Support provided to Smallholder Farmers, the need for tracking and Accountability and the role of data collection to enable evidence-based decision making.

Dr Ivan Meyer

Date: 23 October 2023
The six dimensions of food security

“Food security (is) a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”
What is the commodity approach?

“An institutional arrangement that draws in multiple spheres of Government and the Private Sector, each understanding their Unique Roles, working from the Same Plan, towards achieving the Same Outcomes”
...and through commodities smallholder farmers benefit

- Expert commodity advice from their commercial counterpart,
- Mentorship support to new farmers,
- Access to markets, made possible through existing commodity network,
- Creating HOPE, building a successful land reform in the Western Cape, evidence of success confirmed by external evaluations.
- Food and nutrition security. Agency.
- Increased employment in rural communities.
- Commodities invests over $53,397/per annum in the form of assets.
...example of the commercialisation in the deciduous fruit sector

- Project valued at $6 million (Government, Industry and Jobs Fund)
- Targeted 20 smallholder farmers in the Western Cape
- Over 310 hectares of fruit trees were planted
- Increased exports, 55% of South Africa agricultural exports originate from the Western Cape
- Additional jobs were created, approximately 3.5 jobs per ha – at the primary production level
- Contribution of the Agriculture into the Province’s GDP – increased through expansion.
- Agriculture and agri processing sectors contributes 17% Province’s workforce.
What were the lessons learnt?

- Strategic partnerships and collaboration – key for smallholder development and therefore sustainable food systems,
- Blended financing is key for agricultural development,
- Market access, training and exposure to international standards, create success in agriculture,
- Constant re-evaluations of the assumptions made during planning,
- Farmer to farmer extension approach was deepened, i.e. farmers learn more from other farmers
- Accept the reality that first generation farmers will make mistakes and as long as they learn in the process
- Land reform success of 72% is due to the strategic partnerships and collaboration.
Thank you