



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

HPSA's Jozini Agricultural Model Project covers four areas in the Umkhanyakhude District and the Zululand District - Jozini, Nongoma, Hlabisa and UMhlabuyalingana. The project, funded by the European Union, started in May 2015. The project aims to help 2400 farmers increase their livestock production. Part of the project activities are focused on helping goat farmers increase their productivity and assist with formalising the indigenous goat market by linking stakeholders throughout the value chain and organising goat sales at pension points and regular auctions. Project partners are Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mdukatshani Rural Development Project and the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Goat kids in feeding enclosures

The three-year drought that affected the area that the Jozini project works in brought into question the viability of goat herds during times of nutritional stress and how this affects productivity. With questions being asked around these issues by the Jozini project farmers, the project put more focus into the goat kid enclosure experiments. These have shown in the past an increased production among goat kids by reducing mortality and protecting kids. These enclosures were aimed at entry level farmers who had small goat herds of 10-15 females in their goat herds. As commercialisation came more to the fore in the conversations around sales and auctions, farmers were asking how they could adapt the enclosures for bigger herds and more intensive production demands.

Many farmers were losing up to 70% of their kids during the past 3 winters. It is with this mandate that the Jozini project has started revisiting and reconfiguring the initial goat enclosures.

In the four areas, there are 45 enclosures in farmers homes. These have been revived and currently a fresh round of experiments is being conducted with farmers and farmer groups around processing feed stuff from the local environments including acacia pods, grass and stover and using this to feed



Locally harvested *Acacia tortalis* and *Dichrostachys* pods being processed through a hammermill to be fed to kids

more kids through the winter. The Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have also been dosing, treating and deworming these kids to give them an added chance of survival.

This round of experiments is focusing on commercialisation opportunities from kid enclosures and are looking at herd sizes of 20, 50 and 100 females in herds and different sizes of kid enclosures and technical issues around these herd sizes.



A version of the large kid enclosure that takes up to 100 kids

This move towards commercialisation has attracted the attention of a larger group of farmers as well as Departmental staff who see the movement towards commercialisation fitting into their mandates. Three staff, farmer and CAHW exchange have taken place in the last six months and as the experiments progress more farmer visits and learnings are being planned. For more information, visit www.hpsa.org.za or www.gapkzn.co.za.

