

Report

DLN monitoring visit to Lesotho November 2006

By Anders Hedegaard and Karen Steffensen

Introduction:

The main purpose of this visit to Lesotho was to monitor the RSDA – DLN project, ***Building the capacity of small scale farmers through water harvesting and vegetable production*** and to explore the possibility of extending the partnership by another project. Most of our energy and time was reserved for this purpose and we had some hardworking and committed RSDA staff to help us.



Typical homestead with a tank



Tank collecting water from two roofs

The visit to Lesotho was also an opportunity to meet another NGO, LCCU in order to initiate a partnership on a small scale, and apart from that we visited friends and organisations we know, in other words we did some networking. The purpose of this document is to report to the DLN board, the DLN members and to our friends and partners in Lesotho on our findings and achievements.

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1. Summary

The findings of the monitoring visit were decided to build on visits to, and interviews of the beneficiaries of the project. We had an introducing and planning meeting with the leadership and staff at RSDA to prepare for the interviews. We interviewed 29 individual farmers and 4 farmer groups and we presented the findings at a meeting with the leadership and representatives of the board of RSDA.

The outcome of above meetings, visits and interviews has been findings leading to an assessment of the project as it stands at present as well as recommendations towards future interventions.

The most obvious outcome of the visit was that we saw the tanks. We saw 30% of the tanks built within the DLN project. We had selected 30 farmers to interview. They told us that the collection of materials has required hard work and in many cases payment for transport by the farmer. The water from the tanks is used for irrigation and household purposes and the owners felt that the tanks saved their time and made life easier. In connection with the tanks we saw gardens with plenty of vegetables for the households and for sale. Many of the farmers had not received gutters. They had been able to buy gutters or they had made some gutters themselves. An unwanted side effect of the selection method is that some farmers have collected materials, without getting cement.

The RSDA DLN capacity building project has made a change. The effect of the capacity building trainings is less visible. RSDA is working capacitated and focused, dynamically improving on interventions. The possibility of an extension of the partnership by another project is accessed as possible.

2. Vision and goals according to project plan

The overall aim of the project is to reduce poverty, increase food security and improve household nutrition through building the capacity of self-organized farmer groups and improving their access to water conservation techniques.

Specific objective of the project is:

- To build the capacity of self-organised farmer groups in the Southern Districts through training and support in group leadership, advocacy and lobbying.
- To provide training in water harvesting techniques to 158 farmers.
- To support 116 farming households to increase water availability and thus extend their production period by implementing a water harvesting management plan at household level and building roof-water harvesting tanks.

- To demonstrate drip irrigation techniques and support farmer groups in evaluation of this technique

3. Terms of reference (TOR) for the DLN monitoring visit

The DLN board including the monitoring group felt that the monitoring group would need to see several water harvesting tanks during the visit and talk to numerous farmers. RSDA provided two staff members, Me' Keneuoe Selebalo and Me' Thato Matoetoe to join the monitoring group. As the monitoring visit group had their own means of transportation, they provided the transportation.

Goals of visit to Lesotho November 2006:

1. *To access the actual standing of the DLN sponsored Water Harvesting Project*
2. *To access actual conditions of the organisation of RSDA*
3. *To access the possibility of an extension of the RSDA-DLN Partnership (by another project?)*

Activities:

- *4-5 days of fieldwork with RSDA / visits to DLN sponsored beneficiaries.*
- *3-5 days of meetings assessing possibilities*
- *Writing of minutes*
- *Structured photo monitoring*
- *Report writing*

Results of visit:

Ad. 1:

- *Summary of 24 semi-structured interviews with farmers (at 20 % of beneficiaries of the DLN sponsored Water Harvesting Project chosen randomly).*
- *Minutes of meetings with at least 2 farmer groups (10 % of beneficiaries of the Water harvesting Project)*

Ad. 2:

- *Summary of semi-structured interviews with RSDA animators (all Animators involved in the Water Harvesting Project)*
- *Minutes of meetings with the business management of RSDA and political management of RSDA*

Ad. 3:

Making a mutual RSDA-DLN agreement and action plan for the future RSDA DLN Partnership

4. Findings according to terms of reference for monitoring visit:

A: Actual standing of the project

Building the capacity of small scale farmers through water harvesting and vegetable production:

1. Current situation

- Most of the RSDA farmers do better than the average farmers within the village. They are getting this better living through hard work and use of better techniques.
- Lack of markets for surplus produce of vegetables, especially within remote villages, makes an income by sale of garden products diminutive
- Both availability of seeds and the affordability of seeds are problematic. 1 out of 4 farmers are not able to save or buy the amount of seeds they need. All farmers indicated some constrains concerning seeds.
- Collective bulk purchases and distributions of seeds among members within the individual groups are atypical, as well as seed loans among members of the groups are infrequent.



A farmer has roofed her tank with corrugated iron

2. Previous situation

- 1 out of 4 RSDA farmer households claims that their situation in the past was better than their current situation. In most cases their situation has grown worse due to loss of a breadwinner.
- 3 out of 4 farmers claim, that life was harder in the past, the reason being that they were not able to produce so much vegetables, they did not know much about agricultural techniques, they had to buy more food
- The number of orphans within the villages, were lower in the past than it is today. In some villages more than 10 % of the children are orphans.

3. Tanks and trainings

- Collection of stone and sand has been difficult and expensive where as the actual building of the tanks has been a good experience due to skilled and well behaved builders.
- Some farmers have collected stones and sand without getting a tank. This happened because of the way the households were selected. The criteria set for getting a tank was "first come, first served". Those who were able to collect materials in time were given cement and other materials. Some farmers finished collecting materials too late to be on the list of beneficiaries. This has caused frustration in the groups.
- Some groups managed to collect sand and stones collectively for the benefit of the whole group; these groups got more tanks and fewer conflicts.
- The water tanks save time and labor. The water harvested serves many purposes ranging from irrigation of vegetables all the way to straight consumption. Using the water for washing, bathing and cooking are just as common as using it for irrigation.
- The quality of the water seems not to raise any concerns as long as the water is not used for consumption.
- The achievements of being able to keep things growing throughout droughts by irrigation with water from the tanks has, due to sufficient rains ever since the tanks were built, yet to be discovered.
- Self organizing trainings such as trainings within chairing a meeting, running cash books as well as trainings within different garden techniques has been carried out.

4. Dreams and needs

- Immediate needs are focused around seeds, where as various possibilities of getting an income from sales of agricultural products rank high looking long term (market access).
- Strengthened ability of paying School fees is of great concern and considered as a realistic dream among most of the interviewed farmers (90 % of participating farmers are women)
- Almost all farmers interviewed express expectations, hopes and optimism concerning their individual future living standard.



Farmer group at Thabana Mohlomi. Sello(right)is the head of a household of children

5. Farmer group status

- It is an obstacle for some groups that some farmers within the group have not yet been assisted on building a water tank.
- The groups are getting smaller due to: Introduced annual membership fees, less subsidies from RSDA and less follow ups on trainings by RSDA animators.
- Seeds bought in bulks has been a major for some groups, where as loss of enticements (e.g. a trophy) has been discouraging for another group
- The fact that gutters have not been distributed in some groups has caused dissatisfaction. The discussion has not yet ended
- Due to self organizing trainings within leadership 1 out of 4 groups managed to collectively collect sand and stones for the benefit of all members within the group

- Most groups expect to grow and at the same time to be able to collectively raise small livestock (chicken and pigs)

B: Actual conditions of the organization of RSDA

1. Actual condition as presented at the opening staff meeting

- The RSDA profile is unmovable focused around its mission: To activate and support self-help groups towards ensuring sustainable livelihood
- The core activities within RSDA is positively focused upon food production
- The HIV/AIDS situation of Lesotho has led RSDA to initiate the implementation of projects merging food security and HIV/AIDS
- The number of aligned running projects is growing as a response to actual trends in the donor community

2. Staff capacity as experienced along the accomplishment of farmer and group interview

- Knowledge of and understanding towards the beneficiaries of the organization is remarkable
- The facilitation and analyzing skills go beyond the needs
- The flexibility and cultural sensitivity go along the needs
- The strength and solidness levels what it requires to do long hours in the field

3. State of organization as realized at presentation of findings

- Farmer representatives within the board of RSDA have a good and a sufficient knowledge of the present project.
- The RSDA staff is dedicated and energetic concerning improvements towards the present project plan
- RSDA as an organization expects them selves to be able to readjust future interventions according to the gained experience with this present project.
- The number of animators in RSDA is not enough to support the number of farmer groups.

C: Possibilities for extension of the RSDA – DLN Partnership

1. The framework from the co donors indicates that additional projects within the same partnership should be either with another target group or with another goal
2. Additional projects within the same partnership has to build on gained experience in the former projects
3. The balance between capacity building and service delivery in the present project has contained more service delivery than capacity building. A future project should be the other way around.

5. Evaluation and recommendations

The whole exercise, moving around looking at tanks, doing interviews with farmers and farmer groups as well as having partnership meetings, has been an enriching experience for the monitoring visit group.

At the same time it has revealed great challenges for the rural Basotho.

The exercise also exposed the need for adjusting the mode of selecting farmers for the project. The gained experiences should be taken into consideration before possibly launching another capacity building project.

The decreasing number of members within most of the visited farmer groups believably indicates the need for more focus on the self organizing capacity. The effect of the provided self organizing capacitating trainings can so far not be measured.

The number of tanks build (110 tanks out of planed 116 tanks) is more or less according to the project plan. And the quality of the inspected tanks seems satisfactory.



RSDA staff and board members

Appendix:

I. Day by day plan

Date	Destination	Activity	Group	Farmers name
14/11/06	Arrival			
15/11/06	RSDA office	Welcoming and briefing		
16/11/06			Mabatla	1. 'Malineo Pusholi
				2. Mats'eliso Mphaololi
				3. 'Mampoetsana Moholobela
			Thibella	1. 'Makoleile Koleile
				2. 'Mapitso mabele
				3. 'Mamolia Kotelo
			Malumeng	1. 'Maselekane Senone
				2. Lekhotla Leluma
				3. 'Manyolo Maketsi
17/11/06			Thabaneng	1. 'Maphatsoane suhlanye
				2. Phelane ranthimo
				3. Retselisitsoe Khalema
			Mathebe	1. 'Maarone Ts'oleli
				2. 'Mapakis Kholele
				3. 'Matsepisio Nonyana
			Lihlokong	1. Maseka Koloji
				2. 'Maesakiele Marake
				3. Moliehi Makae
20/11/06			Sekameng	1. Mamosala Thoahlane
				2. Ramabilikoe Nkhathi
				3. Mantsi Sebatana
			Khoro 2	1. Masenkane Masenkane
				2. Matumelo Mahomaile
				3. 'Mathabo Lebuso
			Thabana Mohlomi	1. 'Matsebo Khetsi
				2. 'Matukelo ntholeng
				3. 'Mamothuntsi Khetsi
21/11/06			Maputo	1. 'Mathabiso khiba
				2. 'Manyakallo Rammile
				3. Ramolula Masilloane

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II. Diary

Diary

Project visit 2006

Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) Lesotho Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN)

Participants: Anders Hedegaard and Karen Steffensen, boardmembers of DLN

Monday 13th Nov.

Departure from Billund, Denmark

Tuesday 14th Nov.

Arrival Maseru, Lesotho, late afternoon.

We were accommodated at Lancers Inn the first night.

Wednesday 15th Nov.

In the morning RSDA staff members came to accompany us to DED Guesthouse. After settling in at DED we went to RSDA office in Maseru, where we were welcomed by Managing Director Mampho Thulo, and we had a meeting with her and the staff. We were introduced to our co-workers Me Thato Matoetoe and Me Keneuoe Selebalo.

Me Lineo presented a power point show to introduce us to RSDA, their projects and donors.

Me Thulo told us, that RSDA is negotiating with banks on loan giving to farmer groups and farmers saving money in the banks.

She also told us about an assessment of RSDA carried out by PACT (Partner Agency Collaborations Together) and about their recommendations

The assessment report was handed out to us

RSDA is planning to engage trainees in order to reduce the workload of the two animators. One animator for 30 farmer groups in Mafeteng and one animator for 20 groups in Phamong is not enough. The workload for the two animators is too heavy.

We informed about the conditions for a possible new project within the partnership. We agreed on a schedule for our visit and in particular a schedule for the field visits taking place 16th, 17th, 20st and 21st



Cabbage ready for sale in Mathebe village

Thursday 16th Nov.

Me Keneuoe, Me Thato, Anders and Karen went to Mabatle and Malumeng. We met 9 farmers and interviewed 8 of them.

We failed to meet with Thibella group due to a misunderstanding.

The interviews were conducted according to the planned questionnaire. We worked well together as a group. Anders put the questions, Thato and Keneuoe put forward the questions in Sesotho and translated the replies from the farmers. Karen and Keneuoe took the minutes.

We went to the most remote areas of Mafeteng with very poor roads. We got the impression that RSDA farmers are not among the poorest. The size of the households differs between 5 and 10 people. The tanks look well constructed. However in some cases there are no gutters. Due to the season gardens are in an early stage. In this area the plants are young and far from covering the ground. The tanks are in some cases filled up with water from a reservoir further up the mountain and the water is used for many different purposes as irrigating, washing, cooking and livestock.

Friday 17th Nov

Fieldtrip to Mathebe and Thabaneng villages. Thanks to Me Matoetoe's and Me Keneuoe's commitment we succeeded to interview the farmers and farmer groups we had planned for. The interviewing was quite time consuming and we ended up being far behind the time schedule. Despite that the farmers waited patiently, answered our questions and served food and motoho for us. In this area the vegetables were impressive and ready to harvest. Many of the farmers are generating an income by selling vegetables.

In the evening we were invited for dinner with our former language teacher at MS, me Makokoli and her husband at their place in Lithabaneng, Maseru.

Saturday 18th Nov

It was time to relax after some long working days and do a bit of shopping. Anders went out to have lunch with Me Bertha and her family. Me Bertha was the maid for Anders' family.

In the evening we were invited for dinner at me Matoetoes place. She has built an impressive house in Khubetsoane, Maseru. Later all three of us went to Me

Thulo's sisters place to celebrate the husbands 50 years birthday. We had fun refreshing our Sesotho dancing skills.



Sunday 19th Nov

We went for a walk in Tsehlanyane Nature reserve in Butha Buthe, where we discovered that the flood had washed away the bridge crossing the river below the campsites. We also noticed that nature is taking over the campsites and at the same time new buildings are under construction. We spent some time guessing who the owners of the houses could be. At the gate they told us that some of them are built by the park, but the fancy looking ones are a private lodge. In the evening we visited Dorthe and Mogens, our Danish friends in Ladybrand.

A new lodge is build in Tsehlanyane Nature Reserve.

Monday 20th November

During the fieldtrip we saw impressive gardens. In fact all the tank owners have gardens and at Thabana Mohlomi we visited a farmer who had no garden, when we saw his place the year before. Now he has a plot with lots of vegetables. Our general impression is that the tanks have made a great difference. The owners use the water for irrigation, livestock, washing, bathing and in some cases for consumption. An old grandmother had covered her tank with corrugated iron in order to keep it clean enough for drinking, but everybody knows very well that they will have to cook the water before drinking. We came back to Maseru 7:30 pm after a long and exhausting fieldtrip, interviewing farmers and farmer groups from Sekameng, Khoro and Thabana Mohlomi.

Tuesday 21st of Nov.

Our last fieldtrip went to Maputo to interview a few farmers. The households we met in general during the four fieldtrip days are not very stable. It often happens that a household loses a breadwinner to the HIV aids pandemic and a group of children is left to survive alone or supported by a grandmother or other relatives. Many of "our" farmers are in that situation. They are taking care of orphans from the village or they are orphans them selves, and they are struggling hard to survive.

Wednesday 22nd of Nov

We worked on the report and the list of photos at the RSDA office in order to sum up the findings and be able to present the findings for RSDA the following day.



10:00 we met with Lesotho Child Counselling Unit (LCCU). Me Lydia and Me Matheboho received us in the container, which is their office. The container was a donation from Prince Harris, who visited Lesotho in 2003. They told us about the donations, they have got from different places and individuals.

Lydia Muso and Me Matheboho at LCCU

They took us around to see the place. At the moment they are housing 17 children. Most of them were not present because they were at school. The children have been abused, and they stay with LCCU for counselling until they are able to return to the community from where they came. The counselling usually also includes parents and other relatives. The activities of LCCU are divided in three areas: Treatment, Prevention and Youth Development.

LCCU is in the process of building a house on a new site not far from the airport. The place will accommodate 40 children. We went to see the site. As agreed in the DLN board we suggested Me Lydia that they should submit a proposal to DLN for an amount less than 20.000 Maluti.

In the afternoon we continued working on the report

Thursday 23rd of Nov.

10:00 am we had a meeting with RSDA staff and committee members. The purpose of the meeting was to share with them the findings of the farmer interviews and also to discuss the findings as well as the problems, which have emerged and from there to discuss the way forward and a possible new project. One of the matters arising was the complaints from several farmers, that they had not been given gutters. Mr Mathaba explained, that he had discovered that the farmers in some cases would buy gutters themselves or they would make gutters out of corrugated iron, and therefore RSDA would wait and see and cheque on the farmers later and supply those, who were not able to get gutters by themselves.

We discussed the fact, that some farmers had collected materials without getting a tank. Mr Mathaba explained in more details how the selection of farmers had worked and we suggested that this was an option for development in a future project. However a new and better concept for selection of farmers to build tanks has to be developed by the stakeholders, RSDA and the farmers. That is in case there will be build tanks in a future project.

On the topic of the missing trophy in Mathebe it was agreed that the problem could be solved by RSDA providing a new trophy.

Both parties, DLN and RSDA were interested to continue the partnership and at the end we agreed on a plan of action for a future project
After the meeting RSDA hosted a lunch where we had the pleasure of meeting Mr Motsamai, the director of LCN and Mr Mosche, the director of Pelum Lesotho. And we were taken by surprise by Me Lydia and Me Matheboho from LCCU, who arrived to hand over a proposal to us.

Frieday 24th Nov.

9:00 we had a meeting with Mr Mosche, Pelum (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) Lesotho at the new premises in Maseru. The purpose of the meeting was to become familiar with Pelum Lesotho and their activities.

Mr Mosche also needed some information on EU funding and the process forward after Hans Peter Dejgaards report. Anders promised to link him to relevant people.



Mr Mosche told us, that Pelum Lesotho is a Network. Members are sharing information through exchange visits and documentation. The regional magazine Ground Up is produced by members in different member countries. Pelum Lesotho is seeking to link members with likeminded donors and link weak members to strong members in order to train the weaker member. In such cases Pelum can pay the strong member to train the weaker member.

We had lunch with dr. Tsikoane

Mr Mosche handed out further information about the organisation.

That day we visited the DED office 3 times in order to pay for the accommodation and our use of internet connection in vain.

We had lunch with Dr Tsikoane at Mmlesi Lodge under a palm tree.

Our meeting was as usual informal and interesting and with no other purpose than networking in the broadest sense. He was much interested to hear, what we had learned through our fieldtrip and farmer interviews.

Apart from that we touched on many different subjects such as: Why do women marry? Does the soil in Lesotho get hard because of change of climate? Our conversation took us far away and how we ended up revealing that both Denmark and Lesotho are nations of horse eaters we don't know. Despite his tight time schedule, he promised to write a few words to our newsletter. We felt slightly sentimental when he drove away in his white Toyota Hilux, a former MS DW vehicle.

Saturday 25th Nov.

Our last day in Lesotho. Time for packing and last visits. Anders went to see Me Bertha and Karen went to TY to meet old friends in "The Bag", Berea Agricultural Group.

Sunday 26th Nov.

Departure. We left Lesotho early in the morning and drove to Eastgate in Joburg to do the last shopping before we could take the hired vehicle to the airport and check in our luggage.

Monday 27th Nov.

Arrival at Billund airport late afternoon.

III. RSDA presentation (PowerPoint)

Anders will mail it to Karen

IV. Farmer interviews

Farmer	I: Current situation	II: Previous situation	III: Water tank and training	IV + V: Dreams and needs	Etc.
Mabatla					
16/11 - 10.00 Malineo Pusholi (Female)	Vegetables enough for the household due to improved	Used to collect wild vegetables. Had poor	Collecting stone and sand were difficult. Made a work	Fruits are to little. Pipes for taking the water to the	Assisted by seed safe as well. The growing period

headed household of 2 adults and 5 children)	farming techniques and availability of water for irrigation	crops due to droughts. Were discouraged due to poor crops	camp (food for work). It has been raining ever since tank was build.	garden and fruit trees. Especially early varieties of peaces	is extended by 3 month.
16/11 – 11.15 Mampoetsana Moholobela (Household of 3 children and 2 adults)	Still buying vegetable (short of seed). Have fields and wish to do Machobane farming. Share vegetable with vulnerable in village.	Were buying vegetable. They used to grow vegetables in winter only.	Hired tractor for collecting sand and stones. Masons were good. Saves seed now by using trays for planting	Layers are a dream. And a pump to fill the tank from the dam. Pipes moving water to drip irrigation. The group want to rear chickens.	Were not given gutters. Can afford to buy food due to son working in the mines. 5 group-members still need tanks.
16/11 Matseliso Mphaololi	She is sick				We did not interview her. Took a photo of her and the tank only
Malumeng					
16/11 – 13.00 Mamorapeli Mphaololi (In stead of Leluma) (Household of 2 old people 1 disabled)	She is well and able to work hard. Have a nice garden and enough food. Depending on other people for plowing the fields.	Have experienced famine because of drought	Masons were good	They expect to have veg. All year round. They need garden equipment	Husband former teacher, disabled.
16/11-13.40 Maselekane Senone (Household of 8 people)	She is growing food, so that she will be able to eat together with children. Now and then they can sell surplus. She has donkeys and cattle	They used to live the traditional way. Now they use new technique	They worked as a group, helped to collect materials. Most of them females. They hired a scotch cart.	Is going to increase her production, get more cash. She needs seed and pipes and a refresher course on agricultural techniques	Her deceased husband was a mine worker. 6 out of 12 farmers got tanks She gut gutters
16/11-14.40 Manyolo Makesi (Household of 9, 6 adults and 3 children)	She eats well, she works hard with her hands. She has field crops using Machobane farming system She has a dam	She used to buy from neighbors, and collect wild vegetables	Building went well. The tank saves her time	She want to fence the garden and to extend the chicken pen	She is the tutor of the group No gutters
Thibella					
16/11-15.40 Mapitso Mabele (Household of 5, 2 adults and 3 children)	She is well because she is producing food. She has field crops, (maize) She has a dam	The production was less, she did not use fertilizer. Lack of knowledge	The collection of stones was very hard	Pipes, another tank, sprinkler. She will expand to earn more money	
16/11-16.30 Mamalia Kotelo (Household of 6, 2 adults and	She can produce food for the whole family the whole year. She buys	She had to collect water from far away	Building was difficult. She had to hire someone to collect sand	She want pigs and chickens	Her husband is working in the mines

4 children	mealie meal		and stones.		
16/11-17.15 Alina Makuleile (Household of 9)	She is happy because her husband loves her. Peace in the family, but many people die	They did not have their own house. They had to buy water from the mission	Difficult, they had to hire people to collect stones. The tank makes her work more simple	They want layer and a car and they will earn the money by selling cash crops. Need dairy cow	
Mathebe					
17/11-9.30 Matsepo Randaitsane (Household of 6, 2 adults and 4 children)	She is happy because she can eat what she want Veg. and meat. Selfsufficient in veg. Sometimes she buy maize	She used fertilizer difficult because expensive	Difficult, but she was motivated to build a tank. Uses water for irrigation, livestock, washing	The production is higher than before. She want to eat and sell to the market/village Needs pump and sprinkler	She is the tutor of the group
17/11- 10.30 Group interview					
17/11-11.30 Matseviso Nonyane	Everything is fine except for one child is sick. Due to agriculture she manage to live. . Even when she is tired, she is able to water her plots.	Difficult because she had no knowledge of planting	Difficult to collect materials for the tank. Water was far away. Brother helped her to collect stones and sand. She has gutters. She uses water for irrigating and washing	She will improve a lot in the garden. She hopes that she will have garden equipment. Rake, spade, hosepipe, fence	She has two orphans in her family
17/11- 13.00 Manthona Thupeng Household of 6, 4 adults, 2 children	She produces both field crops and vegetables. She feeds the family the whole year round. She sells vegetables.	Because of the techniques she learned she could increase her production. In the past she accepted the situation	Nice to build tank. She did not have to buy any materials or transport. She has cattle and scotch cart	She wants to feed her family and also help to feed orphans in the village. RSDA will provide her with Koekoe. Needs Koekoe, dairy cow, Seeds	Tutor of the group. None of the farmers in the group got gutters from RSDA
17/11- Momoliehi Makae (Household of 2 adults and 3 children)	It is easy for her to work because she has water and drip irrigation. She has developed her living. Will manage to have vegetables for sale at Christmas.	She never experienced agric activities before. She had some experience before building the tank	Collection of stone and sand had to be from far away. The builders accepted everything. Is irrigating with good quality water on an increased area	She dreams of an increased sale of vegetable due to increased production. She needs special seeds.	Has been able to buy 2 lishesoe dresses due to better production. Her husband works in the mines and he fixed the gutters. She collect manure at parents place
17/11 - Maaroni Tsoleli	They are doing better than before due to	They were not able to feed themselves.	They collected sand and stones with a	Want own home and own family, and be	The father is a teacher. Abuti Tsukulu want

Tsukulu (Household of 5)	they put more effort to the garden – they have food	They were not making anything out of the field	wheelbarrow. Using the water for many purposes. Thus saving time.	able to grow the food needed. To have a job. The most important right now is seeds	to stay in Mathebe
Lihlokong					
17/11 Maesakiele molieki Mosake (Household of 5)	Improve the soil to get higher production. Improve the living by hard work.	Natete wasn't there to help.	Difficult due to Ntate wasn't there to help. Water is used for Washing, bathing, chickens and irrigation is the most important.	Ever going higher production will improve the living and progress will continue. Right now seed is a need	Drip irrigation is not working due to the kids.
Thabaneng					
17/11 Me Maphatsoane Tsuhlane (household of 5)	Sells vegetable to the community. Has food for everybody due to fields and many plots. Has good help from children.	Had lower production and no cash crop as potatoes and peas. Had no water before.	Sand and stones where bought for 1800 maluti. Uses water for cattle, goats, sheep, chickens but irrigation the most important	Wants to expand to more land, more selling and better income. Right now is the real koe-koe a need.	Well of lady who has many activities even pigs.
Thabaneng					
17/11 – 16.30 Phelane Ranthimo	Well due to hard work and good food. Lives well due to strong support (trainings, seeds, waterharvesting techniques) from RSDA.	Had to work harder due to poor techniques and still lower yeilds.	Water is used for pigs, chickens, washing and the quality is OK. Opens tap after droughts to clean the tank.	They want to produce all year around and also to be able to sell. He hopes to increase sales 10 times next year. Right now is equipment for irrigation a need.	
Sekameng					
20/11 – 10.25 Mantsie Sebatane (household of two)	Mourning due to husband just past away. Have small livestock but can't grow garden this year due to mourning. Family will assist her.	Used to sell seedlings to the school. She felt things were OK.	Collection of stone and sand cost her 250 Maluti. She uses the water for everything. Even consumption. And also at the ceremony for her husband	She will be working hard after the mourning period has expired. She will be OK. But she needs fence for small livestock	She has roofed the tank with corrugated iron. She has made gutters herself
20/11-12.10 Mamosala Thoahlane Household of 9 (3 adults, 6 children)	God is good. She is able to supply the family all year round with vegetables and field crops	Drip kit and tank has made a difference. Drought use to destroy crops	Rainy season made it difficult. Children helped her. Everything is easier. Water for irrigation,	She will be better of if she can irrigate, produce and sell more. Needs koe-koe	

			livestock		
Khoro 2					
20/11 Ntate Masenkane (household of 7 – 5 children)	Even though he works hard he can not feed his family. He has two cows and a pig from money earned in the mines.	Only food available when rains are good.	He has no tank. Even though he had collected sand and stones he was not able to get a tank.	By hard work within the whole family, they will improve the living. The need right now is a water tank thus food.	He was promised a tank but were never given one.
20/11-12.10 Ramabilikoe Nkhati Household of 7- 5 children	Is making business of agriculture. Producing vegetables, grains, cooking oil.	He is collecting water from the roof in containers	He has no tank. He has collected materials for the tank. Had to hire other farmers to collect sand. He has collected stones nearby	Difficult to keep children at school. Boy at university. Believe he will help after finishing education.	Wife trying her best to earn a salary in a firm in Maseru. 2 girls are starting High School. Graduation fest ahead
20/11-14.30 Khoro Group					
20/10-15.00 Malumello Mahomaile (Household of 11 (6 adults 5 children)	She was sick, she is now better. Household members help her in the fields. She has no seeds	Everything was fine in the past. She could supply the family with vegetables 3-4 month and field crops the whole year	She has no tank She has collected stones.	If she gets a tank, she can use the water for irrigation, washing. She needs seeds	
20/11-15.15 Mathabo Lebuso Household of 4, one adult and 3 children	Supplies household with field crops and vegetables the whole year. Training and seeds helped her	Cereal crops were better, but vegetables were less	She has no tank, only a small plastic tank + a dam. She paid 450 M for collection of sand for a tank	Irrigation, more vegetables. There would be a market for selling. Needs seeds	
Thabana Mohlomi					
20/11-17.00 Sello (23 years) representing his late mother Matsebo Khetsi (Household of 3 orphans)	He is not feeling sick, he supplies the household 3 month a year. He is cooking for the household	It was nice when he still had his family	Collecting materials for the tank was difficult for him. Cooked for the masons. Water used for washing, bathing and irrigating. He has gutters from RSDA	He feel he could be independent. He wish to have his own money, another tank and a car. Needs seeds and chickens	
20/11- Matokello Ntholeng (Household of 9 people)	There is no one to buy her vegetables. Her husband is late	In the past she was better of	Husband still alive. Masons ok Gutters from RSDA, yes. Uses water for	Get chickens, plant maize, sell if market could be there	18 members 12 got tanks 6 no tanks

			washing, bath, livestock, cooking.	Needs goat milk to sell	
20/11 Mamotselisi Khetsi Household of 14, (5 orphans, 1 shepard, 4 children, 1 grandmother, 2 parents)	She produces for the whole year, can't sell cause lack of market	It was better in the past. The orphans make a difference, but ok untill now	She is happy to have a tank Would like one more tank, needs a lot of water For Washing, Irrigation, bathing. She got gutters	Household size. 6. She wants to see the children to grow up. Sheep and broilers, piggery Get money by selling piglets, Hosepipe	
Maputo					
21/11 Mathabiso Khiba Household 5, 1 adult and 4 children	She is left with the children cannot meet all the needs of them alone. In the past they had to collect water from far away.	Things were better in the past, when her husband was alive. He contributed to the household and she could sell to the village	She had to hire a truck to collect 3 loads of sand (350 M) For stones she got help. Masons ok Water used for Irrigation, washing, bath, livestock, saves her time. Has bought gutters herself	Hopes to produce more if she gets a hosepipe. She also has a dam. Would like to have drip kit. To produce fruit. She has been trained on selforganizing skills. Need seed potatoes, beans,	Leader of the group 22 farmers in the group. Used to be 17. 7 members have tanks. The group is working well according to the rules they have agreed on. Buy seeds in bulk. They propagate Lesotho seeds, but they need potato seeds and beans. They could inspire the rest of the village. Orphans are more than 20 in the village
21/11- 11:25 Selloane Ramolula Household of 8 (oldest child 30 years)	Well due to god. Works hard. Husband late. Student at high School. A daughter is working in Maseru Vegetables all year	Was difficult in the past. She does not know how she survived	Sand and stones were nearby. She did not have to buy anything. Water used for bathing and irrigating. She gut gutters herself	She expect to sow and harvest and buy the local seeds and she believe her daughter will be able to help. Needs seeds. Sponsorship for her 2 children in High School	She feels she was empowered since she became a member of RSDA. She got support from the rest of the group
21/11-13:15 Manyokallo Rammile Represented by Thabiso Rammile Household of 4	Her mother has passed away. Everything is hard. She had to leave school caused by depth	It was nice in the past	Stones were no problem. She had to hire someone for sand 125 M/load Masons ok.	She want to go to school so that she will be able to take care of the small ones and grandmother	

1 grandmother 3 young	They have field crops and vegetables		Water used for bath, washing, irrigation. She sifted the sand		

V. Farmer group interviews

<p>Mathebe Group 15 members 13 tanks 4 gutters</p> <p>Former they were more than 20 members</p>	<p>Good, but they still need to improve. If all had gutters that would improve the situation.</p> <p>The group is engaged in reclaiming a donga. They have planted trees, but heard boys are grazing animals and pulling up trees. They want to fence part of the donga in order to protect it. The rest of the community is not involved. Members are not dieing at a high rate, because they eat well</p>	<p>They used to compete for the trophy. The trophy was lost somehow. They think the trophy is lost by RSDA. The trophy was encouraging. They think that the interest in the group is declining. They want the trophy back. That will reestablish the interest. Mathebe had won the trophy, but it disappeared before they received it.</p>		<p>They need agricultural equipment</p> <p>Gutters Pumps for pumping water, Small dams Fence</p>	<p>Because each household has enough, they will be able to contribute to the group. The group was supposed to generate 4000 M for piggery. They succeeded to collect 1000 M. The contributions from the members are not enough</p> <p>They feel that our visit has helped them to reflect</p>
<p>Thabaneng Group</p> <p>18 members 11 are active 10 tanks</p>	<p>The group is well due to support from different places. They introduced a membership fee of 20 M. Members left the village to seek job. Some members left when subsidies decreased. The few members make it easy to make decisions</p>		<p>No gutters were supplied to the group from RSDA. Some members have made temporary gutters, some members have bought gutters. Water is used for Washing clothes feeding animals, irrigation. In old tanks birds will leave their droppings?</p>	<p>In 5 years this group will be able to feed themselves.</p> <p>To increase the production they need a piggery and chickens for eggs. They are planning to have their own hatchery. They have started investing for the pig-production Needs: Gutters, hatchery koekoe chickens</p>	
<p>Sekameng Group</p> <p>22 members 14 tanks</p>	<p>They stay in a very dry area therefore the tanks are very important. They plough and after that they sell to</p>	<p>They were more farmers in the group in the past. Some farmers complained about the hard work and also</p>	<p>They collected materials together, helped each other. Got training on leadership, that is why</p>	<p>They will be much stronger than they are now, by producing eggs and meat. They already have</p>	<p>They have collected materials for more tanks. They are requesting tanks for schools, 4</p>

	their neighbors. They buy seeds as a group	the money, they had to contribute	they helped each other	chickens now. They will ask for more land. They need more tanks	primary, 1 High school
Khoro II Group 54 members 10 tanks The number of members is decreasing	They work together as a group without conflicts, helping each other when need be. They have sheep, pigs and chicken. They have a communal garden	They use to buy seeds in bulk and share them. RSDA provided seeds this year.	All of them had to make their own gutters They have had training on leadership and self organizing	They expect to grow more vegetables in the future and have more tanks. They will have to collect money together. They need a generator and a pump to move water from a dam and to the plots	More members want tanks. 20 members have collected materials. It is not good for the group that some have a tank and others have not

VI. Action plan DLN – RSDA Partnership

Preparation for the proposal writing of the second phase for DLN and RSDA 2006-2007

ACTIVITY	TIMING	RESPON-SIBILITY	FOLLOW-UP	TIMING
Preparation for the proposal writing	3rd week Jan	Thulo	DLN	1st day of 4th week Jan
Proposal -LFA	4th week Jan	RSDA	DLN	1st day of February
Submission of draft proposal	4th week Jan	Thulo	DLN	1st day of February
Seek clarification of emergency issue	2nd February	DLN	RSDA	1st day of 3rd week of February
Clarity from RSDA	3rd week Jan	RSDA	DLN	1st day of the 4th week February
Arrange for a meeting with advisers	4th week February	DLN	RSDA	March
Refreshing refocusing of the content of the	March	RSDA& DLN	DLN &RSDA	March

proposal				
Prepare for a meeting with advisers	4th week Jan	DLN	RSDA	1st week February
Conduct next M&E visit	July	DLN	RSDA	
Final submission	April	DLN	RSDA	April