



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

### **Bright Future for Youth in Agriculture- Community Animal Health Workers**

A community animal health worker (CAHW) is a specially trained young local community member who helps farmers to raise healthy animals to maximise their benefits. CAHWs have a wide range of tasks to perform, like providing basic preventive health care, training and advisory services. Through regular household visits, they provide a critical link between farmers, livestock associations, local government offices and state vets.

The primary purpose of a CAHW programme is to help prevent animal mortality and disease outbreak while increasing productivity.

Heifer Project South Africa (HPSA) works to identify, train and support CAHWs in its projects with a total of 53 youth (40 in Kwa Zulu Natal and 13 in Limpopo) actively participating and helping rural farmers.

CAHWs are chosen through a process of community meetings called by the Livestock Association. Local, interested, energetic, literate, preferably female, young persons are nominated to be trained as prospective CAHWs. A letter of appointment is signed by the enterprise (Livestock Association) to formally approve this person for a training process. In parallel, the traditional authorities and other civic bodies are used to appoint someone in the same way to represent women farmers in the area. In this way, HPSA has two CAHWs per dip in all the dip tanks where we are working. Post the first set of trainings, CAHW principles and training in census taking, the CAHW is then deployed to do a census (counting all livestock) of the dip tank area they are representing. These census documents are captured by the NGO project staff and are made accessible to local and provincial vet and production staff.



A training on goat handling and treatment in Hlabisa (Jozini)

Recently, intensive training has been carried out in HPSA's Jozini Agricultural Model project. This project is funded by the European Union and started May 2015. The goal is to work with 2100 farmers by the end of three years. The CAHWs will be instrumental in supporting farmers' livestock productivity. Other trainings have been carried out in Nkandla and Blouberg.

CAHWs have been trained in goat production and the basics of primary animal health care. They are also trained in winter feed processing and supplement production. The winter feed processing and supplement production has been instrumental in helping farmers mitigate the drought.



Woman goat farmer getting crop residues processed by CAHWs for feeding goats

CAHWs are currently mixing protein blocks and actively selling them as well as helping farmers build enclosures for their kid goats. Once more advanced animal health trainings and practicals have been completed, the CAHWs will receive vet kits which will enable them to treat farmers' animals.

Njabulo Ndazi, one of HPSA's CAHWs had this to say about his growing business of protein blockmaking, "I like this work very much so I am so committed to this. I see a very exciting

future in this. I can walk into a shop and start looking at things and make a decision about buying things. And also keep my own livestock from earning money with this business. HPSA has taught me all the things I know. I wouldn't want to work with another organisation. I am seeing a good profit because I have even paid my own money to get into a car and go to Nkandla and buy supplies. I would recommend to young people. To come and get involved in this work because I think there is a future in this.”



Community Animal Health Workers and staff in Jozini building an enclosure for goat kids' feeding