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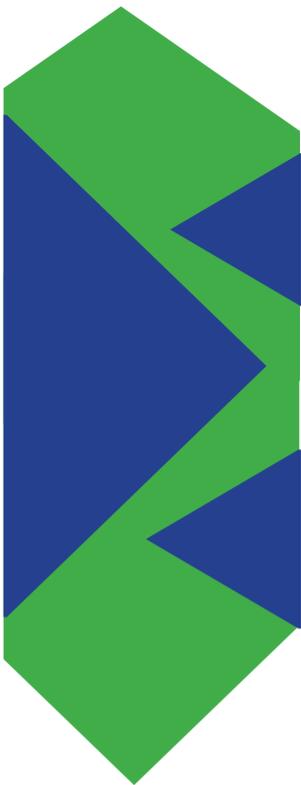
Lesotho Confirms Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak Amid Regional Crisis

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Cafi Projects ratings

-  Progress towards achievement of PDO
-  Overall Implementation Progress
-  Enhancing Financial Inclusion and Resilience of MSMEs(-Component 1)
-  Scaling Support for Entrepreneurship and MSMEs (Component 2)
-  Project Management and Implementation Support (Component 3)
-  Financial Management
-  Procurement
-  Monitoring and Evaluation
-  Environment
-  Social



World Bank applauds Cafi

MASERU

A MID-TERM review by the World Bank mission found that the Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion (CAFI) project has made significant progress towards achieving its objectives and its target results are on track.

The review report (Aide Memoire) rated the implementation of all CAFI components and sub-components as “Satisfactory”, a testament to the project’s good performance since inception in September 2022.

The mission, which conducted the review over 11 days in November last year, worked with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development and engaged the CAFI’s project management unit and implementing agencies to ensure the timely execution of project activities.

In addition, the World Bank team engaged the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, development partners and the private sector.

The report recommends minor adjustments to some subcomponents for efficient implementation and broader impact in line with the project’s development objectives as informed by the government’s economic strategy.

The “Satisfactory” ratings reflect the collective efforts of the government, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Business Development, the CAFI management and partners to efficiently implement the US\$52.5 million project.

“The mission reviewed the implementation of CAFI activities and found that progress towards achievement of the PDO (Project Development Objectives) is maintained as Satisfactory,” the report said.

Noting that the project target results are “mostly on track and achievable”, the mission recommended adjustments to the Access to Finance and Disaster Risk Finance subcomponents effectively respond to the country’s emerging needs and priorities.

The report emphasised that the project development objective “remains highly relevant given the country is facing significant challenges, including rising unemployment, vulnerability of MSMEs as reflected in the recent declaration of a national state of disaster to address economic distress caused by external shocks and declining textile exports”.

It said these “conditions underscore the importance of CAFI’s focus on enabling access to

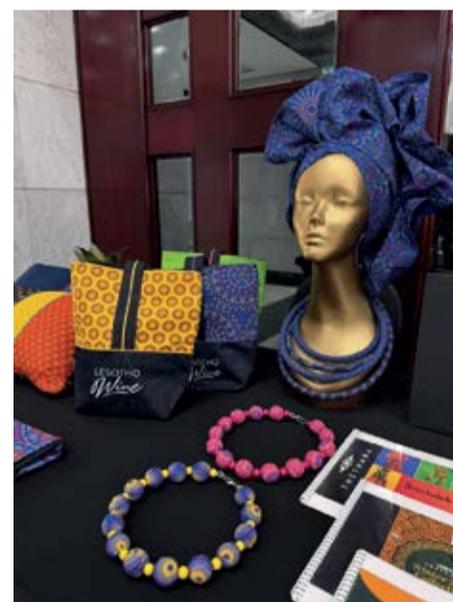
US\$52.5m Project value

Total Disbursement **US\$18.94m**

US\$1.9m Disbursement in Financial Year

Overall Disbursement **33%**

18% Overall absorption



finance, strengthening MSME resilience, improving the enabling environment, and fostering inclusive growth”.

The review revealed that at mid-term, CAFI is “on track to meet or exceed” two of its three project development objective level targets.

The two targets are the number of firms benefiting from private sector initiatives and the number of enterprises with increased revenue.

“Notably, the project is surpassing expectations for the percentage of women and youth beneficiaries, reflecting strong progress on inclusion objectives”.

This, the report said, illustrates that CAFI “is having a catalytic role in unlocking the growth potential of MSMEs and transforming Lesotho’s financial landscape”.

It noted that while the value of financing accessed by enterprises, which is the third project development objective level target, “is less advanced, this is anticipated given the need to develop new financial products and establish dedicated funds”.

“Achieving this objective relies on the timely design and launch of the seed financing facility and the establishment of the MSME resilience fund,” said the report.

“These instruments are critical to unlocking access to finance and ensuring sustainability of project outcomes.”

The highlights from the mid-term review indicate that the project supported 397 firms, with 54% being women-owned and 47% being youth-led. A third of these businesses reported an increase in revenue after a year of engagement with the project.

The Lesotho Entrepreneurship Hub and Seed Financing Facility (LEHSFF), which seeks to build an ecosystem for start-ups through incubation services and early-stage financing to foster innovation and growth, incubated more than 200 enterprises and strengthened 27 enterprise support organisations. A year after receiving support from the hub, enterprises recorded a 1513 year-on-year increase in full-time employment.

A total of 152 enterprises were assisted under the Lesotho Enterprises Assistance Program (LEAP), a matching grant which seeks to assist MSMEs improve productivity, adopt digital technologies and strengthen their resilience to climatic shocks.

Out of the enterprises, 86 are women-owned and 28 are owned by youth. These businesses have created 597 new jobs, and 15% of them

have reported an increase in revenue year-on-year. Additionally, 44% have noted a rise in full-time employment since receiving the LEAP grant.

At least 15 percent have embedded new technologies into their business processes and operations, after technical support and training from LEAP.

The report said since the last World Bank mission, “the LEAP programme has made notable progress by revising its operational manual to improve both comprehensiveness and practical relevance”.

For instance, the program has opened up its support to sectors beyond textiles and collaborated with local training providers to design and launch training programs to provide skill development.

Seven deciduous fruit farms, with a total 60 829 trees, have been established under the Lesotho Horticulture Incubation and Training Centre (LHITC), which aims to diversify Lesotho’s economy by building a competitive horti-



Quotes from the Aide Memoire

- “The mission reviewed the implementation of CAFI activities and found that progress towards achievement of the PDO (Project Development Objectives) is maintained as Satisfactory.”
- “Notably, the project is surpassing expectations for the percentage of women and youth beneficiaries, reflecting strong progress on inclusion objectives”.
- “The project is in full compliance with its FM (Financial Management) covenants, acceptable IFRs (Interim unaudited Financial Reports) and Audit reports are submitted on time.”
- “The PDO remains highly relevant given the country is facing significant challenges, including rising unemployment, vulnerability of MSMEs as reflected in the recent declaration of a national state of disaster to address economic distress caused by external shocks and declining textile exports.”
- “The Government of Lesotho is demonstrating clear commitment to private sector development through proactive engagement and targeted sectoral support”.



Quote: “Since the last mission, the LEAP programme has made notable progress by revising its operational manual to improve both its comprehensiveness (i.e. opening up to more industries beyond textiles) and practical relevance (i.e. collaborating with local training providers to design and launch up to 10 training programs aimed at providing skill development).



culture sector focused on high-value deciduous fruits for export, while creating jobs and promoting climate-smart practices.

Launched in May 2023, the centre has so far trained 190 farmers, 46 of which are women and 53 are youth. Irrigation systems are currently being installed at the farms, while farmers training under the incubation program continues.

The review found the project’s procurement to be satisfactory, noting that the CAFI team “is responsive and solid in handling the project procurement activities”.

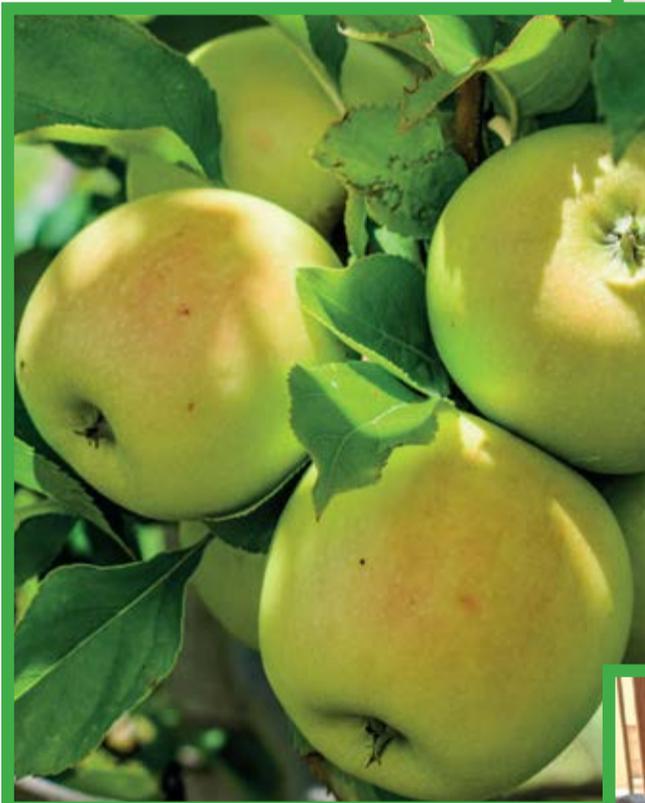
Financial management was also rated as “satisfactory”, with an overall 33% disbursement on both lines of credit and an absorption rate of 18%”.

The report said financial management arrangements “are still adequate to support the project”.

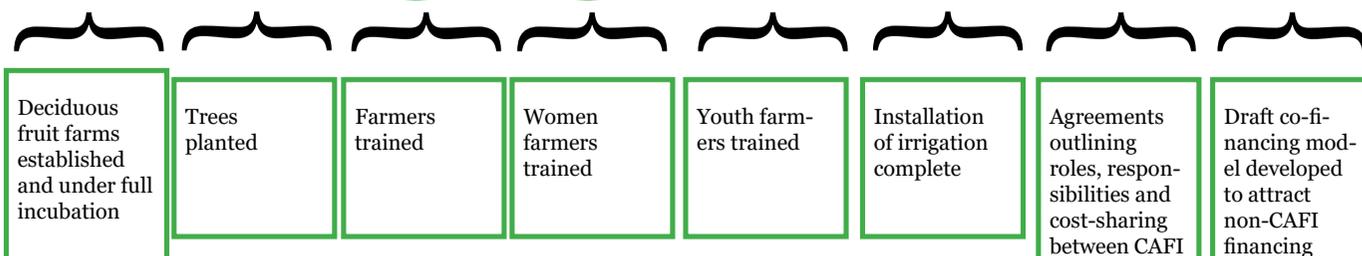
“The project is in full compliance with its FM (Financial Management) covenants, acceptable IFRs (Interim unaudited Financial Reports) and Audit reports are submitted on time.”

The report, however, noted that the “low disbursement and adoption rate is inherent to the nature of the project that involves reforms and regulatory framework that take time to be concluded”.

This is in line with the Audited Finance statements of the year ended March 31, 2025, which gave an unqualified opinion on the CAFI financial statements.



Lesotho Horticulture Incubation and Training Centre



“

LEHSFF remains a cornerstone of the CAFI project. The Hub has the potential to become a major catalyst for entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive economic growth in Lesotho.

The Lesotho Entrepreneurship Hub and Seed Financing Facility

196

Enterprises incubated

120

Women-owned

139

Youth-owned

27

Enterprise support organisations capacitated through regional training

1513

Year-on-year increase in full time employment

Hub Advisory Committee established

Incubation management software implemented

Diaspora engagement program launched to link Basotho abroad with local entrepreneurs for investment and mentorship



Textiles Sector Support

◆ Textiles Thematic Working Group established to steer reforms, attract investment and address critical challenges such as inadequate supply chain finance, expansion capital and skills gaps.

◆ Capacity-building initiatives have trained 243 participants from Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on economic diplomacy, investment and trade promotion.

◆ Pilot Supply Chain Finance solution at advanced stage.

◆ Regional consultant engaged to support market diversification and facilitate B2B linkages with SACU and SADC buyers.

◆ Roundtable discussion with textile industry to address pressing challenges and identify opportunities for CAFI to focus its support

Access to Finance

- Credit Reporting Act 2011 and associated reviewed and enhanced to align with International standards
- Credit Reporting Policy Developed
- Credit Reporting Bill of drafting instructions for updated legislation in Place
- Capacity-building initiatives
- On-site inspection of the credit bureau
- Enhancement of the CBL's supervisory capacity through targeted training and frameworks
- Support for insolvency reform
- MOU signed between

CAFI and Lesotho Post Bank (LBP) to facilitate product development and capacity building initiatives

● CBL approved the Lesotho Post Bank to launch a new group-lending product

● CAFI supported the LNDC and the Ministry of Trade Industry and Business Development to conduct assessments of the two existing partial credit guarantees to improve their efficiency for uptake by MSMEs

Quote: "These efforts align with CAFI's goal to increase access to finance for individuals and businesses, foster financial stability and promote sustainable economic growth".



Letsetsa: 2221 5600



Alliance ke bafani ba litšebeliso tsa lichelete ba ngolisitsong ka molao. Melao le lipeheto li teng.



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ELEVATES FARMERS
AND PRODUCERS AT
NATIONAL MARKET DAY**

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Lesotho Confirms Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak Amid Regional Crisis

By Topollo Tlali

Lesotho has officially confirmed an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the northern part of the country, placing the livestock sector on high alert as the government simultaneously combat Lumpy Skin Disease.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, through the Department of Livestock, announced that the outbreak was reported on 18 February after veterinary authorities identified cattle exhibiting clinical signs consistent with FMD at a cattle post in Mahlase, Butha-Buthe, near the South African border.

In a statement, the Ministry confirmed that laboratory tests conducted on 17 cattle found that six tested positive for antibodies of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

Additional samples have since been sent to a reference laboratory of the World Organisation for Animal Health in Botswana for virus typing and vaccine matching.

"The infected cattle have been placed under strict quarantine, and nearby cattle posts are also under precautionary quarantine and are being monitored through active surveillance to prevent further spread," the statement said.

The ministry has urged livestock farmers, traders, and the public to remain vigilant and report any suspected symptoms, such as excessive salivation, lameness, or lesions in the mouth or on the hooves, to the nearest agriculture or veterinary office immediately.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease is a highly transmissible viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. Although it does



Foot and mouth disease

not typically pose a direct threat to human health, outbreaks carry severe economic consequences due to livestock losses, movement restrictions, and trade bans.

In some communities, farmers report having already suffered losses consistent with FMD symptoms.

Phoofolo Phoofolo of Kolonyama Ha Manama stated that he lost some of his livestock two weeks before the official confirmation.

"I lost three cattle and eight sheep that had vesicles in the mouth, lameness, nasal discharge and excessive drooling. I did not report to anyone, I just used home remedies, and unfortunately, the animals died," Phoofolo said.

Over 1,000 Cattle Infected as Vaccine Delays Hamper Lumpy Skin Disease Response

By Lungile Maseela

More than 1,000 cattle have been infected, and 63 have died as Lumpy Skin Disease spreads nationwide, with the government confirming delays in securing vaccines during the peak of the outbreak.

Addressing the media at the Ministry's headquarters on 12 February 2026, Minister of Agriculture, Thabo Mofosi, revealed that 1,061 cattle have so far been infected.

He noted that veterinary officers are still verifying the full extent of the outbreak, raising concerns that the actual figure could be higher.

The disease, commonly known as lefu la makhopho, has now spread across the country, placing increasing pressure on the livestock sector.

"We appeal to all farmers who have not reported affected animals to come forward so that we can assist in controlling the spread of the disease," Mofosi urged.

However, the Minister acknowledged that the government's response was hindered by challenges in vaccine procurement. Vaccines had to be imported, and as the outbreak spread across Southern Africa, shortages emerged before Lesotho could secure preventive supplies.

"By the time we managed to source the vaccine, the preventive vaccine was no longer available. What has arrived is an antibiotic shipment used to manage infected animals," he explained.

The antibiotics arrived on 11 February 2026, and preparations are now underway for a nationwide intervention campaign.



Cattle affected by lumpy skin disease

The Ministry has deployed 27 vehicles to travel across the country, with veterinary teams set to vaccinate affected cattle directly on farms. This will mean farmers will not be required to transport livestock to central points, a measure aimed at limiting animal movement and reducing transmission risks.

"Farmers will be assisted in vaccinating their infected animals free of charge," the Minister confirmed, emphasising that restricting cattle movement remains critical, as contact between animals accelerates the spread.

While emergency measures are being implemented, the outbreak has exposed vulnerabilities in vaccine access during regional crises. The Ministry is urging farmers to maintain routine vaccination schedules and to report suspected cases immediately.

"Prevention is better than cure. As the nationwide response begins, the speed of containment efforts may determine whether further livestock losses can be avoided," Mofosi said.

Although his animals were not clinically tested, he believes the disease is already present in several communities.

"I wish other farmers would be responsible enough to report the disease to the Ministry and resist using home remedies," he added.

Following the rise of FMD cases in South Africa, the Ministry convened stakeholders to discuss a national strategy in anticipation of a possible outbreak. A task team was established as part of the government's strategic response plan; however, the Department of Livestock disclosed that the team is not yet operational, as the Ministry is still awaiting the appointment of a veterinary epidemiologist to lead it.

The department, however, emphasises that alignment with World Organisation for Animal Health measures remains a priority.

Lesotho's geographic position, entirely surrounded by South Africa, increases its vulnerability to the disease.

Earlier this month, South Africa declared its nationwide FMD outbreak a "national disaster."

According to South Africa's Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy, 24,400 FMD cases have been recorded. Across Southern Africa, the livestock sector is under mounting pressure as outbreaks disrupt livestock movement, threaten export markets and increase economic uncertainty for beef and dairy producers.

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) reports confirmed FMD cases in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, and now Lesotho, highlighting the growing transboundary nature of the crisis.

South Africa remains the epicentre of the most extensive and economically significant outbreaks, with quarantine zones and movement restrictions in multiple provinces. Industry analysts warn that repeated outbreaks are costing the beef and dairy sectors billions of rands in lost exports, reduced production, and disease control costs.

Zimbabwe has confirmed outbreaks in Matabeleland South Province near the Botswana border, raising concerns about cross-border livestock movement.

Botswana has reported infections in the north-eastern Masunga district, triggering quarantine measures and movement controls to protect its beef export markets.

Eswatini has suspended livestock sales in affected areas, warning of serious implications for rural livelihoods and national food security.

Mozambique has confirmed cases in Moamba district, Maputo Province, and has intensified surveillance amid concerns over informal livestock movement and cross-border transmission.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, the severity of FMD depends on the virus serotype, exposure dose, animal age and species, and immunity levels.

Morbidity can reach 100 per cent in susceptible populations. While mortality rates in adult animals are generally low (1–5 per cent), they can exceed 20 per cent in young calves, lambs, and piglets. The incubation period lasts from two to fourteen days.

Typical clinical signs include blisters or vesicles on the nose, tongue, lips, inside the mouth, between the toes, above the hooves, and on the teats. Ruptured blisters often result in severe lameness and a reluctance to move or eat. Other common symptoms include fever, depression, hypersalivation, loss of appetite, weight loss, and decreased milk production. Animals that are chronically affected may experience up to an 80 per cent reduction in milk yield.

Since FMD cannot be clinically distinguished from other vesicular diseases, laboratory confirmation is essential.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supports countries through a step-wise, risk-based approach tailored to their national contexts. The FAO facilitates vaccine procurement and distribution while promoting biosecurity measures and improved livestock management practices to mitigate risk.



MERAKA LIVESTOCK COVER



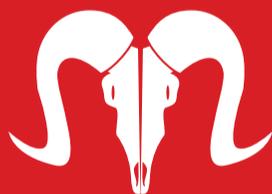
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Bosholu



Likoluo



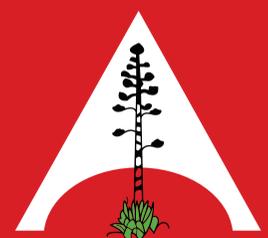
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ALLIANCE

Always there for Basotho

“I watched them die”

...Ministry's Delay Buries Farmers' Cattle Dreams ...Lumpy Skin cases increase to over 1000

By Topollo Tlali

Lesotho's farming communities are engulfed in panic and sorrow as lumpy skin disease ravages cattle herds, leading to economic ruin and emotional trauma.

Farmers across various districts report that the outbreak has revealed significant delays in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition's response, delays they believe have cost them both their livestock and their livelihoods.

In villages where cattle represent wealth, dignity and survival, kraals now stand half-empty.

What was once viewed as a seasonal livestock illness linked to climate fluctuations has escalated into a nationwide outbreak.

Early records from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security indicated 448 cattle were infected and 19 had died at the onset of the outbreak. By February, infections had surged to 1,061, with 63 confirmed deaths.

Farmers contend that these figures do not accurately reflect the situation, asserting that many animals are buried without official documentation.

The outbreak has not only weakened herds but has also shaken rural economies and heightened food insecurity in a country where cattle are vital for daily survival.

In Pitseng, Leribe, the crisis is measured in graves.

Farmer Tsepo Rantho stands beside freshly covered mounds of soil, each marking the loss of an animal that once sustained his household.

“I watched five of my cattle suffer and die helplessly in front of me while I waited for the vaccine since November 2025,” Rantho said.

“While waiting, I tried traditional herbs and medicines, but I found that such remedies do not help; instead, they worsen the situation because I watched them all die.”

Rantho noted that his village has been severely impacted. “We have lost many cattle in our village. We waited for the vaccine until our cattle died, and even those who later managed to secure vaccinations have tasted bitter disappointment as some of their vaccinated cattle have also died.”

For families who have herded cattle for generations, the outbreak feels like a betrayal by time and by the institutions meant to protect them. Animals that once ploughed fields and produced milk now deteriorate rapidly, their bodies covered in painful nodules, with fevers draining their strength.

“Herbs helped some farmers, but this virus shows no mercy. Whether you like the cow or not, it just kills.”

At Malimong in Berea, Mthobi Tho faces an unnerving silence where livestock once thrived.

“My last two cows became affected and died,” Tho said, his voice heavy with sorrow.

He explained, “Lumps swelled everywhere, and fever took them down quickly. I had nothing left, and they were my last hope for survival, as I used them to plough my fields and provide food. They also gave me money during the ploughing season as I offered the same services to others. Now I am left with nothing.”

Without oxen, the ploughing season becomes uncertain. Without cattle to sell, funds for school fees, medical bills and seeds vanish. Tho indicated that his loss is not just livestock but represents food security, income and independence.



lumpy skin disease on Basotho cattle



victim of lumpy skin disease

Across rural Lesotho, similar stories resonate: cattle too weak to stand, dwindling milk supplies and fields left unploughed.

With no immediate vaccination campaign on the horizon, farmers turned to tradition, household chemicals and anything that might save their animals.

Refiloe Selateli of Ha Makoaela, Pitsaneng in Leribe, said he relied on ancestral remedies.

“I used traditional medicines to heal my four cows. I pounded moringa bark with goat fat and smeared it thickly on the nodules; I brewed aloe steam for fever.”

His two cows responded positively and began grazing after three days. By the end of the week, their sores had scabbed over.

“The other two worsened and died quickly from lumps,

their legs buckling,” he noted.

Elsewhere, some farmers resorted to potassium permanganate or disinfectants like Dettol in a desperate attempt to clean wounds. The results were mixed because some animals survived, while others suffered.

Bokang Tsimatsi initially used potassium permanganate and other remedies.

“I used potassium permanganate and other remedies first, and all my cows survived,” he shared, but strongly insists that relying on improvisation is not a solution.

“Just because my cows survived should not prevent me from needing proper treatment from the Ministry of Agriculture. I am still waiting because these cows are my main food source.”

Farmers argue that official figures understate the severity

of the outbreak.

Some livestock deaths go unreported due to a lack of information or fear of stigma, suggesting that infections may exceed the recorded 1,061 cases. This was confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Thabo Mofosi, who acknowledged that the government's response was delayed by procurement challenges.

The minister revealed that the required vaccines needed to be imported. During the ordering process, the outbreak spread across Southern Africa, leading to shortages before Lesotho could secure preventive doses.

“By the time we managed to source the vaccine, the preventive vaccine was no longer available,” Mofosi said, noting that what arrived were antibiotics used to manage infected animals.”

The antibiotics arrived in the country on 11 February 2026, and the Ministry has since begun preparing a national rollout campaign.

“27 vehicles have been deployed to travel across the country to vaccinate affected cattle, and veterinary teams will visit farms directly to reduce animal movement and prevent further transmission. Farmers will be assisted in vaccinating their infected animals free of charge,” the Minister confirmed.

He emphasised that limiting cattle movement is essential to controlling the disease and urged farmers to maintain routine vaccinations.

“Prevention is better than cure. We urge farmers to continue vaccinating their cattle regularly to protect their livestock,” Mofosi said.

The Ministry has also reiterated that early detection, reporting of suspected cases and cooperation with veterinary officers are critical to containing the outbreak.

In Lesotho, cows are more than just animals; they are economic pillars and cultural anchors.

With over 500,000 head nationwide, according to the Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU), cattle contribute an estimated 20 per cent of rural GDP. Each animal can fetch between M5,000 and M10,000, often covering a school term's fees. Oxen plough nearly 80 per cent of smallholder fields, while milk nourishes approximately 70 per cent of rural children under five. Meat sustains ceremonies and trade.

Cattle are sold to pay medical bills, buy seeds during droughts, finance funerals and fulfil lobola obligations. They symbolise pride, continuity and resilience.

Now, kraals are shrinking.

For many farmers, recovery will take years; for some, it may never come.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, effective management of lumpy skin disease requires a comprehensive approach that includes vaccination, strict biosecurity measures, quarantine protocols and rapid reporting of suspected cases. Early intervention is essential to limit the spread and reduce mortality.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has similarly emphasised the importance of coordinated prevention strategies and preparedness planning to safeguard livestock-dependent economies from transboundary animal diseases.

New Laws to Combat Agricultural Smuggling

By Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Thabo Mofosi, the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition, has introduced stringent new regulations aimed at combating agricultural smuggling. These regulations are designed to enhance controls, strengthen enforcement, and impose harsher penalties on offenders.

The Agricultural Marketing (Products Control and Subsidies Input Protection) Regulations 2026 were presented to Parliament this week and will take effect on the date of publication in the Gazette.

Established under Section 4 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1967, these new regulations aim to create a regulated environment that enhances productivity and the welfare of farmers.

Key provisions of the regulations include:

- Prohibiting individuals from transporting, trading, or exporting agricultural products without a valid permit issued by the Ministry. Smuggled products will be confiscated and for-



Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Thabo Mofosi

feited to the State.

- Implementing a centralised permit system for the movement and marketing of agricultural products.

- Banning the purchase of agricultural products with the intention of reselling them at market price.

Violating these regulations is a punishable offence. Offenders found guilty in a court of

law face a fine of M10,000 or imprisonment for up to six months.

For more severe violations, penalties increase to a fine of M20,000 or imprisonment for up to twelve months.

In line with efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector, the Comprehensive National Agriculture Policy (CNAP) for Lesotho 2022-2026 emphasises the importance of robust reg-

ulations.

The policy seeks to improve agricultural productivity and ensure that all agricultural activities occur within a regulated environment. This includes a focus on developing infrastructure and providing support for farmers, thereby reducing reliance on illicit activities. The policy's commitment to integrating smallholder farmers into the value chain underscores the need for proper certification and compliance to curb smuggling.

The law empowers agricultural imports and border control offices to inspect, seize, and report any violations. The Ministry will collaborate with law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with these regulations.

The government supports farmers through subsidised agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and other essential supplies, all offered at reduced prices to make farming more affordable.

A permit issued by the Ministry will specify the type, quality, origin, and destination of the agricultural products.

SADP II Pushes Food Processing to Unlock Rural Incomes

By Lungile Maseela

Rows of neatly packaged jams, dried vegetables, chili sauces, and bottled juices were displayed on tables as farmers from the Ha Ntse Resource Centre in Nazareth gathered to trade and learn how to transform surplus produce into sustainable income.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, through the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) and international development partners, hosted a Preservation Campaign and Farmers' Market Day to promote food processing as a practical solution to post-harvest losses, food insecurity, and low rural incomes.

For years, smallholder farmers have watched their surplus harvests spoil due to poor storage, limited markets and a lack of processing facilities. With climate change intensifying droughts, erratic rainfall and harsh winters, food preservation is now being positioned as a frontline defence against recurring shortages.

Through drying, bottling and canning, farmers are being trained to extend shelf life, protect nutritional value and stabilise household food supplies throughout the year.

By adding value to raw produce, farmers can sell at higher prices and access new markets, reducing reliance on imported goods and strengthening national self-sufficiency.

Speaking at the event, Lechesa Nthulanyane of the SADP II stated that the campaign is designed to shift farmers from subsistence production toward market-driven agriculture.

"The importance of having locally preserved farm products is to train more farmers in preservation tech-

niques and create employment opportunities in rural areas where farming activities take place," he said.

Nthulanyane emphasised that preservation training helps farmers avoid significant losses during bumper harvests when markets are saturated.

"Preservation allows farmers to keep food throughout the year and benefit financially from their produce," he added.

Chief of Ha Ntse, Libe Thamae, described the event as evidence of growing farmer capacity, despite setbacks caused by adverse weather conditions earlier in the week.

"We intended to host a bigger event, but due to the bad weather at the beginning of the week, some traders, farmers and buyers were unable to attend. However, the event will still be successful with those present," said Thamae.

Farmers attending the market day were drawn from nutrition clubs formed under local resource centres, platforms designed to encourage collective production, knowledge sharing and marketing collaboration.

Makatiso Mothetho, a member of the Sethala Nutrition Club from Morija Thaba-Chitja, said the training has already reduced losses in her community, noting, "We no longer suffer losses as much as we did before we learned how to preserve our products. Since we started drying vegetables, we are able to sell even during the winter season."

However, she acknowledged ongoing challenges ranging from extreme weather patterns and access to reliable markets.

Despite these obstacles, the variety of processed goods displayed from packaged grains to fruit juices signalled growing innovation among smallholder farmers embracing value addition.



Minister of Agriculture Thabo Mofosi inspecting one of the block farming fields in Matlakeng during a site visit early 2025

Mofosi Remains Hopeful for Resilience Despite Budget Cut

By Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Despite a reduction in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition's budget allocation for the upcoming financial year, Minister Thabo Mofosi insists the sector can still weather the storm.

The Ministry has been allocated M1.1 billion for the 2026/2027 financial year, down from M1.3 billion in the previous financial year. The cut has raised concerns among lawmakers and stakeholders, particularly as Lesotho grapples with rising food insecurity, climate shocks and livestock disease outbreaks.

Yet Mofosi says all is not lost.

"We will make full use of the allocated budget," he said, expressing confidence that careful planning and strategic partnerships will cushion farmers from disruption.

On 18 February 2026, Minister of Finance and Development Planning Dr Retšelisitsoe Matlanyane tabled the national budget estimates for 2026/2027, confirming the M1.1 billion allocation to the agriculture ministry. In both the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years, the ministry had received M1.3 billion.

When the Ntsokoane Matekane-led administration entered office, boosting agriculture funding to over a billion maloti for the first time was widely praised. The move was framed as a turning point aimed at strengthening food security, increasing productivity and building sustainable farming systems.

Now, the reduction comes amid mounting pressure on the agricultural sector.

Dr Matlanyane outlined that the 2026/2027 expenditure will prioritise food production, irrigation development, livestock protection and strengthening key agricultural value chains.

"To improve crop production, the government will support share-cropping blocks through subsidised agricultural machinery, including equipment procured from China and the Republic of Korea, to expand cultivated land and improve efficiency," she said.

She further announced that the Maseru Storage and Logistics Facility would be fully operationalised to strengthen national grain reserves and post-harvest management.

In support of climate-resilient agriculture, the government plans to mount irrigation schemes at a minimum of eight sites to stabilise production, reduce reliance on rainfall and enable year-round farming across priority crop zones.

The optimism in the budget speech contrasts sharply with food security data.

The 2025 IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis indicates that approximately 258,000 people, about 17 per cent of Lesotho's population, are experiencing high acute food insecurity.

Projections show that between October 2025 and March 2026, the figure could rise to 334,000 people, or 22 per cent of the population.

The report attributes the trend to multiple stressors, including dry spells, high food prices, livestock disease outbreaks and soaring temperatures.

Eight of the ten districts analysed were classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), while Mafeteng, Maseru and Mole's Hoek were classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Although rainfall that began in late October to November 2024 enabled timely planting in the lowlands, subsequent dry spells and extreme heat during the critical crop growth stage between December 2024 and January 2025 undermined yields.

The analysis further noted that livestock disease outbreaks and reduced agricultural opportunities due to

smaller planted areas continue to strain rural households. From November 2025 onward, poorer populations are expected to face food gaps despite food availability in markets.

Against this backdrop, Mofosi has assured farmers that they will continue to receive essential support.

One of the ministry's key strategies in the coming financial year will be to outsource the distribution of farming inputs to the private sector. According to Mofosi, the ministry lacks the logistical capacity to manage distribution efficiently and in a timely manner.

Under the new arrangement, businesses already selling farming inputs will handle distribution.

"There will be no regular concerns from farmers due to delays in arrival or non-arrival of farm inputs," Mofosi said, adding that the ministry has budgeted for this model and expects farming activities to proceed without disruption.

The shift signals an attempt to address long-standing complaints about late deliveries of seeds, fertilisers and equipment, which have previously undermined planting seasons.

Beyond crop production, the budget outlines preventive nutrition programmes targeting maternal and child nutrition, school-based feeding schemes and community nutrition clubs.

If successfully implemented, these initiatives could ease the pressure of food insecurity among vulnerable households. However, critics question whether implementation will match ambition.

Opposition Member of Parliament (MP) Nkaku Kabi expressed disappointment over the reduced allocation.

"The government has disappointed the nation with the budget cut," Kabi said, arguing that heavy spending on imports continues while agricultural production declines.

He emphasised that agriculture has the potential to stabilise the country economically, calling for stronger investment to achieve self-sufficiency.

Kabi further stressed the importance of strengthening data collection to determine the nation's farming needs and assess how much arable land remains fallow.

He also called for the ministry's research department to be strengthened to drive evidence-based planning.

Professor Nqosa Mahao, also an opposition MP, highlighted that despite substantial allocations over the past two years, grain production has remained low.

He attributed this to weaknesses in the distribution plan for farming inputs.

"Although the funding allocation was high, production has decreased according to the Bureau of Statistics. I question what strategic objectives this reduction is meant to achieve," Mahao said.

Mahao also argued that most funds appear to benefit commercial farmers, while the majority of Basotho, who depend on subsistence agriculture, receive inadequate support.

He noted that Parliament had previously debated the balance between commercial and subsistence farming allocations.

During her budget presentation, Dr Matlanyane remained confident that strategic interventions would drive improvement.

"The improvement in the agricultural sector is expected to be anchored by enhanced breeding practices on livestock, coupled with anticipated favourable weather conditions on crops," she said.

She added that strategic utilisation of water resources would support transformative irrigation investments, while increased agricultural output would be processed domestically to reduce imports and diversify exports.

35 Quthing Young Farmers Receive Chickens to Boost Poultry Production

By Thoboloko Ntšonyane

Thirty-five young farmers in Quthing have received broiler chickens as part of a government-supported initiative aimed at enhancing youth participation in agriculture and addressing unemployment.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, through the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADP II), distributed 200 broiler chickens and 14 bags of feed to each beneficiary. This initiative is part of a larger national effort to stimulate food production and promote agribusiness development across all ten districts of Lesotho.

The mentorship-driven programme combines practical poultry training with input support to equip young people with the technical knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to manage viable agricultural enterprises while contributing to food security and rural employment.

During the handover ceremony, Minister of Agriculture, Thabo Mofosi, stated that the initiative is part of a strategic plan to reduce youth unemployment and establish a sustainable agricultural value chain.

"Following this distribution, the Ministry, through the marketing department, should explore ways for youth to successfully sell their products, ensuring a fruitful journey in commercial farming," Mofosi said.

He emphasised the government's desire to create a clear and functional value chain that connects producers, farmers, buyers, and consumers.

"A clear value chain is essential as it links every step of food production from seed to plate," he noted.

Mofosi further stated that Lesotho's long-term goal is to strengthen local production capacity so that Basotho can increasingly consume food produced within the country.

"You should take care of the chickens and ensure they yield profits, while also creating job opportunities for other young people in your communities," he urged.

He reminded beneficiaries that a core mandate of the ministry is to ensure good nutrition nationwide, with youth-led farming enterprises central to this mission.

Among the beneficiaries, Atang Lipholo expressed appreciation for the opportunity, describing the intervention as both recognition and responsibility.

"SADP support is not just about us as youth being recognised; it motivates us to inspire others, create jobs and promote healthy food consumption in the country," Lipholo said, however, highlighting market access as a persistent challenge.

"We produce on a small scale, and most of the time our target market consists of villagers who rely solely on credit purchases, which threatens our sustainability," he explained.

Lipholo appealed to the Ministry to assist youth farmers in securing reliable markets, especially now that production capacity is increasing.

"As we are already engaged in farming and know where we can sell, we ask the Ministry to find ways for youth to access reliable markets as we are now rearing on a larger scale than before," he added.

Upper Moyeni councillor Lehlohonolo Bohloko congratulated the young farmers and encouraged them to approach poultry farming with discipline and patience.

"I used to rear chickens back in 2015, and during winter, I even slept in the same room with them because they require full attention and care."

He stressed that agriculture offers real opportunities but demands professionalism and continuous learning, particularly as climate change reshapes traditional farming calendars.

"There is life in farming, but it requires responsibility and a willingness to learn every day," he said.

The distribution in Quthing forms part of a wider national programme where SADP II directly supports youth across all ten districts with inputs and stock capital.

The programme aligns with Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane's broader call for youth job creation and economic empowerment. By integrating mentorship, input provision, and market linkage strategies, the Ministry aims to cultivate a new generation of commercially minded farmers.



National Market Day Signals Shift Toward Stronger Market Access for Farmers

By Lungile Maseela

Arriving at Pitso Ground in Maseru on 30 January 2026, the atmosphere was lively and bustling.

Rows of colourful stalls filled the grounds with farmers proudly displaying their products, while visitors moved from stand to stand, asking questions, sampling goods and making purchases.

Participants from across the country, including farmers, institutions and agro-dealers, created a vibrant and interactive marketplace that felt both commercial and communal.

The annual National Market Day, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in partnership with the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project II (SADP II), brought together producers, service providers and buyers in one arena.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Thabo Mofosi, urged participants to approach the event with a solutions-driven mind-set for a better and improved sector.

"The news I heard from the farmers while moving from stall to stall signals hope. I heard things that need us to work together to find solutions for in order to adequately grow as an industry."

He emphasised the importance of producing high-quality goods, noting that proper training is essential for farmers to confidently present their products in the market.

"What we ask of everyone present is your support. We did not limit who we want here, but expected everyone present to actively participate in making the event a success. The expectations from buyers is one, having access to good quality produce, and that where you farmers come in, produce as per the needs of consumers," he said.

The Minister highlighted that this was the third National Market Day hosted under SADP II and that the event had grown so significantly that

by the fourth edition, Pitso Ground may no longer be able to accommodate it.

He encouraged farmers to work collaboratively, treat farming as a business, and strengthen education in agribusiness, adding that efforts to secure markets before production had already proven successful.

Across the grounds, a diverse array of products and services was on display, including canned fruit products, handmade ornaments, clothing, poultry products and farm feeds. Farmers and buyers engaged directly, moving from stall to stall, exchanging information, and conducting transactions.

SADP II remains a key partner in the National Market Day initiative, playing a critical role in expanding market access for smallholder farmers and linking them with buyers, input suppliers and agribusiness partners. The event aligns closely with SADP II's mandate to improve agricultural commercialisation, building market linkages and strengthen value chains for small farmers.

Through SADP II, farmers gain access to training in agribusiness management, climate-smart agricultural practices, group formation and marketing skills.

Its ongoing support ensures that National Market Day is not an isolated activity but part of a broader long-term commercial growth strategy, SADP II Director, 'Mabafokeng Mangoe said.

She expressed excitement at the strong turnout and growing support from Basotho for local farmers.

"I see a lot of growth among our people compared to previous years," she said, noting that each edition of the event has been more successful than the last, providing a major boost for farmers.

She added that National Market Day would be followed by similar market days in districts across Lesotho to replicate the support demonstrated in Maseru.

She indicated that the National Market Day occurs at a time when many smallholder farmers are grappling with limited market access, rising production costs and the impacts of climate variability, such as droughts and unpredictable rainfall.

"Without reliable markets, farmers find it challenging to earn sustainable incomes or reinvest in their operations, which reinforces their dependence on subsistence farming and food imports. By connecting farmers directly with consumers, buyers, agro-dealers, and service providers, National Market Day addresses these challenges by enhancing visibility, strengthening market linkages and reducing barriers to trade," she explained.

She noted that the initiative reflects a broader shift towards market-oriented and resilient farming systems that emphasise commercialisation, food security and long-term economic sustainability.

"The success of National Market Day is bolstered by key partners dedicated to uplifting Lesotho's agricultural sector, including Seahlolo Newspaper, Newsday Media, Lerotholi Polytechnic, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, the World Food Programme (WFP), and SADP II.

"Their involvement has enlarged the scale of the event and ensured that more farmers benefit from the exposure and resources available," she said.

Among the exhibitors was bee farmer from LIFT Beekeeper, Mabohlakoa Mohajane, who recognised a gap in Lesotho's honey market and established a local honey business to reduce the country's reliance on imported honey.

"We produce honey and propolis locally, lessening dependency on foreign goods while showcasing the potential of the local landscape. Market Day provided a valuable platform for the business to connect with the community and develop industry networks," she said.

Local Farmers Hail 2026 National Market Day as a Catalyst for Growth

By Ntsoaki Motaung

The 2026 National Market Day has proven to be a resounding success, with local farmers describing it as a pivotal moment for the country's agricultural sector.

What began as a platform to connect producers and consumers has evolved into a dynamic engine for commercial networking, market access and quality enhancement.

Designed to bridge the gap between farmers, service providers and buyers, the event now serves as a strategic venue where agriculture meets opportunity.

According to Lekhoee Makhate, Director of Marketing in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the growth has been unprecedented.

Just three years ago, the market attracted between 100 and 200 businesses. This year, over 300 businesses registered to showcase their goods.

However, Makhate noted that the growth is not merely numerical. "The standard of production has risen significantly, with this year's displays reflecting a marked improvement in quality compared to previous editions," Makhate said.

This sentiment was echoed by 'Maba-

fokeng Mangope, SADP II Project Coordinator, who emphasised that the platform is fulfilling its core objective of connecting farmers directly with the clients and services they need to thrive.

Despite the positive momentum, Minister of Agriculture, Thabo Mofosi cautioned that more work lies ahead.

He urged farmers to shift their mind-set from individual effort to collaboration. "Funders often provide support to groups rather than individuals so farmers must work together to truly master commercial farming and maximise their output in order to achieve and even be at an opportune space to get grants," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of market-led production, encouraging farmers to identify buyers and understand market demand before planting crops or breeding livestock.

To reinforce this approach, Mofosi announced that the Ministry is actively working to improve access to funding while addressing persistent challenges such as crop and animal diseases.

For farmers on the ground, National Market Day is more than a trading space but both a classroom and a boardroom.

One local farmer described how her participation at the event led to a significant

breakthrough securing a deal to supply Pick'nPay with butternuts.

"I would never have had this opportunity if I had not shown up today," she said.

She further encouraged fellow farmers to adopt strategic pricing models, explaining that setting lower but acceptable prices can increase turnover and generate stronger long-term profits.

Beyond sales, the event has become a hub of shared knowledge and collaboration. Farmers exchange insights on improved production methods and discuss collective supply strategies to ensure that large businesses are consistently stocked.

Producers like Ntšiuoa Makoae, a dairy farmer, say the feedback received during the event is invaluable.

After experiencing a significant sales boost, Makoae praised the visibility that Market Day provides.

"If it were up to me, we would have Market Day much more often," she said, noting that direct consumer feedback helps her refine and enhance her dairy products.

As participation continues to grow and quality steadily improves, the 2026 National Market Day is increasingly viewed not simply as an annual event, but as a catalyst shaping a more commercial, connected, and forward-looking agricultural sector.

Her Majesty Elevates Farmers and Producers at National Market Day

By Topollo Tlali

Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mothato Seiso shone a spotlight on farmers and producers at the third National Market Day, engaging directly with exhibitors and underscoring the significance of local production for the country's food security.

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition through the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP), the event took place at Pitso Ground in Maseru on January 30th, 2026, bringing together farmers, producers, buyers and key stakeholders.

Among those present were the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and various industry players from across the country.

Principal Secretary Khothatso Tsoana welcomed Her Majesty, announcing that she would tour the stalls to hear directly from producers about their experiences.

Minister of Agriculture, Thabo Mofosi, officially opened the event, outlining its growth and purpose.

"This is our third year hosting this event, bringing together farmers and producers from all districts and inviting buyers to enhance market access. At our first National Market Day, we had over one hundred attendees; in the second year, attendance exceeded two hundred, and now we expect between three hundred and four hundred exhibitors, a huge growth from when we began," he said.

The Minister noted the steady growth and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to expanding participation, emphasising that the event is not just for farmers but

for all producers.

He concluded by announcing plans to host similar market days in districts to enable more producers to showcase their products.

The Queen's arrival was met with enthusiasm and cheers as farmers proudly displayed their produce. Moving from stall to stall, she greeted vendors seated under banners and gazebos celebrating local products, engaging them in discussions about seasonal harvests, market access and production challenges.

Among the exhibitors was 'Makuena Khoeli of Riverside Fresh Produce, who shared the farm's journey since its establishment in 2014.

She explained that the farm produces eggs and pigs and supplies egg products to various chain stores. The Queen praised the farm's contributions to the community.

Khoeli highlighted the farm's commitment to food safety, noting that working with formal markets under contracts provides stability. She explained that chain stores demand well-packaged and branded eggs produced under strict health standards.

"Before we deliver food to the markets, we ensure that it does not pose any harm to people's health," she said, revealing that Riverside Fresh Produce conducts annual audits to maintain quality, sustainability, and food safety standards.

Her Majesty also visited Sister Julia Mafike of JMM Beekeeping, who welcomed the Queen and ministers with cheers and expressed pride in sharing her beekeeping journey. Mafike emphasised the impor-

ance of bees and highlighted propolis as one of their key products.

"At JMM Beekeeping, we are passionate about producing products from bees with propolis as a vital product mainly for combating viruses and bacteria."

She added that propolis aids in wound healing and protects cells from damage. JMM Beekeeping offered tastings to Her Majesty and attendees, generating interest and engagement.

Mafike concluded by stating that National Market Day brings producers closer to buyers and thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for organising events that benefit Basotho. The Queen and the Minister of Agriculture inquired about beekeeping, and her explanation of the importance of bees to human life and environmental health impressed many.

Her Majesty's presence reflected strong royal interest in national food security. Farmers noted that interacting with the Queen boosted their morale and reinforced the significance of their work on a national level.

Minister Mofosi concluded the event by reminding attendees that King Letso III is the African Union Nutrition Champion, highlighting the broader national commitment to nutrition and food production.

National Market Day continues to serve as a platform for farmers and producers to showcase their products to buyers while highlighting Lesotho's agricultural growth. The event underscored the importance of supporting local farmers, promoting sustainable practices and prioritising nutrition in national development.



(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: HORIZONTAL ALLIANCE OFFICER
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : PROJECT DIRECTOR
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

- **Component 1. Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Advisory Services.** This component aims at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to adjust and modify their production systems to minimize the potential future impacts from climate variability.
- **Component 2. Improving Agricultural Commercialization and Nutrition.** This component will build on Component 1 by addressing financial constraints in the agricultural sector so that the training and advisory services provided under Component 1 is complemented with much-needed financing to help the farming community undertake productive and profitable investments.
- **Component 3. Project Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation** It is responsible for: implementation and coordination, financial management and procurement, communication, visibility and awareness programs, environmental management and safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Component 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).** This is a zero allocation to partially cover emergency response via implementation of key activities by the appropriate agencies to respond to the emergency.

DUTIES

The Horizontal Alliances Officer shall be responsible to the Project Director of the SADP2 Project Management Unit (PMU) and shall:

- Establish contact with the key stakeholders concerned with the implementation of the programme, determine their operations and priorities, and determine how the market linkage mechanisms to be included in sub component 2.1 would help facilitate more marketing of smallholder production.
- Based on the conclusions from the above consultation, develop the appropriate market linkages (such as agricultural trade fairs and round table meetings with farmer/farmer groups and traders/processors and specify in the operational manual the detailed requirements for each (including costing), the procedures and processes to follow and the information dissemination required to implement them. In consultation with the PMU team and with the Department of Marketing (MSBD-CM), spells out in the operational manual the steps and procedures for implementing the programme activity to upgrade the public market information system by improving information quality and services, through training, sub sector/commodity studies and enhancement of IT supported data and information exchange;
- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP2 funded activities.
- Develop the approach to be used and processes involved in establishing a mentoring service that provides direct field support to producer groups and companies helping them to understand and adopt technologies in accordance with market requirements.
- Working with the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, help specify the Monitoring and Evaluation

- requirements for the sub component.
- Manage and coordinate timely reports and acquittals on field work as required by SADP2.
- Attend to any other duty delegated by project Director.
- Coordinate Gender Equality and Women Empowerment activities implemented by World Vision Lesotho under GAFSP funding.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor of Marketing, Agribusiness, Commerce and/or Economics.
- 3 to 5 years professional experience in agricultural marketing and trade.
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

SKILLS/ABILITIES

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ability to develop training programs and lessons plans
- Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and lead a team of communities.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the 9th March 2026 at 16:00 hours.

Human Resources Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION OFFICER
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : IRRIGATION SPECIALIST
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Assistant Water Resource and Irrigation Officer will be responsible for support to implementing irrigation schemes projects within SADP II. This role involves an oversight of developing and implementing irrigation water budget for irrigators. The assistant Specialist supports the design, implementation and operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

- Water Resource and Irrigation Officer are responsible to:
 - Contribute to the design, implementation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure for the proposed irrigation projects
 - Consultation and sensitization of farmers in the catchment area on irrigation scheme design options, and implications for construction and operations and maintenance of infrastructure and water management
 - Provide an oversight and supervision for irrigation construction projects and issue interim and completion certificate
 - Conduct feasibility study, topographic survey, develop contour maps and site identification and selection for proposed irrigation projects
 - Provide capacity building to Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, irrigators and water users' associations on best irrigation water management practices
 - Identify project stakeholders, develop stakeholder profile, stakeholder communication plans and develop stakeholder management plans to ensure effective communication among project stakeholders
 - Design and prepare bills of quantities, participate in the evaluation of bids and selection of contractors for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes projects

OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

- Assistant Water Resource and Irrigation Officer is expected to deliver the following reports to the Irrigation Specialist on the following:
 - Design, implementation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure
 - Consultation and sensitization of farmers in the catchment area on irrigation scheme design options, and implications for construction and operations and maintenance of infrastructure and water management
 - An oversight and supervision for irrigation construction projects and issue interim and completion certificate
 - Conduct on feasibility study, topographic survey, develop contour maps and site identification
 - Provision of capacity building to Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, irrigators and water users' associations on best irrigation water management practices
 - Identifying project stakeholders, develop stakeholder profile, stakeholder communication plans and develop stakeholder management plans to ensure effective communication among project stakeholders
 - Design and prepare bills of quantities, participate in the evaluation of bids and

- selection of contractors for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes projects
- Compile all necessary reports required by the Irrigation Specialist.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in irrigation engineering, water engineering, agricultural engineering or related field;

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in water resource management, with a focus on hydraulic infrastructure design and construction, operation and maintenance
- Demonstrated experience in construction projects management and construction contracts administration
- Experience with designing and supporting farmer-managed irrigation schemes (WUAs)

CLIENT ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

The Assistant Resource and Irrigation Officer will report to the Irrigation Specialist and produce monthly reports.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the 9th March 2026 at 16:00 hours.

Human Resources Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100



**Kingdom of Lesotho
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
 SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II**

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER LERIBE
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : PROJECT DIRECTOR
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- For Sub-Component 1.4, the PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER BEREA
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : PROJECT DIRECTOR
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- For Sub-Component 1.4, the PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
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- Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production

EXPERIENCE

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

Skills/Abilities

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ability to develop training programs and lessons plans
- Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and lead a team of communities.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III paragraph 3.14 to 3.17 of THE WORLD BANK'S Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, Sixth Edition, February 2025, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with selection of Individual Consultants Method set out in Procurement Regulations.

SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the 9th March 2026 at 16:00 hours.

Human Resources Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

Skills/Abilities

- Community leadership and mentoring skills, able to support, motivate and liaise effectively with community groups.
- Ability and experience in workshop facilitation and giving presentation in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ability to develop training programs and lessons plans
- Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and lead a team of communities.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

The short-listed candidate will be requested to participate in personal interviews and submit the names and contact details of personal referees who can attest to their abilities. A pre-employment screening and background check will be done on all short-listed candidates. The successful candidate must understand the objectives and delivery mechanisms of the project's portfolio. He/she must be willing to work in a team, be flexible to emerging or changing conditions, and undertake initiative in his/her broad field of action.

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SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Human Resources Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
 80 Constitution Road
 P.O. Box 24
 Maseru 100

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER MAFETENG
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : PROJECT DIRECTOR
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- For Sub-Component 1.4, the PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROJECT FIELD OFFICER THABA TSEKA
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: : 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: : PROJECT DIRECTOR
BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Project Field Officer will be responsible for addressing the Project's Project implementation in their assigned districts for all activities of Component 1 and 2.

DUTIES

- Participate in the preparation of annual work plans and budget for the Implementation of SADP funded activities.
- Disseminate information and organize orientation session in the district to inform Districts officials, communities and other stakeholders of the objectives, Implementation modalities, progress and impact of the different project activities.
- For Sub-component 1.1 and Sub component 1.2, the PFO will collaborate with the PMU Climate Smart Agricultural Officer to support the implementations of the Climate Smart Agriculture technologies by providing information on the Project, facilitating linkages between Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers, and undertake the demonstrations and trials and field days.
- For Sub-Component 1.3 the PFO will help the PMU Irrigation Engineer to identify, design, award contracts to the international firms and implement the irrigation schemes to be rehabilitated and modernized. This is one of the core responsibilities of the PFO.
- For Sub-Component 1.4, the PFO will support the development of real time agro weather forecasting and marketing information system and their dissemination tools to improve farmers' long-term capacity for adopting climate Smart Agriculture technologies, managing weather shocks and climate risks, and sustaining agricultural production under changing climatic conditions.
- For sub-component 2.1, the PFO will support the formation of alliances for service and marketed related activities that are new as well as to strengthen the sustainable existing alliances.
- For Sub Component 2.2, the PFO will collaborate with the Grants Officer to target support to commercial and semi commercial off-takers (micro, small and medium agro enterprises) to drive their operations towards more lucrative domestic and export markets while at the same time providing smallholder farmers opportunities for increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization.
- Present the PMU at districts meetings, as delegated by the PMU Project Manager.
- Brief district administration on Project activities on a regular basis.

QUALIFICATION

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production

- B.Sc in Agriculture, Agronomy or related discipline.

EXPERIENCE

- 3 to 5 years of professional experience in Agricultural production
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture in Lesotho.
- Sesotho and English Fluency

By Topollo Tlali

The vital ecosystem was at the centre of the 2026 Wetlands Day celebration held in Ha Tlhaku, Quthing district, on February 12, 2025.

Hosted by the Southern Mountain Association for Rural Transformation and Development (SMARTD), this year's theme was "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage."

The importance of wetlands as essential ecosystems providing clean water, flood protection, and biodiversity was emphasised.

Fako Fako, SMARTD's programme manager, outlined the objectives of the wetlands day commemoration to the community of Ha Tlhaku, highlighting the crucial role wetlands play in the environment.

"This is the sixth year we are marking Wetlands Day because of their vital role in our livelihood. Wetlands are natural sources of water, which is why it is important to raise awareness about their protection," Fako stated.

He indicated that SMARTD's mandate is to continue raising awareness about the importance of wetlands within the water ecosystem.

"Throughout history, wetlands have served as sources of water, food, and habitat for many plants and animals. This year's theme reminds us that protecting wetlands depends not only on science and technology but also on our respect for them, prohibiting the movement of animals and people onto the wetlands," Fako added.

Sempe Nkoebe, chairman of SMARTD, appreciated the community surrounding the Ha Tlhaku wetland site, which was visibly well-maintained.

"Everyone can see that this wetland area is respected, with no movement of animals or

SMARTD Celebrates World Wetlands Day



SMARTD's programme manager, Fako Fako

people impacting its health. There is abundant biodiversity, healthy grass, and birds flying overhead constantly. This is what we advocate for: healthy wetlands throughout the country," Nkoebe concluded, commending the chiefs for controlling herd boys from grazing in the wetlands.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated by different

countries in various ways, including community and volunteer events, educational programmes, citizen science initiatives, cultural activities, and media outreach. This year, SMARTD invested in educating communities about the importance of wetlands and methods for preserving their health.

Retselisitsoe Stephen, a principal lecturer at

Lesotho Agricultural College, addressed the event and highlighted four major factors affecting wetlands.

"When animals are allowed to graze on wetlands, there will be habitat loss, biodiversity loss, water quality degradation, and soil quality alteration," he noted.

While discussing the impacts of the expansion of agricultural fields into wetlands, Stephen emphasised the disruptive effects on water cycles and on the lives of animals that rely on wetlands as their habitat.

He also highlighted the issue of housing land encroaching upon wetlands and urged chiefs and councillors to take note and do their best to prevent further expansion. Fires also pose a threat to wetlands, as they can burn grass, dilute water, and disrupt soil structure.

Students from various primary schools commemorated the day by creating poems and songs about wetlands. Fako Fako, the project manager, supervised discussions with the students, rewarding those who answered questions correctly with gifts.

World Wetlands Day was officially celebrated for the first time in 1997, marking 25 years of the Ramsar Convention. Over the years, the day has gained increasing significance and is marked annually on February 2.

(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SELECTION METHOD)

LOAN NO: P164486
CREDIT NO: IDA-63580-LS
ASSIGNMENT TITLE: PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST
REFERENCE NO:
DURATION: 12 MONTHS
REPORTING TO: PROJECT DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project (SADP) 2 with financial support from the World Bank, the Government of Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project covers ten districts – Maseru, Leribe, Botha-Bothe, Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, Berea Mafeteng, Mochale'sHoek, Quthing and Qacha'sNek. SADP is coordinated by the Project Management unit (PMU) based in Maseru.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Under direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Procurement Specialist is responsible for coordinating, planning, execution and delivery of the Project procurement activities consistent with the agreed project Procurement arrangement with quality and efficiency. Function is based on World Bank's procurement regulations or Government of Lesotho's Public Procurement regulations and IFAD guidelines and procedures.

DUTIES

- In collaboration with other members of the PCU and implementing partners, prepare the rolling 18-month procurement plan for works, goods and services required by the project and submit same for approval by the PSC and World Bank along with the AWPB.
- Ensure the preparation and assembly of tender and contract documents for specific procurements according to Government and IFAD guidelines.
- Using the Bank's Standard procurement documents, prepare Bidding Documents and Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Quotations, Letters of Invitations, clarifications/amendments to procurement documentation, minutes of the Evaluation Committees and negotiation meetings, Evaluation Reports, contract award decisions, etc. These should include standardized forms to be used for International and Local Shopping methods to conform to the Bank Procurement Rules & Procedures.
- In consultation with the Project Managers, prepare and update the project's Annual Procurement Plan and Budget detailing contract packages (including estimated cost) for goods, consultancy services and non-consulting services, the procurement/selection methods and processing times until completion of each procurement activity.
- In consultation with the relevant technical staffs of the organizations, coordinate the preparation of (Terms of Reference), technical specifications using standard documentation agreed with the Bank and organizations, and participate in evaluation of bids, expressions of interest for preparation of shortlists, pre-qualification of suppliers, etc., where necessary. The Consultant shall review Terms of Reference and specifications for completeness, consistency, and fairness, and if necessary, suggest amendments.
- Prepare tender notices and advertisements in appropriate national and international papers and websites as required.
- Participate in relevant tender committee meetings at the Lead Agency and assist with the preparation of committee reports.
- Review and advise on tender evaluation reports prepared by the districts and other implementing agencies and make necessary follow-up.
- Monitor and ensure timely responses to procurement questions raised by the Bank. For services, follow-up with the short-listed consultants, to ensure their participation in the selection exercise.
- Maintain procurement files containing high quality and readily available information for review by supervision missions.
- Maintain the contract register and regularly update the same with monitoring data on progress of all contracts.
- Advise the Project on processes for disposal of un-required stores and equipment including actual disposal in line with the Laws of the Country;
 - Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of the Project and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the procurement procedures, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and support institutional strengthening.
- Prepare draft and final contracts and ensure timely distribution of all relevant procurement and contract documents to relevant stakeholders;
- Ensure timely receipt of the goods and consultant's status reports, confirming accepta-



Kingdom of Lesotho

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT II

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

bility of the goods delivered, and acceptability of consultants reports as reviewed, and recommending payments to the service providers as they become due.

- Liaise with all relevant teams within the organizations with a view to prepare monthly, semi-annual, and annual procurement reports (or other periods as may be required) as inputs into the Project stakeholder reports to be submitted to donor partners, member countries, the Bank, and other relevant stakeholders. Regular monitoring of procurement across the Project and problem-solving as needed including regular updates on problems experienced and on changing needs for specific types of advice
- Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of the Project and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the procurement procedures, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and support institutional strengthening.
- Assist in supervising contracts in accordance with the respective contract agreements including the processing of payments, physical inspection and testing, receipt, and transfer of the goods to the Client, submission of consultants' reports and closing of respective contracts.
- Draw the attention of the PD to potential or actual violation of contractual terms by contractors and service providers for appropriate sanctions.
- Participate in procurement audits and reviews of the Project.
- Undertake any other duties related to procurement management as may assigned by the PD.

QUALIFICATION

- Have a Bachelor's degree in Procurement, Law, Engineering, Commerce, Public Administration, Accounting, or any other related field. A post graduate qualification will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE

- Have a minimum of 8 years' experience dealing with procurement of civil works, goods, and services, and with the award of contracts for Government/donor funded projects.
- Have experience in preparing tender and contract documents for national and international competitive bidding.
- Have a comprehensive knowledge of Public Procurement Regulations, as well as procurement guidelines for IFAD and the World Bank.
- Be computer literate.
- Be fluent in both English and national language.
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Skills/Abilities

- Knowledge of/experience with Bank/other international development organizations' procurement procedures would be an added advantage.
- Good knowledge of the institutional, technical, and commercial aspects of procurement, worked as a procurement specialist in a donor financed project, capacity building in procurement, etc.
- Experience in delivering projects at international level.
- Demonstrated high experience in contract management at managerial level.
- Fluency in spoken English and ability to write lucid reports and documents in English is required.
- Strong organization skills and ability to work in a team-oriented, dynamic, and diverse environment.
- Proven track record in working effectively within multidisciplinary teams, recognize the value of sharing ideas, knowledge and information with others and takes personal re-

sponsibility for doing so.

- Excellent interpersonal skills, sound judgment, communication skills, training experience, ability to identify and resolve policy and operational constraints.
- Demonstrated computer skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite especially, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, set priorities, and work independently, or under minimum supervision.
- Demonstrated capacity for initiative and efficient decision making with competent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Demonstrated competence by the level of timeliness and accuracy the individual displays in carrying out his/her role, personal energy and enthusiasm and willingness to exceed expectations in his/her role.
- Ability to plan and organize effectively and build alternative actions into plans, deploying resources effectively and reviewing priorities.
- A commitment to supporting counterpart staff to achieve the outcomes and objectives of the organizations.
- Recognition and respect of peers, and a demonstrated ability to interact effectively and collegially with peers at all levels.
- Demonstrated ability to make sound judgments on capacity issues that will require management referral and guidance.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a mentoring role.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrated ability to assist and support the development of useful procurement processes and procedures effectively.
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge/ previous training or teaching experience is an advantage; and
- Demonstrated ability to adapt to challenges and changes in the workplace.

CONTRACT DURATION AND CONDITION

- Contract duration is one year, but renewable upon satisfactory performance of the incumbent and subject to business continuity and availability of funds. The assignment is planned to commence by May 2027.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The client shall render the officer with all such facilities as may be reasonably required to enable the officer to discharge his/her duties that is office space laptop/computer, landline telephone, and transport project-related duties.

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SUBMISSION

Information required from candidates.

- Signed application letters stating **explicitly relevant qualifications and experience.**
- Provide current CV's (including telephone, email and contact details).
- Certified copies of educational certificates and transcripts.
- Provide names and contact details of three (3) contactable professional referees.
- Certified copy of an Identity Document (ID).

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SUBMISSION: Interested candidates should deliver their applications to the address below not later than the **9th March 2026 at 16.00 hours.**

Human Resources Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
80 Constitution Road
P.O. Box 24
Maseru 100



METSI A HLOEKILENG A TLA MOTSENG OO U PHELANG HO OONA

Morero oa Phepelo ea Metsi Mabalane – Mothati oa Bobeli (LLWDP II) o tsebisa sechaba sa libaka tse anngoeng ke Morero hore Kh'amphani ea 4D Climate Solutions eleng Moeletsi, e ntse e potoloha le libaka tsa Morero ho fana ka thuto, ho ruta le ho hlokomelisa sechaba ka Tlhopho Bocha ea phepelo ea metsi mabalane, e reretsoeng ho kenngoa tšebetsong ke 'muso oa Lesotho.

TŠEBELETSO E NCHA EA METSI E TLISA METSI A:



A hloekile: A bolokehileng ho thibela mafu.



A nolofatsang bophelo: U bula pompo ea hau, ha u sa lokela ho tsamaea leeto le lelelele ho ea pompong ea sechaba kapa selibeng.



A tšepahalang: A fumanehang le har'a komello, le litukiso li etsahalang kapele.



A theko e bobebe: Ha u sebelisa 5000L, utla lefella 1000L e nngoe le e nngoe M6.11 feela ka khoeli. Litjeo li phahama ho latela tšebeliso ea hau ea metsi.

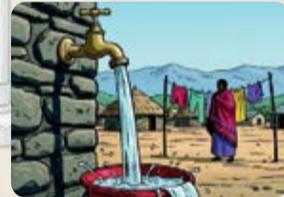
MATHATA A LITŠEBELETSO TSA KHALE TSA METSI KE A FE?

- Ha a hloekisoa, joale a ka u kulisa,
- Ha a tšepahale:
- Pompo e ka robeha 'me ea se lokisoa,
- A ka fela ka nako ea komello,
- Ha a nolofatse bophelo:
 - U lokela ho nka leeto ho a lata selibeng kapa
 - pompong ea sechaba.



BOIKARABELLO BA HAU KE BO FE?

1. Fokotsa (se ke ua sebelisa metsi a mangata ho hlatsoa)
2. Sebelisa Hape (sebelisa metsi a hlatsoitseng ho noesetsa lijalo tsa hau)
3. Lokisa moo metsi a rothang kapa ho lutla motseng oa hau
4. Lefella tšebeliso ea metsi bonyane khoeli le khoeli



SE BOLELANG HO UENA?

U ka kenya kopo ea khokelo ea metsi a fihlang ka peipi ntlong ea hau kapa, ua tsoela pele ho fumana metsi pompong ea sechaba kapa selibeng haeba li ntse li sebetsa.

HOBANENG TŠEBELETSO EA HO TLISA POMPO LEBALENG LA HAU E LOKELA HO LEFELLOA?

Metsi ke mahala, empa khokelo le bosebeletsi ba ho a tlisa nako tsohle abile a hloekile li hloka ho lefelloa hobane:



Letamo le aheloa hore metsi a fumanehe le ka linako tsa komello.



Ka nako ea tloekiso, ho sebelisoa mechini le lihlahisoa tse thusang hore metsi a bolokehe.



Ho hloka hla litjeo ho pompa metsi ka mechine le motlakase ho bopa marangrang a isang metsi malapeng.



Ho hiroa basebetsi bakeng sa ts'ebetso ea letsatsi le letsatsi le tukiso moo ho robehileng

TEFISO EA TŠEBELETSO EA METSI E TLA TSAMAEA JOANG?

- Ho hokeloa peipe e bohola ba limitara tse 150 kapa ka tlase: **M1,620.00 – M4,860.00.**
- Limitara tse fetang 150 u tla fuoa litjeo ho loatela bohole ba sebaka.
- Mofani oa lits'ebetso o tla bala mithara khoeli le khoeli,
- Litefiso tsa khoeli li latela tšebeliso ea hau ea metsi mekhahlelong ena:

Band A	0 – 5 kl	M6.10 / 1,000 litara
Band B	5 – 10 kl	M10.39 / 1,000 litara
Band C	10 – 15 kl	M18.29 / 1,000 litara
Band D	>15 kl	M25.24 / 1,000 litara

Ha u sebelisa ka holimo ho 5000L ka khoeli, u patala tjena khoeli le khoeli:

Band A	0 – 5 kl	M0.00
Band B	>5 – 10 kl	M49.18
Band C	>10 – 15 kl	M49.18
Band D	>15 kl	M49.18

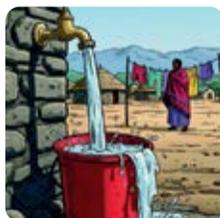
Mohlala oa litefiso tsa khoeli

160L ka letsatsi kapa linkho tsa 20L tse 8 ka letsatsi.

Tefiso ea khoeli: (Matsatsi 30 x 160L) **4800L/4,8kl x M 6.11 +**

Tefiso e tlamang + Lekhetso Kakaretso: M29.28 ka khoeli

SEO U LOKELANG HO SE E TSA TŠEBELISONG EA METSI



Seke oa siea u buletse pompo.



Se ke oa sebelisa metsi a mangata ho hlapa.



Tšella feela ka metsi a hlapileng kapa a hlatsoitseng.



Hlapa matsoho ha u tsoa ntloaneng.

BAKENG SA LITLHAKISETSO HOKAHANA LE LESOTHO LOWLANDS WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - PHASE II LINOMORONG TSE LATELANG: 266 6282 7550 (WhatsApp).



SMARTD Champions Climate-Smart Farming in Semonkong

By Refiloe Molise

Farmers gathered in Semonkong for practical lessons on climate-smart agriculture, where the Southern Mountains Association for Rural Transformation and Development (SMARTD) showcased sustainable crop production methods aimed at enhancing soil health and increasing yields.

The farming demonstration, held on February 19, 2026, attracted residents from Tl̩enekeng, Likoeneng, Ha-Tsekane, Masaleng, and Ha-Sefale.

The event focused on illustrating the effects of various farming techniques, particularly comparing manure-based methods with non-manure approaches in bean production.

Katleho Mosakeng from SMARTD's Ha-Sekake project explained that the event was designed as a hands-on learning experience to facilitate effective understanding.

"The aim of this event is for us to learn using beans, illustrating the difference between beans planted with manure and those planted without it, enabling farmers to understand which method yields better results," he said.

To facilitate this comparison, three separate plots were prepared, allowing participants to observe growth patterns side by side.

"We created three plots so that everyone can clearly see and learn from the results. This will help farmers make informed decisions in the future when choosing methods of ploughing," he added.

Malieketse Mokotjo from Masaleng School in Tl̩enekeng noted that the training has encouraged farmers to re-



Fako Fako, Program Manager at The Southern Mountains Association for Rural Transformation and Development (SMARTD)

consider their approaches to crop production. Thanks to the demonstrations, they can now compare how crops respond to different farming methods.

She observed that beans planted with manure are thriving, while those intercropped with sweet corn are also performing well. In contrast, beans planted without manure are struggling, with some suffering from worm infestations that have hindered their growth.

SMARTD Programmes Manager, Fako Fako, emphasised that manure provides long-term benefits for both crops and the environment.

"When you use organic manure, you are building healthy and fertile soil. Chemical fertilisers may make plants appear healthy, but they do not improve soil health itself," he said.

He cautioned that excessive reliance on chemical fertilisers can harm the en-

vironment and pose risks to animals.

"Some of these chemicals can damage ecosystems, and in certain cases, animals may die as a result. That is why we encourage farmers to use organic manure because it nourishes both the soil and the plants," Fako explained.

He also urged farmers to adopt seeds that are resilient to climate change and resistant to pests and diseases.

"We need to normalise the use of seeds that can withstand weather changes and fend off pests on their own because ultimately, we want strong, fast-growing seeds that can survive harsh conditions and increase yield."

Fako added that promoting the use of local and home-grown seeds can enhance nutrition, as such crops retain more natural mineral content compared to those cultivated with heavy chemical inputs.

Emphasising the importance of knowledge sharing, he stated that sustainable farming practices empower communities to become self-reliant.

"Once farmers understand these methods, they can work independently and fulfil the objective of farming: providing food for households and earning income."

Fako concluded by appealing to the Ministry of Agriculture to address farmers' needs and provide necessary support.

"We are asking the Ministry to hear our concerns and assist us with the resources we require. We want to be able to produce and preserve our own seeds and promote the use of organic manure for our soil health," he said.

Farmers, Banks, and SADP II Confront Challenges in the Matching Grants Programme

By Topollo Tlali

Farmers, bankers, and project officials convened in Mohale's Hoek for an open discussion on the implementation of the Smallholder Agricultural Development Project Phase II (SADP II) Matching Grants Programme, tackling long-standing challenges that have hindered progress and delayed benefits for beneficiaries.

The two-day meeting, organised by SADP II, aimed to identify operational bottlenecks in the matching grants system, including high bank charges, delayed disbursements, inefficiencies in manual processing, and communication breakdowns among stakeholders.

Leading the discussions, Matching Grant Specialist Relebohile Khatibe acknowledged that the programme has faced significant setbacks and emphasised that the platform was designed to encourage honest engagement and collaborative problem-solving.

"The goal is simple: we must learn from the mistakes of farmers, the procurement challenges faced by banks, beneficiary slip-ups, and even delays from SADP II, so that we can expedite implementation and enhance project success."

The SADP II Matching Grants Programme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security with support from the World Bank. It aims to assist small and medium agricultural businesses and farmers' associations in commercialising their operations by introducing innovative technologies and business models within Lesotho's agricultural sector.

The reflection session brought together beneficiaries from four categories: Round 1 farmers (including representatives from Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, and Thaba-Tseka), Round 2 and 3 farmers from all districts, and youth grant beneficiaries. Representatives from participating banks—Standard Lesotho Bank, Nedbank Lesotho, and First National Bank Lesotho—also attended.

Farmers were grouped by their funding rounds to discuss the challenges they faced in accessing and managing grants.

Titimisi Ramashamole of Shamza Agric Farm, representing Round 1 farmers using Standard Lesotho Bank, cited delays caused by manual transfers and slow feedback from both SADP II and the banks. He also expressed concerns about transaction charges of up to M300 per transfer.

"There are delays in obtaining feedback from both SADP II and the bank," he remarked, noting that additional documentation requests were often communicated late.

Makhaola Tsibonyane, representing Round 2 farmers, echoed concerns about poor communication among farmers, SADP II, and banks. He added that the delayed issuance of beneficiary contracts sometimes forced farmers to incur costs beyond their approved budgets.

In Rounds 2 and 3, farmers also reported that manual processing of transfer letters extended approval times and contributed to financial losses due to accumulated bank charges. Some beneficiaries admitted that inadequate training in account manage-

ment led to blocked accounts and compliance issues.

Youth representative Tebello Lenyepa of Lenyepa Veggies in Leribe noted that many young beneficiaries struggled to meet the first milestone contribution required under the grant structure. Others from Qacha's Nek highlighted the absence of a Nedbank branch in their district, necessitating long-distance travel to access banking services.

Bank representatives acknowledged the delays but also pointed to persistent administrative challenges.

Mathesoa Mathesoa of Standard Lesotho Bank mentioned that banks often deal with suppliers who are not properly vetted, leading to fraud risks and complicated refund procedures. He also cited issues such as incorrect account numbers, unclear documents, and inaccurate transfer letters submitted by farmers, all of which slow down processing.

"We receive a high volume of follow-up calls from farmers," he said, explaining that incomplete documentation frequently requires correction before payments can proceed.

Letsema Moeketsi of First National Bank Lesotho added that incorrectly recorded email addresses and documentation errors contributed to communication delays.

Meanwhile, Nedbank representative Chabeli Chabeli noted that dormant accounts and a lack of ownership by some beneficiaries further hindered processing. "Farmers must take full responsibility for their accounts," he said.

Despite frustrations, the meeting concluded on a constructive note. Farmers pledged to take greater

responsibility for their projects and comply strictly with grant procedures and training requirements.

Ramashamole urged banks and SADP II to include beneficiaries in email communications concerning their projects.

"We are humbly asking to be included in discussions sent through emails so that we know where our projects stand," he said.

Banks committed to clarifying requirements, reducing delays, and improving communication systems. SADP II officials acknowledged internal inefficiencies and promised to streamline processes, provide clearer guidance, and accelerate contract issuance and fund disbursement.

Malefetsane Raliengoane, Communication Specialist for SADP II, concluded the workshop by reaffirming the programme's broader vision to enhance food security and commercialise smallholder agriculture.

"The primary aim of SADP II is to improve food security and assist farmers in commercialising their businesses, enabling them to create employment opportunities," he stated, encouraging participants to share the lessons learned with fellow farmers in their communities.

All stakeholders concurred that improved coordination, transparency, and shared accountability would be essential to unlocking the full potential of the matching grants programme for Basotho farmers and the country's agricultural transformation.