



Mentoring of emerging farmers at Elim

(PRJ-0042-2014)

Milk Producers Organisation

Year 2014 (January 2014 till December 2014)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Establishment of irrigation pasture

Achievements

A new pump station that covers 42 ha, was installed during the first quarter of 2014. Elim has approximately 42 ha irrigated pasture and 60 ha dry land. The pasture plan has been completed according to targets in the business plan.

The implementation of extra irrigation is a goal for 2015.

The pastures are in a very good condition and planting throughout 2014 took place according to schedule.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Increase cows (to 200 cows in milk by Oct 2014)

Achievements

Herd composition in Dec 2014:

- Cows in milk increased from the 1st quarter to the 4th quarter: from 133 to 168
- Dry cows: 22
- Calves and heifers: 143
- Total herd decreased from 1st quarter to 4th quarter: from 337 to 333
- Average litre per cow: 16ℓ

The general health condition of the herd is good. Elim had incidents of redwater (babesiosis) and gall sickness (anaplasmosis), but are under control.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Cows in milk did not increase to 200 in milk by October 2014.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Elim's aim according to their business plan, was to extend the cows in milk to 200 by Oct 2014. The Elim technical committee decided against further extension to avoid pressure on the current fodder flow system.

Elim purchased 22 Jersey cows from Elsenburg (8 cows in milk, 4 dry cows, 6 pregnant heifers and 4

calves of 12 months old). The initial plan to purchase cross breed cows was abandoned, as it was decided that cow numbers can only increase once extra irrigation has been implemented.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

The implementation of extra irrigation (pivot) is a goal for 2015. Water supply, capacity of the dam and the registration of the irrigation water are being investigated.

Goal 3 - Training

Achievements

IDT presented a Dairy Production skills development programme to Elim personnel during Nov 2014. According to mentor feedback, the course was constructive and informative and the students perceived the course very positive.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Mentorship reports (every three months)

Achievements

The mentor, Mr Willie Cronje visited Elim three times per month during 2014. The visits include Technical Committee meetings as well as directors meetings. The following activities for 2014 were highlighted by the mentor:

- 2014 started with a strategic planning session.
- Elim is a member of SEESA labour consultants.
- Pharmalat offered Elim a financial support package, consisting of an interest free loan. The loan is deducted monthly from the "milk cheque".
- The last funding from CPAC was utilized for purchasing of fertilizer.
- The Elim milk parlour was painted.
- A new dairy manager was appointed.
- Elim brought a new bakkie, with own funds.
- The World Jersey Bureau visited Elim during the AgriMega exhibition. Approximately 120 guests visited Elim Dairy. This event is regarded as a highlight for Elim.
- Elim Dairy supported the community during several occasions by means of donations.
- Elim herd is registered.
- Elim joined STAMBOEK for milk recording.
- Elim utilize the DIVISA herd management program.
- Pasture was in a very good condition during 2014.
- Average milk production for the year has increased.
- Elim has very good relations and cooperation with their suppliers.
- Elim purchased 22 Jersey cows from Elsenburg.
- A strict financial policy is being applied.
- The financial position of Elim is sound and Elim is in a position to function without government support.

The master mentor, Jas Wasserman, and the project manager, Helene Pheiffer visited Elim during Jul and Nov 2014. Both visits were regarded as informative, as they engaged in consultation sessions with the mentor, herd manager and technical committee members. The master mentor also receives the milk recording reports and is in continuous consultation with the herd manager. The master mentor highlighted the following for 2014:

- The improvement from Aug 2014 to Nov 2014 has been significant, ie the milk production increased from 12.9ℓ per cow to 18.1ℓ per cow during the month of Nov.
- The volume increase can be ascribed to sound herd and feed management.
- Quality of the milk is good as evident in the figures obtained from the milk recording reports:
- Butterfat 5.22%
- Protein 3.99%
- Lactose 4.85%
- MUN 15.5
- SSC 284 000
- Days in milk 169
- A computerised milking management program was implemented in Oct 2014, upon recommendation by the master mentor.
- The master mentor also presented the following management programmes to assist the herd manager and parlour workers: milk recording sheets, AI recoding, calving recording and a service recording programmes for the milking machines.
- Recommendations: Master mentor advised to spread milking times equally to increase milk production. (Milking times are at 06:00 at 15:30 and are advised to change to 05:00 to 16:00).

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	No file has been uploaded
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[ELIM.SUMMARY.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