



Ministry of Agriculture



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



2017/2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Vision

The achievement and maintenance of an efficient and sustainable agricultural sector that will ensure national and household food security and the sustainable growth of Swaziland's agriculture and national economy, with equitable wealth distribution throughout the value chain.

1.2 Mission statement

To transform Swaziland's agricultural production system from its prevailing subsistence mode to more commercially oriented production systems.

1.3 Overall goals

- Ensure household and National Food Security and increased sustainable agricultural productivity through diversification and enhancement of commercial agricultural activities;
- Develop appropriate technologies and efficient extension services, while ensuring stakeholder participation and sustainable development and management of natural resources in Swaziland.

1.4 Specific objectives

- To enhance food security in the country through increased production per unit area and promote import substitution.
- To promote commercialization and diversification of crops and livestock production in Swaziland.
- To promote the animal health status of the national stocks and ensuring market access.
- To rationalize utilization of land resources and improving on water harvesting for sustainable agricultural development.
- To promote fisheries production and commercialization.
- To carry out applied research on crop diversification and drought tolerant crops in order to increase agricultural productivity.
- To monitor and evaluate the public investment programs being implemented by the Ministry.

1.5 Organizational Structure

The Ministry consists of the following departments;

- Administration (Support services)
- Department of Agricultural Planning and Analysis
- Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services;
- Department of Agriculture Promotion and Extension
- Department of Land Use Planning and Development
- Department of Agricultural Research and Specialist Services

Within these Departments there are a number of support divisions and sections with specific functions to facilitate the efficient and effective implementation of programmes and projects.

1.6 Public Enterprises/ Parastatals

The Ministry has five (5) Public Enterprises/ Parastatals under its portfolio. They are as follows:

- National Agricultural Marketing Board
- National Maize Cooperation
- Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise
- Swaziland Dairy Board
- Swaziland Cotton Board

1.7 The Legislative and Policy Environment

Legislation and Policy are a prerogative of the Government therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for ensuring adherence to all legislation and the implementation of policies under its portfolio. Essentially, these guide the day-to-day operations of the Ministry as it regulates the sector and seeks to address challenges faced by the sector.

The Ministry operates within a well-structured framework with a number of laws, regulations and policies as listed below.

1.7.1 Operational Legislation in Agriculture

The following are some of the legislations that are operational and are being administered by the Ministry, mainly for regulatory purposes:

- **Private Forests Act 1951:** It provides better regulation and protection of private forests in Swaziland
- **Grass Burning Act 1955:** To consolidate the law relating to grass burning and grass fires.
- **Cane Growers Act 12 of 1967:** To incorporate the Swaziland Cane Growers' Association and to empower the Minister to impose a levy on Growers of sugar cane for the purposes of the association.
- **The Cotton Act 1967:** To provide constitution and functions of the Cotton Board.
- **Dairy Act 1968:** For the control and improvement of the dairy industry and its products.
- **The NAMBoard Act 1985:** Establish the National Agricultural Marketing Board.

- **Seeds and Plants Varieties Act 2000:** It provides control, sale, importation and exportation of seeds.
- **Cattle Routes Act 1918:** Makes provision for the access of cattle to public dipping tanks.
- **The Registration of Pedigree Livestock Act of 1921:** To confer certain rights on the South African Stud Book Association in Swaziland, and to make provision for the protection of such rights.
- **The Great Stock Branding Act 1937:** It provides registration of the brands imprinted on great stock. It was repealed by the Livestock Identification Act of 13/2001.
- **The Cattle Dipping Charges Act 1950:** Consolidate and amend the laws relating to the imposition and recovery of charges for the dipping of cattle of persons domiciled in Swaziland, at dips which are supplied with dipping material at the cost of the Government.
- **The Registration of Dogs Act 1954:** To amend and consolidate the law relating to the registration and control of dogs. It is operational, however it is administered under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.
- **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1962:** For the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- **The Animal Diseases Act 1965:** Makes new provision for the prevention of disease amongst animals.
- **The Livestock Identification Act 2001:** For registration of livestock identification marks and the compulsory marking of livestock with registered livestock identification.
- **Veterinary Public Health Act 2013:** Makes provision for ensuring high level of consumer protection with regard to food safety by facilitating advanced methods of primary production in the food chain of food of animal origin.
- **The Game Control Act of 1947:** To make provision for the control of the numbers of games in the country.
- **The Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1997:** To establish a Veterinary Council of Swaziland and to provide for the registration and control of Veterinary surgeons.
- **Pesticides Management Act of 2017:** To regulate the importation, manufacture, exportation, distribution, sale and use of pesticides in order to enable people to obtain the benefits with minimal adverse effects on human, animals and the environment.
- **Plant Control Act of 1981:** Provide for the regulation of plants and plants products for imports and exports

1.7.2 Legislations and Regulations under Development

- **The Plant Health Protection Bill, 2015**
 - *Objective:* To provide for the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests and to facilitate trade in plants and plant products in accordance with the provisions of the International Plant Protection Convention.
- **The Swaziland National Research Authority Bill, 2015**
Objective: To provide for the establishment and functions of the Swaziland National Agricultural Research
- **The Swazi Nation Land Commercialization Bill 2015**

- **Objective:** To provide for the designation, demarcation and allocation of Swazi Nation Land for agri-business, registration of land use-rights, establishment of Chiefdom land allocation Committee and the Appeals Tribunal.
- **The Livestock Identification and Traceability Regulations, 2015**
 - **Objective:** To give effect to The Livestock Identification Act 2001
- **The Swaziland Dairy Regulations, 2016**
 - **Objective:** To give effect to the Dairy Act no. 28 of 1968
- **The Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2015**
 - **Objective:** To Regulate the fisheries industry
- Dairy Act Amendment Bill, 2017
- **Seeds and Plant varieties (amendment) regulation 2017:**
 - **Objective:** amendment regulations of 2015

1.8 Policies in the Agriculture Sector

The sector policies guide the Ministry to deliver in accordance with its mandate within its sub-sectors and they are linked to higher policy levels in a well-structured framework.

Above the sector policies are the National Policies that is, the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (PRSAP). These outline national strategies and aspirations to provide a guide to the sector on its desired deliverables.

The national policies are in line with International, Continental and Regional policy documents and declarations such as the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the African Union (AU) and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP) of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The country has also aligned itself with the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (SADC-RAP).

Below is a list of policies within the agriculture portfolio/sector:

- Comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy
- The Food Security Policy
- Livestock Development Policy
- Irrigation Policy
- Rural Resettlement Policy;
- Fisheries Policy; and
- National Agricultural Research Policy
- National seed policy

Policy being developed

National agriculture Extension policy

2.0 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY AND LIVESTOCK SERVICES

The Ministry's overall goal in the livestock sub-sector is to transform and equip livestock producers with adequate knowledge and skills for the proper management and improvement of all available resources for an efficient and sustainable livestock industry, which will foster positive contributions to the growth of the national economy. The department is divided into two divisions: the Animal Production division and the Animal Health division.

2.1.1 Animal Production Division.

The mandate of the Livestock division is to promote animal production for the various animal species. The thrust is to assist farmers engage in animal production to ensure food security, alleviate poverty and raise living standards for the farming community with a strong emphasis on commercialization of the livestock sector.

Indigenous chicken Production

- There were 2 319 farmers trained on commercial indigenous chicken production. The training was conducted through 24 awareness campaigns (326 farmers), 27 seminars (705 farmers), 22 workshops (911 farmers), 8 demonstrations (197 farmers) and 1 field day (180 farmers). Topics covered included the following: housing and equipment, feed and Nutrition, poultry value chain, value addition, gross margins, care and handling of eggs, care of chicks, bio-security, disease control, record keeping, marketing, slaughtering, dressing and Packaging chickens, hay brooder, fowl pox and new Castle vaccination
- A total of twenty (20) indigenous chicken flea markets were conducted where 1 319 birds were sold generating an income of E 95 939.00.
- Sales to restaurants, hotels, retailers and farm gate, generated an amount of E 1 069 911.50 from 20 531 indigenous chickens purchased, according to the following regions; Shiselweni- 2 135, Lubombo- 2 402, Manzini- 7 812 and Hhohho - 8 182 chickens.
- Eight radio (8) radio programmes were aired through the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Service, they were on heat stress and temperature control in a poultry shed; economic impact caused by Avian Influenza or Bird Flu; awareness creation on the existence of the Swaziland Poultry Association in the country; stock selection; supplementary feeding; chick management; winter brooding; Newcastle disease and its control.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was successfully signed between the Ministry and Siteki Town Council to conduct indigenous chicken flea markets within premises of the town.
- An inventory of indigenous chicken breeders for the supply of breeding stock to slaughter chicken producers was made, a total of six (6) breeders were identified.

Pig Production

Table below shows National Pig Production Data

	HHOHHO	LUBOMBO	MANZINI	SHISELWEN I	Total
No. Farmers	76	98	120	185	479
Breeding flock					
Sows	265	763	538	558	2 124
Boars	59	68	84	128	339
Growers/gilts	818	3 991	1 306	1 126	7 241
Weaners	732	2 262	484	912	4 390
Piglets born this year	1 248	2 013	797	1 531	5 589
Total	4 102	10 794	3 650	5 219	23 765

Total national breeding stock by end of the year was 9 704 (2 124 sows, 7 241 gilts and 339 boars)

An amount of E38 314 885.00 was generated from sale of pork and pork products as shown below:

Quarters	Amount realized (E)
April- June	8 903 198.00
July- September	12 039 550.00
October - December	16 472 117.00
Total	38 314 885.00

There has been a steady increase in the production of pork nationally as indicated above. This has been influenced by the increasing number of farmers gaining interest in livestock income generating projects such as a pig production enterprise among others.

Table below shows pig production workshops conducted

Region	Subject	Venue	Attendees		Total
			Males	Females	

Hhohho	Pig production and enterprise management, Record keeping and Feeding	Ndzingeni Inkhundla Mbabane Fire Conference room Vusweni Mhlangatane Mbabane Gobholo	8 30	21 29	29 59 28 18 30 12
Manzini	Pig production enterprise management, Pig Production mngt Records	Ngwempisi Inkhundla Manzini Library Manzini Crop conference room Manzini DC	34 25	44 42	78 67 27 81
Lubombo	Pig Production and Farm Management, Introduction to AI, Animal Welfare, Marketing	Siteki Agriculture Conference Room Siteki Duze	12	18	30 53 58
Shiselweni	Pig Production and Farm Management, Agribusiness	Maseyini Inkhundla Mandulo Gogo Centre Nkomonye Nkwene Nhlangano Farmer Training Centre	13 11	15 15	28 26 51 25 68
Total			133	184	768

Mpisi Pig Breeding Centre

- Construction of an Artificial Insemination Centre (AI centre) at Mpisi Pig Breeding Centre has been completed and fully operational. Artificial Insemination of pigs at the breeding centre and farmers' pigs is on-going from semen processed by the AI centre.
- In October, farmers began purchasing semen straws from the centre, at the time of compiling this report 16 farmers' sows had been inseminated of which 14 were diagnosed pregnant and the remaining 2 were still pending pregnancy diagnosis (2 semen straws per pig/sow are used to increase prospect of conceiving).

Table below depicts semen straws sold and revenue generated

Month	Quantity	Amount realized (E)
October	10	1 000
November	10	1 000
December	12	1 200
Total	32	3 200

Mpisi Pig Breeding Station sold 396 pigs of different classes generating an amount of E 602 750.00 in Government revenue.

Table below depicts pig sales and revenue generated at Mpisi Pig Breeding Centre

Class of Pig	Number Sold	Amount realized (E)
Ready to mate gilts	160	441 000
Culled gilts	9	18 100
Culled female growers	3	1 800.00
Culled boars	3	4 675
Castrated males (8 weeks old)	213	95 850
Boar	1	3 700
Breeding Boar	3	9 900.00
Culled parent stock	7	27 725
Total	396	602 750.00

Grazing Land Management

Grazing land surveys were conducted to ascertain grazing condition, carried out beef production project appraisals and submitted them to financial institution for funding; held trainings on grazing management strategies as detailed in the tables below.

Area	Subject	Findings
Ntfungula - Mahlangatja	Range survey for the purpose of determining range condition, carrying capacity and calculating bill of quantities for fencing off the veld.	The veld was understocked and had good grass species such as <i>Panicum maximum</i> and <i>Eragrostis superb</i> however, bush encroachment was becoming a problem to the veld. The total area for grazing was found to be 812 ha and understocked by 108 livestock units (LSU's). Optimum stocking rate for the veld was calculated for 203 LSUs with recommended stocking rate being 4 ha/LSU . A five camp rotational grazing system with resting was recommended. The total bills of quantities were estimated and they found to cost E571 682.95 . The veld during the time of assessment was in fair condition.
Lonhlahane-Hhohho	Range assessment to determine the adverse impact of a proposed sugarcane project to livestock production.	Lonhlahane Community intends to invest in sugarcane plantation using a portion of the grazing resource. Approximately 163.54 ha of the grazing land has been found suitable for the proposed project. Survey was mainly ocular observation. The total area occupied by the grazing resource is approximately 795.12 ha . The veld condition was poor with high bush encroachment. Survey and trainings on veld management are on-going.
Matsanjani - Shiselweni	Veld survey to ascertain the potential of the farm for an extensive beef production project, feedlotting and hay production.	The farm was found to be 390 ha . Out of the 390 ha, 90 ha was earmarked for pasture and hay production. The farm was found dominated by bush however, under trees, a good growth of <i>Panicum maximum</i> was prominent. The farm has a potential for the proposed projects but a good management plan needs to be put in place before the project takes off. Stocking rate was placed at 3 ha per livestock Unit with supplementation. Project proposal for the three projects were presented and submitted to Swazi Bank by the Department and still pending approval by the bank.
Mpolonjeni - Ngwempisi	Veld assessment to ascertain bills of quantities for fencing and veld condition for proper management of the veld.	The veld was dominated by increaser species such as <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> and <i>Eragrostis plana</i> . The veld occupies about 417 ha and has a carrying capacity of about 139 LSUs . Veld is currently overstocked with 192 LSUs . Destocking was recommended to match livestock numbers with the carrying capacity of the veld.

A total of 400 farmers were trained on grazing land management shown below in a table.

Venue	Topic	Attendance
Mbebeleni – Mkhiweni Inkhundla	Training of Mbebeleni Grazing Management Demonstration (GMD) livestock farmers on principles of veld management and the importance of adopting an appropriate grazing system that will benefit both the veld and cattle.	40
Tums George Hotel	Training workshop on principles of veld management and supplementary feeding of beef cattle. The workshop was commissioned by Swaziland Meat Industry (SMI).	80
Mangcongco-Mbanana Grazing Scheme.	Follow-up Training on Range Management principles, grazing management and Supplementary feeding.	70
Ngwempisi-Magcoyane Grazing Scheme	Follow-up Training on Veld Management and pasture establishment to reduce grazing pressure and improve carrying capacity of grazing land.	50
Sibayeni Lodge	Training livestock farmers from Mvembili on principles of veld management, veld rehabilitation and impact fires on both the ecosystem and on the troposphere. Training was commissioned by Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC).	43
Bethel Court	Training workshop (Velezizweni community) on veld management and supplemental feeding to improve livestock production and productivity for smallholder farmer under communal land.	38
Siteki Hotel	Training on veld management strategies and the importance of adhering to proper stocking rates to ensure sustainable utilization of the veld without causing a downward trend on the health of the grazing resource.	34
Siteki Hotel	Training workshop (Ndzangu community) on veld management strategies and the significance of observing proper stocking rates to ensure that the resource is not over-utilized.	45
Total		400

Mbanana and Magcoyane grazing schemes were assisted to solicit funds from Micro project to fence off their grazing areas; fencing materials was delivered at both sites and fencing completed.

Pasture and hay/ fodder production

A total of 24 hectares of *Panicum maximum* (Lubabe) pasture was planted in Government farms with an aim to increase local hay production and supply to farmers.

Table below shows area of pasture planted in Government farms

Government Farm	Area (ha)
Bhalekani fattening Ranch	10
Nkalashane Sisa Ranch	9
Nsalitje Cattle Breeding Station	5

Table below shows area under fodder crops and yellow maize grain production

Fodder Crop	Government Farm	Area (ha)
<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (hay)	Highveld ranch and Khubuta	4
Yellow maize (Grain prod.)	Highveld ranch and Khubuta	20

The past baling season, Government farms produced 739 round bales and 4 693 square bales worth E258 650.00 and E281 580.00 respectively, the bales were sold to farmers at E 350.00 (round bales) and E 60.00 (square bales) some were fed to Government cattle during the last winter season. In addition, a hay data base was developed indicating sources and prices of hay by different suppliers.

Beef Cattle Production

National Beef Cattle Herd Populations

Region	Bulls	Cows	Oxen	2-3 yrs		1-2 yrs		< 1 yr		Totals
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Hhohho	4,569	45,174	19,371	10,554	16,814	7,180	6,802	7,770	7,643	125,877
Lubombo	2,978	41,187	8,408	8,835	18,054	6,457	7,313	7,010	7,136	107,378
Manzini	5,954	56,491	20,560	12,729	21,180	9,314	9,218	9,721	9,556	154,723
Shiselweni	5,334	41,976	15,784	16,827	6,404	6,851	122	7,347	7,471	108,116
Totals	18,835	184,828	64,123	48,945	62,452	29,802	23,455	31,848	31,806	496,094

- Six (6) workshops on Government bull management and feedlotting were carried out at in all the regions of the country; 64 farmers participated.
- A total of one hundred and eighteen (118) superior performance tested, beef cattle breeding bulls were released by Government cattle breeding farms to be loaned out to farmers under the Bull Loan Scheme. The loan is E 500.00 and E1000.00 for SNL and TDL farmers respectively, over a 3-year period.
- Nine (9) workshops were conducted at Manzini, Gege, Mzinsangu Dip tank, Tsekwane Dip tank, Mafutseni, Mahlangatsha, Bantwanyana Dip tank and ku Khanyeni Inkhundla. Topics covered were on feedlot production, supplementary feeding, disease control, record keeping and marketing. There were 230 participants trained.
- There are 55 operational feedlots and 11 communal group ranches, the aim of the communal ranches is to produce feeder stock to support feedlot production projects.
- Three (3) radio broadcasts on beef cattle winter feeding and supplementation were aired in Temfuyo and Tebalimi Programmes through the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Service.

Livestock Marketing

- The Ministry in collaboration with World Vision under the ongoing EL Nino Food Security Recovery Project has constructed and completed cattle sale yard at Sithobela.

- Six (6) livestock cattle auction sales were carried out, they generated an amount of E 1 322 650.00.00 as detailed below.

Below is a table showing cattle sales

Government Farm/Sale Yard	No. of animals sold	Amount Realised (E)	Government Revenue (Cattle Management Fees) (E)	Farmers Income (E)
Bhalakane Fattening Ranch	106 cattle	986 450.00	184 640.00	801 810.00
Sithobela Sale Yard	62 cattle	318 300.00		318 300.00
Sithobela Sale Yard	22 cattle	17 900.00		17 900.00
Manyonyaneni	22 cattle	146 861		
Mpisi	38 cattle	209 173		
Total Sales	168	1 678 684	184 640.00	1 138 010.00

Private sales in Government farms generated an amount of E 47 450 from sale of 8 head of cattle. In addition, a herd of 110 cattle valued at E800, 000 was provided for national events.

Table below shows livestock marketing training and workshops conducted.

Activity	Subject	Venue	Attendants
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Cattle auctions	Preparation for livestock auction sale Cattle weighing Buyers expectation	Hluti Veterinary Office (Shiselweni)	30
Pig/Pork marketing	Markets/ Buyers expectation Importance of constant supply to the market. Collective marketing	Manzini Library Manzini Crop conference room	75
Indigenous chicken marketing	Flea markets Collective marketing Markets/ buyers expectation	St Juliana conference room (Manzini) lead farmers from Lubulini, Somtongo, Matsanjeni, Kukhanyeni Inkhundla	70
Goats marketing	Collective marketing Markets/ buyers expectation Pricing and packaging	Caratus conference room (Manzini) lead farmers from Mpolonjeni, Lomahasha, Shewula	35
Feedlot marketing	Markets/ Buyers expectation Importance of constant supply to the market. Collective marketing Auction sales	Dc conference room	10
Commercial Indigenous Chicken	Market Analysis Pricing Marketing and Markets	Ka-Fire Conference (Mbabane)	33
Indigenous Chickens Value Chain	Value chain development Value addition	Sibayeni Lodge	39
Pork production business	Buying Pig Pork marketing Pricing	Ka-Fire Conference (Mbabane)	33
Total			325

Linking famers to markets

- Most Indigenous chicken farmers are now linked to formal markets; they supply chickens to institutions like World vision, hotels, restaurants and retailers.

Goat Populations

Below is a table indicating goat populations in the country.

Region	Number of Goats
Hhohho	90,366
Lubombo	145,901
Manzini	128,163
Shiselweni	114,489
Totals	478,919

A market survey for Goat meat was conducted, the goal was to identify local markets and market standards so as to link goat farmers to local markets. There were 30 potential markets identified, they include restaurants, butcheries and super markets.

- A goat production training manual has been developed, approved and is now fully operational. It outlines and guides farmers on how to rear and produce goats commercially, chapters in the manual include the following; goat housing, breeding, nutrition, health management, record keeping and marketing.
- A total of 102 *pioneer* farmers in commercial goat production have been identified countrywide and their training is ongoing. The farmers are according to the following regions Hhohho 27; Manzini 15; Lubombo 30 and Shiselweni 30 farmers.
- There were 110 farmers from Sigangeni, Mpholonjeni, Lokhayiza, Khubuta Inkhundla, Bulandzeni, Manzini and Siteki II Diptank were trained on commercial goat production topics covered included; goat housing, breeding, nutrition, health management, record keeping and marketing.

Potential Goats Meat Markets

Entity	Contacts	No. of goats	Frequency of supply
Tandoori Restaurant	240407599	10	Monthly
Mbabane Super Spar	H. Mansoor	10	Weekly
Mbabane Shoprite	24048092	15	Weekly
Pick n Pay (Mbabane)	76035828	20	Weekly
Mbabane First choice	24048641/76619804	10	Monthly
Sherwood (Mbabane)	76137051	30	Monthly
Shoprite (Nhlangano)	22075064	2	Weekly
Almedina	25056144	3	Monthly
Village Foods	76283941	1	Weekly
Nhlangano Spar	22077400/413/164	10	Monthly
Eclipse foods(Nhlangano)	76768433	2	Weekly
Amupel (Manzini)	76258440	1	Monthly
Benguni Butchery(Nhlangano)	76037360	2	Monthly
Good Hope	76221111	3	Monthly
Matata Spar	23646011	3-4	Weekly
Shoprite(Siteki)	76173871	3-5	Weekly
Sherwood(Siteki)	22329542	5	Monthly
Meat Market (Manzini)	25053674	30	Monthly
Pick n Pay (Manzini)	76044759	10	Weekly
Thembelihle (Malkerns)	25283265/76076022	5	Weekly
Lebovu (Luyengo)	76346213	2	Monthly
Eclipse (Manzini)	76363556	3	Monthly
Emcengeni (Manzini)	25056394	2	Weekly
P.M.G	76182987	5	Monthly
Shamrock (Nhlangano)	22070700	10	Weekly
Peterson Investment(Nhlangano))	22176246	2-5	Weekly
Buhle Butchery (Peak)	24371042	1	Weekly
Richfield Butchery (Nhlangano)	22078374	10	Weekly

Price ranges between E55/kg and E65/kg Cold Dressed Mass or carcass weight.

2.1.2 Animal Health Division

Veterinary Services

The principal function of the National Veterinary Services is the delivery of regulatory services and operations; appropriately oriented for purposes of the preservation of the territorial and inter-territorial integrity with respect to animal disease invasion and spread, inclusive of animal diseases of socio-economic or public health consequence. All regulatory components collectively constitute a functional service delivery mechanism in terms of animal healthcare, animal welfare and food safety.

At all times, the application of regulatory mechanisms has to be within the provisions of and remain consistent with prevailing universal Rules, Standards and Guidelines established under the authority of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as well as the general trade promotion policies and rules of the World Trade Organisation – Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO-SPS) Agreement.

Activities and incidences

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of an internal validation mechanism Veterinary Systems Audits were conducted in March, April and May 2017 whose aim is to improve effectiveness and efficiencies in Animal Health Service Delivery Systems. Identified shortcomings relate to inadequate inspections of dip tanks by supervisory personnel as well as supervision of sub regional offices' functions, production establishments (feedlots, quarantines, abattoirs, food of animal origin establishments, etc.) as well as cordon fences among others. These are generally associated with inadequate transport means and occasional staff shortages related to the limited training budget for new Veterinary Assistants. Other key shortcomings are the slow updating of SLITS (computerised cattle event records) by some members of staff especially in areas where there is either no telecommunications infrastructure or inadequate computers for regular easy access. With respect to operational incompetency or supervisory deficiencies the Department then target capacity building exercises and close monitoring plus mentoring to upgrade skills and build confidence of specific officers, as a follow-up to the National Veterinary Audits.

International, Regional workshop and meeting attended

The Veterinary Competent Authority had some representation at certain Regional/Global events during the reporting period.

- One representative, the National Delegate, participated at the 85th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) held in Paris in May 2017. The National Delegate to the OIE participated in the adoption of new standards for animal disease control and heard matters for global and national action in controlling antimicrobial resistance.
- One representation for the Global Animal Health Workshop on Good Regulatory Practice for Marketing authorisation for Veterinary products in Nairobi, Kenya, June 2017. The workshop attended by the focal point for veterinary medicinal products addressed good governance strategies for the regulation and control of veterinary medicinal products through need for market authorisation by national veterinary services.
- One representation attended the “Better Training for Safer Food” (BTSF) Conference in June 2017 in Brussels. BTSF, a programme that facilitated Swaziland and other countries to comply with EU requirements for animal product trade through various training. The conference evaluated the programme and prioritized activities for successor programmes where Swaziland stands to benefit.
- One representation attended a Professional Filming, Capturing Successful Veterinary Governance Programme Activities in June 2017, in Botswana. Swaziland was among the AU countries that was

implementing the Veterinary Governance Programme where strengthening of Veterinary Legislation, Communication and Livestock Policy was prioritized. Having successfully implemented this programme the country participated in capturing in film the presentations of country reports and come up with recommendations for successor programmes.

- Three officials attended Back to Back workshops in the diagnosis, control and surveillance of Aquatic Animal Diseases in March ending April in Egypt. The workshops provided training aspects to veterinarians and fish biologists on investigating fish and aquatic animal problems with the aim to supporting fisheries development in countries.
- Three officials represented Ministry in the Regional Seminar on the Harmonization of Legislation in the Veterinary Domain for Member States of COMESA in Zambia (3-7 July 2017). This seminar addressed technical issues on the identification of and the development of veterinary legislation.
- Three officials represented the Department of veterinary and Livestock Services in a Trilateral Meeting of the National directors of Animal health and Livestock. Attending directors were from Swaziland, South Africa and Mozambique. The meeting was held in Mozambique (7-8 august 2017). This was a meeting to discuss animal health issues of concern and facilitate safe movement of products between the countries.

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) workshop on Veterinary Drugs and Medicinal Substances

Swaziland hosted the fifth training workshop for OIE focal points for veterinary medicinal products at Ezulwini on 6th - 8th December 2017. The workshop was attended by national OIE Delegates and OIE Focal Points for veterinary medicinal products from 18 countries from English-speaking Africa, including Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the host country: Swaziland. The workshop opening was officiated by The Honourable Minister for Agriculture.

Issues discussed were primarily:

- Registration/authorization of veterinary medicinal products
- Antimicrobial use and resistance, with a particular focus on the implementation of the AMR national action plans.
- Results of the second phase and practical exercises on the third phase of the OIE collection of quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals
- Discussions on whether OIE should consider developing Standards and Guidelines on prudent and responsible use of antiparasitics, in light of resistance development for such drugs.
- The quality and traceability of veterinary medicinal products, the state of counterfeit / illegal veterinary medicines worldwide and in Africa, in particular.

World Rabies Day Commemoration – 28 September 2017 “Theme-Zero By 30”

The Department held a successful rabies awareness day on the 28th September 2017, the day of the Commemoration of World Rabies Day. This commemoration was held at Ludzeludze RDA in the Manzini Region. The theme ‘Zero By 30’ means there should be zero cases of human rabies by 2030, a global goal in rabies elimination. The event was attended by various stakeholders including members of the public, the World Health Organisation, Ministry of Health, etc.

Stray buffalo and Foot and Mouth Disease controls/prevention

On the 11th April 2017, a female stray buffalo heifer was spotted inside Swaziland territory at Nsubane area under Lubuli constituency. The buffalo was successfully destroyed on the 14th April 2017 and FMD

risk mitigation measures/intensive surveillance activities were implemented. The surveillance activities, including testing of the buffalo and moulting of cattle, both of which were negative, confirmed there was no transmission of FMD. Normal livestock movement resumed in June 2017.

Importation of buffaloes from Zambia and suspension of beef exports to the European Union

On the 3rd September 2017, the country received 3 live buffaloes from the Republic of Zambia. Considering that issues of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS) under Rules, Standards and Guidelines of Trade were not adequately addressed for this import, the country was suspended from exporting to the European Union until the fate of the buffaloes and any excessive element of risks of trading with Swaziland is addressed to the satisfaction of the trading partners.

Taking into consideration these issues, the buffaloes were quarantined at Sikhuphe-KMIII Airport and a livestock movement restriction within a 10km radius imposed. They were then tested for five diseases being foot and mouth disease, corridor disease, bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and trypanosomosis. The tests were conducted at the Central Veterinary Laboratory and also referred to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) in South Africa. The buffaloes tested negative to FMD, brucellosis, trypanosomosis and tuberculosis. However, all three buffaloes tested positive to corridor disease. For FMD, negative results from a single test are inconclusive, as such it is mandatory to continuously conduct the tests at increasing intervals for many years.

Avian influenza outbreak in South Africa

As previously reported, South Africa has an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza disease in chicken which started in June 2017. South Africa trade partners including Swaziland immediately instituted an import ban for poultry and poultry products. The control measures include depopulating infected farms, quarantine of infected areas and establishment of high biosecurity disease free compartments. Swaziland imports fertile eggs, day-old chicks and point of lay chickens only from the compartments. Besides South Africa, the country also imports fertile eggs from Brazil.

To date Swaziland is still free of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Surveillance and disease prevention activities remain intensive.

African horse sickness

There was one outbreak of African Horse sickness in July at Mlilwane, Mc Creedy Diptank. One horse was affected after showing typical AHS signs. After confirmation done at Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, a fourty day quarantine was imposed on all equidae (horses, donkeys and mules) for Mc Creedy T/A 446 and four other diptanks within the 10km radius. Other control measures include vaccination of all equidae in the quarantine area, and as a requirement for export in non-quarantined areas. Evidence of valid vaccination is required from equine owners in the quarantine areas at the end of the 40-day period. The quarantine was lifted on 16 August 2017 after evidence that there were no further cases and all quarantine conditions had been adhered to.

Regular Veterinary Programmes

The national animal disease status remained relatively stable during the nine (9) months reporting period of the 2017/2018 FY; despite encounters with an increased risk to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) due to a stray buffalo in April 2017. Swaziland continued to maintain vigilance along the eastern frontier due to FMD outbreaks in Mozambique, further emphasizing the necessity to control stolen or lost returning animals from Mozambique.

In the period under review, the National Veterinary Services reported livestock diseases as follows (in order of frequency of occurrence); lumpy skin, blackquarter/malignant oedema complex, heartwater and

orf (scabby mouth/sore mouth) in goats. Others were African horse sickness and dog rabies. Farmers are encouraged to vaccinate against lumpy skin disease, blackquarter and rabies. Government provide 100% subsidy cost of rabies vaccine. Control of heartwater and other tickborne diseases is through tick control mainly by dipping.

Regular programmes include dipping, rabies vaccination, disease prevention and controls (cordons, quarantines), movement controls (local and international-import/export), clinical treatment, surveillance and diagnostics, Veterinary Public Health activities as well as Veterinary Education and Training.

Two major challenges in programme implementation were persistent severe lack of transport and severe restricted budget for the year 2017/18 making accomplishment of some of the programmes like vaccination for contagious abortion and laboratory testing for adequate control of animal diseases difficult.

Disease controls/prevention

There was an increase in the number of lumpy skin disease vaccinations in the third quarter (October – December) as compared to previous quarters indicating a high farmer response in this period to LSD prevention. Lumpy skin disease is one of the significant diseases for prevention, followed by black quarter and botulism. Another important disease, rabies is vaccinated for in September, under the ‘Rabies Annual Dog Vaccination Campaign’. In the period October to December at least 64000 dogs were vaccinated, mostly in October.

Table below indicates disease vaccinations (March to December)

Disease	No. vaccinated
Black-leg	9896
Botulism	6467
Lumpy Skin Disease	33134
Rabies canine	69886
Pulpy kidney	1310
Anthrax	779
Contagious Abortion	4953

Returned animals from neighbouring countries

The table below shows the number of returned animals that strayed into neighbouring countries either through theft or straying or intentional grazing. The biggest frontier affected is in the Lubombo Region. The legal process of returning these animals requires cooperation and coordination between the Veterinary Department, Royal Swaziland Police and the affected farmers since returned animals are required to undergo quarantine examination and testing at Maphiveni Government Quarantine Station.

Table below indicates returned animals from across the border

Neighbouring country	Species	Number
R.S.A	Bovine	13

Mozambique	Bovine	12
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National Dipping Programme

In the period under review (April to December 2017), the National Dipping Programme had been successfully sustained.

The presentation of livestock at dipping tanks had remained commendable in terms of functional animal disease intelligence and control, with 89% diptank attendance and above attained. Therefore, the overall disease picture appeared stable.

Table below shows Cattle Presentation at Dip Tanks (April to December)

Region	% attendance
Manzini	91.8
Lubombo	89.0
Hhohho	89.4
Shiselweni	93.6
Average	90.8

Any failure to present animals to a dipping tank on a designated day, without a valid reason, is effectively treated in accordance with the Animal Disease Act, 1965; inclusive of prosecutions. Prosecutions also arise when farmers and public move livestock without due reward for the law, which often relates to movement without appropriate permits. Table below show prosecutions done in the reporting period and fines paid to government.

Table below shows cases and prosecutions (April to December)

Region	No. cases	No. convicted	Fine (E)
Manzini	72	36	4930
Hhohho	101	49	15440
Lubombo	149	121	11780
Shiselweni	65	53	8340
Total	387	259	40490

Livestock Movement and SLITS (Swaziland Livestock Information and Traceability System)

Movement of livestock within the country is statutory regulated, for animal disease intelligence and control purposes, through application of the Movement Permit System. The electronic platform of the Livestock Information and Traceability System (SLITS) continue to be the central system for capture of cattle data and transactions, with the ultimate view to expand it to other species dependant on funding. The table below shows the number of stock movement permits issued in the reporting period. Looking at the reporting period, it would appear there is no differences by quarter in the number of cattle moved. However, this analysis excludes the period January to March, a period not included in this report.

Stock Removal Permits Issued (April to December)

Region	No. of stock removal permits
Manzini	13130
Lubombo	8933
Hhohho	7153
Shiselweni	7768
Total	36984

In the period April to December 2017, there were no changes in the number of offices connected to the Swaziland Livestock Information and Traceability System (SLITS). Six key offices (Ngculwini, Ntfontjeni, Gege, Mbulungwane, Malandzela and KaMfishane/McIntyre) remain without connectivity due mainly to inadequate service infrastructure from the communications services provider.

Livestock Identification

The maintenance programme on the application of individual animal identification Ear Tags on previously unidentified animals; as a result of then under age and new-borns; had continued in period of the second quarter at the various dip tanks in the four Regions.

Clinical Services

Provision of Clinical Services for on-call veterinary attention, on a case by case basis in respect of any presented or reported sick animal, had been sustained in the period of the reporting period, generating Government Revenue in the process from service charges. Other charges include quarantine fees charged under the Central Veterinary Laboratory, and inspections services as well as import permits/certification charged under Veterinary Public Health Services. Challenges with respect to funding of activities and availability of the funds as well as transport continuously put a dent on some of the clinical activities expected to be delivered in the regions. Despite this picture, the expanded functions of the Veterinary Public Health Subdivision as well as overall increase in services sought (import permits and inspections of establishments) contribute to growing revenue from this function.

Table below shows the revenue generated in the clinical and public health activities.

Region/Section	Revenue (E)
Hhohho Regional Veterinary Services	88 825
Manzini Regional Veterinary Services	54 630
Lubombo Regional Veterinary Services	41 010
Shiselweni Regional Veterinary Services	35 661
Central Veterinary Laboratory	16 620
Veterinary Public Health Services	919 790
Veterinary Headquarters	490
National	1 157 026

Veterinary Education and Training

The Mpisi Veterinary and Farmer Training Centre which provides a 2-year training course for new Veterinary Assistants continued with its training programme, producing 18 Veterinary Assistants who completed their studies in May 2017, and have been absorbed into the Civil Service.

The academic year for Veterinary Assistants Training at Mpisi VFTC resumed on 23rd August 2017 with 20 students entering into the second and final year of training while 21 first year students started their training following a successful recruitment exercise in August 2017.

The need for Veterinary Assistants within the Department currently exceed the supply, as there are vacant posts. Training would therefore ideally absorb more students, but there is insufficient funding. Options for cost recovery where students shall contribute towards the training need consideration.

Veterinary Public Health

Food of animal origin hygiene supervision; with respect to compliance to Universal Food Safety Standards and Rules; had continued through the production chain, in the second quarter.

This had enabled both sanitary import controls and certification of exports of meat and products of animal origin to various destinations.

In the reporting period, pork imports have increased to 206 MT in September and 119 MT in December 2017 when the normal monthly imports range between 10 and 70 metric tonnes. Beef imports maintained normal ranges. The table below shows quantities of meat imported from Swaziland in the reporting period.

Table below shows Imports of animal products (April to December)

Product	Quantity (Metric tonnes)
Beef	2487.3
Beef Offal	677.4
Beef fat	598.6
Dairy	8038.5
Deboned and Processed Meats	1486.4
Fish	3258.4
Lamb/Mutton	121.0
Pet Food	199.2
Pork	568.0
Processed Beef	289.5
Processed Chicken	230.5
Processed Pork	249.5
Turkey	6633.4

Exports of animal products (meat)

During the reporting period (April to December 2017), exports of beef to the European Union stopped in August/early September 2017. In the first quarter (April – June) 68.4 metric tonnes of beef was exported

to the EU, while in the second quarter (July – September) 139.2 MT was exported. In the third quarter (October – December 2017) there were no exports to the EU. Exports of beef to the region increased slightly to 80.2 MT in the third quarter while in the first and second quarters it was 29 and 55.1 MT respectively. The table below shows quantities of meat exported from Swaziland in the reporting period.

Table below indicates Exports of food of animal origin

<i>Product</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Destination</i>
Chilled beef	43.8 MT	Norway
Chilled beef	13.6 MT	Mayotte
Frozen beef	150.2 MT	Norway
Hides (Kg)	25.9 MT	RSA
Pasteurized Milk	30 000 L	RSA
Miscellaneous meats	152.2 MT	Mozambique
Miscellaneous meats	3.6 MT	RSA
Chilled primal beef	1.5 MT	Mozambique

Laboratory Services

The Central Veterinary Laboratory is a component of the national veterinary service delivery mechanism, responsible for the provision of expeditious disease diagnoses and therefore enabling early detection/early reaction in disease situations.

In the reporting period various submissions had been processed and laboratory tests conducted, which include tests for diagnosis, for export of animals and for testing of buffalo and surveillance samples for establishing if country remains free of the foot and mouth disease.

It should be noted that due to insufficient capacity and sometimes resource limitation, some tests are referred to external laboratories.

Work done at the Central Veterinary laboratory is as follows:

Table below shows submissions for diagnosis

<i>Region</i>	<i>No. of specimen submissions</i>	<i>Number of tests conducted</i>
Hhohho	248	312
Lubombo	1497	2385
Manzini	1598	1754
Shiselweni	289	310
National	3632	4761

Wart Vaccine production

There were 32 x 20ml vials produced by the laboratory in the reporting period. The demand for wart vaccine is an indication of the occurrence of the disease. This demand is relatively constant.

Table below shows Smear Submissions for Tick-borne disease monitoring

No. Smear Specimen Submissions	No. Smear Specimen Examined to date
7896	5350

The smears laboratory functions under statutory provisions that require samples from dead or killed cattle to be submitted for disease testing and monitoring.

Procurement and transport

Challenges with resource mobilization mainly due to prevailing commitments regulatory controls which extend pre-procurement processes delay accomplishment of some of the programmes. Veterinary clinics currently finding it difficult to get adequate supplies of drugs due to the slow procurement processes. A further constraint in the maintenance of regular programmes is the persistent severe lack of transport means; which situation frequently cause deviation from and extend programme delivery schedules.

2.2 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION

The department is responsible for the promotion of crop production, as well as promoting improved human nutrition. The Department's major activity is to provide an agricultural extension service that advises farmers on improved farming systems and technologies that will assure increased productivity and improve their standards of living. The Department is also responsible for fisheries development.

The department successfully carried out the following activities:

2.2.1 Extension trainings.

- The department of agriculture and extension as part of its mandate is tasked with the responsibility of training farmers on various farming aspects in collaboration with other stakeholders in the agriculture sector. This involves conducting: seminars, workshops, field days, meetings and tours. During the period April to December 2017, the department conducted: 657 farmers meetings, 172 seminars, 27 field-days, 144 workshops, 353 method and technology demonstrations, 54 field days and 10 study tours. Over 32, 751 farmers participated in the activities conducted in the four regions of the country.
- The extension service made 2157 individual contacts with farmers to view their farming operations and provide technical advise to the farmer being visited.

2.2.2 Horticulture production

- The section conducted 65 meetings to discuss various issues including commercialization of vegetable production, production planning and marketing, 1540 farmers attended
- Thirty four (34) seminars and 1607 farmers attended the training and capacity building on improved vegetable production, vegetable production and quality control, sorting and grading for various markets.
- Thirty four (34) soil sampling, lime application, planting of vegetable seedlings and fruit tree planting hole preparation conducted for farmers from different communities and 745 farmers attended
- A total of 41 vegetable schemes on 354.3 ha were involved in production of different types of vegetables during the period April to December 2017.
- Over all 1079.8 ha were planted with vegetables including green mealies during the April to December reporting period.
- Ten (10) farmers joined the National Vegetable Competition (NAVECO) and nine (9) received prizes at the NAVECO price presentation ceremony at Mpophoma.
- A total of 1329 farmers received training on different aspects of fruit production and orchard management through 17 meetings with an attendance of 63 733 seminars with 247 attending and 31 method demonstrations with 445 farmers attending.
- 30,321 fruit trees seedling were purchased for farmers from South Africa.
- A total of 105, 160 fruit tree comprising of; 61 160 banana, 41 000 Pitaya, 1500 Paw paw and 1500 Chinese Guava were produced and distributed to farmers by the Swazi-Taiwanese National Fruit Production and Marketing project during the reporting period.
- The Tinkhundla fruit project procured and distributed 17, 990 and 2800 fruit trees to be used in establishing mini orchards for 1, 799 homesteads and 28 schools respectively. These have already been planted out and the first harvest is expected in less than four years.

2.2.3 Crop Storage Section

- The section attended to over 4,306 farmers seeking information in crop storage technology, crib construction and storage pest management from different locations across the country.
- Twelve (12) with a combined total of 758 learners visited the section to seek information and learning the different aspects of crop storage technology.
- The section analyzed 2116 samples of various food products for the presence of *Aflatoxins* which could result in food poisoning and 120 samples tested positive for *aflatoxin* indicating a high potential for food poisoning through consumption of the contaminated food products.

2.2.4 Soil Testing Unit

- The section received 8293 soil samples for the soil pH determination, exchangeable acidity and nutrient elements this reporting period and 7689 of the received soils sample were analyzed and reported on.
- The five (5) satellite laboratories received 15,579 samples and managed to analyze 3472 of these samples at the Motshane, kaLanga and Nhlangano laboratories the other two (2) remained non-functional due to shortage of equipment and some chemicals.
- Learners from Six (6) school, the University of Lesotho and SIMPA with a combined total of 758 visited the laboratory for educational purposes during the April to December period
- the section conducted seminars for farmers on liming and fertilizer application and 727 farmers participated and 13 different sites

2.2.5 Seed Quality Control Services

- A total of 347 seed samples (mainly maize seed 339) were submitted to the section for the determination of germination capacity during the period April to December.
- A total land area of 96.1ha was used for the production of basic seed maize, grain legume seed and potatoes by various entities including companies /schemes under SWADE, Malkerns research and farmers' groups during the period April to December.
- Seed education/ trainings were carried out for 73 farmers of which 55 were females and 18 were males.

2.2.6 Mechanization Section

- The section conducted one (1) workshop on tractor and implement maintenance at Motshane RDA and five (5) tractor owners and 8 tractor drivers attended
- 165 private tractors registered for providing ploughing services to farmers.
- 210 temporary tractor drivers and ten (10) heavy plant mechanics were recruited to provide the tractor-hire services to farmers this current ploughing season.
- 214 Government tractors were deployed to provide service to farmers at the start of the current ploughing season.
- Out of the 56, 355.3 registered tractor hours 28,987.3 had already been serviced by end of December 2017.

2.2.7 Mushroom development

- The mushroom development section produced 788 bottles (38.25kg) of spawn and 759 bottles (167.2 kg) were used
- 30, 980 impregnated spawn bags were produced and 24784 clean bags released to farmers with an expected 7, 423.1 kg fresh mushrooms
- Forty five (45) farmers were actively involved in oyster mushroom production.
- A total of 450 farmers from all the four regions of the country received training on general mushroom production.
- The section conducted 6 seminars and 86 farmers attended the training on commercial mushroom production.
- The section in collaboration conducted a five (5) day training workshop on the basics of mushroom production and 545 primary school teachers were capacitated.
- 27 members of the Hhukwini Epilepsy Organization received training for three (3) days on mushroom cropping house construction and general mushroom.
- Three (3) UNISWA students received training on an eight (8) week attachment to the section.

2.2.8 Children and Youth Development Programme

- The Children and Youth Development Programme was working with sixty two (62) clubs that were in existence and operating during the reporting period
- 331 extension filed visits to the CYDP clubs were made.
- Thirty nine (39) meetings were conducted and 647 club members attended.
- Four (4) technology and method demonstrations were done for 56 club members during the April to December period.
- One (1) workshop with a total attendance of 46 club members was conducted on the principles of conservation agriculture and planting method.
- One (1) field-day conducted on maize variety performance and 18 club members attended.

- Various projects by the youth comprising of indigenous poultry, broilers, honey and home industries generated an income totaling E130, 739.50 during the April to December period.

2.2.9 Fisheries

- The section conducted 87 site visits for; fish pond site selection, fish pond construction and fish pond management monitoring
- Twenty seven (27) fish ponds were stocked with Tilapia during the April to December 2017 period.
- One (1) training workshop for 32 farmers was conducted.
- Ten (10) meetings were held and there were 165 participants.
- A total of one hundred (100) fish permits were issued for both sport fishing and general fishing.

2.2.10 Sweet Potato Project

Production: sustainable market-led production of sweet potatoes

- 300 farmers have been trained on sweet potato GAP, by the Ministry's root and tuber specialist.
- Assistance to 7 farmers in the rural areas to establishment of sweet potato vines nurseries.
- Establishment of small scale processing (production of flour) pilot has been carried out at Mayiwane and Hluthi RDAs. The idea behind this proposed activity was to gather data and experience for sweet potato flour processing, which has not been previously done in Southern Africa.
- Secondary processing areas have been identified and installed with equipment, these areas include; Mbekelweni, Tikhuba, Mayiwane and Dumako. These secondary processing units will bake using sweet potato flower.

Linking farmers to Markets: identification of market opportunities for smallholder producers and facilitation of linkages with buyers

- Awareness creation on sweet potato products has been conducted in a number of places during agricultural gathering and super-market and Trade fair.
- A Food Expo was held from the 11th to 20th December, 2015 with the aim of promoting the utilization of sweet potato in a variety of ways
- A Marketing study on linking farmers to markets with the identification of market opportunities for smallholder producers and the facilitation of linkages with buyers leading to existing market potential (locally, regionally and internationally) for smallholder farmers has been conducted.

2.2.11 Food and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition education were conducted to educate households on basic food nutrition, micro nutrition, eating wisely, the effect of food on non-communicable diseases. In addition farmers were capacitated on proper methods of cooking food to obtain optimum nutrients.

- There were 121 food nutrition education seminars conducted with an attendance of 4439.
- There were 36 workshops conducted with an attendance of 657 under nutrition education.
- Eleven (11) food preparation training and demonstrations were carried out with an attendance of 867 farmers.
- Three (3) Nutrition campaigns were carried out with an attendance of 851 participants.

Food processing and preservation:

The following activities were carried out to capacitate households on processing and preservation of food;

- There were 30 seminars on food processing and preservation conducted with an attendance of 774 participants.
- There were 113 demonstrations conducted with an attendance of 1516 participants on food processing and preservation.

Summary of Income

PRODUCT	TOTAL QTY (L)	TOTAL REVENUE(E)
Peanut butter	7858.5	574, 300.00
Cayenne sauce	2759.5	158, 445.00
Vegetable atchar	722	43, 680.00
Baked products	15400	15, 400.00
Floor Polish	4702	89, 350.00
Fabric Softener	3401	54, 215.00
Skin ointment	847.9	65, 430.00
Liquid soap	729	14, 130.00
Bleach	183	2, 655.00
Sewing	996 Items	84, 000.00
Handicraft	2683	117, 817.00
Knitted items	59 items	2, 140.00
Total		E1, 219, 636

2.3 DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

This department is responsible for promoting rational utilization of land, the development of agricultural land and water resources, particularly on Swazi Nation Land (SNL). The following activities were successfully carried out during the past year despite the challenge of fuel rationing due to fiscal challenges faced by government.

2.3.1 Irrigation Development

- In Mbuluzi, Irrigation surveys, designs and bill of quantities were completed. Installation of irrigation infrastructure has been done on 35 ha.
- Dwaleni, Survey and design of the irrigation system weir, conveyance and distribution have been completed.
- Phaphama, surveys, designs and bill of quantities have been done; and installation of infield in 3.5 ha was completed. Commissioning of the Phaphama scheme is still outstanding.
- In Shiselweni, at Zombodze Emuva, surveys for the downstream were completed while the designs are at 80% completion
- The project at Sigcineni made a significant progress where the irrigation infrastructure was installed in 20 homesteads (45 % completion). Other components of the system were completed, and these includes conveyance, diversion weir and mainline. The off-stream reservoir is at 40 % completion.
- At Mhlambanyoni irrigation development is at 80 % completion. The project has three different zones. In zone 1, thirty five (35) homesteads were installed with the irrigation system (100%). In zone 2, the irrigation infrastructure has been installed on 24 homesteads out of 25 homesteads. The irrigation system installation is at 80 % in zone 3. The construction of night storage earth dams is the major outstanding activity in this project site.

2.3.2 Earth dams

- Excavation of the core trench for the Sigcineni over-night storage reservoir was completed.
- Construction/Rehabilitation of Lomacimba dam under Mpolonjeni Inkhundla was completed.
- Zombodze Emuva; core trenching, outlet pipe installation and backfilling have been completed.
- Scoop dams were constructed at Eluhlanyeni in Sithobela, Dwaleni, Mphini and Nhletjeni. De-silting of the source was done at Lundzi to allow water to flow.
- Rehabilitation of spillways at Sidlokodlo and Majotane dams were completed.
- Weir improvement and a silt trap were completed at Mhlambanyoni. The construction of an over-night storage earth dam is at 30% completion.
- The re-habilitation of an earth dam was done under Sigwe Inkhundla.

Under the Water Harvesting Small and Medium-sized Dams Project (WHDP) sponsored by the European Union, thirty six (36) conceptual designs have been completed and submitted to a consultant (AGRE-TYPSA) for preliminary designs. The design for four sites is at 60% completion. Water quality tests were done for all the sources for Lot 1. Training of officers and other relevant stakeholders was conducted on AUTO CAD and IRI-Maker. Further training was conducted on Environmental issues and community development, business management and Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). Application for water permits for Lot 1 schemes were submitted. Community mobilization has been conducted in all Lot 1 schemes. Topographic surveys were conducted for 4 out of 35 Off-Stream Reservoirs. The consultant submitted the draft of the preliminary designs to the department. Comments were made and sent back to the consultant.

2.3.3 Land use and soil surveys

Soil surveys were conducted in all the ten (10) sites/schemes in Lot 1 under the Water Harvesting Small and Medium-sized Dams Project (WHDP). These sites include Nkwene, Maguduza, Nyelele, Lobamba, Meleti, Sigombeni, Buhlungu, Mhlangeni, Mkhovu and Mswati. Other soil surveys were conducted in

Matata, Ngwenya and Ezulwini for the purpose of advising the Human Settlement department on development Townships. Surveys were also done in Hluti.

2.3.4 Drought Relief

The Department has supplied about 140 000 litres of water to RDAs. Places that were serviced includes Tikhuba RDA (20 000 litres), Buhleni (60 000 litres) and Mandlangamphisi RDA (60 000 litres).

2.3.5 Soil Conservation and Land Rehabilitation

The installation of gabions was carried out at Mabovini, Ka-Ntunja and Nyakeni under Kukhanyeni Inkhundla. Collection of stones and gabion installation for the rehabilitation of Luhlokohla Donga is on-going. Training on soil conservation principles was conducted at Embelebeleni. Stock piling of stones, fencing and gabion installation for the rehabilitation of Ezulwini Donga is on-going. Fencing of dongas in Ngcayini and Mangcineni is on-going.

2.3.6 Bush Clearing and Ripping

The Ministry has assisted with bush clearing and ripping (land preparation) of about 160 ha in various places. The places where site clearing and land preparation was done include Pine Valley (2ha), Luhlokohla (15ha), Nsalitje (20ha), Manyonyoneni (25ha), Magoga (50 ha), HhohhoFarmers' Cooperative (35 ha), Lomacimba (10 ha) and Herefords Primary School (80 m x 70 m). The reasons for bush clearing were agricultural expansion, development of new settlements, school development and hay production on ranches.

At dwaleni, 10 hectares of land has been bush cleared and ripped. One hectare of land has been cleared for a construction of a scoop dam at Dwaleni, Mphini. Four hectares of land has been ripped for the planting of grass and one hectare of land has been bush cleared for a site construction at Elupheleni. Bush clearing of four hectares of land was done at St Georges Barracks. Two hectares of land was cleared at KaPhunga while four hectares of land was cleared at Mpolonjeni. Five hectares has been bush cleared and ripped for crop production in farm 29/8 at Sidvokodvo. Another ten hectares was cleared at Sidvokodvo for a Dairy Farm. One hectare of land was cleared at Mbanana for crop production. Four hectares was cleared and levelled at Swazi Milk.

Bush clearing and ripping of 15 ha was done at Killarney for hay production. Bush clearing and ripping of 8 ha was carried out at Hlane; 8 ha was cleared at Hawane; 8 ha was cleared at Siphocosini; 5 ha was cleared at Mkhondvo for the construction of SWADE offices; 10 ha was cleared for the construction of a school and teachers quarters at Luhlokohla. The department also assisted the department of Rural Water Supply with trenching for water pipes (6 km) at Fontotje and Tincatsavaneni.

2.3.7 Other Community Assistance and Development

Roads Development/Fire Breaks

The department has maintained/rehabilitated rural/farm roads in various communities in the past year. About 10 km road was maintained at Dlangeni. At Mkhulamini, a 2 km road was graded/open to a dip tank. A 6km road was opened at Makhungutja. At Sidvokodvo, a 2 km road was maintained and a 1 km road was done at Hlane, Bulunga. A 500 m road was graded for a water source at Nkamanzi while another

500 m road was maintained at Dwaleni. Maintenance of a 3 km road was carried out at Mkhulamini to a proposed dip tank while a 3.5 km road was maintained at Swazi Milk.

At Ka-Shoba, road gravelling was done from the main road to the Ka-Shoba Umpakatsi. A fire break of about 10 km at the King's Farm in Ndlandlama was constructed. Other fire breaks were done at Ka-Stofu (10km); and Magoga (2 km). Concrete works, backfilling with gravel and gabion boxes was complete for a service road construction in Sigcineni. A 2.5km road was done from Sigcineni to Emhlweni. Fire breaks were rehabilitated in farms including 10km at Ka-Stofu; 2km at Magoga; 10 km at Ndlandlama King's farm; 50 km at Mphisi and 50km at Mayonyaneni.

Rural Resettlement

Under the resettlement Project at Lozitha, the construction of six (6) two-bedroom houses belonging to the King's Office staff is on-going and is at 45%.

Challenges

The department has faced the following challenges:

- Heavy plant down time
- Procurement of spare parts
- fuel rationing

2.4 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

The department is responsible for the development and identification of applied and adaptive agricultural production technologies that ensure household and national food security, sustainable growth of the agrobusiness sector and national economy. The department is also responsible for phytosanitary services, safeguarding food safety measures and conservation of national plant genetic resources heritage. The department implemented and accomplished research activities under the following programme objectives:

2.4.1 Crop variety development and identification

Several trials were conducted to identify varieties that are suitable for production under Swaziland climatic conditions. Among the trials were:

- **Regional Maize and Elite Maize trials:** among the varieties tested, four white maize hybrids (PAN 504, LXW 557, SC 301 and CZH 1258), one yellow maize hybrid (CAP 122-60) performed well.
- **Southern African Bean Yield trial:** two bean varieties (SC Silk, Tygerberg and NUA 740) performed well under research station conditions.
- **Sunflower variety yield trial:** varieties Pan 7098, Pan 7031, Pan 7158, Pan 7098, and 57 yielded higher compared to the commonly grown variety (CAP 4000).
- **Baby marrow variety trial:** Among the five varieties tested two varieties (star 8021 and star 8023) were identified as the best and were recommended to farmers.
- **Cassava varieties yield and beta carotene content trial:** yellow cassava all varieties tested had a low Beta carotene content, hence new varieties (germplasm) will be sourced from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and tested under local conditions in the coming seasons

2.4.2 Identification of the most efficient crop production methods.

Trials aimed at identifying the most efficient production methods were conducted in the different agro-ecological zones of Swaziland. They included following:

- **Effect of Earthing-Up on Groundnut Yield Trial;** Earthing-up did not improve yield.
- **Effect of Inter-Row and Intra-Row Spacing on Maize Yield Trials:** While the spacing of maize at 90 cm x 15 cm gave a higher yield, it was not statistically different from the recommended 90cm x 25 cm. At 60 cm x 20 cm spacing yield was significantly reduced.
- **Effect of organic fertilizers amelioration on heavy metals concentration and maize yield in acid soils trial;** concentration of heavy metals is lowest in goat manure followed by cattle and sheep manure and very high in poultry litter.
- **Effect of foliar fertilizer application on maize yield:** Folia application of Nitrosol enhanced maize yield compared to the other foliar fertilizers (Pop-up, Bakgat broadleaf, Kelpak seaweed and DI Grow Green).

2.4.3 Development and identification of cost effective, user and environmentally friendly crop protection technologies.

Studies under this sub programme included the following:

- **Fall armyworm molecular identification:** Results of this study conducted in collaboration with UNISWA indicate that there are two strains of this new pest (maize strain and rice strain)...
- **Pesticides evaluation:** Different insecticides were evaluated for the control of fall army worm at Malkerns Research station and Vuvulane. Most of the tested insecticides were found to be effective in controlling the pest and they will be recommended to farmers.
- **Bacterial wilt management in tomato:** None of the tested chemicals was effective in controlling the disease. A cultural management approach including solar sterilization of soil and green manuring using sunn-hemp is currently being investigated.

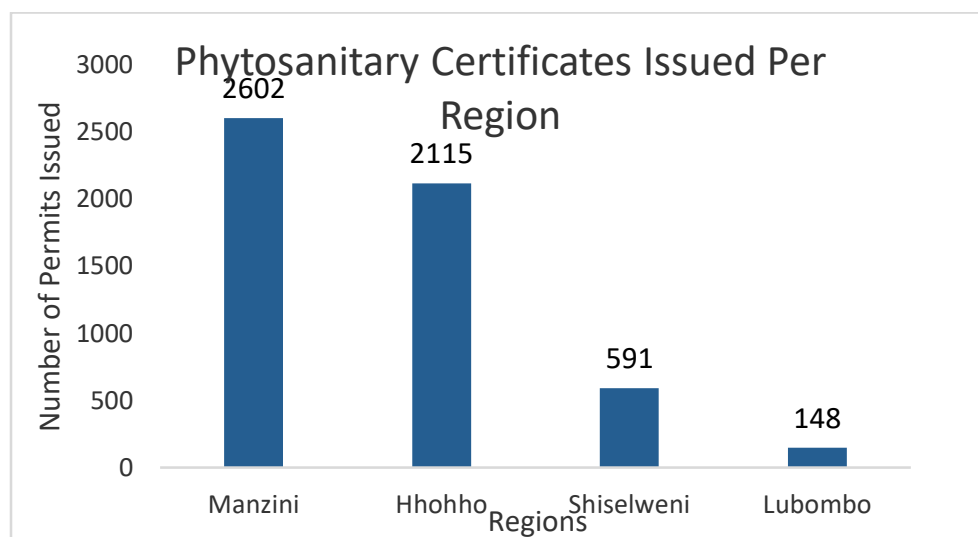
2.4.4 Development of good and sustainable agricultural (land and water management) practices in crop production to address climate change.

Under this sub programme, the following studies were conducted:

- **Effect of tillage methods on the maize yield:** There is no significant difference in total dry matter and grain yield between conventional tillage and minimum tillage methods (ripping, tractor drawn direct seeder, jab planter and pot-holing) practices during the past cropping season. However, tractor drawn ripper combined with direct seeder produced higher yields than the other tillage methods or practices over time.
- Effect on intercropping maize with different legume cover crops under minimum tillage: Preliminary results indicate that intercropping maize with jackbean or sunn-hemp improve soil fertility and enhance weed suppression in maize.

2.4.5 Implementation of phytosanitary, quarantine and food safety measures.

The National Plant Health Inspectorate Services (NaPHIS) issued a total of 5456 phytosanitary certificates from the 4 regions as indicated in the chart below, whilst 426 import permits and 42 transit permits were issued at Malkerns Research Station during the period. Banana, baby vegetables, avocado, mango, green mealies, timber and timber products as well as handicraft were the major exports. Most of plants and plant product imports were from the Republic of South Africa. Transit permits were issued for commodities transiting between Mozambique and South Africa, only a few from South Africa to South Africa.



- Two hundred and sixty two (262) farmers were trained on identification and management of fall armyworm.
- One hundred and thirty eight (138) of the farmers were from KaLanga RDA and Tikhuba RDA in the Lubombo region and 124 farmers were from Ntfontjeni and Mayiwane RDAs in the Hhohho region. The trained lead farmers will in turn share the knowledge with other farmers in order to stop the spread of the pest.

- Twelve (12) assistant extension officers from all the regions were also trained as training of trainers (ToT) on the identification and management of fall armyworm. The management practices include frequent scouting and crushing of egg masses and young larvae of the pest as a first cheap option available to the farmer. Pesticides such as Judge, Emma, Master 900, Spitfire, Methomyl, Decis forte were recommended for use during the first three stages of the larvae. Later than the third stage, the larvae become resistant to most insecticides. Intercropping and early planting also help manage the pest.
- The twelve (12) assistant extension officers and four (4) senior extension officers from the regions were also trained on fall armyworm surveillance and monitoring. This exercise ensures timely advice to farmers on when to begin frequent scouting and also provide national data on pest population. Trainings and demonstrations on termites control were done at Ngculwini and Siphofaneni, Phuzumoya and Sigcaweni communities.
- Officials from the unit visited the Citrus Research International (CRI) to establish work relations with the research institute. CRI has laboratories and expertise to deal with citrus black spot, which one of the problematic diseases of citrus in Southern Africa.
- The NaPHIS facilitated in the process of application of market access of Swaziland citrus to the United States of America market. The application is currently being evaluated by the American stakeholders. The Ministry will be informed of the outcome as soon as the process is completed.

2.4.6 Collection, conservation and characterization of cultivated crops and their wild relatives.

A genetic diversity (characterization) assessment of 70 maize accessions was conducted in collaboration with the Universities of Swaziland and Free State. The results indicate that some of the accessions are drought tolerant while others are nutritious (high in zinc, iron and calcium).

Fifteen sorghum accessions were tested for birds' tolerance. Of these accessions ten were found to be tolerant to birds. These accessions have been recommended for further evaluation and testing for consumer preference and acceptability.

2.4.7 Post-harvest handling

Under this sub-programme, the following studies were conducted:

- Effect of indigenous preservation methods on the nutrient content of sweet potato: Results indicate that preservation of sweet potato in pits covered with soil only prolonged the shelf-life by at least five extra months after harvesting.
- Nutrient analysis of emantulwa and emantfundvuluka: Results indicate that wild fruits are as nutritious as domesticated fruits and hence their consumption is encouraged.
- Groundnut variety evaluation for peanut butter consumer preference: Groundnuts variety ICG Pan 221(cacajane) was highly preferred by consumers for peanut butter production.
- Evaluation of sweet potato variety leaves as relish and consumer acceptability: Among the tested sweet potato varieties, leaves from Umshayina variety was the most preferred by consumers as good for relish.

2.4.8 Basic Seed and Planting materials Multiplication

Hundred and twenty (120) tons of generation 4 healthy potato seed was produced, and over 95 tons sold to local farmers. Eight (8) hectares were harvested at Sidvokodvo as well as, 8 hectares, 5.25 hectares, and 4 hectares at Dalcrue University farm, Malkerns Research Station and Mswati (Northern RDA) respectively.

- Pod stripping of groundnuts, variety ICG 10478 was completed and 35 kg of raw seed was obtained for further multiplication.
- Dry beans have been sorted and a total of 130 kg clean seed was obtained
- Cowpea (Umtlane variety) was sorted and 170kg of clean seed was obtained.
- A total of 35kg of clean seed was obtained.
- Maintenance of Sweet potato nursery with sixteen (16) varieties and Cassava nurseries at Malkerns Research Station is on-going.

2.4.9 Farm Operations

The farm section processed and sold maize, beans and fruit tree seedlings from Malkerns Research Station (MRS) and Nhlangano Experimental Farm (NEF) and Lowveld Experimental Station (LES). The Mphophoma Conference Centre continued with hosting of different events at a fee. All revenue collected from the sales and rentals was deposited into the Government Account. Table below shows revenue collected for this financial year.

Description	Centre	Amount (E)
Mphophoma	Malkerns Research Station	101, 910.00
Farm produce (maize)	Malkerns Research Station	8, 000.00
Farm produce (maize)	Malkerns Research Station	10, 400.00
Farm produce (fruit trees)	Malkerns Research Station	40, 500.00
Farm produce (maize)	Malkerns Research Station	2, 000.00
Farm produce (maize)	Nhlangano Experimental Farm	9, 000.00
Farm produce (Hay bales)	Nhlangano Experimental Farm	4, 250.00
Farm produce (Butternut)	Nhlangano Experimental Farm	500.00
Farm produce (sweet potato)	Nhlangano Experimental Farm	1, 500.00
Farm produce (sweet potato)	Lowveld Experimental Station	195.00
Farm produce (fruit trees)	Lowveld Experimental Station	800.00
Farm produce (maize)	Lowveld Experimental Station	1, 000.00
Farm produce (cassava)	Lowveld Experimental Station	450.00
TOTAL		180, 505.00

2.4.10 Other Activities

Development of Bills

Both the Swaziland National Agricultural Research Authority (SNARA) and Plant Health Protection Bills were presented to the Portfolio Committee. The Committee is now organizing stakeholder consultation workshop.

Compilation of the State of Swaziland's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

The draft Swaziland's State of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (BFA) report and a Cover Statement was compiled and submitted to the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Secretariat in Rome, Italy through the Minister's office. The report will contribute to the compilation of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Report.

Major Challenges:

- The limited budget is affecting service delivery. The Department is in the process of establishing partnerships with national and international organizations that can provide both technical and financial assistance.
- The dilapidated infrastructure which includes buildings and machinery remain a serious challenge. The office building is no longer habitable and the situation is worse during rainy season.
- Shortage of vehicles, implements and farm machinery to conduct experiments in the different parts of Swaziland.
- Perimeter fence for protecting research experiments from livestock and trespassers at Malkerns, Lowveld and Nhlanguano Experiment Farms is also dilapidated.

2.5 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

The Department of Agricultural Planning and Analysis (DAPA) is responsible for the appraisal and monitoring of agricultural development programmes and projects. The main purpose of the Section is to provide socio-economic analysis and planning support to MoA in undertaking its mandate. In addition to this, DAPA provides marketing advisory services through the Marketing Advisory Unit, and marketing information on the agricultural sector and advance information on food security prospects in the country at both national and household levels, through the National Early Warning Unit.

2.5.1 Rural Sociology and Monitoring & Evaluation Unit

Rural Sociology and M&E Unit

Monitoring and evaluation of capital projects

- *Evaluation of Food Security Project (A378/99/63)*
 - The purpose of the evaluation exercise is to assess; the attainment of project objectives; the appropriateness of design; whether or not interventions have been successful in meeting the target; whether or not there were negative impacts or untended consequences (outcomes) of the project that needed to be addressed but were not addressed; and whether there were unexpected but important benefits or impacts that have not been document.
 - The unit continued with data collection and physical evaluation of equipment and machinery in the project areas; Central RDA, Ngwempisi RDA, Southern RDA, Nhlangano farmers training center, Tikhuba RDA, Langa RDA, Manyonyaneni training center, Lutheran farmers training center, and Motshane RDA.

2.5.2 Planning and Budgeting Unit

2.5.2.1 Capital Projects

The Department continued its support to technical departments in the execution of the capital programmes. During the reporting period the Ministry is implementing ten capital projects. These include the water and irrigation development projects under SWADE (LUSIP I & II, KDDP, and SMLP), and the Small & Medium sized dam project under the Land Use Planning Department. Others are the Malkerns Research Station 15KW Solar Power System, Purchasing of Heavy Plant,

Expansion of Mpisi Pig Breeding Station and Resettlement at Lozitha. Overall budget requests submitted for disbursements currently stand at **E 381,564,000.00** which is 99% of the overall capital budget allocation. We hope that the rate will improve by end of the financial year pending disbursement of donor funding from the R.O.C (Taiwan).

2.5.2.2 Donor Funding

The unit assisted various departments with requests on soliciting funds from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the bilateral cooperation budget. Budget proposals were submitted and presented through the ministry of economic planning and development and some have been provisionally approved. The unit is in the processes of submitting final documents to facilitate the disbursements of budgets in the next financial year.

2.5.3 Marketing Advisory Unit

2.5.3.1 Price Data Collection and Analysis:

The Ministry continued to collect market information for fruits and vegetables data on prices for various agricultural commodities from the four main markets in the country. The main markets include Manzini, Mahlanya, Encabeni and Mbabane. Fruits and vegetable prices are disseminated through Swazi Observer and The Times of Swaziland. The main purpose of the data price collection, analysis and dissemination is to create awareness on fruits and vegetable prices to inform decision making by producers and the market.

2.5.3.2 Marketing Investment Fund (MIF)

The Marketing Investment Fund was established to support enterprising small agricultural businesses to expand and create clear market linkages with smallholder producers to stimulate production and marketing of their produce. Following the disbursement to 45 agricultural enterprises, the Ministry continues to monitor and provide technical advice to enterprises which benefited from the programme. This is aimed at ensuring sustainability and continued growth of the IMF supported initiatives. The continued interaction is mainly on mentoring the beneficiaries on Agribusiness opportunities for growth, Product Marketing, Record Keeping and Business Management. All the supported enterprises are involved in the marketing and processing of agricultural commodities such as horticulture, dairy, legumes, honey banana, groundnuts, sweet potato, marula and poultry.

In order to efficiently provide the service to the beneficiaries, the Ministry established a dedicated group of Business Services Providers who are in all the regions of the country and provide continuous support to the MIF Beneficiaries. Some of the conducted trainings are on business plans, business proposals, record keeping and management and entrepreneurship of agricultural businesses.

2.5.3.3 Value Chain: Farmer linkage to markets

High School Agriculture Teachers are involved in fruits and vegetables and field crops – Maize and Sorghum: The Ministry has continued to lead the agricultural value chains in the country through assistance and support from Food Agricultural Organization (FAO). One hundred and twelve (112) high school agriculture teachers had been trained in Marketing with the assistance

of FAO. Two workshops were held at Esibayeni Lodge where the Agriculture High School teachers were trained. The main purpose is to link High School agriculture to the markets and also open market opportunities for the high school produce. Another reason was to train Agriculture high school teachers so that Marketing could be introduced in High schools and the introduction of agribusiness in high schools. This will ensure that the country's youth is introduced to income generating opportunities in the agriculture sector.

Piggery: A total of one hundred and eighty-four (184) piggery farmers were trained on agribusiness and marketing. The piggery farmers were also linked to viable markets. The trainings were conducted in all four regions of the country.

2.5.3.4 Gross Margin Update 2017

The Ministry, through its Marketing Unit held the gross margin update workshop 2017. This is an annual activity where Unit organizes a gross margin workshop comprising of different agriculture stakeholders (SEDCO, World Vision, Livestock Services, Home economics, MFU, NMC, NAMBoard, and SWADE). Six Agricultural commodities booklets were produced during this exercise. They were Baby vegetables, conventional vegetables, fruit trees, field crops, livestock and processed products. This is an extension tool used by extension officers and all development partners in the field for profitability analysis of agricultural enterprises. The main purpose of the exercise is to produce a profitability analysis tool that could be used by farmers, entrepreneurs, financiers, agriculture stakeholders, extension officers and development partners. The workshop was held on the 1 – 4 August 2017 for the gross margin update. The gross margins were also used and disseminated at International Trade Fair. They are disseminated to the agriculture stakeholders (SEDCO, World Vision, Livestock Services, Home Economics, MFU, NMC, NAMBoard, SWADE, Senior Extension Officers in regions).

2.5.4 National Early Warning Unit

The Unit had done four main activities for the Financial Year under review namely: the Swaziland vulnerability assessment and analysis; 2017/18 seasonal forecast; farmer's messages and review of the National Multi Hazard Contingency Plan.

2.5.4.1 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis

The main objective of the Annual vulnerability assessment is to generate information on food security and livelihoods situation in Swaziland post 2016/2017 season. The effective rainfall began mid-September with intermittent dry spell for selected sites. The significant dry spell was observed in December and early February, significantly affecting maize at critical maturity stages of early and late planted crop. Cyclone Dineo improved the situation, bringing much needed relief to both water stressed maize crop and attacked by Fall Army worm. Proportions of households in need of urgent support to protect their livelihood and reduce food gaps in the rural areas and classified using IPC.

2.5.4.2 Seasonal Forecast

Seasonal rainfall forecast update for the 2017/18 season showed a generally increased chance of Normal-to Above-Normal Rainfall in the Highveld and Upper Middleveld. The lower parts of the Middleveld and Lowveld were expected to receive normal with a bias to below normal rainfall.

Currently the Unit is monitoring the crop development throughout the country and working with stakeholders to undertake a pre-harvest survey to forecast the likely production especially for maize which is a staple food for the country. Other areas that will be considered include livestock and rangeland conditions and other livelihood activities which affect food security.

2.5.4.3 Farmers 2017/18 Seasonal Messages

Following the seasonal weather forecast for 2017/18 the Ministry came up with the following information which was disseminated to all the regions:

- Farmers in the Highveld and upper Middleveld can grow high yielding varieties as there will be enough moisture in the soil. They should plant early and practice good management of the crop.
- Farmers in the lower Middleveld and Lowveld should grow drought tolerant crops such as sorghum, cotton, etc. as the forecast show that rains might be low in those parts of the country.
- Farmers are also encouraged to prevent the following conditions in their animals: Three day Stiff Sickness, Lumpy skin Disease, Worms/ Helminthes and ticks.

2.5.4.4 Review of the National Multi Hazard Contingency Plan from September 2015 to June 2017

The purpose of this exercise and sector lead consultation was to revise, update and estimate cost for the MHCP 2017-18. The review of the food security cluster was to:

- Incorporate emerging situation/realities specifically the types of hazard associated threats and the impact.
- Critical areas, challenges foreseen in addressing future/eminent emergencies.
- Identified gaps in terms of resources and capacity.
- Continuous awareness on these issues help in proper and adequate mobilisation of response interventions that may be required.

SECTION C CAPITAL PROJECTS PERFORMANCE

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Agriculture in the 2017/18 financial year is implementing a total of **ten (10)** capital projects with a total capital budget of **E 383 815 000.00**. This part of the report gives a summary of the on-going capital projects with emphasis on expenditures and physical status.

Out of the ten projects, **six (6)** are being implemented by different departments of the ministry as follows;

- I) Project A360: Purchase of Heavy Plant and Earth Dam Construction Equipment – Department of Land Use Planning and Development
- II) Project A 372: Water and Irrigation Development at Sigangeni, Mpuluzi, Gege, Ngcoseni and Nyamane – Department of Land Use Planning and Development
- III) Project X 505: Lozitha Resettlement Project – Department of Land Use Planning and Development
- IV) Project A388: Renovation and Expansion of Mpisi Pig Breeding Station – Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services
- V) Project A389: Malkerns Research Station 15KW Solar Power System – Department of Agriculture Promotion & Extension Services
- VI) Project A390: Mpisi Pig Breeding 20KW Solar Power System – Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services

The remaining four (4) projects are being implemented by the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (SWADE) which is a parastatal of the ministry. These form the core business of this organization. In this regard, detailed reports on progress achieved in these projects will be provided in the section on parastatals under SWADE. This is to avoid repetitive reporting.

The projects are as follows:

- I) Project A323: Komati Basin Project –Downstream Development.
- II) Project A324: Lower Usuthu – Downstream Development.
- III) Project A381: Lower Usuthu II Extension – Downstream Development.
- IV) Project A380: Smallholder Market Led Production Project.

Expenditure on capital projects table showed below.

Capital Budget Performance as at 28th February 2018

ROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	BUDGET ALLOCATIO N E'000	AMOUNT REQUISIONE D E'000	AMOUNT RELEASED E'000	AMOUNT SPEND AS A PERCENTAGE
A323/99	Komati Basin Project-Downstream Development	20,500	14 378	14 378	70.1
A324/99/11	Lower Usuthu-Downstream Development	50,000	35 705	35 705	71.4
A360/99	Purchase of Heavy Plant and Earth dam Construction Equipment	13,564	13 564	13 303	98.1
A372/99	Water and Irrigation Development at Sigangeni, Mpuluzi, Gege, Ngcoseni and Nyamane	7,000	7 000	6 998	99.9
X505/99	Lozitha Resettlement	23,062	23 062	14 418	62.5
A380/99	Small Holder Market Led Production Project	10 000	7 000	7 000	70.0
A380/61	Small Holder Market Led Production Project	23 062	20 882	20 882	90.5
A381/99	Lower Usuthu II Extension-Downstream Development	87 000	68 024	68 024	78.2
A381/55	Lower Usuthu II Extension-Downstream Development	141 575	30 129	30 129	21.3
A389/70	Malkerns Research Station 15KW Solar Power System	2,596	1 500	1 500	58
A388/70	Renovation and expansion of Mpisi Pig Breeding Station	2,800	2 800	989	35
A390/70	Mpisi Pig Breeding 20KW Solar Power System	2,656	1 501	1 501	57
	TOTALS	383 815	174 535	213 838	67.7

Summary of on- going Capital projects progress for (2017/18FY)

Table below shows summary progress reports of on-going capital projects (2017/18FY)

Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
A323/99 – Komati Basin Project- Downstream Development	Local funds for agricultural development, project management, engineering support and existing farmer companies, business development and support.	20,500	14 378	14 378	<i>Details of progress achieved form part of the SWADE Report under the section on Parastatals.</i>

Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
A324/99/11 - Lower Usuthu- Downstream Development	Local and loan funds for Downstream Development which includes life sustenance, economic empowerment/support to smallholders, conducting St Phillips farm feasibility studies, planning and institutional development unit, support to water management unit,	50 000	35 705	35 705	<i>Details of progress achieved in this project can be obtained in the SWADE Report under the section on Parastatals.</i>

	project management; LUSIP Global Environmental Facility, smallholder support in diversification				
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Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
A360 /99 Purchase of Heavy Plant and Earth-dam Construction Equipment	The purpose of this project is to purchase Heavy Plant Equipment for the construction of earth dam.	13,564	13,564	13, 303.84	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of advertising for tendering for the supply of heavy plants. • The tender evaluation report was presented to tender board and suppliers were awarded to supply. • Orders for the purchase of heavy plant equipment have been issued and funds committed. • The heavy plant has been delivered by suppliers • The process to pay suppliers has been initiated
Problems encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in the release of funds. 				
Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the payment of suppliers and train operators on new heavy plant by suppliers 				
A372 /99 Water and Irrigation Development at Malanti, Sigcineni, Maphalaleni, and	The project is to harness water for irrigation development in the High and	7,000	7,000	6,998.850	Malanti The construction of a balancing reservoir completed. Infield designs have been completed and materials have been procured. Trenching and installation of conveyance is at 90%.

<p>Mhlambanyoni (Sankolweni).</p>	<p>Middleveld of Swaziland, where there is the availability of surface water. The project is aimed to improve Agricultural production in that crop production could be performed throughout the year.</p>				<p>Sigcineni The diversion weir has been completed at Sigcineni. The core trench of balancing reservoir is completed. Trenching of infield has started and is ongoing. All the materials for this project have procured. 20 homesteads out 45 have been installed.</p> <p>Maphalaleni The infield irrigation design for Maphalaleni is completed and earth works is expected to resume once machinery is available. Operation is suspended due insufficient machinery as a result of downtime and focus is on sigcineni and mhlambanyoni</p> <p>Mhlambanyoni Detailed design for irrigation development is completed at Mhlambanyoni. Trenching of 4 km mainline is completed. 80 homesteads out 110 have been installed. Distribution network is at 60 % completion. The construction of reservoirs is still outstanding</p>
<p>Problems encountered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in the release of funds. • Short supply of fuel for heavy plant. • Heavy Plant Equipment breakdown 				
<p>Action required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the two sites (Sigcineni and Mhlambanyoni) and move the plant to Malanti and Maphalaleni. 				

Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
X505 Lozitha Resettlement.	Local funds for the resettlements of residents at Lozitha.	23 062	14 418, 285.79	14,418,285.79	<p><u>Progress to date for Residential Housing (only for the king's office quarters):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site establishment is complete • Site Clearance Complete • Trench excavation complete • Blockwork in foundation complete • Concrete in surface beds complete • Blockwork in superstructure up to ring beam height complete • Concrete in ring beam is complete • Plastering to internal and external is complete • Electrical tubing is complete • Floor tiling is ongoing • Painting is ongoing • External works are ongoing • Carpentry fittings are ongoing • Overall Project is at 80% complete when combing all projects
Problem encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in the release of funds. • some of resettlement beneficiaries were not satisfied with their house plan designs • Land on which to construct the school is yet to be allocated. 				
Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow ups and involvement of relevant authorities • The resettlement beneficiaries were engaged in a meeting explain how the resettlement policy address resettlement related issues. In this meeting, the beneficiaries get to understand the dynamics involved in resettlement. 				

Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
6. A380/99/61 Smallholder Market- Led Production Project	Local and donor funds for Small Holder Market Led Production Project	23 062 10 000	18 000 000 7 000	0 7 000	<i>Details of progress achieved in this project can be obtained in the SWADE Report under the section on Parastatals</i>

Project Title	Project Purpose/ Budget Note	Budget E'000	Amount Released	Amount Spent /Committed	Physical Progress Achieved To date
7. A381 /99/55 Lower Usuthu II Extension- Downstream Development	Local and loan funds for upstream development which include the construction of the main conveyance system, secondary system, canals and supervision of civil works.	87 000 141 575	68 024 0	68 024 0	<i>Details of progress achieved in this project can be obtained in the SWADE Report under the section on Parastatals</i>

A390/70 Mpisi Pig Breeding 20KW Solar Power System	Donor funds for establishment of a solar power system at Mpisi Pig Breeding Station	2 656	1 501	1 501	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control room constructed, and completed (electrical wiring done, ceiling installed and painted internally and externally) • Solar Panel and power storage batteries have been procured and delivered on site • The installation of the entire solar energy power system projected to be completed by end of March 2018
A389/70 Malkerns Research Station 15KW Solar Power System	Donor funds for establishment of a solar power system at Malkerns Research Station	2 596	1 500	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donation has been released by the funders (Taiwan ICDF) • Solar mounting site has been identified and agreed upon with the contractor. • Visited UNISWA and ZULWINI solar power systems for orientation (familiarize the project managers with solar power systems). • Surveying and drilling of borehole adjust of the seed potato packshed has been completed.
9. A388/70 Renovation and expansion of Mpisi Pig Breeding Station	Donor funds for Renovation and Expansion of Mpisi Pig Breeding Centre.	2 800	2 800	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a Pig Artificial Insemination Centre (AI Centre) is complete, and centre fully operational. • Semen processed by the centre is now used to artificially inseminate farmers' pigs and those at the breeding centre, beginning October 2017. • Extension of the sow farrowing house has been completed. Pending is its plumbing and electrification.
Problems encountered	Slow construction pace of labourers' compound.				
Action required	Expedite completion of the labourers' compound.				

SECTION D

PERFORMANCE REPORT ON RECURRENT BUDGET 2017/18

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a number of programmes and projects. The recurrent performance is as reported in the following tables:

ACTIVITY 10: MINISTER'S OFFICE: ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18 HEAD 20 PERIOD 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	194,000	48,499	5,356	4,500	9,855.61	38,643	80
1	1,435,375	1,076,529	1,254,367	0	1,254,367	-177,838	-17
2	139,071	634,544	338,914	59,007	397921	236,623	37
4	13,341	47,728	22,803	599	23402	24,326	51
6	9,281	3,862	0	0	0	3,862	100
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,791,068	1,811,162	1,621,440	64,106	1,685,546	125,616	7

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 10 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 10: MINISTER'S OFFICE

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The 80% under expenditure is due to CTA billing system that is always behind.

ITEM 01: PERSONNEL COSTS

The -17% over expenditure is due to inadequate budget on this item.

ITEM 02: TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The 37% under expenditure is due to funds for payments of telephone bills on process.

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The 51% under expenditure are funds for electricity bills on process.

ACTIVITY 11: ADMINISTRATION: ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18 HEAD 20 FROM PERIOD 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	TO COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	33,023,821	8,329,022	6,251,947	9,000	6,260,947	2,068,075	25
1	11,534,704	8,651,019	7,766,574	0	7,766,574	884,445	25
2	2,345,148	2,151,079	1,862,534	128,261	1,990,795	160,284	10
4	7,919,328	4,038,517	3,575,046	86,103	3,661,149	377,368	7
6	513,734	16,221,183	7,257,123	68,152	7,325,275	8,895,908	9
7	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	55
10	157,500	118,125	0	0	0	118,125	100
11	852,342	630,096	189,493	0	189,493	440,603	100
TOTAL	56,346,577	40,159,041	26,902,717	291,516	27,194,233	12,964,808	70

**EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017
ACTIVITY 11: ADMINISTRATION****ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES**

The 25% under expenditure is due to CTA billing system that is always behind.

ITEM 01 PERSONNEL COSTS

The 25% under expenditure is due to vacant positions.

ITEM 02: TRAVEL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The 10% under expenditure is due to funds for external travel on process.

ITEM 07: DURABLE MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES

The 55% under expenditure is due to funds for purchase of durable material still on process

ITEM 10: INTERNAL TRANSFERS

The 100% under expenditure are funds for internal organization's Ministry still waiting for submissions of invoices

ITEM 11: EXTERNAL TRANSFER

The 100% under expenditure is for external organizations, Ministry is still waiting for submission of invoices

**ACTIVITY 12: AGRICULTURE PLANNING & ANALYSIS: ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18
HEAD 20 PERIOD 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017**

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	TO COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	227,252	77,229	27,542	0	27,542	49,687	64
1	5,521,890	4,141,416	3,406,629	0	3,406,629	734,787	18
2	49,928	50,800	50,413	0	50,413	387	1
4	92,819	18,588	15,244	0	15,244	3,344	18
6	21,292	16,449	3,312	0	3,312	13,137	80
11	963,235	554,970	0	0	0	554,970	100
TOTAL	6,876,416	4,859,452	3,503,140	0	3,503,140	1,356,312	28

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRNT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 12: ECONOMIC PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The 64% under expenditure is due to the CTA billing system which is always behind and has not yet captured the costs incurred thus far. The department fleet is also depleted and frequent breakdowns are experienced.

ITEM 01: PERSONNEL COSTS

The 18% under expenditure is a result of vacant positions which have not yet been filled in the department

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The projected 18% under expenditure on this item is attributed to the release of a small proportion of the budget which cannot be effectively utilized and delays in receiving invoices for services on equipment.

ITEM 06 CONSUMABLES

The 80% projected under expenditure on this item is a result of delays in issuance of authority to spend which has halted the procurement processes for some consumables

ITEM 11 TRANSFERS

The 100% projected under expenditure can be attributed to late receipt of invoices from external organizations.

ACTIVITY 21: DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND EXTENTION SERVICES : ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18 HEAD 20 FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017.

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	7,693,389	3,705,559	2,523,208	1,000	2,524,208	1,181,351	32
1	83,534,368	62,650,758	65,292,910	0	65,292,910	-2,642,152	-4
2	515,219	518,078	311,852	85,340	397,192	120,886	23
4	1,700,605	781,073	120,510	83,490	204,000	577,073	74
6	12,377,039	9,683,032	258,193	165,152	423,345	9,259,687	96
7	0	6,170	0	0	0	6,170	100
TOTAL	105,820,620	77,344,670	68,506,673	334,982	68,841,655	9,259,687	12

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017
ACTIVITY 21: VETERINARY AND LIVESTOCK SERVICES

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

Projected 32% under expenditure is due to delay in the CTA billing system.

ITEM 02: TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Projected 23% under expenditure is due to lag time in the billing system with respect to communication agencies mostly SLITS (Swaziland Livestock Identification Traceability System) phone and data lines

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Projected 74% under expenditure results from outstanding payments for SLITS contract and license fees, currently in process for second quarter. Funds projected to be utilized as invoiced by service provider in each quarter to maintain SLITS. Other funds are for software upgrade of SLITS to incorporate livestock management in government farms, and for testing of samples at Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in process for completion beginning of 4th quarter subject to grant of authority to commit funds from MoF.

ITEM 06: CONSUMABLE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Projected 96% under expenditure is mainly due to funds for procurement of dipping chemicals and vaccines to be mobilized through tender award already at final stages of evaluation for fund utilization beginning of Q4.

ITEM 07: DURABLES

Projected 100% under expenditure due to outstanding procurement of cyclone Seeders. This equipment is for use in hay pasture development in Government and farmer's development. Awaiting grant of authority to commit from MoF.

ACTIVITY 22: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROMOTIONS & EXTENSION SERVICE : ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18: HEAD 20 FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	20,271,240	8,446,329	6,075,066	0	6,075,066	2,371,263	28
1	55,013,391	41,260,029	41,256,766	0	41,256,766	3,263	0
2	225,755	216,978	215,340	0	215,340	1,638	1
4	3,371,387	1,355,535	127,447	13,188	140,635	1,214,900	90
6	695,098	580,004	226,753	116,929	343,682	236,322	41
7	0	113,200	113,200	0	113,200	0	0
10	19,021,064	14,609,805	13,403,112	0	13,403,112	1,206,693	8
TOTAL	98,597,935	66,581,880	61,417,684	130,117	61,547,801	5,034,079	8

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 22: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROMOTION AND EXTENSION

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The 28% under expenditure on this item is a result of the CTA system being behind and fewer cars being on the road as a result of being broken down.

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIAL SERVICES

The 90% under expenditure on this item will be reduced in the next two months as the Ministry makes the payments following the issuing of warrants for the contracted services and the receipt of invoices from the service providers

ITEM 06: CONSUMABLE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIERS

The 41% under expenditure on this item is due to the procurement of materials under this item being timed to coincide with the ploughing/planting season. The resources under the item will be fully utilized during the succeeding months (ten and eleven).

ACTIVITY 23: FISHERIES SECTION: ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18 HEAD 20 PERIOD FROM 01 APRIL TO 30 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1,793,802	1,345,350	1,144,949	0	1,144,949	200,401	15
2	40,594	51,083	26,326	6,426	32,752	18,331	36
4	5,052	37,321	35,700	0	35,700	1,621	4
6	144,800	24,823	0	0	0	24,823	100
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,984,248	1,458,577	1,206,975	6,426	0	245,176	17

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 23: FISHERIES SECTION

ITEM 01: PERSONNEL COSTS

The 15% under expenditure may be due to that one of the section's officer is on study leave.

ITEM 02: TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The 36% under expenditure is a result of money reallocated to this item which has not yet been spent for external travel.

ITEM 06: CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

The 100% under expenditure is a result of no money that has been spent on workshops and purchasing of stationery.

ACTIVITY 26: AGRICULTURE LAND USE PLANING AND DEVELOPMENT : ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017/18 HEAD 20 FRO 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	10,075,526	4,698,132	8,258,829	0	8,258,829	-3,560,697	-76
1	15,764,439	11,823,327	11,231,181	0	11,231,181	592,146	5
2	65,624	197,762	154,399	6,799	161,198	36,564	18
3	0	0	2,185	0	2,185	-2,185	0
4	1,250,742	232,537	27,334	0	27,334	205,203	88
6	515,671	837,475	7,988	383,443	391,431	446,044	53
7	0	108,000	0	0	0	108,000	100
TOTAL	27,672,002	17,897,233	19,681,916	390,242	20,072,158	-2,174,925	-12

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 26: LAND USE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The over expenditure of -76% on CTA is caused by the fact that the fueling officer is attached to the department. The Financial controller will re-allocate funds to the department

ITEM 02: TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The under expenditure of 18% is due to the fact that telephone bills are still being processed.

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIAL SERVICES

The under expenditure of 88% is caused by the fact that the GIS licensing has not been affected its year usually ends toward the end of the financial year, and thus it is paid in February and March.

ITEM 06; CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

The under expenditure of 53% is caused by the fact the authority to purchase of protective clothing has not been issued by the Ministry of Finance.

ITEM 07: DURABLES

The under expenditure of 100% is caused by the fact the authority to purchase printers and internet has not been issued by the Ministry of Finance.

**ACTIVITY 27: DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING : ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2017/18
HEAD 20 FROM PERIOD 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017**

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	3,670,117	2,029,206	884,671	0	884,671	1,144,535	56
1	15,310,310	11,482,731	11,527,273	0	11,527,273	-44,542	0
2	87,913	31,953	30,590	0	30,590	1,363	4
4	155,609	119,890	77,181	0	77,181	42,709	36
6	228,125	238,948	48,333	155,200	203,533	35,415	15
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	281,970	389,746	0	0	0	389,746	100
11	1,025,334	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20,759,378	14,292,474	12,568,048	155,200	12,723,248	1,569,226	11

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 27: DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The 56 % under expenditure is due to the fact that the cropping season started at a very slow pace as suitable planting conditions improve. The Department has just started painting on-farm trails hence travelling to and ploughing of out of station experimental plots has been delayed. The expenditure will improve as the season progresses.

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The 36% under expenditure is attributed to the fact that funds have committed are yet to be paid off. The payment process is on-going.

ITEM 06: CONSUMABLES AND SUPPLIES

The Department is in the process of procuring the necessary farm inputs and laboratory reagents hence the 15% under expenditure at the moment

ITEM 10: INTERNAL TRANSFERS

The 100% under expenditure is due to the fact that the Ministry of Finance is still processing the requisition for the payment of Malkerns Irrigation Company

ACTIVITY 31: HOME ECONOMICS SECTION: ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2017 HEAD 20 FROM PERIOD 01 APRIL TO 30 DECEMBER 2017

CONTROL ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	RELEASED BUDGET	SPENT DATE	TO	COMMITMENT	TOTAL SPENT & COMMITTED	VARIANCE	%
0	65,600	27,332	10,074		0	10,074	17,258	63
1	5,201,129	3,900,846	1,606,523		0	1,606,523	2,294,323	59
2	11,027	9,589	4,416		0	4,416	5,173	54
4	110,611	13,332	128		0	128	13,204	99
6	41,766	32,953	11,972		0	11,972	20,981	64
7	0	8,500	0		0	0	8,500	100
TOTAL	5,430,133	3,992,552	1,633,113		0	1,633,113	2,359,439	59

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ANNUAL RECURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM 01 APRIL TO 30 DECEMBER 2017

ACTIVITY 31: HOME ECONOMICS

ITEM 00: CTA CHARGES

The 73% under expenditure is due to the fact that CTA billing which is always behind

ITEM 01: PERSONNEL COSTS

The 59% under expenditure for salaries to be reflected

ITEM 02: TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The 54% under expenditure is due payments for external travel and travel claims on process

ITEM 04: PROFESSIONAL AN SPECIAL SERVICES

The 99% under expenditure is due to payments for utility bills on process

ITEM 06: CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

The 64% under expenditure is due to requisitions and purchasing process is in progress.

ITEM 07: DURABLES

Projected 100% under expenditure is due to purchasing process which is on progress.

REVENUE - HEAD 20 FROM 1st APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018		
DESCRIPTION	ITEM CODE	AMOUNT (E)
1. Hire of Plant/ Machinery	21002	107 441.00
2. Rental of Mpopoma Facilities	21011	150 280.00
3. Sale of Garden Produce	21120	39 345.00
4. Cattle Dipping Fees	21301	2 710.00
5. Holding Grounds Management Fees	21303	393 100.00
6. Meat Inspection Fees	21304	748 620.00
7. Veterinary Fees	21305	186 193.00
8. Quarantine Station Fees	21306	14 648.00
9. Cattle Breeding Fees	21309	21 016.00
10. Sale of Hay Bales	21310	164 840.00
11. Sundry Fees	21990	20 756.32
TOTAL		1 848 950.22
TRADING ACCOUNT FROM THE MONTH OF 1st APRIL 2017 TO 31th DECEMBER 2017		
NAME	ITEM CODE	AMOUNT (E)
1. Manyonyaneni Beef Ranch	70219	-270 773
2. Tractor Hire Pool	70220	-394 250
2. Pig Industry Enhancement Project	70230	495 075

PARASTATAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Ministry has five (5) Parastatals/ Public Enterprises under its portfolio and their performance during the quarter is detailed in the following reports.

I. SWAZILAND COTTON BOARD (SCB)

Background Information

Swaziland Cotton Board is a Public Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture. It was established by Cotton Act No. 26 of 1967. It is controlled and monitored as a Public Enterprise, (Public Control & Monitoring Act, 1989).

Vision

To be a world class cotton enterprise that is financially sustainable to improve the economic status of Swaziland.

Mission

The Cotton Board is a Public Enterprise with the objective of improving livelihoods through promoting cotton production, processing and marketing in Swaziland by providing growers with high yielding quality varieties, providing innovative extension advice, and making available to cotton processors a quality product.

Mandate

- Regulate Cotton Industry in Swaziland
- Grow the Swaziland Cotton Industry
- Promote Cotton Production in Swaziland
- Provide Market and Marketing intelligence
- Provide Technical Advice to Farmers.

1.1 General Cotton Season and Climatic Conditions

The year under review showed a slight improvement compared to 2016. Total rainfall recorded at the Lowveld Experiment Station amounted to 458.8mm compared to 436.6 mm of the previous season. Generally the crop condition improved due the amount of rainfall received. The distribution also improved. Good rains were received at boll formation stages between January and March. The month of February received a total of 74.6 mm as indicated in table below. In areas like Khuphuka the impact of climate change continued to prevail as minimal rainfall was received. This culminated to most farmers not planting cotton, while in other areas high temperatures coincided with flowering and fruiting stage, causing shedding of both squares and bolls.

The table below indicates months and rainfall in (MM) recorded at the Lowveld Experiment Station for the year 2017

MONTHS	RAINFALL (MM)	
	2017	2016
JANUARY	54.1	39.5
FEBRUARY	74.6	7.2
MARCH	37.2	71.2
APRIL	13.0	7.6
MAY	24.5	72.8
JUNE	0	0.4
JULY	0	0
AUGUST	46.9	2.8
SEPTEMBER	18.5	8.5
OCTOBER	34.0	79.4
NOVEMBER	123.5	94.6
DECEMBER	32.5	52.6
TOTAL FOR THE SEASON	458.8	436.6

1.2 Cotton Extension and Farmers Trainings

The technical team continued to offer support and training services to all cotton growers throughout the country. The aims of these trainings were to improve the farmers understanding of cotton business management and also to improve production techniques that will increase production per hectare. Trainings also aim at enhancing the quality of cotton delivered by farmers to the cotton ginnery. In total, each association received three trainings. Trainings entailed; **planning and crop establishment, integrated pest management, cotton picking and grading**. A total of 534 farmers attended the trainings on pest management, while 648 was recorded for crop establishment.

Management and training of farmers on genetically modified cotton also formed part of the trainings in all four region as the Board intend to introduce GM technology in 2017/18 season

Table below indicates annual attendance for Pest management training and crop establishment trainings.

CROP ESTABLISHMENT TRAINING			PEST MANAGEMENT TRAINING	
DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANT	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
26.10. 2017	Matsanjani	17	09.01.2017	20
28.10. 2017	Ndunayithini	30	05.01.2017	49
31.10. 2017	Ginnery	77	06.01.2017	30
02.11. 2017	Sithobela	63	10.01.2017	32
02.11. 2017	Phuzamoya	10	13.01.2017	10
03.11. 2017	Ntandweni	14	11.01.2017	11
03.11. 2017	Sikhuphe	14	11.01.2017	34
04.11. 2017	Maphatsindvuku	33	12.01.2017	27
04.11. 2017	Mpolonjeni	52	27.01.2017	10
07.11. 2017	Matsanjani	59	29.01.2017	47
07.11. 2017	Sigwe	23	13.01.2017	9
08.11. 2017	Mandlangempisi	17	15.01.2017	22
09.11. 2017	Mphosi	8	16.01.2017	12
09.11. 2017	Hlutse	11	17.01.2017	13
14.11. 2017	Tikhuba	12	20.01.2017	7
14.11. 2017	Magwanyana	25	20.01.2017	15
15.11. 2017	Lomasha	16	23.01.2017	11
16.11.2017	Mantjonga	17	19.01.2017	18
17.11. 2017	Hlane	24	19.01.2017	14
17.11. 2017	Njojane	4	25.01.2017	7
19.11. 2017	Nyakatfo	12	06.01.2017	21
22.11. 2017	Malibeni	12	16.01.2017	10
23.11. 2017	Tsambokhulu	23	23.01.2017	17
24.11. 2017	Lubuli	16	24.01.2017	15
25.11. 2017	Mdlebeni	24	30.01.2017	29
28.11. 2017	Mpakeni	15	31.01.2017	10
29.11. 2017	Mngayi	20	31.01.2017	28
	Total	648		534

1.3 Farm Inputs Distribution

Swaziland has one cotton variety which is ABLA QM 301 from Zimbabwe. Most farmers purchased farm inputs through the credit revolving fund. The fund allow farmers to purchase inputs on credit. The following were services offered; tractor hire for ploughing, planting seed and insecticides to control various cotton pests, including pre and post emergency herbicides. Chemicals distributed include Kalach (post emergent herbicide), Agropid to control aphids and Jassids, Fastac, Decis Forte, Cypermethrin and Fenvalerate to control bollworms and Biomectrin to control Red spider mites as detailed in table below.

Table below indicates chemical distributed during the period under review.

Chemical name	Target pest	Quarter1 and 3	Quarter ended 30th December 2017	Cumulative total for the season
Kalach	Weeds	369	12	381
Round Up Powermax	Weeds	471	13	865
Dimethoate 500 ml	Mealy Bugs	2369	76	2445
Buprofezin (25g)	Mealy Bugs	137	0	137
Cypermethrin (1L)	Bollworms	894	12	906
Deltamethrin (1L)	Bollworms	590	12	602
Fastac (1L)	Bollworms	53	0	53
Decis Forte (1L)	Bollworms	89	0	89
Mulan (50g)	Aphids and Jassids	4075	296	4371
Biomectin (1L)	Red Spider mites	579	0	579
Biomectin (500ml)	Red Spidermites	86	0	86
Quattro buff	Water Softner	2	9	11
Lambda (1 L)	Bollworms	0	163	163

1.4 Seed Cotton Buying

Seed cotton buying commenced on the 10th of May 2017, after the seasonal cotton price announcement by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture. Table below gives details of the cotton price structure for the 2017 buying season.

Table below shows seed cotton price breakdown

GRADE	PRICE (E)/KG
A+	6.00
A	5.85
B	5.45
C	5.05
D	4.70
E	4.30
BSG	3.90

A total of the 616.959 tons seed cotton was delivered at the ginnery during the course of the year. The crop was valued at 3, 532,663.55. Cotton levy paid by farmer's amounted to E67, 865.49. Cotton Board paid E E226, 383.52 for transporting cotton from all four regions of the country to the cotton ginnery. Crop quality profile indicated 79.57 percent grade A, and 15.63 percent of the B grade as indicated in table below. The rest was shared between other grades.

The table below indicates grades, percentages, Kilograms and amount paid during the quarter under review;

Grade	Number of bales	Seed cotton mass (KG)	Percentage	Crop value (SZL)
A+	0	0	0	0
A	2 901	490 906	79.57	2 871 800.10
B	657	96 430	15.63	525 543.50
C	79	8 755	1.42	44 212.75
D	71	10 390	1.68	48 833.00
E	34	3 525	0.57	15 157.50
BSG	69	6 953	1.13	27 116.70
TOTAL	3 811	616 959	100	3 532 663.55

1.5 Ginning and Product Sales

Ginning of the 2017 crop commenced on the 11th of April 2017. Ginning was done in two phases. The first phase was from the 11th of April 2017, while the second phase commenced on 20th of June, 2017 to July 22nd 2017. A total of 748 218 kg seed cotton was ginned of which 131 259 tons was 2016's un-ginned cotton. The ginning out-turn was 38.23 percent lint and 56.4 percent of fuzzy seed. The actual production was 298, 602 kg of lint and 423, 753 kg of Fuzzy seed as indicated in table below.

Table below are the actual quantities produced and sold:

SEED COTTON PROCESSED (Tons)	LINT BALES	LINT PRODUCED (Tons)	FUZZY SEED BAGS	FUZZY SEED PRODUCED (Tons)
748 218	1 434	298 602	44 392	423 753

1.5.1 Products Sales

Grains for Africa in RSA continued to provide a market for the fuzzy seed. Cotton lint was sold to Standerton mills and GWK in South Africa. Cash income amounted to E6, 924, 545.25. Lint contributing E5 740 509.00 and fuzzy seed contributing E1, 184, 036.25 as shown in table below.

Below table depicts summary of product sale and value

PRODUCT SOLD	QUANTITY (KG)	VALUE (E)
Lint	254 100	5 740 509.00
Fuzzy Seed	348 000	1 184 036.25
TOTAL INCOME		6 924 545.25

Stock at hand as at 30th December, 2017

At the 31st of December 2017, the Board holds stocks of E1, 707, 142.55. The stock includes: factory materials ginnery stock, planting seed, spraying chemicals and production stocks. Table below indicates stock value at the end of the reporting period.

Table below shows stock balances as at 31st December, 2017

Product Name	Value (E)
Packaging Material	255, 314.65
Ginnery Stock/products	1, 411, 492.60
Chemicals	23, 751,90
Production Stocks	16, 583.40
TOTAL VALUE	1, 707, 142.55

1.6 Credit Revolving Fund

This is a fund established by government to finance inputs for cotton production. The support entails tractor hire for ploughing cotton fields, planting seed, chemicals to control cotton pests and diseases and other cotton related financial assistance. The fund continued to experience a decrease due to continuous droughts. The current season showed a great improvement compared to previous season. Recoveries for the year stood at E751 250.34 as indicated in table below.

The table below indicates the performance of the fund

Carry-over debt from previous year	Lendings for the year to farmers	Recoveries from farmers for the year	Balance remaining with farmers at 31 st December 2017
E2 128 065.63	721, 952,35	751 250.34	E1, 706 044.92

1.7 Buseleni Farm

The Board continued to plant cotton at Buseleni farm in an effort to meet the ginnery throughput. A total of 35 hectares were planted during the season. Management was effectively carried out up to cotton harvesting and delivery to the ginnery. A total of 55 tons of seed cotton was delivered at the ginnery. Income generated from the proceeds stood at E360, 000. The farm continued to provide employment to local communities in form of operations like planting, weeding and harvesting of the cotton fields.

1.8 Genetically Modified (GM) cotton demonstration and training

Genetically Modified (GM) cotton trials were conducted during the season following approval by the Bio-safety committee. The trials were planted on the 21st and 28th November at Big Bend and Malkerns, respectively. The objective of the trials was to test the performance of GM cotton under local conditions, assess environmental impact of GM crop in Swaziland and to train farmers on management of GM cotton. Field days were conducted to expose and educate both farmers and Extension Officers on GM cotton management and its performance. Demonstration results were positive. Farmers were excited by the performance of this cotton under local conditions. This has prompted the Board to make an environmental release application which was to come into effect on the current season 2017/18.

II. NATIONAL MAIZE CORPORATION (N.M.C)

1.0 Introduction

National Maize Corporation (NMC) is a fully state owned enterprise that has an annual turnover of approximately one hundred and twenty million emalangenzi (E120 M). The corporation was established in 1985 in accordance with the Companies Act of 1912. The corporation is currently involved in commodity trading in white maize, premium rice and sugar beans. The control of the corporation is vested in a Board of Directors appointed and removed by the Minister for Agriculture for terms of three (3) years.

Vision

The farmer's choice with the most competitive and sustainable market for maize, other grains and cereals in the SADC region.

Mission

Enhancing increased production and national food security through improved stakeholder relationships, creating strategic partnerships, farmer support, vigorous marketing and supply of high quality maize, cereals and other grains.

Objectives

NMC was established in 1985 with the objectives of guaranteeing a market to local maize farmers at competitive prices and providing good quality maize meal at reasonable prices to the Swazi people. These objectives have now changed. With the return of the Matsapha mill to the SWAKI Group in 1995, NMC is no longer involved in maize milling, but only in its purchase, storage and marketing of white maize. The onus is upon the relevant office as per the Cereals Act No. 28 of 1959 to see to it that mealie meal remains affordable to the nation. The oversight in carrying out this function has resulted in unnecessary high prices of maize meal in the country which are not related to the price of maize locally.

The corporation has been entrusted with the following key responsibilities, inter alia:

- a. To guarantee an all year round competitive market for Swazi maize farmers.
- b. To reduce marketing barriers and costs to Swazi farmers by improving maize marketing and logistics services (through running silos efficiently, registration of producers, provision of drying services and price information.
- c. To guarantee all year round supplies of maize at reasonable cost to the nation.
- d. To increase the efficiency of the maize market in Swaziland by promoting the availability of white maize to consumers at reasonable cost in all regions of the country.

2.0 Farmer Development Services

2.1 Maize Storage Facilities

The corporation currently has five grain depots that cater for local maize receiving during the maize harvesting season. The overall capacity of the storage is 23500 metric tons and as at the close of the quarter the quantities stored in these silos were as stated in table below.

Region	Depot	Capacity	Qty on hand (MT)
Manzini	Matsapha	20 000	5 273
Hhohho	Ntfonjeni	1 400	721
Manzini	Ngwempisi	700	0
Shiselweni	Madulini	700	229
Lubombo	KaLanga	700	0
TOTAL		23 500	6 223

2.2 Contract Farming

During the period under review, the parastatal engaged on contractual basis 1 014 hectares from sixteen (16) farmers. Nine (9) of these farmers were the farmers received awards at the annual CEO awards ceremony. These farmers are contracted to produce white maize for the corporation for a period of 3 years.

2.3 Harvesting Services Provided

Name of farmer/ Institution	Location	Area harvested
Nisela Farms	Nsoko	46 Ha
Ingwavuma Sugar (Pty) Ltd	Nsoko	16 Ha
Dalcrue Farms	Malkerns	51 Ha
Uniswa	Luyengo	28 Ha

Total harvested hectares stand at 141 vs. a target of 200. Anticipated harvesting at OLE Farming Swaziland at Sidvokodvo did not take place due to high moisture content of about 16%. They had planted maize on over 100Ha of land and it was eventually sold to commercial millers.

2.4 Maize Depots

Quarter	Source	Tonnage
Quarter 1	Depots	2 605
Quarter 2	Depots	6 135
Quarter 3	Depots	227
Total		8 967

Cumulatively, maize received from local farmers stands at 8,967MT. The Madulini depot continued to receive the highest tonnage recording of 2,481MT. A high proportion of the Madulini maize came from Shiselweni Forest Company (SFC) with 1,184MT.

Generally, Shiselweni, Manzini and Hhohho regions record the highest tonnages, which is an indication that these are high maize producing areas. The National Maize Corporation has therefore targeted these areas for capacity building programs to sustainably increase the production and supply of maize.

2.5 Maize Collection Points

Region	Area
Hhohho	Maphalaleni 66.7 MT
Manzini	Nsingweni 10.5 MT
Lubombo	Maphungwane 1.5 MT

The Corporation introduced maize collection centres to reduce market barriers and also bolster maize production. 2017/18 is the pilot period and 78.7MT was collected.

2.6 Training, workshops and other stakeholder engagements

The parastatal attended workshops organized by various organizations on Climate Change Resilience, Increase Food and Nutrition Security, as well as validation of the report on Improved Maize Marketing Systems organized by the Food Agricultural Organization (FAO). A total of Ten (10) Extension Officers/ Assistant Farmer Development Officers (AFDOs) whom were seconded by the Ministry of Agriculture to NMC were oriented and trained within the organization.

Introduction of Assistant Farmer Development Officers (AFDOs) was successfully done in 8 constituencies (Hhukwini, Maphalaleni, Ntondozi, Mahlangatsha, Gege, Kukhanyeni, Motshane and Ludzeludze). This exercise was critical mostly because these officers are in a process of relocating to these new areas of operations. However, there was a delay in their deployments to various locations owing to a slow pace in renovating their accommodation facilities. We envisage that this exercise would be complete latest by the end of January 2018.

A stakeholder consultation workshop on legumes that was facilitated by NAMBoard was also attended. This was done to get information on the role of NMC in local production and trade in legumes among farmers.

A meeting was conducted with Manzimnyama Farmers Association from Sihhoye, who expressed their interest in growing maize for NMC in 42 Ha.

2.7 NAMCOM

National Maize Competition (NAMCOM) took place during quarter 3 and 65 farmers won, with highest productivity at 11.82 tons/ha and lowest productivity at 4 tons/ha.

The most productive regions were Manzini and Hhohho with productivity ranging from 10 tons/ha – 11.8 tons/ha. Farmers were awarded with farming inputs to encourage sustainable productivity.

2.8 CEO's Award

This year's NAMCOM competition as per the norm was in two folds; the CEO's award and the NAMCOM. The corporation awarded the top 10 farmers who supplied it with high quantities of maize. This initiative is one that promotes supply of white maize to the Corporation.

This year's total tonnage brought by the top ten winners in the CEOs award stood at 449.5MT.

The top 10 winners in the CEO's award category were provided with an opportunity to go on an educational tour in South Africa as part of the overall package. The trip took place in November and the farmers were accompanied by officials from the Agri Business Division. Among other things, the purpose of the trip was to assist the farmers to: get exposure to improved farming methods (maize and beans), learn from the best in the industry how to improve maize and beans production in Swaziland and have networking sessions with other farmers. The trip started at TWK, Piet Retief and ended in Badplaas, at Ndwandwe Agricultural Holdings on the second day. Relations were developed with both institutions and MOU's are being developed to cement the relationships

2.9 Production Challenges

Delays of farm inputs in the form of subsidies to farmers negatively impacted planting despite the good rains. This resulted in a majority of farmers planting without fertilizer. This coupled with delayed provision of Government Tractor Hire Services will result in reduced yields.

To remedy the situation, farmers were advised to consider planting short to medium term seed varieties which are not high yielding.

Furthermore, the emergence and detection of the Fall Army Worm (FAW) towards the end of 2017 and the inaccessible (very expensive) synthetic insecticides prescribed to eradicate the FAW exacerbates the threat to yields.

3.0 Operations Overview

3.1 Imported Maize

The corporation had to reduce imported maize down to 19 820 MT during the period under review due to major clients having access to outside Swaziland supplies of maize.

This has adversely impacted the Corporations financial performance to approved plan.

3.2 Maize Sales

During the period under review a total of 19, 925MT of white maize was sold.

3.3 Sales of Products

3.3.1 Sihlobo Rice

A total of 570MT were sold during the period under review. We anticipate reaching our target of 732MT. Sihlobo Rice performed very well due to in-store promotions, cold calls to local stokvels and a favorable and consistent price from NMC as well as aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns. More retail outlets bought into the idea of purchasing 34-ton trucks of Sihlobo Rice. Volumes could have been exceeded had it not been for continuous stock-out of packaging and/or compromised quality of rice from the Corporation's different suppliers. We have identified additional packaging and rice suppliers and are in the process of onboarding them to reduce/eliminate some of these risks/challenges.

3. 3.2 Umndeni Beans

Sales volume of Umndeni Beans totaled 630MT way above annual target of 551MT. This attributable to tenders awarded for school feeding programs. Stokvels and women groups have been identified as potential lucrative markets for NMC and our marketing department is actively working to enter this niche. Sourcing good quality red speckled sugar beans at a good price continues to be on the radar to improve product margins.

3. 3.3 Split Beans

During the period under review we sold a total of 144MT vs a target of 307MT. NMC will not be able to make target due to availability of supply. Split beans are a seasonal by-product of beans. The better the harvest of beans, the lower the byproduct. The last season was a bumper harvest.

4.0 Financial Performance Overview

4.1 Income Statement as at 31 December 2017 in Emalangeni

Income (N1)	111 085 000
Other income	974 974
Cost of Sales	(88 365 747)
Gross Profit	23 694 227

Operating Expenses	(20 612 984)
Personnel costs	(10 105 469)
Office expenses	(3 100 787)
Management Expenses	(1 662 823)
Office Building Expenses	(273 746)
M/V EXPENSES	(995 258)
Depreciation	(1 319 928)
Computer Expenses	(174 725)
Silo, Dryer and Weighbridge Ma	(1 007 548)
Financing Interest	(1 972 700)
Profit(Loss)	3 081 243

4.2 Income per product line

Product Line	Income in Emalangeni
Maize	94 875 047
Umndeni Beans	9 573 049
Split Beans	575 030
Ground Nuts	70 769
Sihlobo Rice	5 991 103

III. SWAZILAND DAIRY BOARD (SDB)

1.0 Introduction

The Swaziland Dairy Board (SDB) is a public enterprise wholly owned by the Swaziland Government. It was established in 1971 under the Dairy Act No. 28 of 1968. As provided in the Act, the Board's primary function is to develop and regulate the industry. The SDB complements the Governments

efforts through the provision of a supportive socio-economic environment for the development of the dairy industry aimed at achieving food security, poverty reduction, investment promotion, job creation and export promotion.

Vision

We, the Swaziland Dairy Development Board perceive ourselves as a catalyst towards the total development and improvement of the dairy industry in Swaziland.

Mission

We, the Swaziland Dairy Development Board are in the business of developing and promoting the production and consumption of quality dairy products by coordinating and harmonizing all activities in the dairy industry through the application of appropriate skills and technology.

Objectives

The Board has the following long term objectives:

- a) To direct the development of the dairy industry in the Kingdom of Swaziland.
- b) To facilitate the production and consumption of quality dairy products in the Kingdom of Swaziland.
- c) To ensure the provision and sustainability of a technical capacity for the furtherance of the Board's mandate.
- d) To advise and consult the stakeholders on issues and matters which are related or incidental to the dairy industry

1.1 Operational Review

During the reporting period, the board continued efforts of developing dairy farmers in the country. The board was actively engaged in multiple extension services for farmers which included the dairy management training of multiple aspiring and practicing dairy farmers in all regions of the country. In facilitating these trainings the SDB included multiple educational tours for the trained farmers to expose them to other dairy techniques used in other farms. The SDB also continued to support farmers in fodder production and sourcing of supplementary animal feed during the dry season through importing hay bales. In fodder production the board continued monitoring the baling boxes programme which assisted farmers in producing their own hay bales for feeding during the dry season.

To achieve Swaziland Dairy Board strategic objective effectively, the Board renders its services through its four departments, namely the Dairy Development Services, Finance and Administration, Information and Economic Analysis and Quality Control Department. For the purposes of this report the focus will mainly be on the dairy development services.

The core functions of the dairy development services include provision of support, training and advisory services to milk producers. Services to farmers include, among other activities, resource assessment for starting dairy farmers, siting and construction of dairy structures, forage production and conservation, perennial, annual and winter pasture establishment and management, procurement of dairy cattle, production of round bales of hay, artificial insemination coupled with heat synchronization, dairy cattle feeds and feeding, clean milk production and proper handling, calf rearing, record keeping, dairy herd health and its application, milk marketing, general farm management, formation of farmer groups; coordination of activities for farmer groups and management of communal milk collection centers.

2.0 Artificial Insemination (AI)

The Board has continued her efforts to improve the breeding systems the local dairy herd in the country through rendering the AI services to farmers. The A.I. services include synchronisation of oestrus, breeding of cows/heifers and general dairy farm management to improve the overall performance of the dairy herd. There has been an increase in the demand for the service due to the increasing number of dairy animals. A number of dairy farmers have emerged and existing ones have expanded.

During the reporting period, 188 cows/heifers were bred with A.I. for farmers countrywide and increase compared to 145 cows bred in the previous year, which is an over 22% increase in the SDB's reach of the service to more farmers.

3.0 Training and Extension

Farm Visits Technical Advice to farmers

Technical advice and dairy husbandry practical services were offered to dairy farmers during specific farm visits to address their problems and equip them with certain skills required to improve performance on their farms. This is in line with the board's mandate to build capacity in the industry that would enable a majority of dairy farmers to operate under minimal technical supervision, while achieving optimum milk production.

During the reporting period, 1771 farm visits were carried out in the four regions of the country, an increase of about 10% from the previous year (1623) outlining the boards increased extension reach to farmers.

a) Workshops

Farmer Technical Meetings/Workshops

As a development tool to engage and strengthen farmers' technical capacity and relations the board facilitates workshops and technical meetings for farmers. These training workshops are in different levels and include those conducted at Tinkhundla and community centres. During the reporting period a total number of nine (9) day-time farmers' workshop and technical meetings were held on diverse dairy production related subjects such as fodder production, dairy livestock breeding, calf and kids rearing, clean milking and milk storage, legal issues pertaining the dairy livestock, feeding of the livestock, disease prevention and control in all the regions.

Overall attendance in the workshop was one hundred and forty eight (148) meanwhile, 24 Resource Assessment were carried out in the period. The SDB increase the number of workshops by over 50% (5 workshops) compare to (4 workshops in 2016) and the overall attendance increase by 62 % compare to the previous year (57 attendants).

Intensive Dairy course

The Board has continued facilitating dairy training programmes for both aspiring and practising dairy farmers. During the period, a total of four dairy cattle management courses for were conducted in the past year. Twenty eight (28) aspiring dairy farmers were trained and completed the dairy cattle intensive course which lasted for eight (8) weeks. The SDB has trained over 510 participants in this training since inception and continues to increase the number of trained dairy farmers in the industry.

Procurement of Dairy Animals

To address the local scarcity challenge of dairy animals, The unavailability of dairy cattle in the country has posed a problem the board has continued to assist dairy farmers in the procurement of dairy animals. During the reporting period, a total number of sixty nine (69) dairy animals were

procured from various farms in South Africa. The total value of the cows in local currency is estimated at E996, 000.00

There was also an increase in cattle sold within the country, as during the reporting period about 55 dairy cattle were sold amongst local farmers with an estimated value of E660, 000.00. The number of cows the SDB facilitated importing for dairy farmers increased this year by 30 animals and estimated value of about E420, 000.00. The year also saw an increase in local sales as farmers increase scale of production and others downscale.

Educational Tours

The board has continued facilitating educational tours for farmers to expose them to different dairy farming and processing techniques that they can use in their own farms. During the reporting period the board facilitated an educational tour for farmers to Mataffin Dairy Farm in the Republic of South Africa to expose them to dairy farming practices and a mini processing unit. The SDB also facilitated four (4) in country trips to expose local farmers in a bid for knowledge transfer and to expose aspiring dairy farmers to the dairy enterprise. A total number of 71 participants attended these tours. The SDB facilitated an increased number of local dairy farm tours for aspiring and operating farmer groups this year compared to last year where (2) tours were facilitated, one in RSA and the other locally.

Business Planning and Technical Assistance

In an effort towards the assistance of the industry's stakeholders to start, expand and run successful dairy businesses, the SDB continually provides business and technical advice to the stakeholders. During the reporting period four (4) business plans was developed for dairy farmers with two (2) in middle scales and the other two (2) for a large scale dairy businesses. Four (4) aspiring milk producers and (2) aspiring processor were also assisted with financial advices on establishing successful and viability enterprises. The Board saw an increase in the range and scales of business plans developed during the reporting period, as more investors look to venture into processing and large scale dairy farming. This is an improvement compared to last year where no large scale and dairy processing business plans were developed. The Board also released Dairy Gross Margins for all scales of dairy production in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Centralized Dairy Projects

As part of the board's mandate to increase and mobilize dairy farmer groups, she has continued promoting the formation of farmer groups and also facilitating the establishment of Milk Collection Centres by these groups. The board also facilitates the provision of milk cooling equipment as well as trainings to all groups that are ready to operate collection centres. This is all in a bid of the SDB to improve market access in the informal market and reduce marketing costs suffered by the farmers. The SDB again seeks to increase the number of farmer groups in all the regions of the country as well as increase the reach of her services to these groups.

Below is the list of operating dairy farmer groups in the country and their status during the reporting period. During the reporting period the Board saw an increase in the number of farmer groups that were assisted in formation and reoperation and through proper extension and management some groups managed to increase their herds and milk production. During the reporting period two (2) new farmer groups were formed and assisted by the board through training, tours and business plan development.

4.0 Profiling Dairy Farmers Groups in Swaziland

i) Hhohho Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Sengani Dairy Farmers Ass.	Mayiwane	8	The group is currently operating also run an MCC in the area. During the reporting period the farmers were assisted in pasture establishment and through provision of a baling box and technical services. They produce an average of 140L milk per day; they sell 60L as milk and 40L as emasi daily through the MCC and the rest to other informal markets.
Hhukwini Dairy Farmers Ass.	Hhukwini	13	Registered and group has established 2 MCC which are however farmers in the group still produce milk for community.
Phumelela Dairy Farmers Ass.	Ntfonjeni	28	During the reporting period This group currently had 17 dairy cows and is part of the SADP programme. The SDB assisted the group in improving nutrition through addition of TMR feed and other mineral in the cattle diet. The group is operational and currently produces an average of 51L/day. This is sold to the public. The SDB continues to monitor the project and advise where necessary. The group was assisted through the provision of a cooling tank by the SDB to operationalize their MCC.
Mashekeshe Dairy Farmers Ass.	Hawane	8	The group has been registered and has been recently trained and toured by the SDB on dairy management. The group has acquired finance and is soon to start operations. The SDB is currently working with SWADE in the development of the Business model to be used.
Gedlingula Dairy Farmer	Maphalaleni	13	The Group supported by World Vision currently has 15 cows the group is currently preparing structures and pastures in preparation of receiving the cows. The board provided them with baling boxes to make square bales with the available standing hay.
Manzimnyama Dairy farmer's ass.	Sihhoye	18	The group is interested in dairy farming; the board is currently assisting the group with the resource mobilization and technical assistance as they prepare relevant structure to start a dairy enterprise.

ii) Manzini Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Lamgabhi Dairy Farmers Ass.	Bhunya	4	Group formed however unregistered and has seen a reduction in membership.
Luyengo Dairy Farmers Ass.	Luyengo	12	Registered and operating a milk collection center, farmers currently produce 153L/day of milk. During the reporting period the SDB had been assisting the group in pasture establishment and feeding techniques to improve their herd. The SDB continues to monitor the project to ensure its sustainability.
Chubekani Dairy Farmers Ass.	Dwalile	21	Group formed and benefited from SADP pass on project, currently the group has 12 dairy cows, all healthy, the cow in

			milk produce an average of 52L/day. The cows are improving in body condition and production through advice from the board. The SDB is also in active facilitation of the establishment of an MCC in the area as milk volumes are expected to increase in the summer.
Chubeka Zandondo Farmers Ass.	Zandondo	9	The group currently has 8 cattle, with 2 in milk producing and average of 26L/day. The SDB has been assisting the herd through pasture management and feed supplementation, the group was also supplied with hay bales and baling box throughout the season.
Epilepsy Dairy Farmers Ass.	kaBhudla	10	This project is for epileptic farmers, and they benefit financially the group currently has 7 dairy animals with 2 in milk and produce an average of 18L/day. Cows are in fair condition. The SDB advised the group to clear bushes to free more land for cultivation and baling, the group was also supplied with hay and baling box during the dry season.
Calakabusha Dairy Scheme	Ngwempisi	31	The group is newly formed group by existing and aspiring dairy farmers who benefitted from World Vision. The SDB assisted the farmers through the provision of 3 day training on dairy management; the SDB also facilitated a tour to an MCC for the farmers to further motivate their course. The group has chosen a suitable for the milk collection centre.

iii) Shiselweni Farmer Group

Farmer Group's Name	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Mpakeni Dairy Farmers Ass.	Mpakeni	11	Registered and group and currently operate individual dairy enterprises. The group has 1 milking cow which was close to drying off and produces an average of 5L/day.
Mashobeni South Dairy Farmers	Mashobeni	14	This group benefited from the SADP project, currently has 10 cows, 4 milking and currently produces 53L/day of milk, reportedly in good condition. The group was advised to produce hay for the cows during the dry season. The cows currently graze on natural pastures and supplemented with dairy meal, summer pastures were established to improve feed. The SDB is currently facilitating establishment of their MCC and the group prepared to procure their own cooling equipment to run the collection centre.
Asibemunye Ngudzeni No1 Dairy Farmers Ass.	Ngudzeni	17	The group benefited from a world vision fund, currently has 4 dairy animals with 2 milking; they have started planting pastures like kikuyu which is doing well during the rainy season.
Kubuta Dairy Farmers Co-operative	Khubuta	21	The Group was trained on dairy production and is in the process of registration. They have an interest on establishing an MCC.

iv) Lubombo Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Moyamunye ex-miners Dairy Farmers Ass.	Malindza	7	The project was established by ex-miners, currently has 3 cows with 2 in milk. The board advised the group to improve management and improve their feeding and pastures as cows

			were not in good condition. The group was provided with baling boxes to make square bales.
Imphumelelo Yemntfwana Livestock Project	Sithobel weni	8	The project currently has 7 dairy animals; The group was encouraged to establish pasture to produce hay for dry season. The cows have since improved in condition after the dry season. The board then advised the group to supplement feeding using dairy meal and other supplements to maintain the condition and improve production. The SDB also provided the group with hay bales to assist in this course as the grass in the area was reportedly dry. The SDB continues to monitor the farmers until the situation improves.
Letsakuphila Multipurpose association		16	The group benefited from the SADP heifer programme, currently has 15 cows producing up to during the reporting period the board facilitated an exposure visit for the farmers to learn dairy techniques from dairy farmers in RSA. Due to the dry season the board also provided hay for the group to boost their herd. The group through the assistance of the SDB also began operation of their MCC in Ntandweni which sells milk to local small scale processors.
Bakhiciti Multipurpose dairy farmers association		15	The group benefited from the SADP heifer programme, currently has 11 cows with those in milk producing an average 60L/day, the cows are in good body condition. The group has showed improvement in their herd management skills. They were also advised to deworm their cows. The SDB will facilitate a refresher course for the farmers to ensure proper management.

5.0 Semi-Intensive Grazing

The Board has continued to provide technical assistance to farmers in this grazing system which has also seen farmers 'production increase over the rainy season. The board continues to efficiently increase her reach to all dairy farmers in different scales of production and production systems. There are currently seven (7) dairy farmers practicing this production method, the Board is actively engaged in assisting them technically and facilitates an enabling environment for finding a formal market. The Board has also assisted the projects in the establishment of pastures over the rainy season, and provided them with baling boxes for hay production. She also assisted in the procurement of dairy stock and all technical expertise for intensive grazing system.

6.0 Information Sharing and Dissemination

The Board continues to provide support through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to the industry stakeholders and potential stakeholders with the aim to increase access to information flow in the industry.

During the reporting period the board assisted multiple university students in research on dairy through accessing them to dairy farmers and information dissemination on the dairy industry. The board also established a website to facilitate the ease of access to information on the dairy industry to all interested stakeholders.

7.0 Feed Production

7.0.1 Hay Making and Procurement

To support farmers and supplement animal feed during the dry season, the SDB continued importing hay bales from the Republic of South Africa. During the reporting period a total number of two thousand four hundred and seventy (2470) round hay bales (350kg) were imported. The Board distributes the bales in centrally strategic location on which local farmers are able to access the hay

bales. To assist the farmers over the drought period, a total number of one thousand nine hundred and eighty four (1465) large round hay bales (250 kg) were produced in Gege, Masundvuni and other farms.

7.0.2 Pasture Establishment and Fodder Production

The Board also continued to give advice to farmers on pasture establishment and pastures suitable in their regions and further assisted in through demonstrations in an effort to improve the fodder flow in the country. During the reporting period the Board encouraged farmer to prepare summer and winter pastures for grazing to enhance milk production and take advantage of the rains in the year. The Board continued to encourage farmers to produce their own feed through the baling boxes programme and which has seen impressive results over the reporting period of over 5000 square hay bales produced by farmers.

Baling Box distribution table during the reporting period

Region	Baling Boxes distribution	Bales Produced	Number of Demonstrations
Hhohho	9	559	4
Manzini	10	1755	9
Shiselweni	10	575	8
Lubombo	10	2150	13
Total	39	5029	34

Milking Machines and equipment

To encourage the use of technology and efficient production techniques in the industry, the board has continued to encourage farmers to utilize mobile milking machines. During the period under review the board facilitated the procurement of 2 milking machines (2 point milking units), the board also assists farmers in the procurement and service of milking equipment. The board facilitated three (3) services of milking machines for different farmers.

Milk Collection Centres

The board has continued to embark in this initiative which is aimed at improving market access at community level. During the period, the Board facilitated the operation of the Ntandweni MCC which is now fully functional and collects milk from neighbouring dairy farmers including indigenous cattle farmers and is supplied to small scale processors locally. The board supported this initiative through the refurbishment of the structures and provision of milk cooling tank and equipment and continues to monitor and assist. It is within the board's mandate to establishment of more MCCs at community level in all regions. The members of the association were trained on how to operate an MCC and maintain hygiene. The board also continued to monitor and support the operation of the other operating MCCs, the Luyengo Dairy Farmers association and Sengani Dairy Farmers through the provision of technical assistance and milk cooling equipment. Below the table highlights the status of milk collection centres in the country.

iv NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (NAMBOARD)

Vision

To be a catalyst for sustainable economic development in the agricultural sector of the Swazi economy, actively participating in the diversified regional and global markets promoting the consumption of a variety of produce in Swaziland.

Mission

To provide an enabling environment for the development of farmers in Swaziland. We promote sustainable production, processing, marketing and distribution of quality agricultural produce to meet national, regional and international market demand.

Core Functions

In line with the mandate as prescribed in the enabling Act No.13 of 1985, NAMBoard's core activities are;

1. To regulate imports and exports of Scheduled Agricultural Products and goods in transit;
2. To facilitate in such a manner as the Board may consider appropriate, the production, processing, storage, transportation and sale of scheduled agricultural products;
3. To advise Government in all matters related to the availability and demand for scheduled products and
4. To facilitate in the establishment of markets and marketing of locally produced scheduled products in the domestic (national) and international markets.

Operational review

The 2017/18 financial year shows an improvement in both produce delivered and income for the market and farmers. There was increased activity due to availability of fresh produce and demand for the same during, this was especially experienced during festive period. Indications are that this will continue to be the trend as the market has strengthened farmer relationships and more produce, especially baby vegetables is earmarked for local and export markets in 2018.

NAMBoard sourced 1,469 MT of produce from farmers with a net of E9.264 Million, and this is projected to be at E2 000 MT with a value of E12.1 Million by the end of the year (March). This translates to a 30% increase in volume and economic value when compared to the 2016/17 season. This year NAMBoard started strengthening of poultry activities in preparation for complete value chain development, resulting in 53.32mt of chickens purchased from small scale farmers with an economic value of E417, 525. This is a result of concerted efforts by the organization working with partners including the Ministry of Agriculture, the poultry association to find space for small scale farmers in the poultry value chain. This trend is set to continue as more markets are currently being secured for poultry products locally and for export.

Market Floor Sales

The market achieved total sales of 1,698MT in the first three quarters of the year, this translated into an economic value of E10, 166,778. The estimated income for the last quarter is E3 Million which will be derived from sale of an estimated 500 MT produce. This will bring the total for the 2017/18 financial year to E13.4 Million from an estimated 2,100 MT or produce sold.

In the table below is a detailed breakdown by weight and value of all the commodities sold at Encabeni fresh produce market during the three quarters of 2017/18.

Produce Procured from Farmers

A total of 1,493MT of produce was purchased from contracted and non- farmers during the three quarters, and in turn the market paid farmers a total of E9.26 Million for their produce. A further 500mt is expected to be procured from farmers in the next quarter, which will bring the amount of produce procured from farmers to 2,000MT, with a monetary value E2.5

Million, meaning that farmers will be paid an estimated E12.1 Million for the year. This will be a 30% increase from the 2016/17 year where farmers were paid E9 Million for produce delivered to the market. The increase is attributed to improved farmer recruitment and retention in programs, and a resultant increased in hectares actively under cultivation.

1.0 Farmer Support and Development

Farm Input Shop and Nursery

1.1 Sales Report

Under the farmer support and development unit, the farm input shop continued to provide affordable, certified and consumer required seed and other planting material to farmers at affordable cost.

Table below shows Inputs sold to farmers during the quarter

INPUT SUPPORT	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 rd QUARTER	TOTAL
Fertilizers	80 MT	35.4 MT	82.65MT	198.05 mt
Vegetable Seedlings	803,827	690,092	278, 961	1,772,880
fruit trees seedlings	4,420	1,285	1,302	7,007
Chemicals	119	129	132	380
Conventional seeds	926	635	634	2,195
Baby vegetable seeds	316	192	256	764

In the first three quarters, the farm input shop was able to supply 198MT of fertilizers worth over E1.8 Million to farmers, and over 1.7 Million seedlings, other supplies include seed and various chemicals. It is estimated that an addition 50MT of fertilizers will be sold during the January to March period, bringing the total fertilizers sales to 248MT for the year.

Seedling supply to farmers

During the financial year was able to produce and sell 1,777,017 seedlings over the past three quarters. The estimated amount of seedlings to be sold in the last quarter of the year is 350,000, and this will bring the total seedlings produced and sold to 212,000 for the year.

A total of 1,302 fruit tree seedlings were sold to farmers during the reporting period, bringing the total to 7,007 for the past three quarters. This is 70% of the annual target (10,000 fruit tree seedlings). It is estimated that at least 2,500 seedlings will be sold during the last quarter of the year, and this will bring the total seedlings sold to 9,500 for the year. The demand for fruit tree seedlings has been on the increase, however the main challenge is that the supply is low in the whole southern African region, and as a result, forward sourcing has been done for the next three seasons.

1.2 Training

The training function is a key of farmer development and progression towards commercialization, this is carried out through a combination of on-farm coaching and mentoring, class based training, farmer field days, and utilization of demonstrations. A total of 788 farmers were trained on how to produce for the export market which included receiving trainings on quality assurance and

chemical handling. Participants that included farmers, academics, Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce and Tinkhundla were trained in an effort to build capacity for the horticulture sub-sector and ensure transfer of vital information to farmers and the industry stakeholders.

The table below shows a summary of training conducted during the quarter, including the number of participants and training type.

Type Training	Number of Farmers Trained	Comments
Local and export market production in conventional vegetables	94 67	Trained with collaboration with World Vision and the SmallHolder Market Led Project(SMLP) in the Lubombo region Buhle Bufikile scheme trained with TechnoServe as co-facilitator on local and export markets.
Export and Local market production in baby vegetables	15 26	Motshane RDA, facilitator was the WHDP Hhohho Market Development Officer and NAMBOard's MEO- Hhohho South. Farmers trained at Lundzi in baby vegetable production
Quality Assurance and Chemical Handling	80 15 8	In the Lubombo region, NAMBoards QAO trained attendants on Global GAP practices Madumbi Sustainable Agriculture trained attendants on bio-products especially spray programs and chemical handling Trained in Shiselweni
Total for third quarter	788	

1.3 Quality Assurance Report

1.3.1 Certification Audits

Three certification audits were undertaken during the reporting period, these are; internal global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), external GAP and external Hazzard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Audit. All audits conducted were successful with minor recommendations that have been fully rectified. Management has adopted the reports and awaiting the final reports and audit closure from the two external auditors.

1.3.2 Produce Quality Assessment

The institution has increased her focus in an improving compliance to high quality standards required by International market. To this end the quality assurance unit has been strengthened to help meet customer demands, and also assist farmers to improve access to these markets. Whilst quality is key, it is not so easy to achieve, and therefore a detailed and staggered training plan has been developed for farmers, marketing extension officers, NGO technical staff, Ministry technical staff and other industry stakeholders. It is expected that the whole quality regime will change in the country, this also includes installation of key infrastructure for cold chain management as the sector is being developed.

The quality assurance team has carried out the under listed activities in this regard.

a. Training and Developing contracted farmers across all regions

The Quality Assurance Department conducted the following trainings:

- On the 11th July 2017, NAMBoard hosted 29 farmers from Lomveshe through the Taiwan International Corporation Development (ICDF) and SWADE. The training was based on post-harvest facilities and hygiene and quality (Good Agricultural Practices) of banana. A site visit was further done at the Encabeni Demonstration plot, the banana ripening facility and also the pack house.
- 45 farmers at Sigwe Lavumisa were trained on Maturity and post-harvest handling and storage of produce.

b. Providing Monthly quality statistics report

Farmers, through the marketing extension officer are able to access their performance records where quality is concerned. Where there are any major rejections, the quality assurance office provides feedback and an opportunity for training of farmers who need more information.

Both harvesting and post-harvest handling remains the most challenging issue at farmer level. Additional training and random checks shall be provided in collaboration with all stakeholders in the next quarter for adherence by the quality Assurant unit in collaboration with the marketing extension officers.

c. Developing and maintaining HACCP and Global GAP compliance framework

The institution continues to develop these standards as a gateway for the exports markets. Compliance frameworks for these systems are in place for both systems and all certifications are valid.

Global Gap:

The Demonstration plot is currently certified to Global GAP and an internal audit was done on the 31st August 2017 in order to determine the effectiveness of the system. An external audit was also done by SGS South Africa (Pty) Ltd on the 19th September 2017 which had positive results - proving NAMBoard is still complaint to all Global GAP requirements.

SANS 10330:2007 HACCP System

The pack house is currently certified to the SANS 10330:2007 HACCP standard and an internal audit was successfully carried out on the 1st September 2017 in order to determine the effectiveness of system. An external audit was done by the South African Bureau of Standards on the 27th - 28th September 2017 which confirmed NAMBoard to be still complaint to all HACCP requirements.

d. Tracking and tracing of produce from source to sale

One of the critical requirement for the export market is product traceability. A comprehensive traceability system has been put up in place for the pack house facility and contracted farmers. One mock recall was conducted with a major retailer to test for system effectiveness, the traceability of the product was successful as all necessary records were in place. A reliable recall system is essential, especially for export where human health and traceability from farm to fork are a requirement.

e. Internal trainings for Quality assurance, food safety and Global gap

Internal staff training is vital as part of safety, health and hygiene standards compliance. During the year, the following training was conducted

- Safe Chemical handling training done by Swaziland Agricultural Supplies with 11 participants from the Demonstration plot and Nursery.
- Health and Safety training done by Interlink professionals with 8 department representatives from the respective departments at Encabeni.
- All NAMBoard staff, including management and the executive were trained on occupational safety and health, and taken through practical sessions.

f. Poultry project

NAMBoard currently stores, transports and distributes frozen poultry and there are requirements that need to be met in order to ensure that quality of the products is maintained throughout the entire supply chain. Poultry is stored in secure and clean chicken freezers.

Key market prospects and opportunities

- i. Cropping combinations that are synch with the export markets and processing are being piloted. These include crops such as chilly pepper, long shelf life tomatoes (open field), fennel and leeks. This is meant to reduce on the conventional crops and move more towards high value vegetables so that farmers can benefit from high producer prices, and meet the export markets already secured and those under negotiations. This will also reduce the losses incurred during overproduction, which is common at times of the year with conventional vegetable crops.
- ii. The institution has continued to work with different exporters based in Swaziland and South Africa to fulfill the export market, and to date, a total of 30mt has been exported since the beginning of May. Market confirmation of up to 8mt a week has been confirmed for the European market, and through farmer programmes, these are being actively supplied.
- iii. NAMBoard is partnering with the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) in South Africa to enhance market linkages, and as part of the partnership, the PMA is supporting NAMBoard to reach out to customers through sessions that have been pre-arranged for the PMA exhibition in August.
- iv. Training on export oriented production to be rolled down to farmer level, training will also set in motion a new certification scheme known as “farm assurer” so they can start on direct export marketing.

1.4 Critical Projects Being Pursued:

1.4.1 The 10,000 seedling a year fruit tree project:

The Institution, is in a drive to increase the amount of quality fruits of different varieties produced in the country by both smallholder and large scale farmers, this is done through by sourcing and supplying 10,000 seedlings per annum for 3 years to farmers.

The fruit tree project continued to attract farmers at both small and large commercial scale levels. During the year, NAMBoard and partners have been able to assist with the planting of 7,007 fruit trees which include; mangoes, papaya, peach, litchi, avocado, lemons and plum. This brings the total amount of trees planted since 2014 to over 30,000, meeting the set target and projected to continue.

The fruit trees that were planted early have started to yield fruit and this being sold into the local markets, with bananas making inroads to the export markets.

1.4.2 Improving Access to Local, regional and International Markets

NAMBoard has partnered with SWADE to pursue the EDF 11 Project on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture are receiving funding under a country development framework agreement from 2015-2020. The total project grant amount is EUR 13,850,000. This is part of bridging funding agreement between the Government and the EU. The aim of the fund is to promote horticultural and other high value crop production for up to 1,500 ha irrigated land.

As part of the project implementation, three (3) shows and exhibitions have been attended (Dubai, Botswana and Cape Town), where produce from Swazi farmers was displayed and customer engagement initiated. This has resulted in 1 contract signed and delivery to another customer has commenced. The marketing drive also resulted in two European customers also providing orders to NAMBoard, and currently planting is ongoing, with the first shipment scheduled for February 2018.

The Agricultural Marketing Information System to track all produce and reports on market trends has been developed and information sessions for users were hosted for technicians and decision makers in the agriculture industry. Farmer Data has now been uploaded into the system, and the AMIS team went live and was launched in November. The system is active, albeit need to continue collecting and uploading data from all stakeholders.

1.5 Local Community Work

1.5.1 Local Community Markets

As part of fresh produce stabilization, market Prizes control and extended produce shelf-life, NAMBoard has identified a need to upgrade the three main community markets in the country to be fitted with a cold room each. An allocation of E1.5 million spread over 3 years has been set aside to develop these markets starting with Mahlanya due to availability of expansion space.

1.5.2 UNISWA – NAMBoard Collaboration

The University of Swaziland and NAMBoard signed a cooperation agreement in 2013, amongst various deliverables, the two institutions promote enterprise development, provide work related experience, and seek to achieve viability of the Dalcrue farm, owned and run by the University.

NAMBoard awarded the best horticultural student from the university in an effort to uplift work done in the industry. In addition, NAMBoard has continued to support the university through providing students with work related experience. During the reporting period, a graduate trainee was engaged for a period of two years through the agreement. 5 students were engaged for an internship programme from May to August 2017, and under the new internship arrangements, a further 5 students have been engaged for the period January to March 2018.

The university farm has cultivated and harvested sweet potatoes (5ha), butternuts (5ha), pumpkin (3ha), and baby vegetables (3ha). All of these have been produced under contract and are supplied for the export market.

1.6 Value addition

The market continued to ensure that maximum value is derived from commodities, and reduce waste through setting up of a cut and dice unit. A total of 2.6 MT of produce was processed over up to the 3rd quarter, and it is estimated that an additional 3 MT will be processed in the next quarter, bringing the total to 5.6MT.

Lines that were processed in the unit are articulated in table below:

Table below shows processed vegetables

Commodity	Amount Processed (2 nd QUARTER)	Amount Processed (3 rd QUARTER)
Cubed Butternut	80kg	907Kg
Cauliflower Floret	49.5kg	156.5Kg
Broccoli Floret	68.5kg	100Kg
Broccoli and Cauliflower Mix	26.8	
Cabbage Caleslow	10.5 kg	9Kg
Juliet Mixed Vegetables	32.5 kg	58.5Kg
Cut Mixed Vegetables	33.5 kg	537Kg
Processed Carrots Strip		8.5Kg
Total	302 kg	2303Kg

More lines have been provided by customers, which will be piloted and delivered in the next quarter.

Growing Export Market

Direct exports facilitated by NAMBoard for this period, mainly into South Africa covered baby cabbage, baby gem, baby marrow, butternut, green beans, peas, green pepper and sweet potatoes.

All of these were sold to different customers in the South African market totaling 66.77mt of produce with an economic value of E478, 915. This shows a significant growth from the last quarter of E171, 750. The market expects to restart exports into Botswana by the end of November, and to other markets in 2018.

Table below shows Exports Direct from Encabeni Fresh Produce Market by Tonnage and Monetary Value.

EXPORTS – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017						
ITEM	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	TOTAL TONNAGE	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	TOTAL VALUE
Baby Cabbage	1.87	4.51	6.38	26,268	57,569	83,837
Baby Gem	5.28	2.15	7.43	35,048	15,494	50,542

Baby Marrow	9.68	29.76	39.44	66,298	222,536	288,834
Butternut	0.24		0.24	1,476		1,476
Beetroot		15.2	15.2		71,200	71,200
Green Beans	0.89	5.18	6.07	9,515	34,124	43,639
Green Pepper	4.25		4.25	32,300		32,300
Other Exports	3.39	5.62	9.01	61,698	51,800	113,498
Patty Pans	3.89	1.73	5.62	26,772	11,160	37,932
Peas	4.2	0.29	4.49	21,440	3,230	24,670
Sweet Potato	13.6		13.6	136,000		136,000
TOTALS	66.77	64.44	131.21	478,915	467,113	946,028

1.7 Facilitated Exports

In the quarter under review, NAMBoard assisted exporters to sell 3.96MT of their produce compared to 10.15MT in the previous quarter. The sharp drop was caused by change of planting schedules as most of them kick in the beginning of September. Direct export of macadamia from a local farmer to the macadamia association in South Africa was facilitated, the total is 10MT with an economic value of 250MT

Export of mangoes has also been initiated, with one commercial farming having already exported 16MT to a customer in Johannesburg, NAMBoard has also issued a notice requesting farmers to market their mangoes as the customer requires a consistent supply of the product.

Table below shows facilitated Exports through local based Exporters

COMMODITY	1 ST QUARTER (MT)	2 ND QUARTER (MT)	3 RD QUARTER (MT)
Baby Corn	0.17	0	50.62
Baby Gem	0.03	0	96
Baby Marrow	3.83	0.17	845.5
Green Beans	2.53	1.53	4.11
Peas	1.46	2.18	0
Patty Pans	2.13	0.1	129.4
Macadamia	0	10	0
Mangoes			16
TOTAL	10.15	13.9	1140

V. SWAZILAND WATER AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE LIMITED (SWADE)

SWADE is a wholly owned government company that falls under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). It was established in 1999, in terms of the Companies Act of 1912. It is controlled and monitored as a Public Enterprise, (Public Control & Monitoring Act, 1989). It operates under a

Board of Directors, which is responsible for the overall policy direction. The company started as Swaziland Komati Project Enterprise (SKPE), whose mandate was “to facilitate the planning and implementation of the Komati Project”. This mandate was expanded in 2005 to include “planning & implementation of the Lower Usuthu Project and any other large water resources projects that Government may assign from time to time” and the company was renamed as the SWADE.

Vision

“To attain new opportunities in the service provision of sustainable socio economic development in the region”

Mission

“Empowering communities to improve their quality of life through projects in commercial agriculture and other enterprises; providing innovative services in infrastructure development and management as well as expertise to public and private entities”.

Objectives

In its modern form,

SWADE has two broad national objectives that it seeks to fulfill, namely;

- Promoting participation of smallholder farmer organizations in irrigated commercial agriculture and other enterprises development as part of a poverty eradication program for rural areas; and
- Enhancing private sector development through the active participation of small and medium enterprises in agricultural development.

While water remains an important catalyst for development, SWADE upholds the expressed view in the 2002 Swaziland Poverty Reduction Strategy that emphasizes, inter alia, broad base participation and empowering of poor communities as an important ingredient for the acceleration of economic growth.

PROJECT A323 - KOMATI DOWNSTREAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (KDDP)

Project Description

The main focus of the KDDP is to assist Farmer Companies in the Project Development Area (PDA) to establish and operate irrigated farms which cover 6,000ha. To date the project cost is estimated to be over E400 Million.

1.1 Community Development

(a) Annual General Meetings

Seven (7) farmer companies including the Farmer's Federation have been assisted to hold their Annual General Meetings which has led to the election of new committees or board members into office and these are: Farmers Federation, Lubisana, Ndinda, Mtfombo Wemphilo, Nhlanguyavuka, Sivukile and Buhle Besive Cooperative. This has been done following awareness trainings that have been done in collaboration with the Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC). Induction trainings for the new boards have also been undertaken during the year. A review of the strategic plan for Mtfombo Wemphilo Farmer Company has also been done to aid in the overall running of the business from now to the future.

(b) Conflict Resolution

We had a number of conflicts that had to be attended during the year in the project area and most are still pending in courts. It is worth mentioning that the Traditional Authority has played a very important role in resolving some of the conflicts whose main source is the circulation of money within the project.

1.2 Sugarcane

Development of Sugarcane Companies

A total area of 770ha has been planted at Mnyangombili and Umbombo Wendlovu projects and an area of 80ha is still to be planted. 232 ha were replanted in the period out of a planned 311 ha in order to improve the performance of poorly performing fields. Sugarcane extensions were done in a total of 25.2 ha. To date the area under sugarcane is 5 409 ha.

Agribusiness Sugarcane

The gross revenue from sucrose sales during the reporting period was SZL176, 518, 486.31. Harvesting, electricity and fertilizer remained the main cost drivers of the project. The total production costs for sugarcane production in the project were SZL 88, 471, 186.93 during the period. Dividend pay-out for KDDP farmer companies was SZL 10 952 100.

The table below depicts sugarcane harvesting at the KDDP during year

Harvesting group	Tons delivered	A Pol%	Tons Sucrose	TCH	TSH
KDDP	323 830.76	14.65	47 448.56	88.6	12.98

1.3 Diversification

There are 590 ha developed under diversified crop in 4 farmer companies to date.

Production in Open field

164 ha was planted from a plan of 200 ha with dry maize, green mealies, sweet potatoes and okra

Production in Nurseries

The project has been able to produce 461 300 seedlings from a planned number of 810 000 seedlings from the three nurseries. A total revenue of SZL 125, 000 was generated from the sale of the seedlings.

Livestock Production

SZL 731, 290 has been generated from livestock projects within the project during the period. The main source of the revenue has been piggery and beef production (feedlots).

1.4 Business Management Support

(a) Business Plans Development

The following Farmer Companies /Cooperatives have been assisted to develop business plans during the year viz: Umhelo Wabomake Tunnels Project, Vukutimele Farmer Company, Agro Planting Farmer Company, Madlangamphisi Farmer Company, Joint Venture for other crops, Chubekani Maswati Multi Purpose Cooperative and Asisebenteni Bomake Piggery Project. Two of these plans have so far received financial support in the form of loans from Swaziland Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC).Farmers have remitted tax to government to the value of E10,291,973 during the period.

Employment Figures

The project has continued to offer both direct and indirect employment to the people and figures to date are as follows in the table below.

Total Number of Employees	Seasonal	Permanent	Males	Females
1,357	943	414	871	486

The project has continued to employ more male than female which can be ascribed to the kind of jobs that are available. The replanting programme has contributed to the increase in the number of people directly employed in the project.

1.5 Infrastructure Development

Construction of both Ngojeni and Mabiya dip tanks to give way to a new sugarcane development has been completed. The construction of Nhlambane Farm Shed has been completed. The supervision and construction of two conference centres that have been built through Fair Trade support has been completed. One of these centres has been officially opened.

1.6 Project Status to Date

Area developed 6, 056ha

- 590ha to other crops
- 5,409ha to sugarcane
- 57ha developed but not planted

Entities established 29

- 25 into sugarcane
 - 4 into other crops
-
- 9 Potable water schemes benefitting 4,287 homesteads
 - Sanitation covers 3,832 homesteads
 - 11 dip tanks relocated to give way to the development
 - 5 bridges constructed to shorten distance to the markets and reduce haulage costs
 - Above 500 directly employed within project
 - 19 sugarcane Farmer Companies Fair-trade certified
 - Above E19M has been received from fair-trade as a premium.

PROJECT A324 - LOWER USUTHU SMALLHOLDER IRRIGATION PROJECT LUSIP)

– DOWNSTREAM DEVELOPMENT

Project Description:

The Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) in the Kingdom of Swaziland involved the construction of three dams to form an off-river storage reservoir for 155 million cubic metres of water. The main canal and distribution system constructed below the dam, together with on-farm works, was designed to irrigate a net 11 500 ha. The project was the subject of a pre-feasibility study in 1996, a detailed feasibility study in 1997/1998 and an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in 1999/2000.

LUSIP aimed to reduce poverty and sustainably improve income in one of semi-arid areas of the country subject to frequent droughts. Most farmers in the areas are poor and barely grow enough to feed themselves and there was heavy reliance on remittances. A phased development was proposed: Phase I of the project was to develop infrastructure for a net area of 6 500 ha; the development of the policy and legal framework for smallholder irrigation; the establishment of farmer-managed irrigation institutions; and sustainable improvement in environmental conditions. Phase II will develop a further 5 000ha.

2.1 Community Development

Chiefdom Development Planning:

6 CDPs have been developed in the project in total. During the year, two of these CDPs were reviewed and one (Madlenya 2) was launched.

Gender Mainstreaming

Activities undertaken under the gender- mainstreaming component included the celebration of the International Women's day. The purpose was to motivate women to embark on establishing businesses. The Life Improvement Project was introduced to the board of directors of some Farmer Companies and it was well received. The 16 Days Campaign against Gender Based Violence was launched successfully in November.

Legal Assistance

SWADE has signed one memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Mbazane & Mhlonhlweni** which is for two piggery farms for the total hand-over of managerial powers of the enterprise to a technical committee comprising of 2 members from the FCs, 2 members from SWADE, 2 members from Swazi Bank and 1 member from MoA to implement a turnaround strategy for the piggery projects which have not done well. Two MoUs are close to finalization and they are between SWADE and the following; **Omega Technologies** for facilitating an agreement between the parties for internet services for SWADE and with **Tinotsise Investments** which is for the facilitation of the management take-over of the farm as per the decision of the Lubombo Regional Administrator.

2.2 Sugarcane

Table below depicts summary of sugarcane development and AWP

Component	AWPB (ha)			Appraisal		% of Appraisal
	Target	Achieved	% Achieved	Target	Achieved	
Land Preparation	162	86.57	53.4	5,000	4,925.33	98.5
Sugar Cane Planting	524.3	404.5	77.2	5,000	4,862.63	97.3
Harvesting Area	4,426.48	4,377.902	98.9			
TSH	13.6	13.8	101.5			
Sucrose Sales	228,M	191,133,325.47	83.8			

The table below depicts the area of sugarcane planted

Activity	Annual Target (ha)	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Planting	524.3	404.5	77%

The table below shows the yield of sugarcane

Activity	Annual Plan	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Area	4,426.48	4,377.902	98.9
Tons crushed	455,927.44	443,735.900	97.3
TCH	103	101.36	98.4
Sucrose %	13.2	13.6	103.0
TSH	13.6	13.8	101.5
Burn to Crush Time	48	52.2	108.8
Sales (SZL)	228,000,000	191,133,325.47	83.8

The table below shows the comparison of the LUSIP farmer's sugarcane performance in past seasons

Component	2013/2014 Season.	2014/2015 Season	2015/16 Season	2016/17 Season	2017/18 Season
Gross Income, VAT incl.	105, 828, 204.71	120, 296, 837.90	107,791,068.56	210,486,886	195 850 213.95
Area Harvested (ha)	2, 132.48	2, 796.63	3,088.14	4,206.68	4,377.90
Tons harvested	240, 970.44	290, 837.10	306,615.00	345,756.40	443,735.90
TCH	113	104	101.81	101.3	101.36
Sucrose %	13.3	13.3	12.82%	13.3	13.6
TSH	15	14	12.96 tons	13.5	13.77

Information on Shareholding

The consolidated shareholders' allowances are hereby listed as follows:

- SZL 41,346,375.72 disbursed
- An average of SZL 6334.42/ha from 3757.16 ha
- An average of SZL 11,004.69/household to 2,538 households in total that received shares.
- Tax on allowances (10%) remitted to the SRA: SZL 4,134,637.57

NB: Note that 48 farm companies received shares from a total of 55 farm companies (inclusive of USSF and St Philips farm).

2.3 Diversification

Alternative Cash Crop

The table below shows the planting in Alternative Cash Crops

Crop	Annual Target (ha)	Year to date	
		Achieved	%
Alternative Cash Crops	178.02	101.38	56%
Banana	12.5	25.9	207.2%
Bean/Jugo bean seed	35.5	8.20	23.2%
Red Speckled Dry bean	45.8	9.40	20.5%
Red Speckled bean seed	-	12.3	-
Dry white Maize	47.2	34.5	73.1%
Maize seed	-	5.1	-
Green bean seed	-	1	-
Paw Paw	-	2.9	-
Tunnel Tomato	0.04	0.06	150%
Tunnel Green pepper	0.02	0.02	100%
Guava	2.4	2	83.3%

The table below shows the Harvesting progress on Alternative cash crops

Crop	Annual Target (Tons)	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Banana	558.00	801.61	143.66
Tunnel green pepper	2.00	0.47	23.50
Tunnel tomato	8.00	4.64	58.00
Papaya	10.00	4.74	54.80
Mangoes	1.00	0.62	62.00

The table below depicts the sale of alternative cash crops

Crop	Annual Target (SZL)	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Sales	1,990,963.39	3,197,735.00	160%
Banana	1,860,348.00	3,132,118.00	168.36
Tunnel green pepper	20,000.00	11,830.00	59.15
Tunnel tomato	56,000.00	34,290.00	61.23
Papaya	50,000.00	17,247.00	34.49
Mangoes	4,615.39	2,250.00	48.75

Livestock: Piggeries

The table below shows piggery progress: monthly & annual

Activity	Annual Target (no. of animals)	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Total Sold	2,040	514	25%
Total Born	2,244	820	36%
Total Deaths (10% mortality)	204	60	29%

The table below shows sales from piggeries

Enterprise	Annual Target	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	%
Piggeries	1,632,000.00	570,332.30	35%

Mhlonhlweni and Mbazane still remain the only two operational piggeries. Progress is being made however, in the establishment of a third piggery enterprise. The two piggeries had a total of 332 animals by the end of the reporting period. The breeding stock comprised of a total of 4 boars and 68 sows as shown in table below.

<i>Company</i>	<i>Boars</i>	<i>Sows</i>	<i>Piglets</i>	<i>Weaners</i>	<i>Growers</i>	<i>Porkers</i>	<i>Sales</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mbazane	2	31	20	59	45	0	21	1	157
Mhlonhlweni	2	37	23	45	68	0	15	1	175
Total	4	68	43	104	113	0	36	2	332

2.4 Environmental Management

Potable Water

There was no increase in the number of people with access to potable water in the PDA in the reporting period. The table below shows the status of potable water access in the LUSIP.

	AWPB Target	Actual	% of AWPB	Appraisal Target	Cumulative	% of Appraisal
Households with access to potable water	1,274	0	100%	2,613	2,186	84%
People with access to Clean Water	8,918	0	100%	20,166	14,646	73%

Potable Water Supply Scheme (PWSS) progress by Chiefdom

Chiefdoms: Gamedze, Ngcamphalala, Shongwe, Lesibovu and Mphumakudze

The rehabilitation of Ngcamphalala potable water scheme was completed and tested by Ultra Civils. However, the variation order (VO) of E3000 for the electricity units was very small to cover the entire network.

The rehabilitation process of Lesibovu is still pending approval.

Mamba 'Kingdom' (Mamisa sub-Chiefdom)

The Mamba chiefdom is the last chiefdom to benefit from the PWSS. Social issues were experienced which stalled and delayed progress. However, works have since commenced at this scheme after the intervention of the Lubombo RA and the contractor's plant is back on site.

Sanitation

In this reporting period, 96 Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets were constructed out of an annual target of 100. The table below presents a summary of the VIPs that have been constructed in the project to date and the number of people with improved access to sanitation. One can note that the project target in this intervention has been exceeded.

Indicator	AWPB Target	Actual	% of AWPB	Appraisal Target	Cumulative	% of Appraisal
Number of VIPs constructed	100	96	96%	2,400	2,740	114%
Households access to sanitation facilities	100	96	96%	2,613	2,874	110%
People with access to improved sanitation	700	565	80.7%	20,166	20 011	99.23%

Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)

Four EMPs out of an annual target of 12 were developed in the reporting period. A total of 84 EMPs have been developed in the project thus far.

The table below shows the Environment Management Plans

Indicator	AWPB Target	Actual	% of AWPB	Appraisal Target	Cumulative	% of Appraisal
Farm EMP's Developed	12	4	33	65	84	129%

On-farm Environmental Compliance Monitoring

Farm audits and Contractor audits were conducted in the reporting period. Results from these audits show that both contractors and farmers still have a challenge in complying with the environmental requirements stipulated in the EMP.

2.5 Public Health Monitoring

(a) Water Quality Monitoring

One water quality monitoring report for the Usuthu and its tributaries was completed. The report demonstrated that in general the water quality remained within acceptable levels downstream, with an exception to the microbiological parameter and total suspended solids which may have been a result from the rains.

The recommendation was:

- Reduction of high water runoff from fields, by improving drainage systems and practice of contour ploughing in sloping areas.
- Continued application of fertilizer as per the specified requirement to maintain and avoid water pollution if is applied in excess.
- Continued farm monitoring.

(b) Health Awareness

The LUSIP1 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study was undertaken and a report produced.

2.6 Water Infrastructure Management

(a) Drought Mitigation

Water rationing was not being implemented. It will start once the dam reaches 80%. It will be decided as to how many days will be stopped in the week. A technical meeting was held in October. It was also decided that schemes that have not ordered be isolated. The above resolution will be reviewed if needed in the coming months depending on prevailing climatic conditions.

(b) Operations & Maintenance (O&M)

Activities carried out under O&M included but not limited to canals maintenance, servicing of sand trap components, wooden bridge repairs, and drains rehabilitation.

PROJECT SZ/FED/025-042 – HIGH VALUE CROP AND HORTICULTURAL PROJECT (HVCHP)

Project Description:

The High Value Crop and Horticulture Project (HVCHP) seeks to increase the contribution of the agricultural sector to poverty reduction in Swaziland by creating pro-poor growth, securing livelihoods of small holder farmers by providing them marketing opportunities and providing locally produced diversified food on the market. The overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of poverty by creating pro-poor growth, securing livelihoods of small holder farmers and providing locally produced diversified food on the market.

3.1 Result 1: National, Regional and International Markets Identified and Being Supplied With High Quality Produce

- (i) Establishment of an Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS)* – AMIS was successfully launched on the 27th of November 2017. It can be accessed at www.amis.co.sz.
- (ii) Extension packages are updated (agronomic, business, governance, irrigation maintenance, HACCP, GAP certification)*-The drafting of ToRs for the extension packages on quality standards (HACCP and Global Gap) was done during the reporting period.

- (iii) ***Provision of Agriculture Marketing Information System by NAMBOARD-*** An advertorial (to be advertised in the local newspapers) was done. Information on a three days export awareness training and adverts on AMIS launch have been disseminated through the different local media houses. These are the Swazi Observer and The Times of Swaziland. A radio programme on the AMIS launch was also recorded for broadcasting on the radio.
- (iv) ***An additional 8400MT transported by NAMBOARD to local markets. Local Produce Sold in Local Market Increased-*** Tender Evaluation report for the procurement of two trucks for NAMBOARD was completed and submitted to the EU delegation for approval. Global expo exhibition, Fresh Produce Marketing Association Exhibition and World of Perishables exhibition were attended as part of the development of the marketing plan for produce from the project.
- (v) ***Establishment of cold stores at several national markets (indicatively: Mbabane, Mahlanya and Manzini)-:*** Construction of the Mahlanya market cold room was completed. A site for the Manzini market cold room was identified. The procurement process for the cold stores commenced.

3.2 Result 2: Development of Land And Strengthening Of Farmer Companies to Profitably

Produce a Range Of High Value Commodities in the LUSIP I Area

- (i) ***Community Planning resulting in Chiefdom Development Plans (CDPs)*** – The Madlenya CDP was reviewed and launched. The Ngcamphalala CDP was reviewed and the draft was presented to the CDC (it will be launched once date has been communicated).
- (ii) ***Farmer groups formation, training and business planning (Farmer groups formed and trained in Business planning)*** – All groups to be registered have been registered in the project. Currently, there are 20 groups that have been registered.
- (iii) ***Land Development (Bush Clearing, Land Preparation, Access Roads) :***
 - The Tender for Bush Clearing and Land preparation for Schemes under the LUSIP was approved by the EU delegation and advertised.
 - The evaluation of two tender dossiers (Earthworks and lining of balancing dams with an HDPE geo-membrane for two FCs) was completed and submitted for approval.
 - The tender dossier for the Access road rehabilitation for the schemes under the HVCHP that form the onion group was completed and submitted for approval.
- (iv) ***Installation of irrigation equipment on new land*** - The Tender for the Supply and Installation of Irrigation System for Schemes under the LUSIP was approved by the EU delegation and advertised.
- (v) ***Development of FCs Business Plans-*** The draft business plans for FCs under the LUSIP were finalized with priority given to the FCs that are part of the bush clearing, land preparation and irrigation system installation tender.

3.3 Result 3: Develop Pack-House Hub-Based Zones

- (i) **Community Planning resulting in Chiefdom Development Plans (Zone 1,2&3):** Nkonka and Eluhlekweni CDPs were launched.
- (ii) **Farmer organizations / water user association's formation (Zone 1,2&3)**
Progress is very slow in all the mobilized chiefdoms because of the water sources challenge thus group formation has not been completed in mobilized chiefdoms.
- (iii) **Establish Access to finance through linkages made with Development Finance Institutions-** A tour of smallholder farms in Zone 3 was undertaken with the EU Delegation, local financiers and FCs under HVCHP at LUSIP. The aim was to familiarize the financiers with the HVCHP sites and potential crops. A follow up tour with the EU Delegation, local financiers and French Development Agency was also undertaken during the reporting period where afterwards discussions on a credit guarantee scheme offered by the French Development Agency were held and one on one meetings followed a day after with the local financiers. The aim of this was to try and make financing of FCs under the project less risky to local financiers and hopefully increase their appetite to fund smallholder farmers under the project.
- (iv) **Building of Pack-houses (focus for collection depots, storage, refrigeration, markets) and Services (Design/Supervision) for Building of Pack-houses-** Preparation of Packhouse designs, construction drawings, tender documents and project specification was completed and approved during the reporting period. The tender deadline was on the 31st of October 2017 and the evaluation report was submitted for approval.
- (v) **Pack houses are complemented with processing equipment and farm mechanization-** Tender dossiers for the packing and processing equipment of vegetable packhouses, banana and onion packing shed were submitted for approval.
- (vi) **Land developed and farmer companies strengthened for a net area of 50 Ha in Zone 1 -** Under Zone 1 the Nkonka garden site was visited for assessment and water potential of the existing borehole was being investigated for a possible extension with borehole test results requested. There is shortage of continuous and sustainable water supply due the recent drought which continues to be a threat for this activity in Zone 1.
- (vii) **Building of Packhouse, Land developed and farmer companies strengthened for a net area of 50 Ha in Zone 2 -** Under Zone 2 the Dlovunga, Vusweni, Nkwene, KaGwegwe and Buseleni areas were mobilised and assessed for potential of being part of the HVCHP. The completion of the mobilisation will provide information on how much land is available and from which community for commercial production of crops all year round and that land will then be included in the project.
- (viii) **Environment Management-** Farmer trainings on environment awareness and review of EMPs were done during the reporting period. Thirty-four (34) on farm graves were relocated from the proposed farming area for KaBhokweni Farmer Company.

PROJECT A381 – LOWER USUTHU SMALLHOLDER IRRIGATION PROJECT (LUSIP) II EXTENSION

Project Description

The LUSIP II Extension Project is a continuation of the Lower Usuthu Small Holder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) whose goal is to improve the standard of living of the population in the Project Area through an environmentally and culturally sustainable process.

4.1 Objective/Outcome 1: Smallholder Farmers Directly Integrated Into the Commercial Economy through the Establishment of Farmer-Managed Irrigation Companies

Community Mobilizations to form Farmer Companies (FCs)

Training of FCs on Companies Act

Five (5) FCs from Ngcamphalala and five (5) FCs from Mngometulu were trained

Training for Transformation Level 1

- Three (3) FCs from Ngcamphalala and nine (9) FCs from Mngometulu were trained

Review detailed soil suitability

- Eleven (11) reviews at Mngometulu and two (2) reviews at Ngcamphalala were completed

Training for Transformation Level 2

- One (1) training at Mahlabaneni and two (2) trainings at Lusabeni were done.

Conduct Membership Profiles for FCs

- Three (3) Matsenjwa FCs profiled (Vukusebente, Phusha Bhobo and Vulematfuba)

Facilitate Excursion for FC boards

- Facilitated excursions for three (3) boards from Matsenjwa and interims for Ngcamphalala and Mngometulu (TAs)

Training and signing of renunciation forms

- Three (3) FCs have signed from Matsenjwa, trainings were conducted to 6 FCs Ngcamphalala and five (5) FCs for Mngometulu were trained.

Trainings on Chiefs Letter of Consent (CLC) & Land renunciation for FCs

The following trainings were done

- FCs and TA refresher trainings done at Matsenjwa for issuance of CLC
- Three (3) FCs and TAs from Ngcamphalala at Mahlabaneni trained on CLC

- Three (3) FCs from Ngcamphalala and ten (10) FCs from Mngometulu were trained on CLC and Land renunciation.

Facilitate development of shareholders agreements

Thirteen (13) FCs adopted agreements. These are 3 from Mahlabaneni, 2 from Lusabeni and 8 FCs from Mngometulu.

Establishment and strengthening of other institutions

Eight (8) PEC meetings were conducted and 10 LDC meetings conducted

- *Stakeholder Management*
 - One CDC progress meeting held with 3 chiefdoms (Ngcamphalala, Matsenjwa and Mngometulu)
 - Two (2) Leadership workshops done for Mngometulu and Ngcamphalala
 - Three (3) workshops conducted for all 3 chiefdoms (Ngcamphalala, Matsenjwa and Mngometulu)
- *Gender issues mainstreamed*
 - 1 workshop for the youth was conducted at Matsenjwa chiefdom
 - Socio economic rights and national constitution workshop done for women leadership at Matsenjwa and Ngcamphalala (Mahlabaneni)
 - Assessment of vulnerability of disabled people was done for the 3 chiefdoms (Ngcamphalala, Matsenjwa and Mngometulu)
 - Campaigns on gender issues were carried out at Matsenjwa chiefdom (GBV)

4.2 Objective/Outcome 2: Increased efficiencies in the sugar cane value chains

Livestock Management

Rangeland Committee Formation

There has been no Rangeland Committee formed but the following activities has been carried out;

- Three rangeland committee meetings have been done at Phafeni, Mncumaneni and Makhasane.
- Two rangeland/veld trainings have conducted at Makhasane and Mncumaneni.

Destocking Exercise

- A Livestock Strategy has been developed and finalized
- A data collection on livestock population was completed at the following 7 dip tanks; Ndzevane, Mahlabaneni, Lubulini, Mkhiwa, Mabhunu, Makhulusihlenge and Mndobandoba.
- Trainings on livestock destocking has been completed at Mndobandoba, Makhulusihlenge and Mabhunu.

- There have been three (3) awareness meetings on livestock enterprises conducted at Makhasane, Mncumaneni and Phafeni.

4.3 Objective/Outcome 3: Strengthened bulk water administration and infrastructure maintenance

Matata block and main conveyance system

The contract was awarded to INES JV, the progress with works is as follows;

The Construction of the Main Conveyance System and Related Structures (Matata Block)

Description	Present percentage (%)
Canal clearing and grubbing	98.7
Siphon clearing and grubbing	70
In-situ road bed for canal	58
Canal concrete panels	6.5
Canal profile cut	24
Canal sub-surface drainage	7
Siphon excavation	20.5
Dams (5) construction	16
Siphon pipe work (m)	2.8
Top stripping for dam 4	100
Managing parties affected by construction	On-going

Secondary Distribution System (SDS)

- The EIB Board has approved the loan for SDS and is awaiting ratification by the government of Swaziland.
- The procurement process will commence soon after the ratification. These process can take up to 4 months and if all goes well construction of SDS should begin by May/June 2018

On Farm development

- No Lot has been developed but the following activities has been undertaken;

Design

- The Mpondweni, Tisuka and Mthomanzi irrigation systems were modified. The LUSIP II FC's preliminary designs were also modified. There was fencing done at Nisela and the MoA farm.

Design Report

- The master design report was completed and submitted.

Tender Documents

- Master Tender Document completed

Bank Procurement

- The Kuwait Fund, loan agreement has been approved. The BADEA Fund visited Swaziland as part of their project appraisal mission during the week of 24 to 31 July 2017.

Irrigation system selection Trainings

The following schemes were trained; 2 Schemes (Phusha bhobo & Vukusebente) at Matsenjwa chiefdom and 3 schemes (Goboyane, Mahlabaneni & Mkhalamfene) at Ngcamphalala chiefdom.

Construction Supervision

- The Mthomanzi and Mpondweni Irrigation systems were modified

Farm Planning Process

The table below shows Lot 2 Farm Plan Activities

Scheme	Area (ha)	Chiefdom	Soils verification	Farm plan training	Farm plan documentation
Phusha bhobo	149.95	Matsenjwa	Done	Done	Done
Vukusebente	367.90	Matsenjwa	Done	Done	Done
Mahlabaneni	190	Ngcamphalala	Done	Done	On-Going
Goboyane	297	Ngcamphalala	Done	Done	On-Going
Mkhalamfene	217	Ngcamphalala	Done	Done	On-Going

4.4 Objective/Outcome 4: Improved quality of life for people living within the PDA

(a) Resettlement

- As a result of the canal realignment an additional five (5) homesteads were relocated from the canal servitude and their compensations paid accordingly.
- There is only one homestead (Shongwe) that has been constructed and completed with electricity
- Construction of VIP latrine has been completed at the Shongwe homestead.
- A total of 13 graves located on the canal route and servitude were exhumed and relocated and compensations paid accordingly.
- Relocation of a soccer field which was found within the canal route has also been completed.
- Compensations of affected farms including Mthomanzi and Mpondweni Farmer companies were also paid for loss of land and loss business.

(b) Biophysical Environmental Management

- To raise environment awareness, World Environment Day was commemorated in partnership with the contractor INESJV and other stakeholders in one of the communities where the project is located.

- An Environment Project Compliance Report (PCR) for project progress up to July 2017, as part of the requirements of the environmental clearance certificate was compiled for submission to the Swaziland Environment Authority.
- Populations of endangered and protected species were removed from the canal route and servitude prior to construction commencement.
- Two (2) Environment Management Plans (EMPs) were developed for Phushabhobo and Velematfuba famer companies.
- Contractor safety healthy and environment monitoring is ongoing for the main contractor INESJV and all other contractors currently on site.

(c) Potable Water and Sanitation

Construction of Gamula/Mahlabaneni PWS

A total of 721 Homesteads (4520 people) will benefit from this project.

- Construction of the potable water scheme is complete but non-operational pending the consistent provision and supply of water by USA distillers.
- Testing and commissioning of scheme is being scheduled. There are on-going discussions with USA Distillers who is responsible for the transmission main.

Construction of Phafeni PWS

- Construction of the Phafeni Potable water supply scheme has been completed pending connection of electricity to run the system.

4.5 Objective/Outcome 5

- **Stakeholder Project Review Meetings**
 - One stakeholder meeting has been done.
- **Monthly and Quarterly Project Progress Meetings**
 - Every month there has been progress review meetings
 - Three (3) quarterly review meetings have been conducted
- **Information Management**
 - The project is in a process of developing an M&E database for storage and manipulation of data sets.
- **Staff Refresher Training**
 - This training will focused mainly on proper planning, monitoring & evaluation, effective reporting and documentation.

**PROJECT A385 – INNOVATIVE BEEF VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PROJECTS (IBVCDSSAP)**

Project description

The Innovative Beef Value Chain Development Schemes in Southern Africa Project (IBVCDSSAP)’s overall goal is to improve and sustain the livelihoods of smallholder beef cattle farmers in the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) area as well as in the Komati Downstream Development Project (KDDP) area through improved and sustainable production and marketing systems

5.1 Feedlots

During the year, there was again a marked reduction in sold and bought animals. Sales were SZL 939,058.38 for the reporting period.

The table below shows the animals bought and sold and the sales

Activity	Annual Target	(Year to date)	
		Achieved	% Achieved
Total Sold (No.)	480	175	36%
Total Bought (No.)	480	237	49%
Feedlot cattle	2,880,000.00	939,058.38	32%

PROJECT A380 – SMALLHOLDER MARKET-LED PROJECT (SMLP)

Description

The Project’s long-term goal is to contribute to the national goal of reducing rural poverty. The Project Development Objective is to enhance food security and income among smallholder families through diversified agricultural production and market-linkages.

The project will be implemented over a six-year period in 37 Chiefdoms in the rain-fed Middle and Lowveld areas of Lubombo and Shiselweni Regions. It is targeting poor smallholder farmers that are: (i) food deficit and living at a subsistence level and economically active and (ii) economically active and able to sell surplus production.

6.1 Component 1: Chiefdom Development Planning

6.1.1 Institutional framework for Development Planning established

In the reporting period, induction of Princes and Chiefs on the CDP Process was carried out to facilitate their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the development process.

6.1.2 Chiefdom Development Plans formulated

- Training for Transformation for Inner Council and Community Development Committees in all the eight Chiefdoms targeted this fiscal year was conducted. These include Ngobolweni, Bhanganoma, Mboke, Magele, Kwendzeni, Nhletjeni, Ndzameya and Ngololweni. As part of the CDP development process, boundary and resource mapping was carried out for all the 8 chiefdoms. This allows the different Chiefdoms to identify local resources that can be used to enhance their development.
- Sustainable Local Economic Development (SLED) workshops for all the Chiefdoms was carried out. This exercise enables the Chiefdoms to develop strategies that will ensure that they are moving towards attaining their different development aspirations.
- A total of three Chiefdom Development Plans were launched and the remaining five will be at a draft stage. The main implementing partners are the Ministry of Tinkhundla and Administration Development (MTAD), and the Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC).
- An Existing Farmers Group growing vegetables at Ngobolweni, Thandanani Farmers Association, has also undergone Training for Transformation during the reporting period. Topics covered were: *Conflict Management; Leadership in Sustainable Development; Decision Making; Management of Meetings, and Roles and Responsibilities of Executive Committee.*
- During the period under review a total of 3 residential workshops for Implementing partners were held. The objective of the workshops was to enhance the capacity of the trainers and to ensure that similar messages are communicated to the communities.

6.1.3 Chiefdom human, water and land resources allocated to planned development activities

A Land and Water Survey was carried out to identify suitable sites for the construction of small earth dams that will be used to irrigate crops for marketing purposes as opposed to home consumption. During the reporting period a consultancy was identified and awarded the contract to carry out the study. The study is expected to be completed in the first quarter of the next financial year.

6.1.4 National capacity establish, implement and promote policies and programmes to meet Swaziland Convention targets; and share lessons nationally and regionally.

A Geographic Information System (GIS) has been set up, and mapping of the different interventions that the project is carrying out is being done. Currently, the project has established Geo databases for Beekeepers, Indigenous chicken farmers, households with Ferrocement tanks and communal gardens.

A National Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) is in the process of being established in partnership with the international Centre Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) in Nairobi. A contract between SWADE and ICRAF is already in place and work to establish the system has commenced. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SWADE and stakeholders has been developed to improve information and skill sharing during the

implementation of LDSF. An LDSF Steering Committee has also been formed and meets quarterly.

6.1.5 Socio-Economic Survey

A Census and Socio–Economic Survey is currently on-going, and is being carried out by INTERDEM Management Consulting. Enumerators to conduct both the Census and Socio-Economic Survey were trained with the involvement of the IFAD on the Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool.

6.2 Component 2: Infrastructure for Soil and Water Conservation.

Sustainable Land and Water Management at or above Chiefdom level

During this reporting period, 8 Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMCs) and 8 Rangeland Management Committee (RMCs) were established and trained, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tourism (Forestry Department) as well as other SWADE project staff.

Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) at farm and household level Ferrocement Construction

A total of 15 Ferrocement facilitators have been trained and 4 facilitators already engaged at Qomintaba in the installation of rooftop ferro-cement rain harvesting tanks. To date, a total 162 ferrocement tanks have been constructed.

Erosion control measures implemented

TORs for a Design and Supervision Consultant have been finalised. The consultant will supervise the rehabilitation of degraded areas in the project area. A total of 8 community based facilitators for the rehabilitation of degraded lands have been trained. These will lead the process of rehabilitation and further provide the skill to other community members. This will ensure sustainability of the rehabilitated areas and combat further degradation.

6.3 Component 3-Market-Led Smallholder Agriculture

Business Development Services (BDS) train smallholder enterprises on crop & livestock production and marketing techniques.

Community Introduction Meetings

The main activity under this component was the community introduction meetings. Whereby respective partners are introduced in SMLP/CSARL chiefdoms. The meetings were conducted in 35 out of 37 Chiefdoms. The partners that were introduced were TechnoServe, NAMBoard, Eswatini, The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services (DVLS), Department of Agriculture and Extension (DAE) and Home Economics (HE). During these meeting, a total of 3 540 (Male 1 399 and female 2 141) project beneficiaries was reached.

During the community introductions, TechnoServe conducted value chain specific registration at each Chiefdom, a process whose purpose was to determine the individuals interested in each of the preselected value chains (vegetables, legumes, goats, indigenous chickens and honey).

Market Scoping

For the reporting period, Business Development Service provider (TechnoServe) produced five Industry Strategic Plans (ISPs): Horticulture, goats, honey, indigenous chickens and legumes with the purpose of matching farmer capability to market needs and identifying necessary steps to fill any gaps. The five ISPs were presented to the Technical Committee and partners and then followed by presentation to stakeholders. Partners that were present during the Technical Committee meeting were NAMBoard, TechnoServe, Swaziland National Agriculture Union (SNAU) and MoA (DVLS and DAE). The Technical Committee endorsed all value chains for further implementation in the Project chiefdoms. These Industry Strategic Plans (ISPs) will allow for establishment of the Innovation Platforms (IPs) to improve market access, income generation and sustainable livelihoods for farmers in the Project Development Area.

Upon endorsement of the five ISPs, a total of eight (8) project chiefdoms including Kwendzeni, Lulakeni, Magele, Mbhoke, Mhawu, Nhlalabantfu, Phunga, and Zishineni were rated and prioritized to kick-start business development trainings. The ranking of the chiefdoms was based on:

- available resources,
- current production level, and
- Current skill level.

Farming as a business (FAAB)

Upon completion of the market scoping studies for the five value chains: communities at section level have been mobilized for Farming a Business (FAAB) and Enterprise Development (ED) trainings. Business Development Training including FAAB have been done in 8 selected Chiefdoms

Market information is available to smallholder enterprises and value chain partners

One of the deliverables of the project is the development of an Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS). The High Value Crop and Horticulture Project (HVCHP) has taken the initiative to develop an Agriculture Marketing Information System. The SMLP has leveraged on this system's development. The system will facilitate timely exchange of marketing information between buyers and producers and NAMBoard is taking a lead in the development of the system. The AMIS was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture supported by the European Union.

Smallholder supply markets through collection and information centres run by youth enterprises Youth Enterprise Development

TechnoServe disseminated and collected concept note application forms for the MTN capital challenge. TNS opened the competition solely to existing businesses in 5 SMLP project areas, namely KaPhunga, Mkhaya, Ndushulweni, Lusitini and Mbhoke. The top three youth business were awarded in which position one got SZL10 000, position 2 got SZL 8 000 and position 3 SZL 6000. In total SZL 175 000 was allocated by MTN as a seed capital for the Youth Enterprise Development.

Training of Lead Farmers (LFs) for Conservation Agriculture (CA), Permaculture and Nutrition security

During the reporting period Community Development Committees and Extension Officers were engaged in the selection of Lead farmers in Conservation Agriculture and Permaculture gardening in all the Project Area Chiefdoms. Training for the lead farmers were conducted concurrently in four training centres namely: Nhlanguano Farmers Training Centre, Riverside Hotel, Ntondozi Inkhundla and Mafutseni NCP. A total 86 Lead Farmers (LFs) (Males=31 and Females=55) was trained on CA, Permaculture and Nutrition. Demonstration packages were distributed to 80 Lead farmers which were: maize, jugo beans, cow peas, sorghum seeds. Lead farmers have planted in their demonstration plots and exchange visits were conducted for promote farmer to farmer learning experiences.

Support to Bee keeping

A total of fifteen (9males and 6 females) Bee Keeping Lead Farmers were selected by the CDCs from 10 chiefdoms in the project area and trained at Ngonini Lutheran Training Centre. With limited expertise in honey production in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the project engaged three (3) Community Facilitators to train and mentor newly trained farmers on bee-keeping. In total 462 farmers (231 females and 104 males and 127 youth) were trained on Bee keeping. Start - up equipment for 240 Bee keepers has been distributed.

Support to Goat Production

A workshop for the development of Goat Manual and Model was conducted with the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services (DVLS). All relevant partners including TechnoServe, Tibiyo Taka Ngwane, and World Vision participated in the workshop. The manual will act as a guide for training farmers on goat production and commercialization.

Support Indigenous Chickens production

Lead Farmers for indigenous chicken production were selected with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Community Development Committees in the 8 targeted Chiefdoms for 2017/2018. A total of 66 Lead farmers have been trained and with start-up material provided to them.

7.0 Challenges Encountered

Unit	Challenges
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SWADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Delays in release of recurrent and capital funds by Government causes operational inefficiencies and serious delay in projects implementation. Moreover the projects are accumulating late payment interest and penalties on outstanding invoices for works.
KDDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Social conflicts have continued to be rife in the project area more so with the circulation of money in the project. Some of these issues have been taken to court while most are being handled at Traditional Authority level.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Low sugarcane yields which impact negatively on profits.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Haulage costs, electricity charges remain the main cost drivers in the project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Shortage of funds to support diversification programme
LUSIP 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Theft of copper wire and sprinklers which has also become rife
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Illegal siphoning from canals which lead to breakdown of infrastructure components e.g. servitude road, fencing and valves etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Conflicts pose a major risk to the projects.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Procuring loan funding for FCs not involved in sugarcane production
HVCHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Lack of formal markets alternative crops
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Lack of availability of sustainable water sources in Zones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Chiefdom conflicts in Zones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Late arrival of project vehicles
SMLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Late submission of design supervision report by consultant hired to review the LUSIP farms designs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Closing of Technoserve Swaziland Offices in the country will delay implementation of Business Development Training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Limited commitment of Eswatini Kitchen in the Project activities in honey production services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Delayed in the procurement of ferrocement tanks construction