

# Lesotho Agricultural Sector – Opportunities and Limitations: Report

---

## Background

The American Corner talk on Agriculture and how to succeed in the Lesotho agricultural sector was hosted by YALI Creatives and the BAM Group. It was a Question and Answer engagement of participants with two young people who share their experiences of the sector being a Fulbrighter, Bokang Khoarai and Relebohile Monethi from Moralia' Monethi Farms. The panel of experts was also composed of Ntate Masia J. Johane, an Agricultural expert in Lesotho.

## Notes from the Session

### Limitations in Lesotho Agriculture

Lesotho faces major challenges in the Agricultural Sector in;

1. Capacity to produce to meet the domestic demand for produce due to improper assessment of Demand and Lack of cooperation among local farmers.
2. No coordinated availability of Information or a knowledge management system, making it practically impossible to gauge production and sales margins and to undertake cash flow production in the initial years of operations. This makes it challenges to access funding as funders want a clear forecasts.
3. Stringent procedures to funding allocations, where prospective farmers are required to have registered a company before accessing opportunities through such institutions as SADP.
4. Wetland degradation has affected the livestock sector where declines have been witnessed in the wool and mohair sector. The depletion of graze land affects livestock production immensely and has led to subsequent declines in the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP.
5. In Lesotho Agriculture there is no formal or coordinated enterprise development framework. This missing link in funding hinders progress in the sector
6. The Umbrella approach to subsidies has led to political exploitation of the system where subsidies are not being optimally utilized through targeted approaches to allocation through formulation of clusters according to output thresholds.
7. Subsidies from government to the sector have declined.
8. There are evident limitations in civil service delivery to aid in the sector

### Opportunities in Agriculture

Despite the above stated limitations numerous opportunities do exist in the Lesotho Agricultural Sector, these opportunities are reflected in governments agricultural policies where its noted that our cold weather environment hinders disease growth and gives us an advantage in terms of processing high quality products for sale. These existent opportunities are mainly in;

1. Sale of Bales of Grass Hay
2. Nursery of Peach and Apple Trees
3. Processing of Peach and Apples
4. Packaging through cannery of Peach and Apples for domestic and foreign markets.
5. Production of root beer from trees.
6. Dairy production where maximum returns are made in processing
7. Processing and Packaging of yoghurts
8. Meat industry where Lesotho can move from Grade C to Grade B and Grade A production this is based on the premise that quarterly imports of meat are M66 Million.
9. Bee Keeping Opportunities where honey can be produced.
10. Hides and Skin processing opportunities as most hides and skins are disposed of.

#### Way Forward

Consultative meetings can be engaged with Mr. Masia J. Johane for a broader view on opportunities in the Agricultural Sector.