

# Vhembe Co-Operative

Moving from Emerging Macadamia Grower to Commercial Producer



# Background

- ▶ In 2008, Green Farms sourced funds from the EU and used some of our own funds to purchase macadamia trees for small holder growers in the Vhembe District.
- ▶ Green Farms provided Technical support and our own financial assistance.
- ▶ One of our customers, Eat Natural provided GBP3000 for fertilizer.
- ▶ This allowed 15 farmers with vacant land to become macadamia growers of between 5 and 10ha's each.
- ▶ Of the group, there were successes and failures.
- ▶ Drought, Fires, lack of maintenance & lack of sustainable funding, secondary income.
- ▶ It was realised that continuous financial and technical support was required to sustain growers until trees came into production.

# Reflection And Where Too Now?

- ▶ Successful growers, were the real farmers.
- ▶ A need for greater involvement to prompt further success.
- ▶ A need to better understand growers requirements.
- ▶ To be able to work with SAMAC to satisfy these needs.
- ▶ An opportunity, to provide incomes and jobs to uplift farmers and their employees.

# Transformation Project Scope

- Support real farmers.
- Mentorship, Skills development and technical advice & Financial support.
- Grower hub Ncera and Amajingqi.
- To provide a platform to share knowledge.
- To overcome language barriers at study groups.
- There was a need to bridge the gap between Emerging and Commercial growers.
- Inspire growers through exposure to commercial farms and factories.
- Create employment and uplift families and communities.

# Commercial Farm Visits



# Study Groups



- Green Farms and Subtrop running an information day.
- Elsje Joubert presenting on farm Best Practices, pests and disease prevention.



- I presented on nut quality, what to look out for, and how quality effects price and customers.
- We reviewed Macadamia styles, pest damage to kernel, and how best to look after nuts pre and post harvest.

# Other Platforms We Have Provided.



- ▶ The Land Bank asked Green Farms to facilitate a day where they could present to growers.
- ▶ This has provided further funding to certain growers.
- ▶ The Department of Agriculture came to show their support for growers with MH Tshikhudo doing a talk.
- ▶ I presented on the world tree nut market and macadamia market trends.

# Farm Visits

- Technical Advice.
- Farm Best Practices.
- Sponsored Talks.
- Equipment Demonstrations.





# Providing Farming Assistance!

- ▶ Through the Aid of Samac Funds, we have been able to further assist.
- ▶ Farm Equipment, Helicopter sprays, Dehusking, Chemicals & Fertiliser.
- ▶ A better quality product means everyone wins!



# Now We Farming!

