

Training and Research Report

Sustainable Rural Sheep and Wool Farming

Kering Group / Conservation SA

to

Agri SA

Agri Enterprises (Pty) Ltd

AgriSETA

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INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
ACADEMY
FOR AFRICA

K E R I N G



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on sustainable rural sheep and wool farming training that was conducted for the members and beneficiaries of the Thabachitja Community, as funded by the Kering Group, Conservation International, and Conservation South Africa funded project to Agri SA Enterprises.

The geographic reference where the training was offered is 30°22'16.4" S and 28°23'10.3" E.

The Thabachitja Rural community is situated approximately 54 km west of the centre of Matatiele Town, on the R56 towards the town of Mount Fletcher, Eastern Cape Province in South Africa.

Livestock farming is a common practice on communal land and the area is mainly farmed with mixed sheep breeds both for wool and mutton. There are also other livestock farming activities such as cattle, goats and pigs. It was worth noting that most of these small-scale farmers are interested in both the quality and quantity of their breeds. Generally, all the farmers desire to improve the quality of sheep meat and wool.

The training was offered in 2 parts, first was an introduction to the current realities rural farmers are facing, and technical training on sheep and wool production (2-parts). Furthermore, the objective of the training was to collect research data from the participating beneficiaries through a methodology of comprehensive questionnaires, group discussions, and observation of the activities in the study area. The results were analyzed using a descriptive analysis model. The comprehensive survey was divided into three parts, a social survey, an agricultural overview survey and a financial overview survey.

Personal and demographic information indicates that the majority of the participants were from Sotho ethnic group (90%) followed by Xhosa ethnic group (10%). It was interesting to note that 71% of the participants can be classified as youth. This indicates that an interest in the farming industry is gaining momentum among young people of South Africa.

The results from the employment status show that 84% of the participants indicate to be unemployed. This can be attributed to a misunderstanding of the definition of employment. It was noted that some of these farmers did not realize that full-time farming means full-time employment. Only 16% of the people indicated to be employed.

Thabachitja community is situated in a remote area far from the nearest town and the majority (97%) of the people who reside there were born in the community. In yesteryears, there was a continuous debate in South Africa about land ownership issues which negatively influenced the possession of land title deeds by many people. As a result, all (100%) of the participants indicated that they do not own a residential site through Title Deed.

The main source of income is off-farm salaries and wages (48%), Welfare (SASSA) – old age pension (29%), and Welfare (SASSA) child grant (16%). Hence the majority (84%) of the participants indicated that they earn between R 0 - R 4 000 per month.

A significant number (71%) of the participants were young people, consequently, a large number (74%) of the participants use social media, particularly WhatsApp (51%) and Facebook (43%). Although a large number (77%) of the participants did not reach a tertiary education, most (52%) of them completed grade 12 and 39% ended in grade 10.

A target group of this training were people who are actively farming although not limited to that. A majority (81%) of participants were actively farming. The first-choice farm activity is woollen sheep (67%) followed by beef farming (47%) and Boer goats (20%). In a rural community like Thabachitja, the problem of household food insecurity is a sad reality. It is against this backdrop that most of the participants (55%) indicated not having enough food to eat, and some rely on their vegetable garden and slaughtering livestock.

Despite having access to social media platforms, only 26% of the participants indicated to have heard about AgriSETA before. Only 26% of the farmers have received agricultural training before. It is for this reason that all (100%) farmers indicated that they would like to be trained in Animal Production, followed by Business / Entrepreneurship, and also Crop production and Leadership skills.

All the farmers are trying to keep their animals healthy by applying minimal biosecurity measures and feed supplementary. A significant number of farmers (55%) buy supplementary feed for their sheep, but only when cash flow allows it. In an attempt to minimize deaths due to diseases, most of the farmers use injectable doses and dips (26%) followed by oral doses 25%, anti-biotics (20%), and vaccines (17%), but no records are kept on the dates of administration, nor the exact cost of such remedies.

A lack of proper sheep business management and bookkeeping by the farmers resulted in insufficient financial information in the research questionnaires.

The financial survey reveals that the majority of the participants (97%) have a bank account. The results also show that 90% of the people are trusting banks. Furthermore, most people (58%) prefer to use cash as a payment method. Access to funding for farming activities is not possible for 97% of the participants. Interestingly, 65% of the people have enough money to save. The non-farm income for 100% of the people is less than the farm income. This is evident that wool production plays an integral role in the livelihood of rural people.

It can be concluded that the farmers stand to benefit more from a continuous training program, access to funding and a viable link to the market.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

This report is based on comprehensive sustainable rural sheep and wool farming training programme that was conducted in Thabachitja rural community, Matatiele in the Eastern Cape Province. Livestock farming is a common practice in the communal land in South Africa and the area is mainly farmed with mixed sheep breeds both for wool and mutton purposes. In addition, there is other livestock such as cattle, goats and pigs which are also produced in this area. It was interesting to note that most of these small-scale farmers are interested in the quality and quantity of their sheep breed, to reach commercial scale.

1.1 Training and Research area.

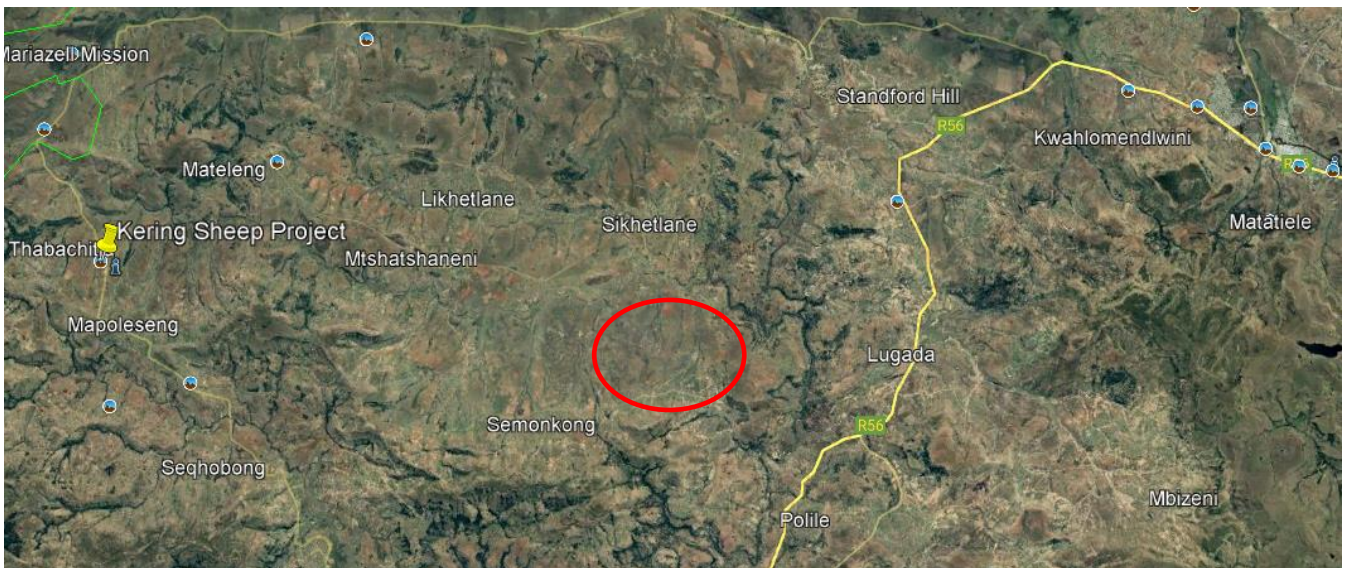


Figure 1.1: Thabachitja area, Matatiele in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

The Thabachitja community is situated approximately 54 km west of the centre of Matatiele Town, on the R56 towards the town of Mount Fletcher, Eastern Cape. This report is based on sustainable rural sheep and wool farming training that was conducted for the members and beneficiaries of the Kering Training, Thabachitja, Matatiele. The geographic reference where the training centre is located is 30°22'16.4" S and 28°23'10.3" E.

The grazing fields of the Thabachitja area enable it to have a high potential for wool and mutton sheep production (Figure 1.3) and on evaluation, the sheep from the field were in good condition. Generally, the Eastern Cape Province is characterized by diverse climatic conditions and natural vegetation types. According to weather SA, Eastern Cape is one of the coldest regions in South Africa with an average daily maximum temperature of only 24°C, and a minimum temperature of -4 °C in mid-winter.

Thabachitja is situated at the foot of the Maluti mountains, as a result during the winter season it is covered with snow which becomes a valuable water source when it is melting. The exact location of the training venue is indicated in Figure 1.2 below.



Figure 1.2: Aerial view of the Kering training, at the Thabachtja location.



Figure 1.3: Sheep grazing on fields during the winter season

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME.

In summary, the objectives of this training programme were:

- 2.1** To recruit, identify and engage with 30 sheep farmers who are members of the Thabachitja community.
- 2.2** To verify that the participants in this mentorship programme qualify for the training under the following minimum selection criteria:
 - 2.2.1 They must be 18 years of age and active members of the sheering shed Association.
 - 2.2.2 They must prove ownership of a minimum of 10 sheep.
 - 2.2.3 Farmers older the age of 75 years may nominate a successor in the family who will inherit and proceed with the sheep farming business.
 - 2.2.4 The participant must be available for 10 days to attend the full mentorship programme.
 - 2.2.5 The participants must in possession of a valid South African Identity card or a booklet.
 - 2.2.6 The participants must have a basic level of literacy regarding reading and writing.
 - 2.2.7 The participant must agree to become part of a legal entity of some sort, to be able to benefit from further development aid as part of a legal entity.
- 2.3** To conduct a Training Programme for the farmers as beneficiaries to achieve the following outcomes:
 - 2.3.1 Module 1: Current realities of the rural farmer
 - 2.3.2 Module 2: Sheep Characteristics
 - 2.3.3 Module 3: Management of sheep
 - 2.3.4 Module 4: Foundation of sustainability
 - 2.3.5 Module 5: Sheep breeds in South Africa
 - 2.3.6 Module 6: The law and the sheep farmer
 - 2.3.7 Module 7: Ecology and veld management
 - 2.3.8 Module 8: Sheep breeding and production
 - 2.3.9 Module 9: Non-related breeding
 - 2.3.10 Module 10: Inherited defects of sheep
 - 2.3.11 Module 11: Nutrition and Feeding of sheep
 - 2.3.12 Module 12: Sheep Health and Biosecurity
 - 2.3.13 Module 13: Parasites
 - 2.3.14 Module 14: Handling of sheep
 - 2.3.15 Module 15: Shearing and Classification of Wool

2.4 After successful Completion of the technical training in wool and sheep production in the following related Unit Standards, to achieve 25 credits on NQF Level 2.

- Observe and inspect animal health, SAQA ID 16074, 5 Credits.
- Understand animal nutrition, SAQA ID 116055, 7 Credits.
- Administer livestock processing treatments, SAQA ID 116643, 8 Credits.
- Basic breeding practices for farm animals, SAQA ID 116107, 5 Credits.

2.5 To collect all data and information regarding livelihood, social circumstances, financial data per enterprises, and technical management data and compile a comprehensive research report per project cluster, and include the individual project data in a comprehensive research report to benefit the future decision-making on development on the Agripreneurial industry.

2.7 To develop a sustainable communication and technology platform for future follow-up and contact to benefit the project members.

3. METHODOLOGY AND OFFERING.

3.1 The preparation phase was based on the development of the following strategies and materials:

- Curriculum development.
- Partnership development.
- Technical training.
- Enterprise development and business management.
- Governance and Business Ethics.

3.2 The implementation of the project is based on the following steps:

Step 1: General Orientation

- Setting the challenge and evolving response.
- Setting the programme goals.
- Recognise Paternalism, Enthusiasm and Participation.

Step 2: Getting Started.

- Confirm the program area and location.
- Planning.
- Start slowly and small.

Step 3: Capacity building (Choosing and using Technology).

- Capacity-building programme for Executive members.
- Personality analyses and discussion.
- Corporate Governance.

- Conflict resolution.
- Leadership.
- Institutional capacity.
- Business ethics.
- Tax registration.
- Understanding the implementation of the project, funding arrangements and pay-outs.
- Technical skills training on technology.
- Limited technology implementation.
- Experimentation.
- Industry Involvement.
- Measure and record results.

Step 4: Administration

Follow GRAAP's method of community profiling.

- Group profiling.
- Individual profiling.
- Household profiling.
- Social capital profiling.
- Asset profiling.
- Financial profiling.
- Supporting services, Evaluation and Phase-out.

Step 5: Enterprise Development

- A complete business plan is done on the selected venture after research on the production and marketing possibilities.
- Give direction and guidelines, whilst the CBO is responsible, in a workshop with the project members, to design a need-driven business plan.
- Registration of legal entities.
- Digital Business Transformation.

Step 6: Expansion and Consolidation

- Multiplication of results.
- Building institutions.
- Integrated programmes.
- Overall dynamics.

Step 7: Out phasing

- The project participants must understand from the beginning that no agricultural programme can expect outstanding funding and support forever. Sooner or later, the project must be prepared to carry on and multiply to program's efforts by itself.
 - Agri Enterprises strive to build up a lifelong relationship with the people of the venture.
 - Implementation of the Digital helpline.
-

4. PERSONAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

4.1 Demographic information.

Table 4.1 Personal and Demographic Information.

PERSONAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION					
Farmers Initials and surname	Identification Number (ID)	Gender	Age Group	Ethnic Group	Employed/Unemployed
TG Molefe	0110256083087	Male	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
L Mothibe	8610040938084	Female	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
MC Ndlebe	5812126460081	Male	55 - 64 years	Xhosa	No
LL Tsoloane	8905195966082	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
MS Nkoanyane	85102157670878	Male	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
NM Muse	9710140733085	Female	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
P Lebenya	9801246003083	Male	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
L Lebenya	9107125861082	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
N Petros	9911201081089	Female	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
BA Makae	9105231073089	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	Yes
RH Khathali	8803056514085	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
M Tsoloane	9112126684087	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
P Thuetsi	8209151189080	Female	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
A Moso	960502049908	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
M Phorie	9206151605080	female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
A Tsolo	0109016179086	Male	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
S.S Sityhilelo	9303205971087	male	25 - 34 years	Xhosa	No
R Manko	9601161357088	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	Yes
R.C Rethabile	9305250716085	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	Yes
LNP Petros	8707195859089	Male	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
RJ Mphoso	9204031329088	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	Yes
MM Koalane	8409031260081	Female	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
PA Molefe	7503310592080	Female	45 - 54 years	Sotho	Yes
N Mqokolo	9908021133082	Female	18 - 24 years	Xhosa	NO
MP Nkoanyane	9710310982082	Female	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
S Jane	7406036028084	Male	45 - 54 years	Sotho	No
S.T Thelejane	9911106172082	Male	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No
F.M Fusi	9611235929085	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
M.E Korotsoane	931008040080	Male	25 - 34 years	Sotho	No
R.T Thabiso	8411235931087	male	35 - 44 years	Sotho	No
N Phama	9812101146081	Female	18 - 24 years	Sotho	No

Table 4.1 show that a majority of the participants were from Sotho ethnic group (90%) followed by Xhosa ethnic group (10%).

4.2 Age groups.

Table 4.2 Age distribution of learners.

Age Group	Number	Percentage (%) of Total	Male	Percentage (%) Males	Female	Percentage (%) Females
18 - 24 years	8	26%	4	25%	4	27%
25 - 34 years	14	45%	7	44%	7	47%
35 - 44 years	6	19%	3	19%	3	20%
45 - 54 years	2	6%	1	6%	1	7%
55 - 64 years	1	3%	1	6%	0	0%
65 years +	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%	16	100%	15	100%
Male			16	52%		
Female					15	48%

- The majority of the group was between 25 and 34 years of age (45%).
- The second biggest group was 18-24 years (26%).
- Only 3% of the farmers were between 55 - 64 years.
- Males were 16 occupying 52% of the total participants.
- The largest male age groups were 25- 34 years (44%) and 18-24 years (25%).
- Females were 15 in total, occupying 48% of the total participants.
- The largest female age group was 25-34 years (47%).

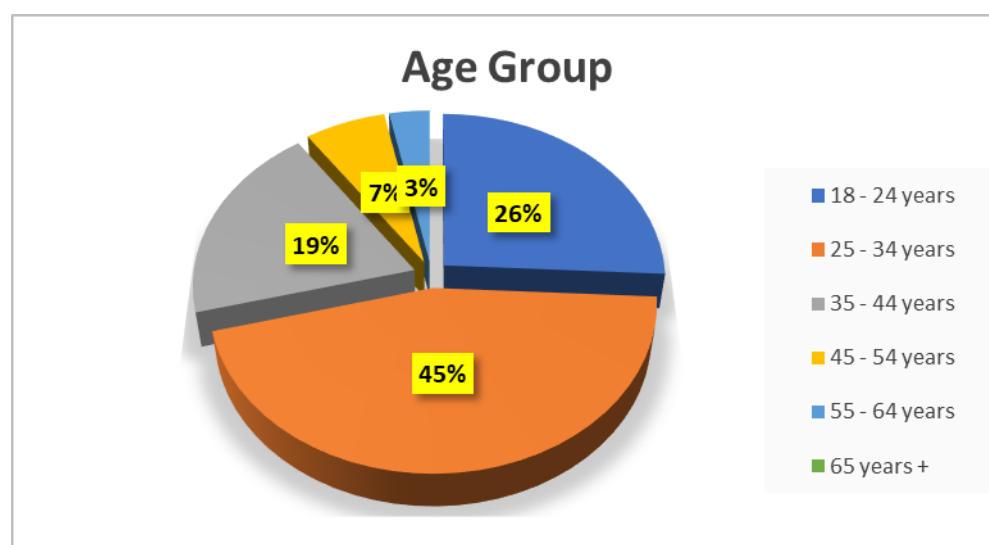


Figure 4.1: Age groups percentages.

4.3 Employment.

Table 4.3: Employment / Unemployment situation.

Employed / Unemployed	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	5	16%
No	26	84%
Self Employed	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The results show that 84% of the people are unemployed. This is attributed to the misunderstanding of the definition of employment. It was noted that they did not realize that full-time farming means full-time self-employment.
- Only 16%% of the participants are employed.

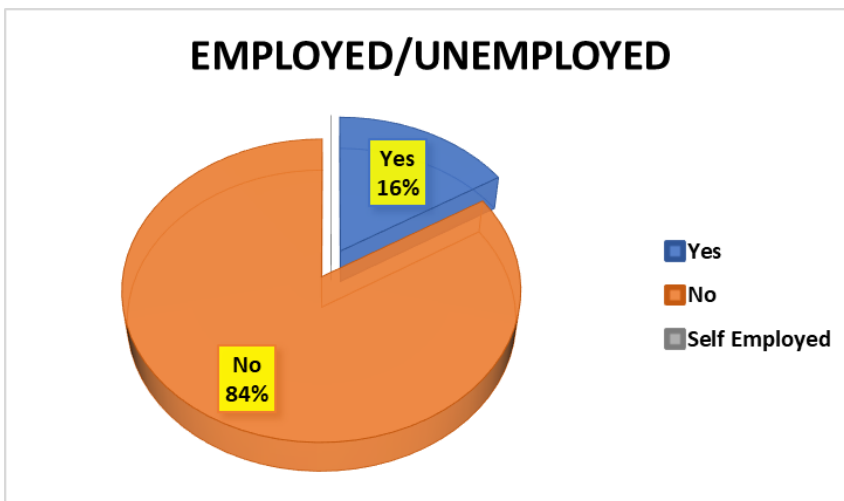


Figure 4.2: Employment / Unemployment percentages.

5. SOCIAL SURVEY OVERVIEW.

5.1 Household characteristics.

Table 5.1: How the farmers came to live in this community.

How the farmer come to live in this community	Number	Percentage (%)
Born in community	30	97%
Marriage	1	3%
Immigration	0	0%
I bought the land	0	0%
I am renting the land	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Almost all the people (97%) were born in the community and still stay there.
- Only 1 of the farmers (3%) live in the community due to marriage.

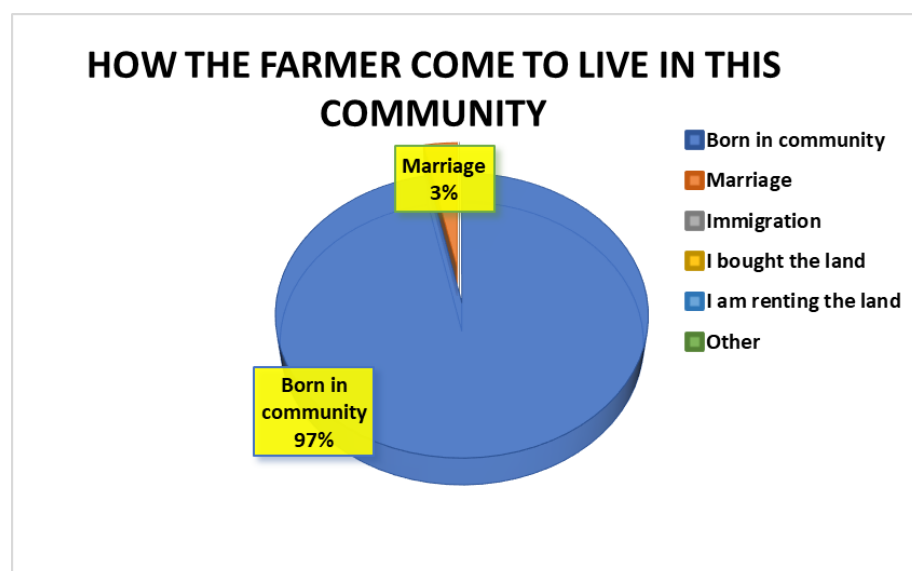


Figure 5.1: How the farmers came to live in this community.

Table 5.2: Farmers' own residential site with title deed.

Farmer owns residential site with a title deed	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	0	0%
No	31	100%
TOTAL	31	100%

Table 5.2 show that all of the farmers do not own a residential site with a title deed (100%).

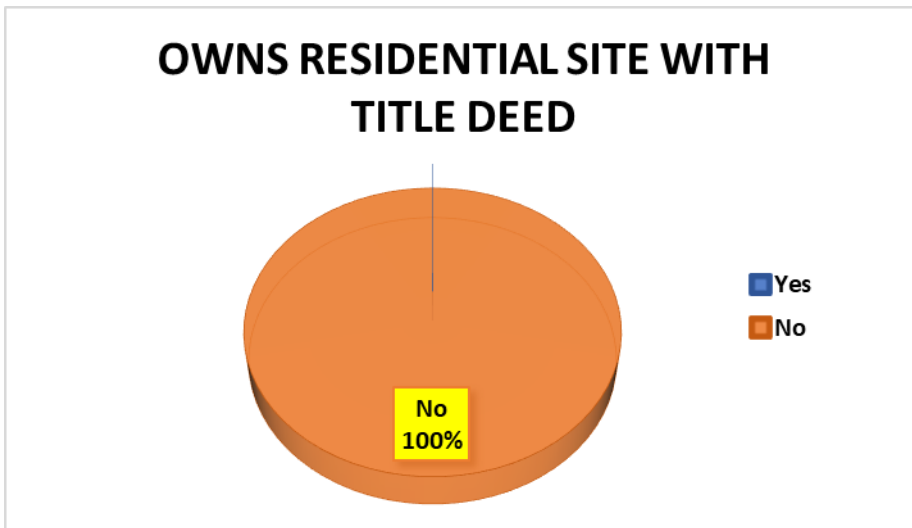


Figure 5.2: Farmers' own residential site with title deed.

Table 5.3: Number of people in the household.

How many people live in household?	Number
Average	4.00
Min	1
Max	11

- The average number of people staying in a household is 4 people.
- The smallest number was 1 person.
- The largest number of people was 11.

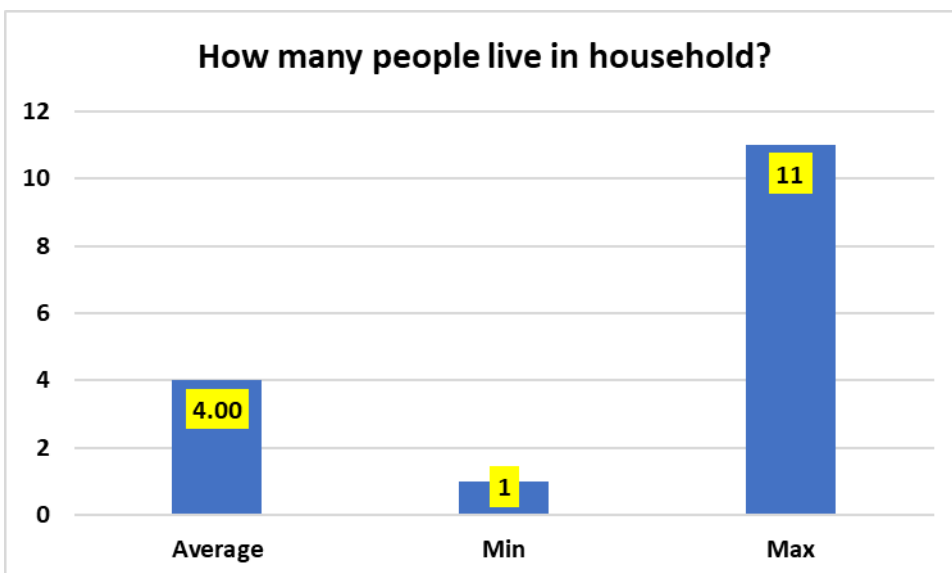


Figure 5.3: Number of people in the household.

Table 5.4: Main source of income.

Main source of income	Number	Percentage (%)
Support/Maintenance - Cash	0	0%
Support/Maintenance - Bank transfer	0	0%
Welfare (SASSA) - Old age pension	9	29%
Welfare (SASSA) - Child grant	5	16%
Welfare (SASSA) - Disability grant	0	0%
Own Business	0	0%
State/Private Pension	1	3%
Off farm salaries and wages	15	48%
Farming income	1	3%
None	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The main source of income is off-farm salaries and wages (48%), Welfare (SASSA) – old age pension (29%), Welfare (SASSA) child grant (16%), followed by farming income (3%) and Private pension (3%).

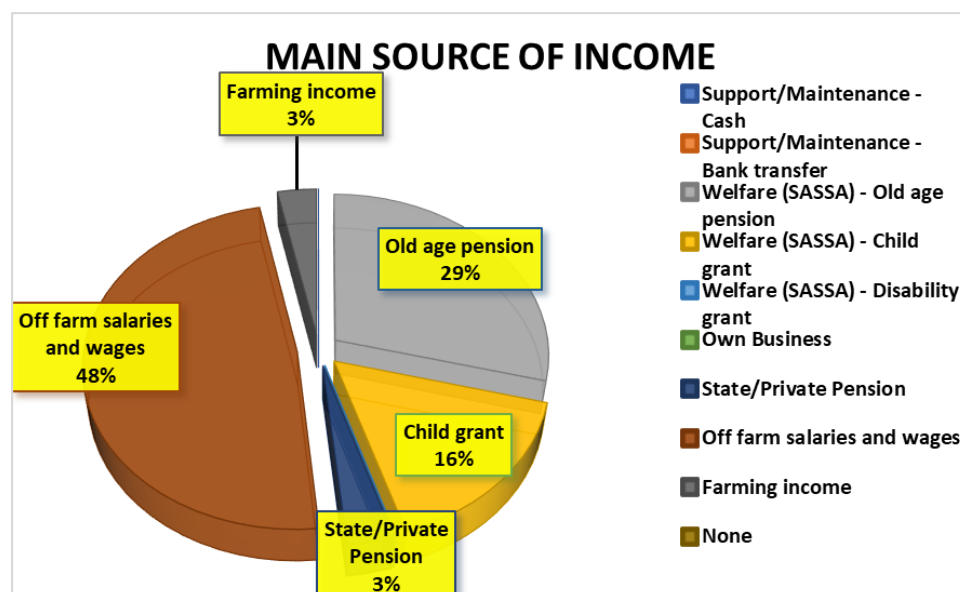
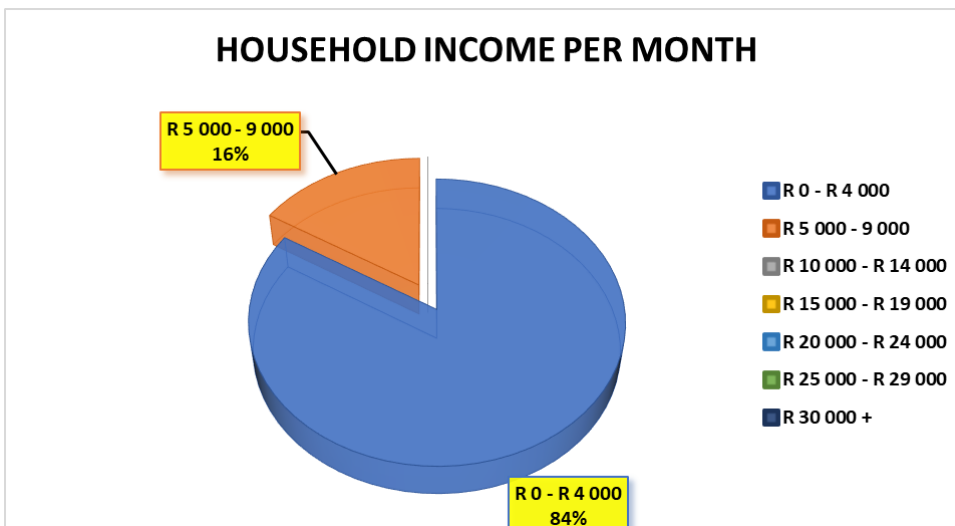
**Figure 5.4: The main source of income.**

Table 5.5: Household income per month.

Household income per month	Number	Percentage (%)
R 0 - R 4 000	26	84%
R 5 000 - 9 000	5	16%
R 10 000 - R 14 000	0	0%
R 15 000 - R 19 000	0	0%
R 20 000 - R 24 000	0	0%
R 25 000 - R 29 000	0	0%
R 30 000 +	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A majority of the participants (84%) earn between R0 - R4000 per month.
- The remaining 16% of the participants earn between R 5 000- R 9 000 per month.

**Figure 5.5: Household income per month.****Table 5.6: Social media participants.**

Social Media	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	23	74%
No	8	26%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A large number (74%) of the participants use social media.
- A minority of 26% do not use social media.

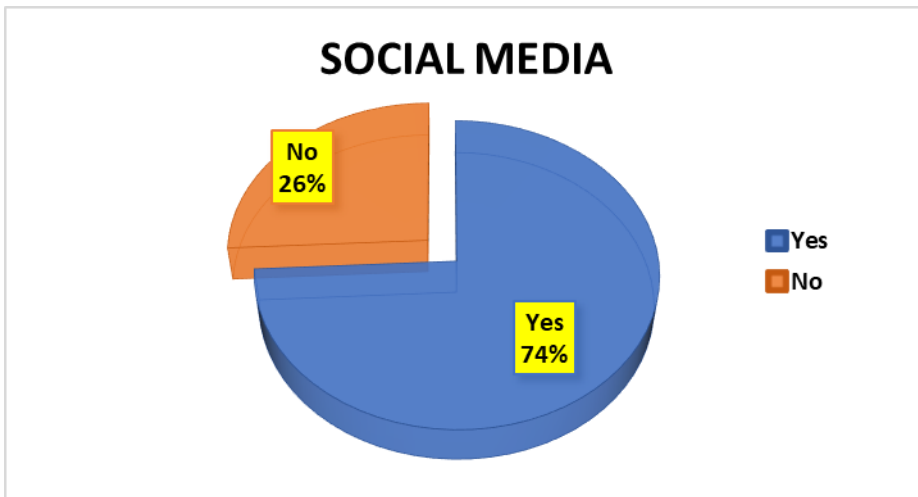


Figure 5.6: Social media participants.

Table 5.7: Social media platforms utilized.

Social Media Platforms	Number	Percentage (%)
Facebook	21	43%
Whatsapp	25	51%
Instagram	1	2%
LinkedIn	2	4%
TOTAL	49	100%

- WhatsApp (51%) and Facebook (43%) are the social media platforms mostly used, followed by LinkedIn (4%) and Instagram (2%).

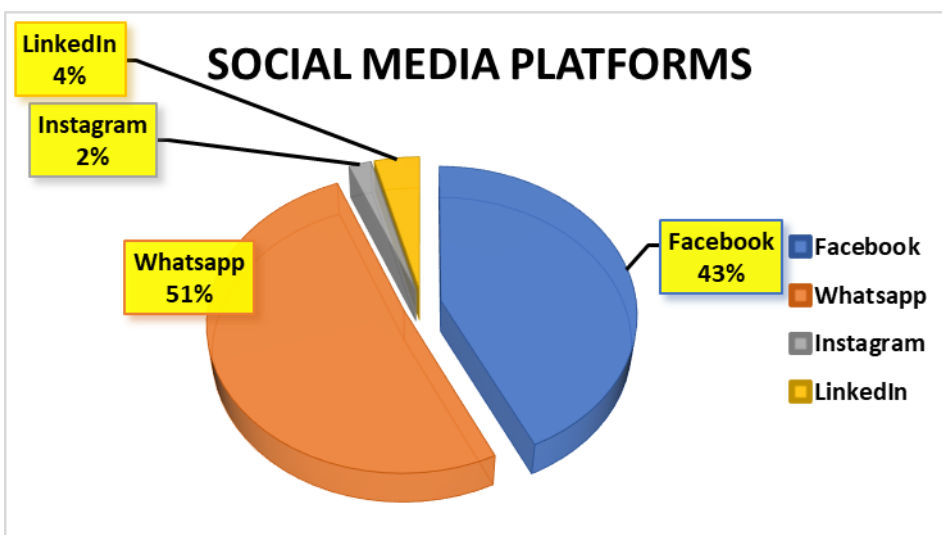


Figure 5.7: Social media platforms utilized.

5.2 Educational information.

Table 5.8: School qualifications.

Highest school qualification	Number	Percentage (%)
Grade 7 or lower	3	10%
Grade 10	12	39%
Grade 12	16	52%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The highest school qualifications of the participants are Grade 12 (52%) and Grade 10 (39%).

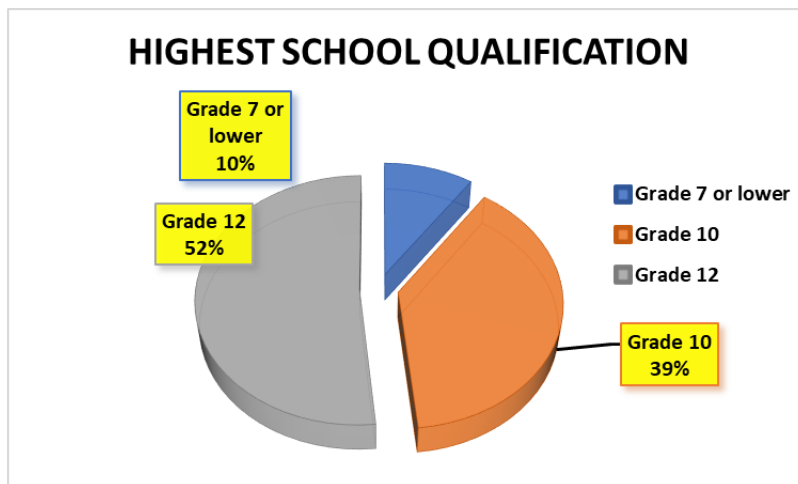


Figure 5.8: School qualifications.

Table 5.9: Qualifications after matric.

Qualifications after matric	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	7	23%
No	24	77%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Only 23% of the people have a post-matric qualification, while a majority (77%) do not have any qualification after matric.

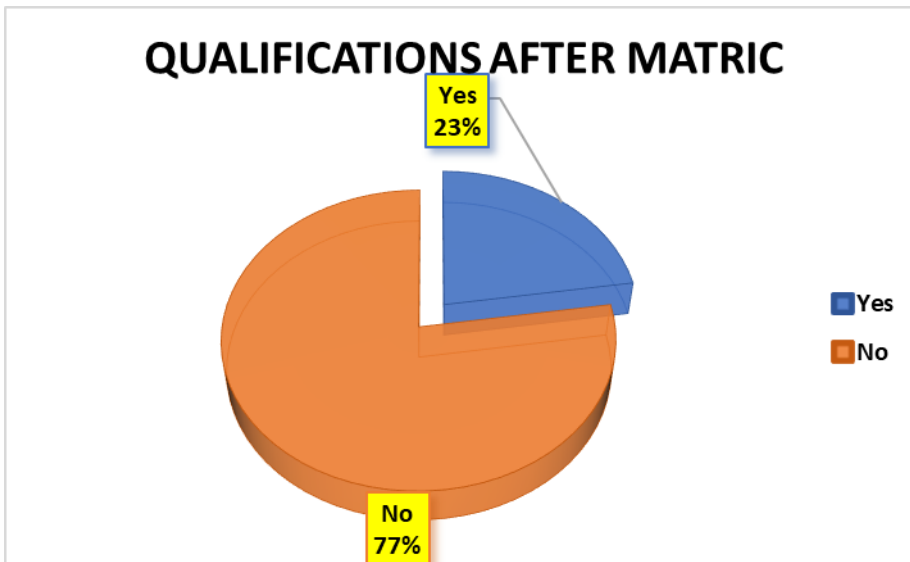


Figure 5.9: Qualifications after matric.

Table 5.10: Type of qualification after matric.

Type of qualification	Number	Percentage (%)
None	24	77%
Certificate (Technical Certificate)	3	10%
Advanced Certificate (Adv Cert)	0	0%
National Higher Certificate (NH Cert)	1	3%
Diploma (Dip) (Education, Accounting, Agriculture)	2	6%
National Professional Diploma (NPD)	0	0%
Bachelor's Degree	1	3%
Bachelor of Science Degree	0	0%
Post Graduate Degree	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The type of qualification after matric is a technical certificate (10%), Diploma (6%), Bachelor's Degree (3%) and National Higher Certificate (3%).

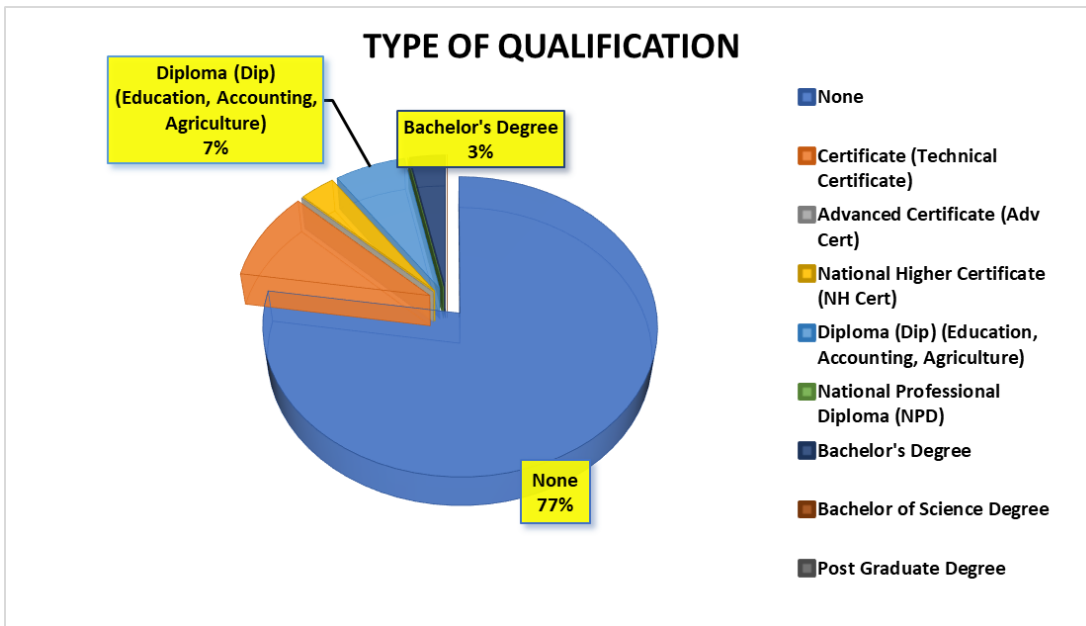


Figure 5.10: Type of qualification after matric.

5.3 Farming background

Table 5.11: Number of active farmers.

Actively farming	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	25	81%
No	6	19%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A significant number of the participants (81%) are actively farming.

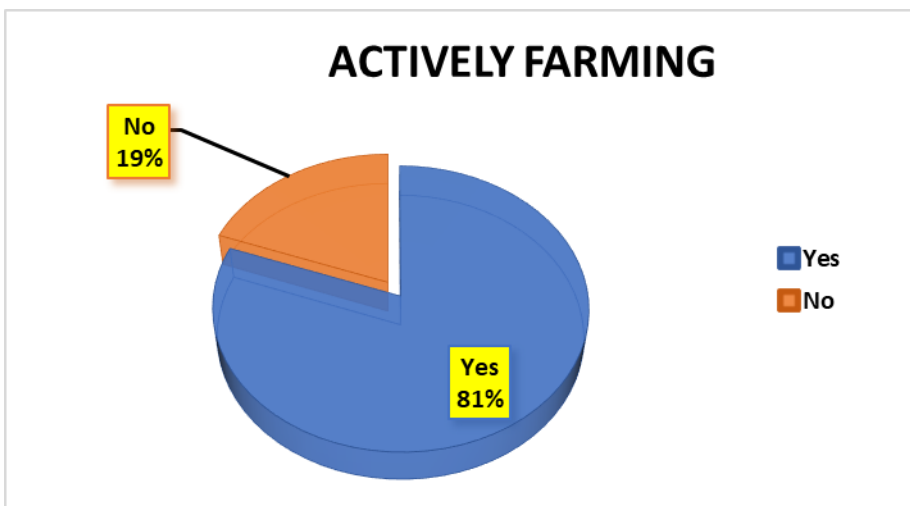


Figure 5.11: Number of active farmers.

Table 5.12: The first-choice farm activity.

Farming with	Number	Percentage (%)
1st Choice		
Woolen Sheep	18	67%
Mutton Sheep	2	7%
Beef Cattle	4	15%
Dairy Cattle	0	0%
Boer Goats	1	4%
Angora Goats	0	0%
Pigs	1	4%
Eggs	0	0%
Broilers	1	4%
Commercial Vegetables	0	0%
Household Vegetables	0	0%
Fruit	0	0%
Maize	0	0%
Wheat	0	0%
Lucerne	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	27	100%

- The first-choice farm activity is woolen sheep (67%) followed by beef cattle (15%) and then mutton sheep (7%).

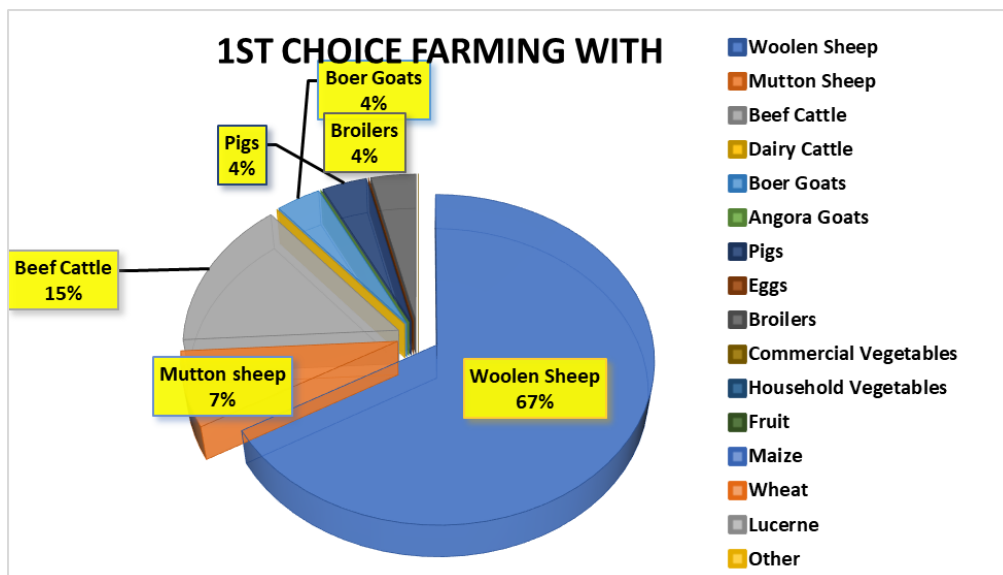
**Figure 5.12: The first-choice farm activity.**

Table 5.13: The second-choice farm activity.

Farming with	Number	Percentage (%)
2nd Choice		
Woolen Sheep	1	5%
Mutton Sheep	2	11%
Beef Cattle	9	47%
Dairy Cattle	0	0%
Boer Goats	4	21%
Angora Goats	2	11%
Pigs	0	0%
Eggs	0	0%
Broilers	1	5%
Commercial Vegetables	0	0%
Household Vegetables	0	0%
Fruit	0	0%
Maize	0	0%
Wheat	0	0%
Lucerne	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	19	100%

- The second-choice farm activity is beef cattle (47%) followed by Boer Goats (21%) and Angora goats (11%).

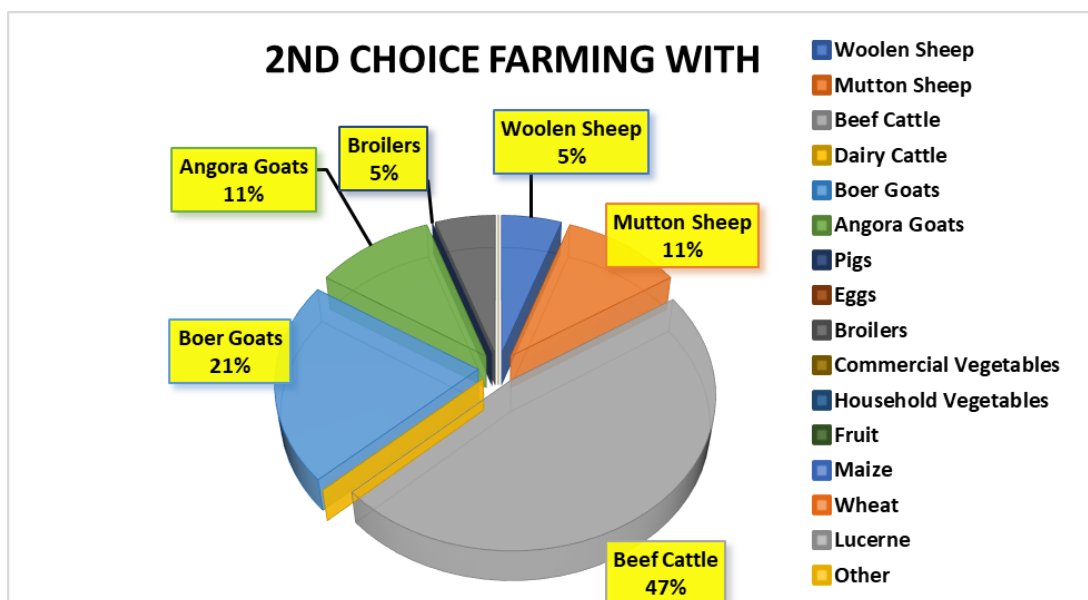
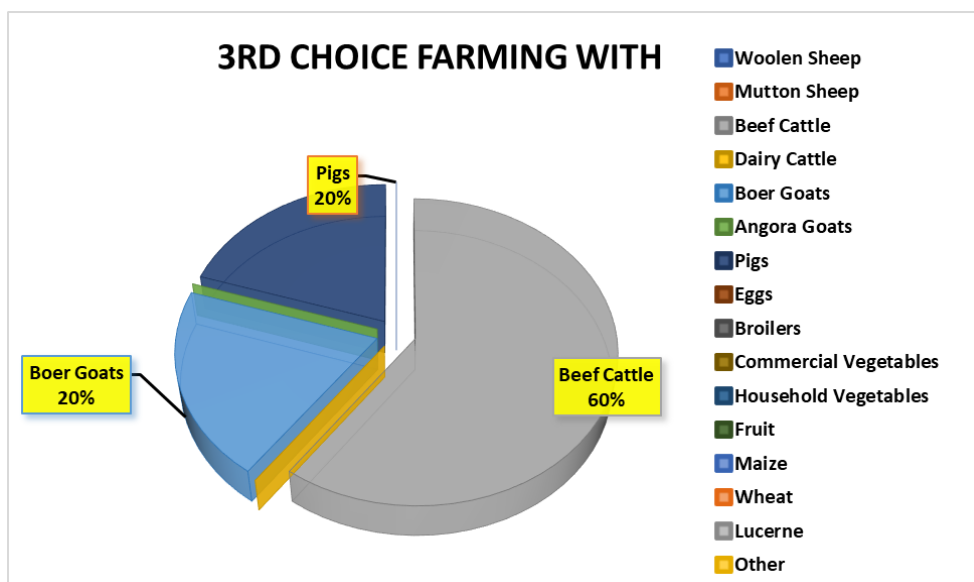
**Figure 5.13: The second-choice farm activity.**

Table 5.14: The third-choice farm activity.

Farming with	Number	Percentage (%)
3rd Choice		
Woolen Sheep	0	0%
Mutton Sheep	0	0%
Beef Cattle	6	60%
Dairy Cattle	0	0%
Boer Goats	2	20%
Angora Goats	0	0%
Pigs	2	20%
Eggs	0	0%
Broilers	0	0%
Commercial Vegetables	0	0%
Household Vegetables	0	0%
Fruit	0	0%
Maize	0	0%
Wheat	0	0%
Lucerne	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	10	100%

- The third-choice farming activity is beef cattle (60%) followed by Boer goats (20%), and pigs (20%).

**Figure 5.14: The third-choice farm activity.**

5.4 Dietary information.

Table 5.15: Always enough food to eat.

Always have enough food to eat	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	14	45%
No	17	55%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A significant number (55%) of the participants do not always have enough food to eat. The remaining 45% of the farmers do have enough food always.

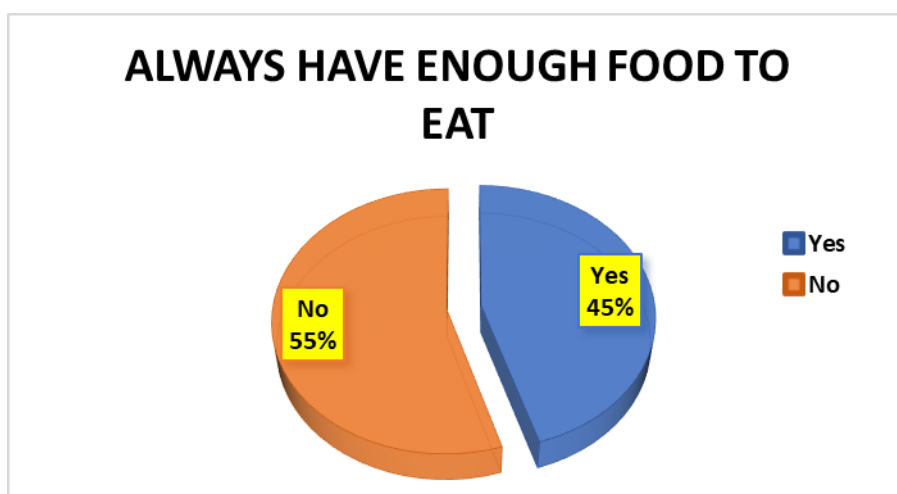


Figure 5.15: Always enough food to eat.

Table 5.16: Number of meals per day.

How many meals per day	Number	Percentage (%)
One	9	29%
Two	14	45%
Three	8	26%
TOTAL	31	71%

- A majority of the people (45%) have two meals a day, followed by those who eat once a day (29%) and then only 26% enjoy 3 meals per day.

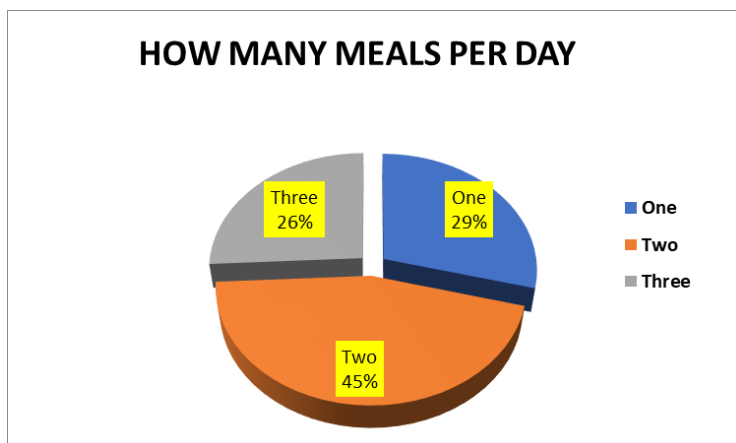


Figure 5.16: Number of meals per day.

6. AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OVERVIEW.

6.1 Agricultural training.

Table 6.1: Previous agricultural training.

Previous Agricultural Training	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	8	26%
No	23	74%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A majority of the people (74%) had no previous agricultural training.

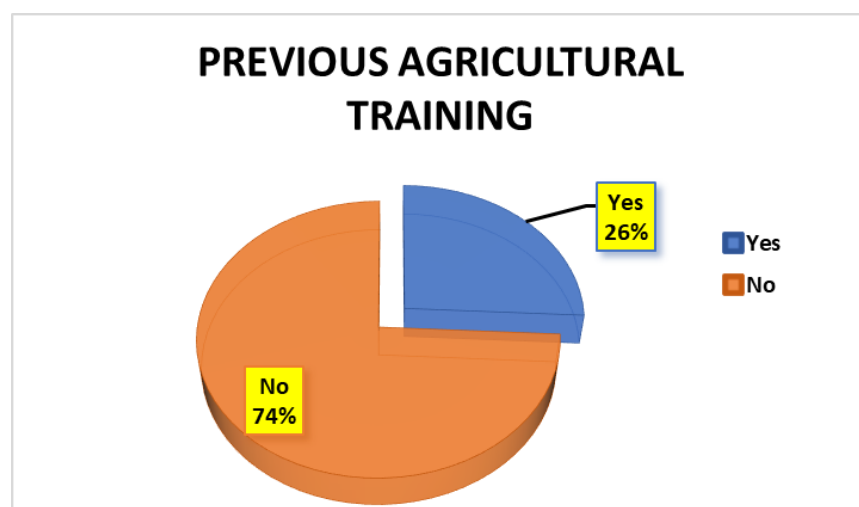


Figure 6.1: Previous agricultural training.

Table 6.2: Previous financial literacy training.

Previous Financial Literacy Training	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	3	10%
No	28	90%
TOTAL	31	100%

- A significant number of the participants (10%) had no previous financial literacy training.
- Only 10% had previous financial literacy training.

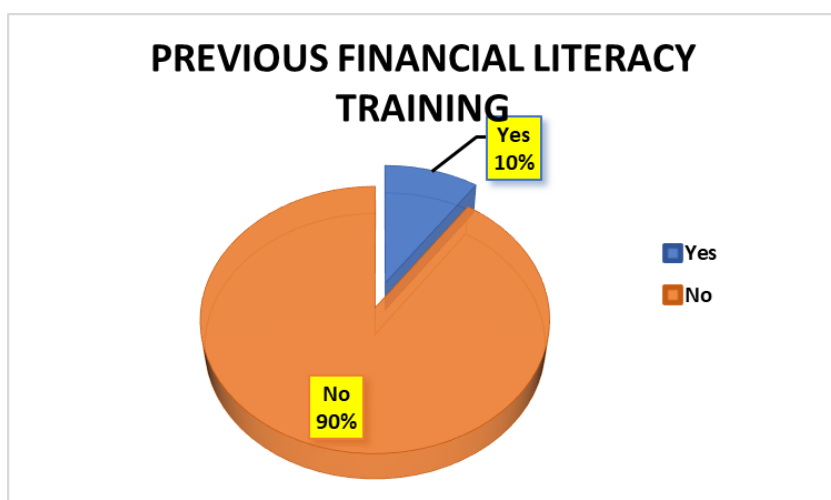


Figure 6.2: Previous financial literacy training.

Table 6.3: Heard about AgriSETA before.

Heard about Agri SETA before	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	8	26%
No	23	74%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Only 26% of the participants heard about AgriSETA before.
- The majority (74%) of the people never heard about AgriSETA before.

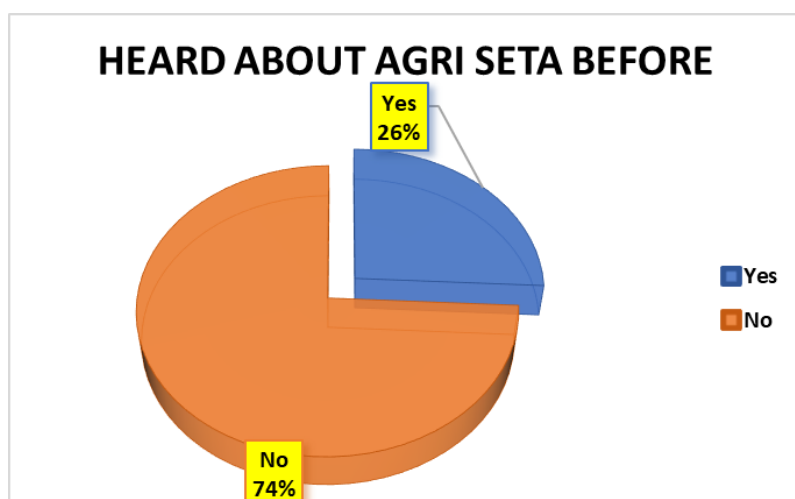
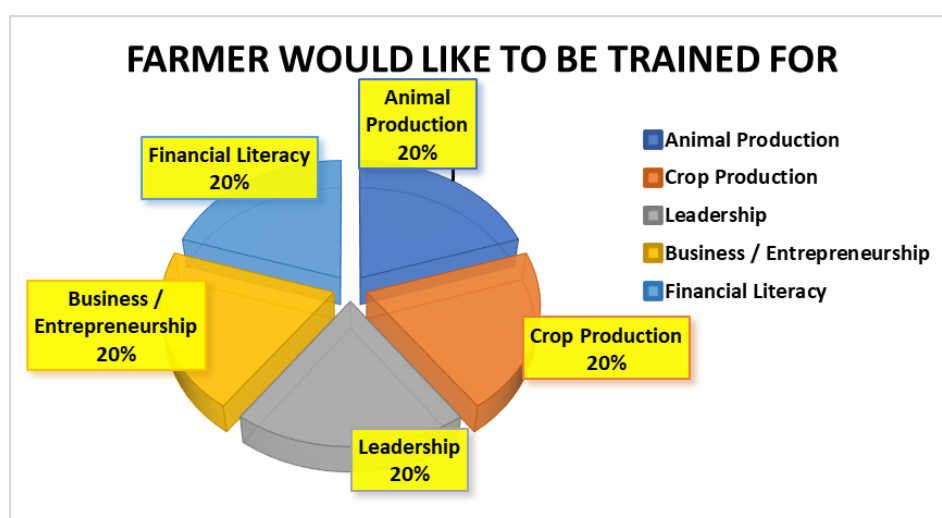


Figure 6.3: Heard about AgriSETA before.

Table 6.4: Farmer would like to be trained for.

Farmer would like to be trained for	Number	Percentage (%)
Animal Production	31	20%
Crop Production	31	20%
Leadership	31	20%
Business / Entrepreneurship	31	20%
Financial Literacy	31	20%
TOTAL	155	100%

- All the participants (100%) would like to be trained in Animal Production, Business / Entrepreneurship, Crop production and Leadership.

**Figure 6.4: Farmer would like to be trained for.**

6.2 Farming information.

Table 6.5: Enterprise farmers are farming with.

Farming With	Number	Percentage (%)
Woolen Sheep	19	30%
Mutton Sheep	7	11%
Beef Cattle	19	30%
Dairy Cattle	0	0%
Boer Goats	7	11%
Angora Goats	3	5%
Pigs	4	6%
Poultry	5	8%
TOTAL	64	100%

- Most of the participants (30%) are farming with woolen sheep and beef cattle (30%), followed by mutton sheep (11%) and Boer Goats (11%), poultry (8%), pigs (6%) and angora goats (5%).
- It was observed that most of the farmers have mixed sheep breed for both mutton and wool.

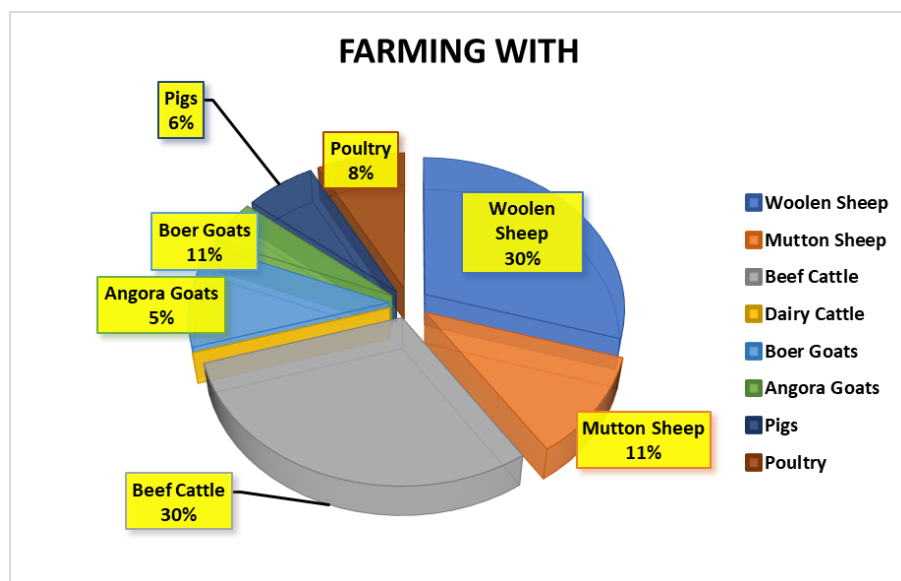
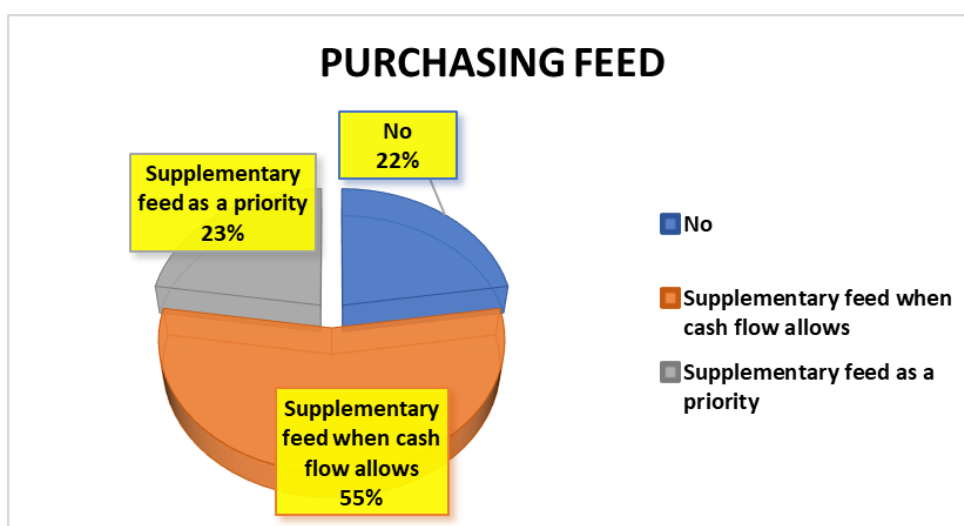


Figure 6.5: Enterprise farmers are farming with.

Table 6.6: The purchasing of feed.

Purchasing feed	Number	Percentage (%)
No	7	23%
Supplementary feed when cash flow allows	17	55%
Supplementary feed as a priority	7	23%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Most of the participants (55%) buy supplementary feed when cash flow allows it. While 23% of the farmers buy supplementary feed as a priority.

**Figure 6.6: The purchasing of feed.****Table 6.7: Keeping animals healthy.**

Keeping animals healthy	Number	Percentage (%)
Oral Dose	26	25%
Injectable dose and dip	27	26%
Vaccine	18	17%
Pour-on dip	6	6%
Plunge dip	6	6%
Anti-biotics	21	20%
TOTAL	104	100%

- All the participants are trying to keep their animals healthy.
- Most people use injectable dose and dip (26%) followed by oral dose (25%), anti-biotics (20%), vaccines (17%), pour-on dip (6%), and plunge dip (6 %%).

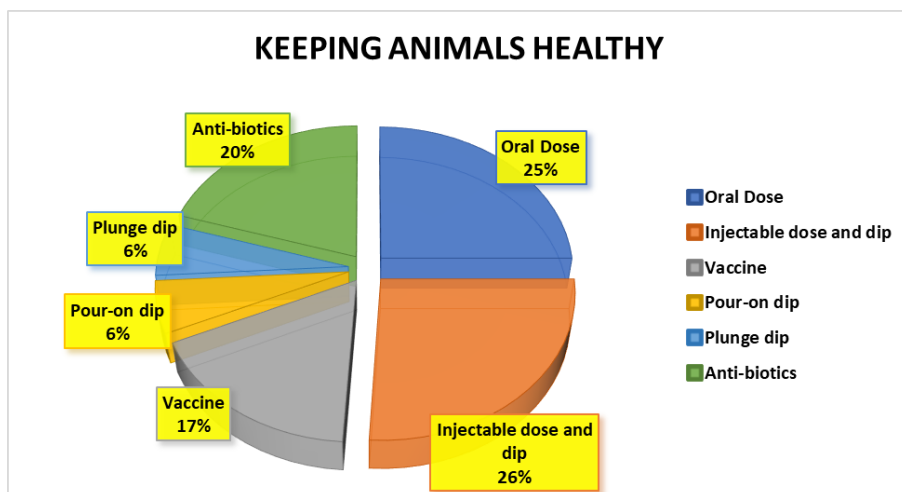


Figure 6.7: Keeping animals healthy.

Table 6.8: The selling of animals.

Selling Animals	Number	Percentage (%)
Community sales	24	77%
Formal Auctions	6	19%
Local Abattoir	0	0%
Local butcher	0	0%
Collected by marketing agents	0	0%
Other	1	3%
TOTAL	31	100%

- It is obvious from the results that the farmers find the selling of animals very challenging.
- The majority of the farmers (77%) are selling animals in the community.
- Only 19% of the farmers sell animals in formal auctions.

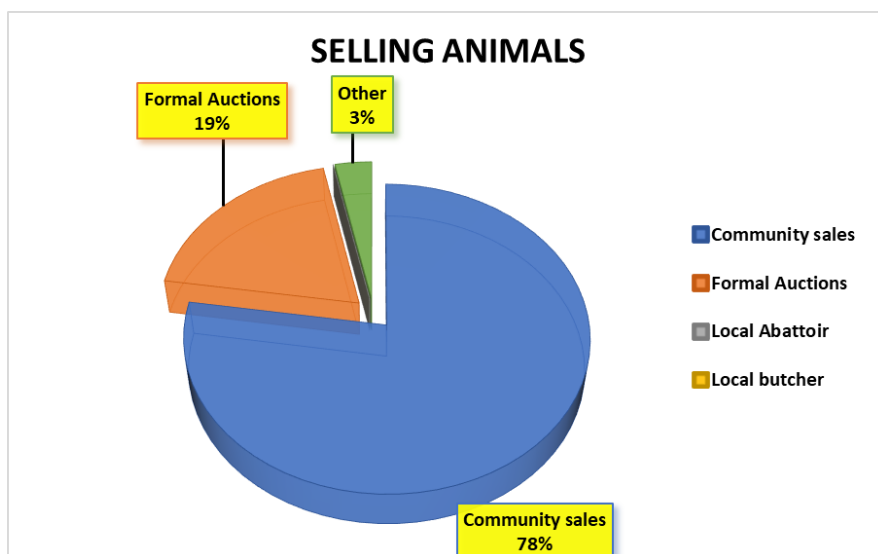


Figure 6.8: The selling of animals.

Table 6.9: The selling of wool.

Selling Wool	Number	Percentage (%)
With the shearing shed to BKB	17	85%
Privately	3	15%
TOTAL	20	100%

- The majority of the wool farmers (85%) use the shearing shed where the wool is sent to BKB to be auctioned.
- A minimum of 15% sell wool privately.

**Figure 6.9: The selling of wool.****Table 6.10: The receiving of market information.**

Receiving market information regarding wool, meat and life animal prices	Number	Percentage (%)
SMS	4	13%
Whatsapp	0	0%
Internet: Email	0	0%
Communication from field officer	1	3%
No Information	26	84%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Most of the farmers (84%) receive no market information, those who do, get it through the communication of the field officer (3%) and SMS (13%).

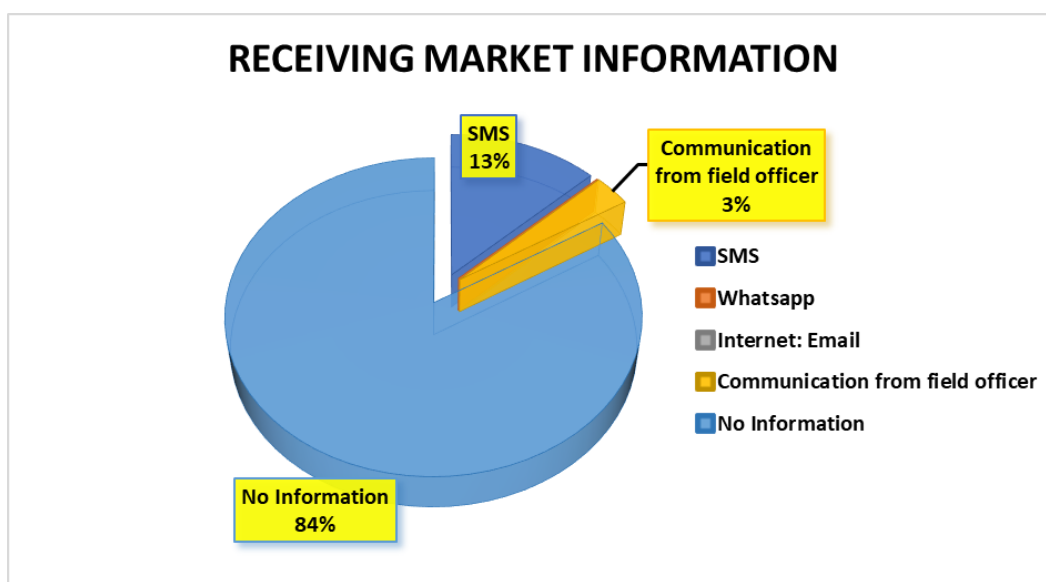


Figure 6.10: The receiving of market information.

6.3 Land ownership.

Table 6.11: Farmers own farmland with title deed.

Own farmland with title deed	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	0	0%
No	31	100%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The results show that none (100%) of the participants own farmland with a title deed.

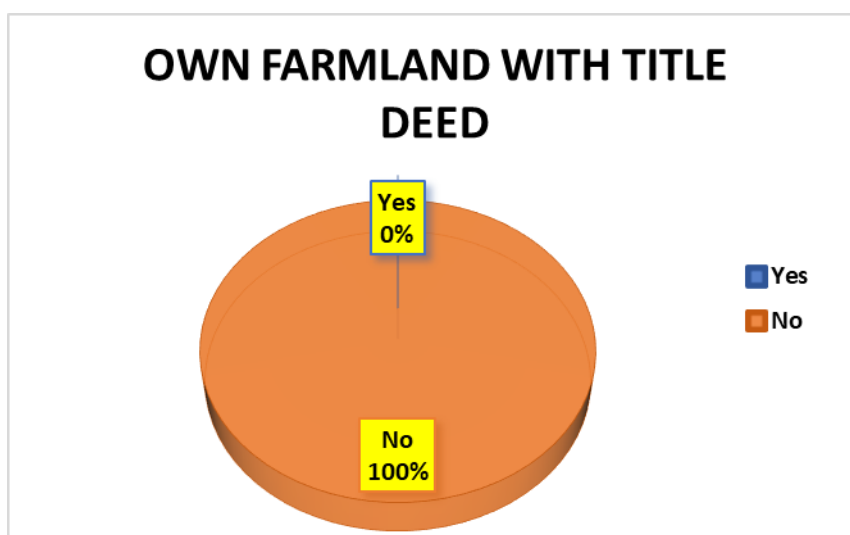
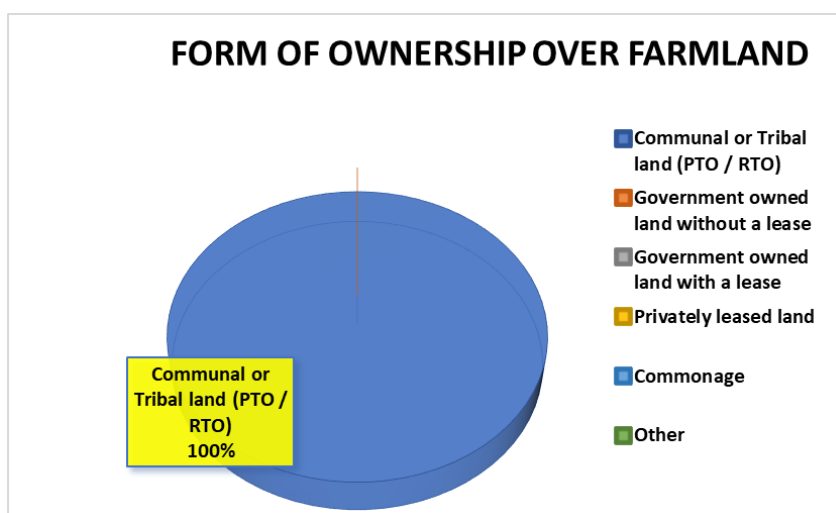


Figure 6.11 Farmers' own farmland with title deed.

Table 6.12: Form of ownership over farmland.

Form of ownership over farmland	Number	Percentage (%)
Communal or Tribal land (PTO / RTO)	31	100%
Government owned land without a lease	0	0%
Government owned land with a lease	0	0%
Privately leased land	0	0%
Commonage	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- All the participants (100%) are farming on communal or tribal land. The land does not belong to the farmer as set per the title deed.

**Figure 6.12: Form of ownership over farmland.****Table 6.13: Approximately size of farmland.**

Approximate size of farmland	Number	Percentage (%)
1 - 4 ha	1	50%
5 - 9 ha	0	0%
10 - 19 ha	0	0%
20 - 29 ha	1	50%
30 - 99 ha	0	0%
100 - 199 ha	0	0%
200 - 299 ha	0	0%
300 - 499 ha	0	0%
500 ha and bigger	0	0%
TOTAL	2	100%

- The majority of the farmers do not know the size of their farmland, since their animals graze openly on communal land without any grazing camp system.

- Only one (50%) of the farmer’s plant was in land ranging between 1 – 4 ha and the other was between 20 – 29 ha.

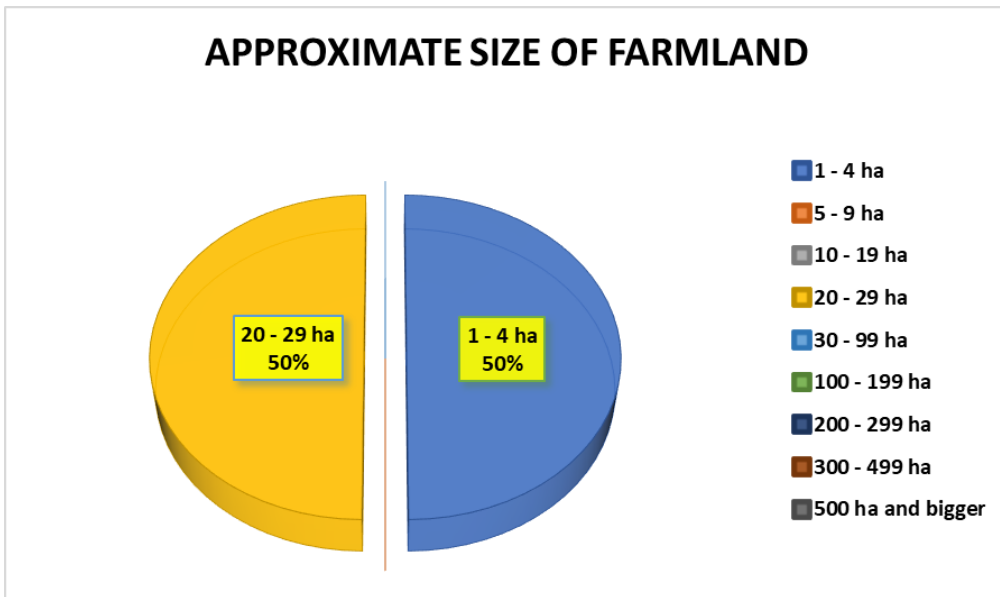


Figure 6.13: Approximately size of farmland.

Table 6.14: Type of farming business.

Individual farmer, co-op, or business	Number	Percentage (%)
I farm individually	27	100%
I farm in a co-operative	0	0%
I farm in a Business	0	0%
Other	0	0%
TOTAL	27	100%

- Interestingly, all the farmers (100%) are farming individually.

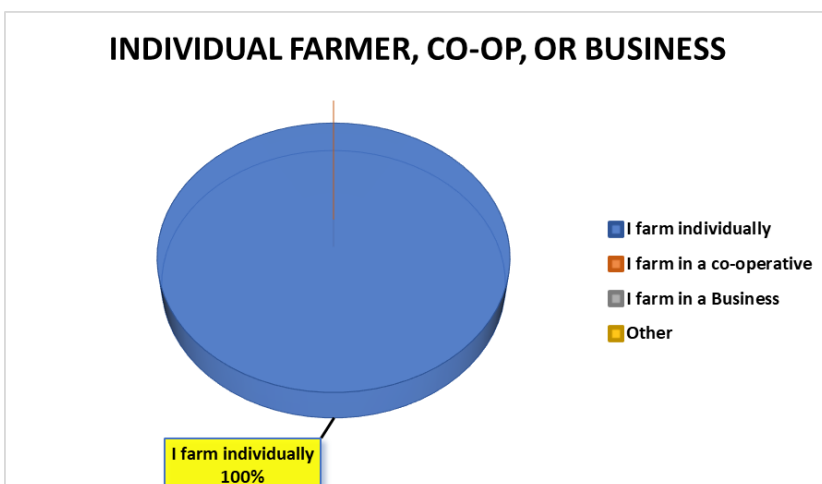


Figure 6.14: Type of farming business.

6.4 Grazing capacity.

- The project members have no reference regarding grazing capacity.

6.5 Stock numbers (per category - Meissner categories).

- No data is available.

6.5.1 Lambs (Unweaned to 4 months).

The project members have no records.

6.5.2 Weaned lambs (4-12 months)

The project members have no records.

6.5.3 Young ewes (12-18 months)

The project members have no records.

6.5.4 Young rams (12-18 months).

The project members have no records.

6.5.5 Breeding ewes.

The project members have no records.

6.5.6 Breeding rams.

The project members have no records.

6.5.7 Wethers.

The project members have no records.

6.5.8 Ewes for culling.

The project members have no records.

6.5.9 Rams for culling.

The project members have no records.

6.6 Sheep management.

6.6.1 Wool production.

- The average kilogram of wool sheared was 102 kgs.
- The average fineness of the clip (microns) was 19.1 – 20 microns.
- Average net income wool R 5 700.
- The average number of sheep shorn was 74.
- The average season of wool growth was 12 months.

6.6.2 Meat production.

- The average number of animals sold for meat was 296.
- The average weaning age was 5 months.
- The project members do not have any further meat production records.

6.6.3 Reproduction.

Table 6.15: General reproduction sheep management.

Months mated (Jan, Feb etc)	April/May
Number of weeks mated	Open Mating
Are the young ewe mated seperately?	No
Mating method	Group mating
Are teaser ram used?	No
Are the ram tested for fertility?	No
Number of rams used per 100 ewes	2
Age of ewes at first mating	8/12 Months
Number of kids born alive	9
Lambing system during lambing	kids extensive veldt
Total number of losses:	13
Main reasons for losses	Diseases

- The ewes are mated all year long using the group mating method and the extensive veldt lambing system.
- The young ewes are not mated separately. The first mating is at the age of 10 to 12 months.
- No teaser rams are used.
- The breeding rams are not tested for fertility. They use 3 rams per 100 ewes.
- The main reason for losses is animal diseases.

6.6.4 Losses.

Table 6.16: Summary of sheep losses

SHEEP LOSSES	Number
Total	41
Largest	30
Smallest	1
Average	4

- A total of 41 animals were lost.
- The largest loss was 30 animals.
- The smallest number of animals was only 1.
- The average number of losses was 4 animals.

6.6.5 Nutrition / Feeding.

Table 6.17: Summary of nutrition management of sheep.

DESCRIPTION	Number	Percentage (%)
Do you use flush feeding before mating		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Do you use supplementary feeding for pregnant:		
Young Ewe		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Single lambing Ewe		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Multiple lambing Ewe		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Do you use supplementary feeding during lactation		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%
Do you use creep feeding for lambs		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Inject Vit A or Milti- Vitamins		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%

- For nutrition, none (100%) of the farmers use flush feeding nor supplementary for pregnant ewe, single or multiple lambing ewes.
- Only 3% use supplementary feeding during lactation and 3% inject Vit A or Mitli vitamins.

6.6.6 Animal Health.

- The participants try to keep the sheep healthy with the little knowledge they have, as well as recommendations from the animal health product suppliers.

Table 6.18: Summary of the animal health inoculation programme.

DESCRIPTION	Number	Percentage (%)
Do you inoculate your animals against:		
Pulpy Kidney		
Yes	4	13%
No	26	87%
TOTAL	30	100%
Blue Tongue		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Ensootic Abortion		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Blue Udder		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Sponge Disease		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%
Blood Stomach		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Rift Valley Fever		
Yes	3	10%
No	27	90%
TOTAL	30	100%
Pasturella		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%
Hartwater		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Other		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%

- A minimum of 13% of the participants inoculate their animals against Pulpy Kidney, followed by Rift valley fever (10%).
- The remaining participants inoculate against Pasteurella (3%) and sponge disease (3%).

Table 6.19: Summary of the animal health dosing programme:

DESCRIPTION	Number	Percentage (%)
Do you dose against:		
Round Worms		
Yes	9	30%
No	21	70%
TOTAL	30	100%
Tapeworms		
Yes	3	10%
No	27	90%
TOTAL	30	100%
Liverfluke		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%
Pear Shape Fluke		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%
Noseworms		
Yes	3	10%
No	27	90%
TOTAL	30	100%
Other		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%

- A total of 30% of the participants dose their animals against Roundworms, followed by tapeworms (10%), and nasal worms (10%).
- A further 3% of the participants dose against liver fluke and pear shape fluke.

Table 6.20: Summary of the animal health dipping programme:

DESCRIPTION	Number	Percentage (%)
Do you dip against:		
Sheep scab		
Yes	3	10%
No	27	90%
TOTAL	30	100%
Ticks		
Yes	9	30%
No	21	70%
TOTAL	30	100%
Blow Flies		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%
TOTAL	30	100%
Karoo Paralesses		
Yes	1	3%
No	29	97%
TOTAL	30	100%

- A total of 30% of the participants dip their animals against ticks.
- On the other hand, 10% of the participants dip their animals against Sheep scab, followed by Karoo paralysis ticks (3%).

7. FINANCIAL SURVEY OVERVIEW.

7.1 Banking information.

Table 7.1: Bank accounts.

Have a bank account	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	30	97%
No	1	3%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The majority of the participants (97%) have a bank account.

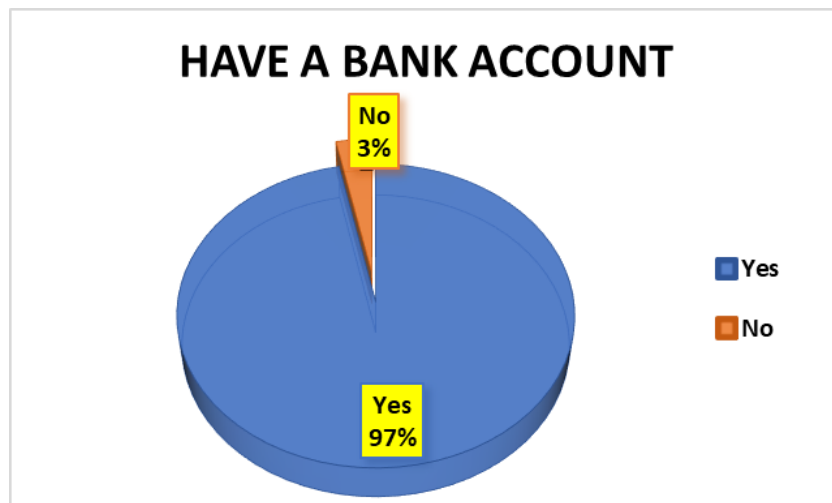


Figure 7.1: Bank accounts.

Table 7.2: The trust of banks.

Trust banks	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	28	90%
No	3	10%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The results demonstrate that 90% of the people are trusting banks.

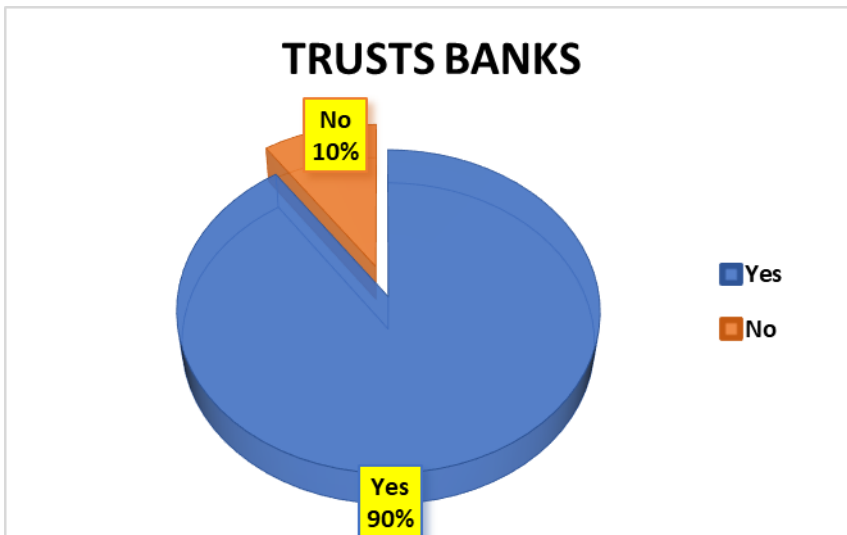


Figure 7.2: The trust of banks.

Table 7.3: Internet banking.

Internet banking (cell app)	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	13	42%
No	18	58%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Internet banking is used by 42% of the participants.

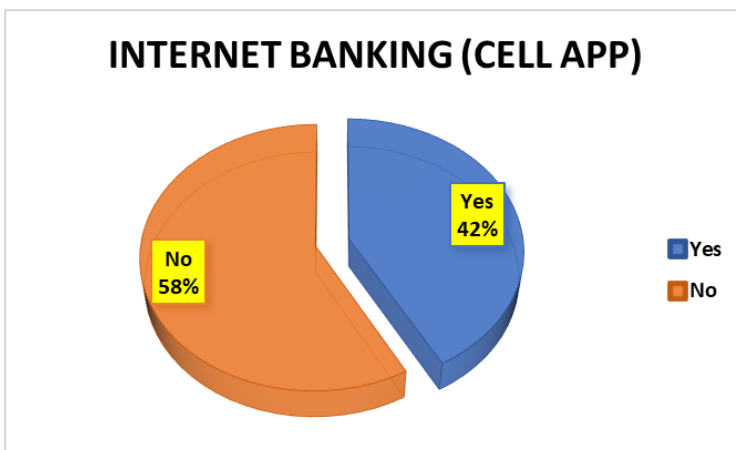
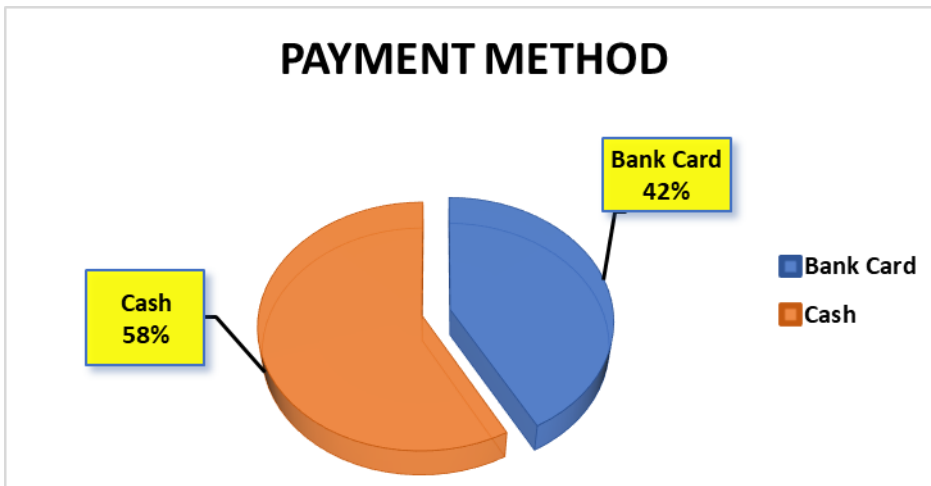


Figure 7.3: Internet banking.

Table 7.4: Payment method.

Payment method	Number	Percentage (%)
Bank Card	13	42%
Cash	18	58%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Most people (58%) are using cash as a payment method.

**Figure 7.4: Payment method**

7.2 Financial information.

Table 7.5: Non-farm income.

Earn any non-farm income	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	24	77%
No	7	23%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The results illustrate that 77% of the people earn a non-farm income.

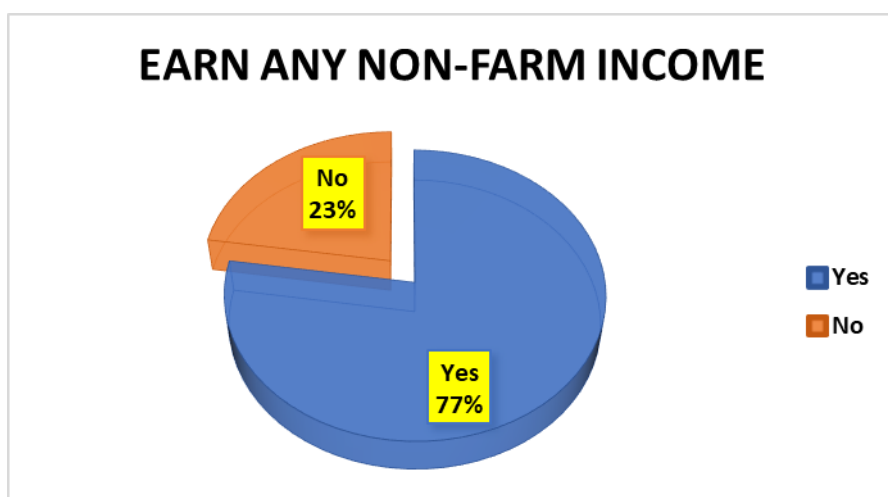


Figure 7.5: Non-farm income.

Table 7.6: Non-farm income is bigger than farm income.

Non-farm income bigger than farm income	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	0	0%
No	31	100%
TOTAL	31	100%

- The non-farm income for 100% of the people is less than the farm income.

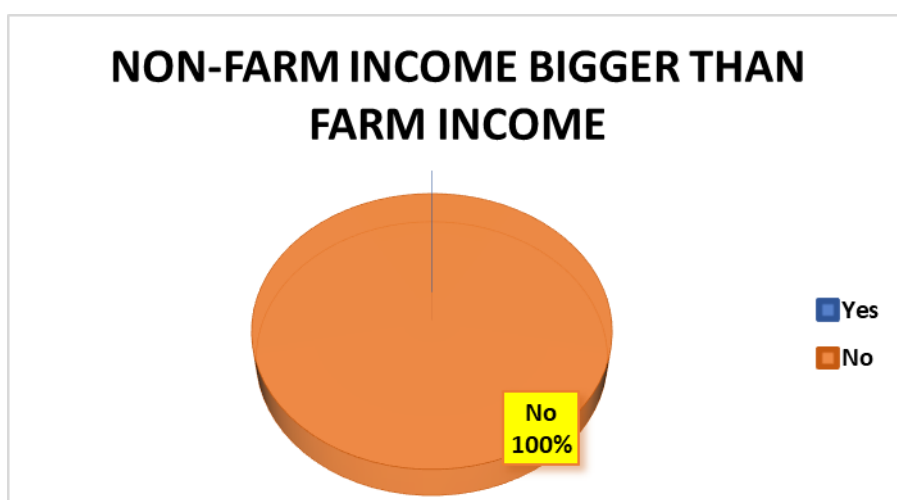


Figure 7.6: Non-farm income is bigger than farm income.

Table 7.7: Access to funding for farming activities.

Access to funding for farming activities	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	1	3%
No	30	97%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Access to funding for farming activities is not possible for 97% of the participants.

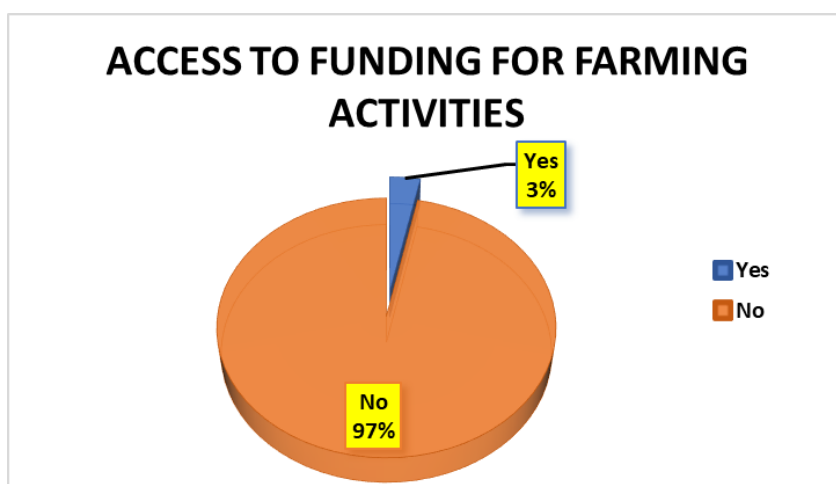


Figure 7.7: Access to funding for farming activities.

Table 7.8: Saving money.

Save money	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	20	65%
No	11	35%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Only 65% of the people have enough money to save money.

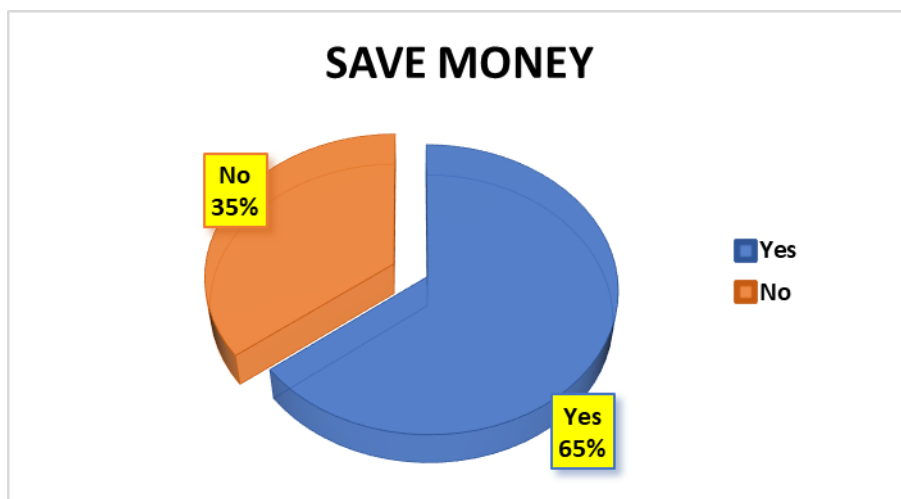
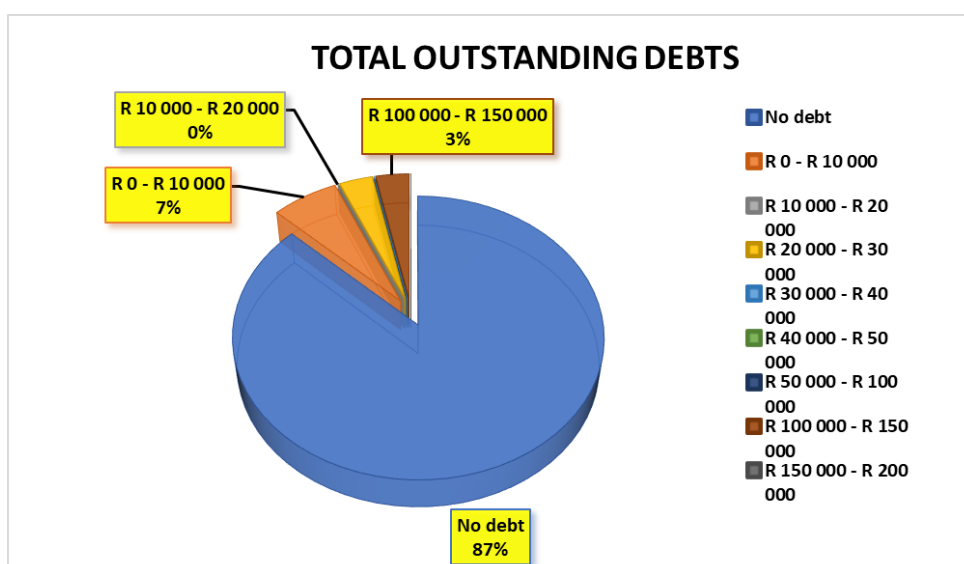


Figure 7.8: Saving money.

Table 7.9: Outstanding debts.

Total outstanding debts	Number	Percentage (%)
No debt	27	87%
R 0 - R 10 000	2	6%
R 10 000 - R 20 000	0	0%
R 20 000 - R 30 000	1	3%
R 30 000 - R 40 000	0	0%
R 40 000 - R 50 000	0	0%
R 50 000 - R 100 000	0	0%
R 100 000 - R 150 000	1	3%
R 150 000 - R 200 000	0	0%
R 200 000 - R 250 000	0	0%
R 250 000 - R 300 000	0	0%
R 300 000 - R 350 000	0	0%
R 400 000 - R 450 000	0	0%
R 450 000 - R 500 000	0	0%
R 500 000 +	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%

- Most of the people (87%) do not have any debt.
- 6% of the participants have a debt of R 0 – R 10 000, followed by 3% of the participants with a debt of R 20 000 – R 30 000.
- Lastly, 3% of the participants have a debt of R100 000 – R 150 000.

**Figure 7.9: Outstanding debts.**

7.3 Farm business financial information.

7.3.1 Income.

a) Product income – Wool.

- The average kilogram of wool sheared was 102 kgs.
- The average fineness of the clip (microns) was 19.1 – 20 microns.
- Average net income wool R5 700.
- The average number of sheep shorn was 74.
- The average season of wool growth was 12 months.

b) Trade income – Meat / Animals.

- An animal is sold at an average of R1 700.00
- An average of 60 sheep are sold per annum.

7.3.2 Expenditures.

a) Directly Allocatable Variable Costs (DAVC).

- **Insufficient data.**
- **Average R 2 861.00**

b) Purchasing of stock.

- **Insufficient data.**
- **Average R 3 050.00**

c) Total expenditure: DAVC + Purchasing of stock.

- **Insufficient data.**
- **Average R 5 911.00.**

d) Overhead Costs (OC).

- **No records.**

7.3.3 Balance Sheet / Inventory.

a) Assets.

- **No records.**

b) Liabilities.

- **No records.**

c) Net worth.

- **No records.**

8. FEEDBACK REPORTS.

8.1 Group discussions.

A Survey group discussion was held to understand the livelihoods and the way of living of these small-scale sheep farmers. Farmers were grouped according to their age and gender, as shown in the table below (Table 8.1).

Table 8.1: Gender and Age of Thabachitja community small-scale sheep farmers.

Age Group	Number	Percentage (%) of Total	Male	Percentage (%) Males	Female	Percentage (%) Females
18 - 24 years	8	26%	4	25%	4	27%
25 - 34 years	14	45%	7	44%	7	47%
35 - 44 years	6	19%	3	19%	3	20%
45 - 54 years	2	6%	1	6%	1	7%
55 - 64 years	1	3%	1	6%	0	0%
65 years +	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	31	100%	16	100%	15	100%
Male			16	52%		
Female					15	48%

- The majority of the group was between 25 and 34 years of age (45%).
- The second biggest group was 18-24 years (26%).
- Only 3% of the farmers were between 55 - 64 years.
- Males were 16 occupying 52% of the total participants.
- The largest male age groups were 25- 34 years (44%) and 18-24 years (25%).
- Females were 15 in total, occupying 48% of the total participants.
- The largest female age group was 25-34 years (47%).

This report will give discussions about their livelihoods in Thabachitja rural area.

8.1.1. Hopes, fears and challenges.

It was noted that the farmers in Thabachitja rural community have a great potential of becoming commercial and contributing significantly to the economy of the country through wool and meat production. However, that potential is buried beneath the fears and challenges they face on a daily bases.

The males and females in the age category of 18-30 years hope to get job opportunities, close educational institutions such as colleges, universities and computer laboratories, free WiFi, libraries and soup kitchens. In addition, they hope to have tar roads (Figure 8.1), malls, good transportation, hospital and shearing sheds. The escalating crime rate, rape, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence and prevailing animal diseases are the major fears of this age group in both males and females. Furthermore, they indicated that their challenges are unemployment, stock theft, lack of clean running water, network connectivity, poor education system and infrastructure and lack of school transportation.

On the other hand, males and females in the age category of 31 years upwards indicated that their hopes are to get veterinarian services, tar roads, livestock abattoirs, medical services, electricity, church schools, transport and water. Their fears are continuous field fires (Figure 8.2), climate change, rape, kidnapping, stock theft, wattle tree and jackals. Their challenges are water, stock theft, and lack of clean running water, transportation, bank, network outage and poor infrastructure.



Figure 8.1: Road conditions of the area.



Figure 8.2 Burned grazing fields.

8.1.2. Describe your living conditions.

The living condition of farmers in all age categories and gender are similar. The farmers indicated eating pap made from maize meal with vegetables that are mostly grown in the backyard garden or with milk from the cattle. The sources of protein-included mutton, beef and beans.

The groceries and clothes are purchased at Matatiele or Mount Fletcher town which is approximately 54 km away, or at times small food items are bought from their local tuckshops. All the villagers get water from tanks, boreholes, springs, rivers, and dams.

8.1.3. Basic needs.

The basic needs required to sustain the livelihood of farmers in the Thabachitja rural community were common across all age groups and gender. Farmers indicated that water, food, shelter, clothes and electricity as their basic daily needs. Furthermore, hospitals, mobile clinics, Sports fields, Libraries, home affairs, police stations, and shopping centres were reported to be a part of the basic need in this community. The main road of this community is in very bad condition, in some areas it is impossible to drive on when it is raining. A closer traffic department would make it easy for the community members to do their license testing. The farmers indicated that in order to reach a commercial scale in farming, mentorship from a businessman would be helpful.

8.1.4. Living conditions.

The females in the age category of 31 and upward, pointed out they often have to walk long distances to fetch water and monthly they run out of food before getting money again. They highlighted that they walk even further to access the health care centre. On the other hand, when kids are going to school they also walk a long distance. Male farmers in the age category of 31 years and older indicated that they often have to take care of the flock when it is grazing in the field and fetch wood for an energy source.

When asked if the living conditions of the past were better than that of the present, the males and females in the age category 18 - 30 agreed that the living conditions in the old days were better than the present. In the good old days, there was no crime, youth was not exposed to drugs, few teenage pregnancies, not so much buying but more producing their food. Living conditions were better in the past because things were affordable. This is because in the good old day fields were ploughed and planted, and young people were listening to adults and working together. It would however be inapplicable to live that way today.

8.1.5. Dreams and expectations.

The males and females in the age group 18-35 agreed that access to funding and proper training can capacitate the to be self-employed and create employment opportunities for other people in their community. Consequently, having people busy with work will reduce crime while helping to improve the living conditions of Thabachitja community members. Farmers in the age group 31 and older expressed their desire to do mixed farming that will cover a wide range of farming practices.

8.1.6. Daily Routine.

It was noted that the majority of the farmers are only farming and do not have any other jobs. This indicates that livestock plays a major role in the sustainability of their livelihoods. The daily routine of male farmers across all age categories includes waking up, taking livestock to the veld, and ploughing the fields some farmers with cattle and others with tractors. Then later, bring the flock back home afternoon. On other hand, women farmers in all age categories include waking up in the morning, preparing children for school, feeding them and making food for everyone in the house, doing the household chores and fetching water. It was interesting to note that there was a clear distinction in gender roles among male and female farmers.

8.1.7. Previous assistance.

The majority of the farmers have received no form of assistance both from government departments or the private sector. The farmers who received assistance were from Conservation South Africa with animal vaccination.

8.1.8. Conclusion.

In conclusion, agriculture for centuries has improved and sustained food security in many communities across the globe, hence it is known as the backbone of the country. The livelihood of the community members of Thabachitja depends largely on farming practices. It was noted that proper training and mentorship of these emerging farmers together with access to funding, viable link to market, and donations with good quality rams, bucks and bulls will help them to reach a commercial scale. Consequently, this would help to minimise socio-economic challenges such as poverty and unemployment.

8.2 Learner feedback report on training.

Table 8.1: Learner Pre-Training Evaluation

LEARNER FEEDBACK	
Questions	Feedback
Why are you attending this training?	I want to know about sheep farming. I want to know about nutrition, feeding and medication. I attend to gain knowledge and to get a certificate
What are your expectations regarding the training?	I expect to be trained on farm management and ways to improve sheep and wool. I expect to be taught how to cut and classified wool. I expect to learn more about diseases and cures for sheep.

What is your expectation regarding the training facility?	Theory and practicals.			
What topics would you like to learn about during this training?	Animal medication. Animal nutrition. Disease and vaccinations for sheep. Rural livestock and wool farming. Sheep handling.			
Is this the first time you are attending training on this topic?	Yes	X	No	
Are you currently employed?	Yes		No	X

8.1.1 Learner Pre-training evaluation.

- The main reason for learners to attend the training was to gain more knowledge about sheep and wool production in its entirety.
- Generally, the learners are expected to be trained in farm management and ways to improve sheep and wool production. They also expected to know more about diseases that affect sheep and their cures.
- The learners expected the training facility to cover a range of theories and practicals.
- The topics of interest to be trained on were animal medication, nutrition, sheep disease and vaccination.

Table 8.2: Learner Post training evaluation.

LEARNER FEEDBACK					
Questions	Feedback				
	Poor	Below Standard	Sufficient	Above Standard	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
Reaction					
Did you feel the training was worth your time?					X
Was the training well organised and presented?					X
Can you apply what you learned to your job?					X
Did you feel the training outline was well-structured?				X	
What part of the training made the biggest impact on you?					

	The importance of animal post-mortem to evaluate unknown illness. Sheep breeding production in module 8. Rubber castration. Shearing and classification of wool. Importance of vaccination.				
Was the facilitator friendly and well prepared?					X
Did the facilitator explain the content in a way that you could understand?					X
Did you have any expenditures to do the training other than travelling?	No				
Were you able to do the assessments? (Was the assessment understandable to complete?)				X	
Were the assessments helpful? (Did you learn anything after completing the assessment?)					X
Were the training facilities up to standard?				X	
Learning					
Were you satisfied with the quality of the content?					X
Was the training material relevant and in line with modern industry practices?				X	
Was the content/training material user-friendly?				X	
Was the content practically demonstrated either physically or visually with photos and videos?					X
What part of the training do you think must be improved?	Sheep health. Practical sheep testing. Current realities facing rural sheep farmers.				

The following results are emphasized in Table 8.2:

8.2.1 Learner feedback rating: EXCELLENT.

- The training was worth attending and it was well organized and presented. As a result, the learner is going to apply what they learned to their jobs/farmers.
- The facilitators were well prepared, effective and good communicators and were knowledgeable on the topics.
- The assessment was helpful and learners were satisfied with the quality of the content. The content was practically demonstrated physically and with photos and videos.

8.2.2 Learner feedback rating: ABOVE STANDARD.

- The training outline was well structured and learners were able to do the assessments.
- The learning facility was up to standard and they were relevant and in line with modern industry practices.
- The training material was user-friendly.

8.3 Facilitator feedback report.

FACILITATOR POST-TRAINING FEEDBACK REPORT.

Training Program	Sustainable Rural Sheep & Wool farming Training (Kering, Matatiele)
Reference	Kering Training, Matatiele
Facilitators Name	Dave Grobbelaar
Training Period	Monday, 15 August 2022 until Friday, 26 August 2022
Date of Report	22 August 2022

Table 8.3: Facilitator's feedback report on the learners and the community.

FACILITATOR FEEDBACK					
The Learners and Community					
	Poor	Below Standard	Sufficient	Above Standard	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
How prepared and motivated to attend the training were the learners?			X		
Were the learners punctual and did they keep to the training routine and schedule?				X	
From what you can notice, how skilled are learners on this topic?		X			

Was the training preparation in order and did you receive all the necessary equipment and materials?					X
Did the learners participate well and provided inputs?				X	
Were you satisfied with the travel arrangements?					X
How was our presence (the training course) received by the community?				X	
Additional Comments					

Table 8.3 demonstrates the following results:

8.3.1. The learners and the community.

- **Rating EXCELLENT.**
 - The training preparation was in order and all the necessary equipment and materials were received.
 - The travelling arrangement was satisfactory.
- **Rating ABOVE STANDARD.**
 - Learners punctual and did they keep to the training routine and schedule
 - The learners participated well and provided constructive input.
 - The good manner in which the i3A presentations were received by the community.
- **Rating SUFFICIENT.**
 - Learners were prepared and motivated to attend the training.
- **Rating BELOW STANDARD.**
 - Learners were somehow skilled on this topic.

Table 8.4: Facilitator's feedback report on the support from i3A.

FACILITATOR FEEDBACK					
Support from i3A					
	Poor	Below Standard	Sufficient	Above Standard	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
Were you satisfied with the detail of the instructions you received before the commencement of the training course you were facilitating?				X	
Were you satisfied with the content and layout of the training manuals?					X
Was the training facility big enough to host the group?			X		
Was the training facility up to standard?				X	
Did the facility provide enough clean water and toilet facilities?		X			
How did you experience your transport arrangements before, during and after the training course was completed?					X
How did you experience your accommodation arrangements during the training course?			X		
General recommendations					
I think everything went well. No complaints.					

The following results are noted from Table 8.4:

8.3.2. Support from i3A.

- **Rating EXCELLENT.**
 - The facilitator was satisfied with the content and layout of the training manuals.
 - The facilitator was satisfied with the transport arrangements.
- **Rating ABOVE STANDARD.**
 - The detail of the instructions received by the facilitator before the commencement of the training course was satisfying.
 - The training facility was up to standard.

- **Rating SUFFICIENT.**
 - The training facility big enough to host the group
 - Accommodation arrangements were done well.
- **Rating BELOW STANDARD.**
 - The training facility's clean water and toilet were below standard.
 - The training facility was big enough to host the group.

Facilitators Signature:	Date: 17/01/2022
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9. LEGAL ENTITIES.

The registration of a legal entity was not part of the training objectives and outcomes.

10. CONCLUSIONS.

The escalating unemployment rate and poverty in South Africa and many other countries in Africa and across the world continue to threaten the livelihoods of humans. However, the agricultural industry has the potential of eliminating unemployment and poverty and thus contribute to developing rural areas such as Thabachitja. A catalyst to develop these remote areas it is through empowering emerging farmers by providing skills courses, access to funding and a link to a viable market. The current obstacles which these sheep farmers are faced in Thabachitja are;

- Lack of livestock production training.
- Lack of access to good quality rams to improve the genes of their flock.
- Limited access to funding and market.
- Stock theft.
- Continuous and uncontrolled burning of the grazing fields.

If these obstacles can be properly dealt with through formal professional training, donation of good quality rams, bulls or bucks, and access to funding and market these emerging farmers will improve to commercial scale.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS.

The results obtained from the research survey and the conclusion thereof, the following recommendations are applicable as an implementation plan and ways to sustain the outcome of the training program.

- a) Further skills course training such as financial management, book-keeping, and compilation of business plans will enable them to be able to apply for funding that will elevate their business.
- b) Company registration as co-op or individual farmers will help them benefit from the advantage of a legal entity, such as collective price bargaining, tax derivatives, etc.
- c) In the future constant communication to provide information and technical advice between Mentors and beneficiaries can be made through a WhatsApp group and SMS for those who are not on social media.
- d) A market analysis of both formal and informal must be made to evaluate a gap which the farmers can fill by supplying red meat.
- e) It was noted that research results show high mortality rates of animals, therefore, a follow-up on more technical training is important which will enable better use of doses, dips and vaccines.
- f) A follow-up on more training on management practices, especially financial and record keeping is crucial, as financial records can open the door to finances for the farmers and the company.
- g) The offering of full qualifications such as the National Certificate in Animal Production, NQF 4, followed up by a National Diploma in Animal Production, NQF 5, will add much value to the development of the human capital aspects, especially the youth.
- h) The farmers need better infrastructure such as handling and dipping facilities, weighing scales, and sheep shearing equipment.

End