



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

### **Innovation to Increase Goat Productivity- Protein Blocks**

KwaZulu Natal cannot currently meet its own demand for live goats with estimates of a million coming into the province from other provinces and countries a year. A large part of this problem lies with stagnant goat production in rural, indigenous herds. Heifer Project South Africa (HPSA) Jozini Agricultural Model project is funded by the European Union and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, in UMkhanyakude and Zululand districts, aims to help 2100 farmers increase their livestock production.

As a means to help increase productivity, several innovations are being tested rolled out across the project. This includes protein blocks, as supplemental feed, and enclosures for the goat kids. In 2015, in collaboration with Mdukatshani Rural Development Programme, Department of Agriculture Cedara scientists and others, a protein block was developed that can be given to goat mothers and kids. These blocks are made with five readily available ingredients by Community Animal Health Workers and sold to farmers at an economical price. Initial results have been very positive with farmers saying it has helped reduce the stress the drought has brought.

Njabulo Ndazi, a HPSA CAHW, had this to say about his flourishing block making business. "At HPSA, I am a health worker and I am there to help develop the community and help animals get better. I work to make processed food for the livestock- blocks to feed the goats. HPSA focuses on goats and chickens. I help with the goats. Goats are going to get better as a result of having access to blocks and they will be able to sell more goats and make their lives better. So, even grown up people and old people will be able to sell goats. I sell these blocks to the community. I was selling them for 10 rand but now it is 12 rand because of price increase of ingredients. I am going to write it on a piece of paper and put it where I sell my blocks. The blocks that I see are at the traditional authority and I use it as a place to keep it safe. People at the traditional authority phone me for orders to be left there and then I make blocks and deliver to the people. I deliver it to their homes after they have ordered it on the phone. They selling very well. I've made almost 500 rand so far. People hear about it and come buy 4 5 or 6 at a time and then I deliver to them. The farmers are very complimentary about their blocks and they say it is making their goats a lot more productive and better. The priest came and he said to me he has 13 kids and his females all had twins as a result of feeding the mothers blocks before birth and now he is buying 4 or 5 blocks at a time. I tell the community to come see it for themselves. The farmers are all very complimentary on what a difference it is making with their goats.



HPSA Jozini Agricultural Model CAHWs mixing protein blocks

Each CAHW is trained on making the protein blocks and given, as a start up kit, a blockmaker and five mixes. As their business takes off, they then replenish their stock and buy their own mix materials.



HPSA Jozini Agricultural Model CAHWs using a blockmaker to form the protein blocks