



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.



Chickens nestled in a bag patiently waiting to be passed on

In the dusty little outpost of Mboza, women farmers stream in carrying chickens in various creative ways, some in boxes, some in plastic packets, some just held casually in their hands. It is a chicken POG day, they say. This is the shorthand name for Passing on the Gift, one of HPSA's way of expanding it's work past the initial capital input. This is no normal POG though as farmers also get to talk about goats, get a brief training on prevalent diseases and take vaccines back home for their remaining chickens.



The headman speaks to the group about responsibility towards the project (left) and empty bottle to be returned home full of vaccine (right)

This assists in increasing their flocks at home and gives them knowledge to deal with problems with their chickens as well as goats. In the longer term, the Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) take over the vaccination program and farmers contribute the full cost of the vaccine and the CAHWs time.

The training and POG is also attended by the local headmen and chairman of the Livestock Association. This helps support compliance where farmers chose beneficiaries where farmers are deserving of receiving the gift.



Farmers wait with colourful chickens as their details are being captured

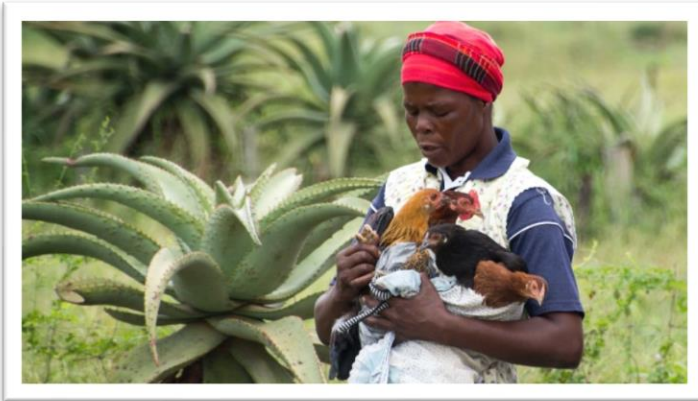
Siyabonga Yokwe, the HPSA field assistant, records the farmers who have passed on chickens by referencing their ID by the initial list more than a year ago. The original beneficiaries received 4 hens and one cock. Over 1000 chickens were passed on in this last year of the project.

The ladies proudly pose with the new owners of the chickens and remind them to look after the chickens that come from a good home.



**Farmers carry their chickens home in ingeniously adapted containers;
Farmer receives chickens from another farmer (middle)**

As women head back, their new chicken in boxes on their heads, there is much laughter and chit chat as new friends has been made and new knowledge has been gained.



Farmer applying knowledge learned from training on her newly acquired chickens by checking their feet for scaly mites (left); Chickens in a homebuilt nest (right)

For more information, please visit www.hpsa.org.za or www.gapkzn.co.za.