



Mentoring at Elim
(PRJ-0065-2015)
Milk Producers Organisation

Quarter 2 2015 (April 2015 till June 2015)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Monthly visits by Mentor to Elim

Achievements *Please report on the monthly findings of the Mentor*

General remarks by the mentor:

Implementation of a pivot system requires, amongst others, approval from the community, evaluation regarding the availability of water and registration for additional water, quotations, a pump system, electricity, etc. Should the cost for a pivot system be too expensive, alternatives will be investigated.

Herd can only expand to 200 cows in milk after implementation of an additional or alternative irrigation system.

Continuous training and empowerment of personnel remain important goals.

Socio-economic involvement and community projects are a priority that are being discussed and evaluated during board meetings. The board receives regular requests for financial contributions by the community.

Mentor paid two visits during **April 2015** and the following issues were discussed:

Investigations regarding the implementation of a pivot are in progress.

Dryland pasture and acquisition of seed were investigated.

Tenders were evaluated for the planting of 130ha dry land.

Lucern hay was delivered.

Mentor also assisted another Elim emerging farmer with farm planning.

Mentor also attended a board meeting.

Mentor paid three visits during **May 2015** and the following issues were discussed:

Owing to drought and preparation cost it was decided to prepare only 60ha for triticale. Rural emerging farmers were given an opportunity to tender for the preparation of land.

Condition of calves and dry cows, caused by filthiness and rubbish that soiled the environment, is not good. The board of directors has commandeered the local community to engage in a litter clearing project and to keep the environment clean.

DAFF visited Elim to discuss training issues and presentation of a Dairy Production course in July 2015.

Mentor visited the dryland pasture during planting.

Mentor also visited a 3 ha pasture that was prepared by Elim Dairy for a small holder farmer.

Tenders for 130 ha pasture were reduced to 60 ha owing to extreme dry conditions. Mentor made arrangements for delivery of triticale seed and fertiliser as well as planting methods.

Two students from Elsenburg engaged in a workplace experience programme at Elim dairy.

Mentor paid one visit to Elim during **June 2015** and the following issues were discussed:

The condition of calves and dry cows has improved and the environment in general is cleaner after litter clearing by the local community.

Dryland pasture (triticale) is in a good condition.

Elim had sufficient rain during June.

The herd/dairy manager, Mr Deon van Zyl, resigned during June.

A group of foreign students from England visited Elim on 23 Jun 2015.

Mentor was hospitalised during June, though he continued contact with the Elim board chairman and Parmalat representative, Mr Henk Smith.

Advertisements for a new dairy herd manager were placed.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Two visits by Master Mentor to Elim: April - June and October - December

Achievements *Please report on the findings of the Master Mentor*

The master mentor planned to visit Elim during early June 2015, but the visit was postponed due to the hospitalisation of the mentor, Mr Willie Cronje. The visit has been rescheduled for August 2015.

According to Logix milk recording scheme data, a decrease in average milk production per cow per day occurred, owing to:

The high herd average days in milk (265 days), instead of the preferred 170 days (increase of 22 days from Apr to Jun).

A large portion of the herd is in the 3rd stage of lactation which also explains the low average milk production per cow.

Negative energy balance (concentrate vs roughage).

The fluctuations in weather patterns influencing pasture growth.

MUN value should be monitored not to exceed 14 MUN Mg/Dl.

Consultation regarding feeding rations should get attention.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Articles in The Dairy Mail (x2)

Achievements

The Dairy Mail articles will only be posted after the master mentor's visit to Elim.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	201506 mentor budget.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[ELIM.PHOTO.docx](#)

[ELIM.STATS INFO.docx](#)

Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
Levy funds were applied in an appropriate and accountable manner	Yes
Sufficient management and internal control systems were in place to adequately control the project and accurately account for the project expenditure	Yes
The information provided in the report is correct	Yes