seeds showing some red tints



Photo 4: The harvested, graded, weighed and packaged dry bean bags being loaded for delivery to the market truck at N2 road



2. The cabbages marketing

The farm cabbages marketing have been started this month. The markets include the town hawkers, pension day's bakkies, school feeding schemes and the general community. Most of the customers come to pick them up from the farm gate. We have just started their delivery last week. We do hope to generate enough profit as the market prize has been placed at R8.00 per head giving us R80.00 per bag.

We have managed to generate R 2 700.00 so far and still counting. The farm plans to plant another 8000 cabbages targeting the October marketing as we had experienced the high market prize last year. We are going to use the portion where the previous tomatoes were planted as it is currently being prepared by removing pegs and trellising twines.

Photo 5: The field view of the ready for harvesting cabbages



Photo 6: The closer view of the ready for harvesting cabbage head



Photo 7: The loading of the cabbages for the delivery to the town hawkers early in the morning



3. The tomatoes behaviour

The last month marketed tomatoes have been marketed with success generating R15 00.00 this month. The tomato plants have retired and the operation to clear and preparer the land for cabbages planting has been started. The cooperative members are currently removing the trellising pegs and twines to the newly planted tomatoes.

The young planted tomato seedlings are doing very well and now the workers are trellising them with pegs and twines. We do target their marketing towards the end of July or mid-august. With the highly motivated project members and their close supervision; the farm will surely succeed throughout its current operations hence the whole 10ha is fully planted using the own farm investment. Some 400 seedlings have also been planted to back up our continuous tomato supply to the market. They are also doing very well.

Photo 8: The project members removing trellising pegs and twines from the retired tomato plants portion.



Photo 9: The trellising of the young tomato seedlings



Photo 10: The view of the follow up 4000 tomato seedlings next to the ones that are currently being trellised



4. The onions planting

The farm has decided to plant 17 000 onion seedlings to the last available farm portion toward the farm borehole. The onion seedlings are adapting very well and we will keep on managing them very well to avoid their rather extreme bulbs swelling. The onions should be marketed by mid-September. By last year, we have received their good marketing by September.

Photo 11: The view of some of the onion seedlings ready for planting



Photo 12: The field view of the recently planted onion seedlings



Photo 13: The closer view of the recently planted onion seedlings



5. The capsicums behaviour

The capsicums are doing very well for now. We have experienced some heavy wind blows by the beginning of this month. The need for wind break pine trees around the farm fence has been recognised. The wind has sand blasted the young chilli seedlings leaves forcing them to bare new leaves after a while. The chilli seedlings are currently doing very well hence they have bared some fruits and are continuing flowering.

Though there has been no rainfall; the farm irrigation system has ensured their wellbeing. The project members do continue to irrigate, weed, spray and scout for the diseases on daily bases. We do anticipate the green fresh chilli marketing towards the end of July or mid-august. The markets have been informed and we are waiting for their readiness to compare the selling prizes.

Photo 14: The view of the young planted chilli seedlings being blown by heavy winds calling for wind breaks planting



Photo 15: The closer view of the chilli plant with growing fruits and continued flowering



Photo 16: The farm workers continuously doing their crop management, this time doing the weeding.



6. The negotiations with Toyota Tsusho Africa

We have been informed by the Mr Andrew that the cooperative uniform members have been purchased and they are now in a process to brand them. The previous uniform brander with our cooperative logo will be used. We are now waiting for the progress and the arrival of Mr Velleman to deliver the uniforms should he give us his next visit date to the farm.

