



The HPSA Jozini Agricultural Model Project is funded by the European Union

HPSA is working with farmers in KZN, through the Jozini Agricultural Model project, to increase productivity with their livestock. This project, funded by the European Union and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, started in May 2015 and aims to support 2400 farmers over three years.



Innovation platform where goat diptank was showcased and discussed

The project holds regular Innovation Platforms where stakeholders come together and discuss problems farmers are facing. A community research platform showcased a diptank specifically for goats that had been adapted in various ways to work for communal goat farmers. The Jozini Project farmers took from this the ideas to try out in the Jozini project area. Two goat dip tanks have been built and are being used as a demonstration tool for other community farmers involved in the project.

Going forward a proposal to the state to support expanding this program has been submitted.

In the past, because goats have never been on the radar of the government extension services, techniques on how to keep disease causing ticks and other parasites off goats have never been extensively explored.

Although farmers can use handheld sprays, injectables or tick grease for reducing tick loads on goats, a much more efficient system is this goat specific plunge dip. These are built by our community groups and need a pool section that is at least 2 metres deep, a runway for goats to drip dry so that the dip goes back into the pool and doesn't get wasted after the goats have been dipped and an apron around the pool so that when the farmer stands there to submerge the goat, he doesn't put mud into the pool. The runway needs to run all the way to the bottom of the pool so that goats can easily walk out of the pool. The whole dip needs to be fenced off so as to restrain the goats while they are waiting to be dipped. The runway needs to be fenced and have a gate at the end for goats to be released once they have dried. A section between the runway and the pool

needs to be made to allow the farmer to submerge the goat with a cleft stick and also use the cleft stick to assist goats out of the pool.

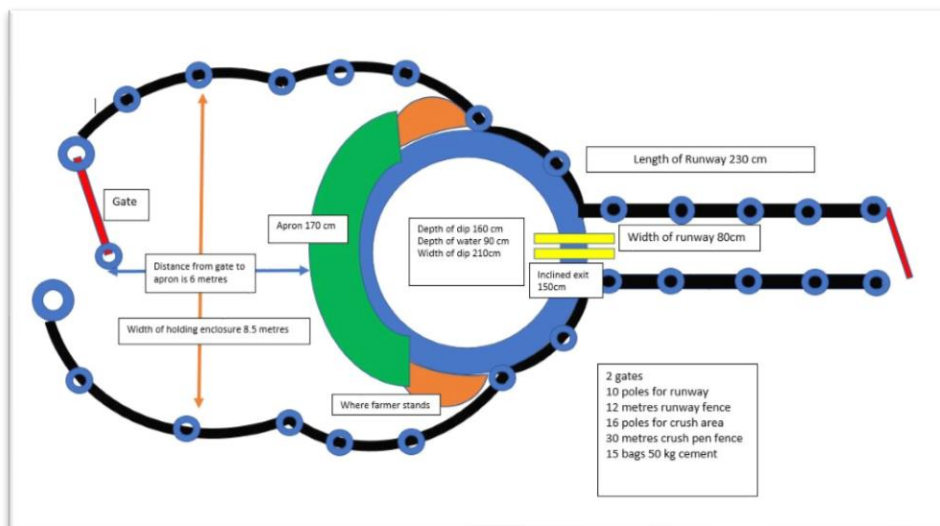


Jozini Project dip tank is launched

Once the dip is built, the farmer needs to fill it with water using a 20-litre container or a 200 litre container so as to count how many of these containers are used and thus get a measure of the capacity of the dip. This water level should be marked off and this volume used as a measure for the mixing ratio of dip medicine to water.

A dip containing the active Amitraz has worked well for farmers who have problems with ticks and mange. A regime of monthly dipping throughout the year except for mid-winter months when there are no ticks on the goats has proven effective.

In the various pilots, farmers have been able to get up to 2,500 goats dipped in an hour. Although it needs at least five farmers to be assisting the farmers into the dip, it is far more effective than any other method that the project has tried to date. It works out far cheaper than injectable solutions. It also works very well against mange which is a growing problem for goat farmers and is spread between household dogs and goats. As a result, very few commercial solutions are available to control mange.



Technical specifications of a goat dip tank

The technical aspects have been largely settled on and the methodology and plan of these dips is being shared nationally and internationally as a best practice as parasite control to cut down diseases in goats. For more information, please visit www.hpsa.org.za and www.gapkzn.co.za.