



SMALL SCALE FARMERS FORUM OF LESOTHO

SEITLHEKO BUILDING ABOVE KFC

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LESOTHO

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DATE: 7th DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 09:00am-12:00pm

PLACE: ANLICAN TRAINING CENTRE MASERU

PURPOSE: NETWORKING WITH FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

FACILITATOR: 'MAMALEFETSANE PHAKOE

It is one of the influence project to make a network with everyone who has a say in agriculture, and to forge partnerships this was the purpose for this meeting, which was attended by 7 males and 7 females. LENAFU, LCN and RSDA were called to be part of this meeting as national farmer organization and representatives. But LENAFU unfortunately did not attend without an excuse. Esaff Lesotho history was shared by the national chairperson and its work through the BROT fund which was what it has been doing for the last year and this year.

LCN:

Lesotho council of non-governmental organizations (LCN) is a forum for different independent organizations, it is made of different committees including the agriculture committee, of which Mrs. 'Mareitumetse is the coordinator who calls the meetings in regards to agriculture, we work with different farmer organizations in the country not individual farmers. When we look at the work that Esaff Lesotho has done, Public expenditure tracking survey, yes this was not going to be done properly or successfully because of the capacity you have as an organization and it needs more organizations to come together and do it. When we are after the policies we have to look at people or organizations which are already doing the same and see where they can be improved. Try and use an opportunity like the NGO week that is done by LCN to raise an awareness as it is attended by many people who can spread the word fast and in remote areas within a short time, the word might reach a farmer himself/herself or a person who is not this is what we call multi efforts approach, of course there is a price to pay for that, this was a presentation by Mr. Motsamai from LCN. There was a question that LCN seems to be active to its members only during the LCN NGO week, the answer was ESAFF Lesotho is the mother of other district farmer organizations but seems to be their baby by capacitation, the advice is for Esaff Lesotho to ride on LCN shoulders if it wants to grow as it is more capacitated and LCN cannot call for meetings, LCN should host an event and ESAFF Lesotho should sponsor this will open gates for ESAFF Lesotho. Another question was during the year 2018 did the LCN agriculture committee sit, the answer was yes twice in June and after, a follow up question was but Esaff Lesotho was not part of it the answer was we invite people according to the list given to us and I as the coordinator have not seen ESAFF Lesotho name but will ask why?



Mr. Motsamai in a white shirt and Mrs. Mareitumetse in a red dress from LCN.

RSDA

Rural self-development association's coordinator Mrs. Mampho Thulo is one of the finding members of Esaff Lesotho am very happy to see that Esaff Lesotho is gradually growing. I attended Lenafu meeting yesterday and they were saying the same things as Esaff Lesotho as part of their work, even us RSDA we are doing the same thing. This networks help us because Esaff and Lenafu can go out and fundraise in the region and bring the funds back home. We as RSDA are going to run a project that will take us through the 10 districts and we will be very happy to find Esaff farmers ready to work and collaborate with us, we as RSDA we wipe the windows for farmers to see what is on the other side and to make it easier for farmers to remove the things that make it difficult for them to grow as smallholder farmers. She mentioned that Esaff is big in the region than in the country and pleaded that it should be capacitated more in the country. She said she knows that it is not going to be an easy journey for Esaff Lesotho because when it was formed former government officials were against it and even formed an organization called Lenafu and made it bigger because they had the capacity from the former minister.



Mrs Mampho in a blue jersey from RSDA

The meeting was adjourned by the national coordinator thanking LCN AND RSDA for attending and all parties agreeing to working together on programs that they are doing as they are more or less the same.