



ESWATINI SMALL SCALE FARMERS MONITORING AGRICULTURE FUNDS THROUGH PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TRACKING SURVEYS.



ESAFF Eswatini in collaboration with ESAFF regional office is implementing a project aimed at enhancing small scale farmers' capacity to influence and monitor the realization of the Malabo Declaration Goals in Eswatini. The project started in 2017 –2018 is funded by Germany organization called Bread for the World. The project is also implemented in South Africa and Lesotho. It aims to enhance organizational capacity of farmer organizations in these countries and enable farmers influence implementation of the national agriculture investments plans in line with the Malabo Declaration on agriculture.

ESAFF Eswatini PETS committees was engaged in 4 regions which are Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselwen,

In **Hhohho** – PETS committee identified lack of extension officer due to damaged house by storm in 1986 which accommodated extension officer in the region. The Ministry of Agriculture informed the committee that did not have funds to fix the house and further it cannot afford hiring enough extension officers to meet the needs of the farmers. Following PETS intervention, local farmers resolved to approach the National Maize Corporation that agreed to rehabilitate the house and place a new officer to service the local farmers.



In the same area of Hhohho, PETS Committee tracked a tractor project that was given by the Government to help farmers. Due to weak management and lack of maintenance of the committee which was appointed by the local chief, the tractor was grounded. The PETS committee intervened and brought the matter to the government that promised to fix the tractor and handed to the rightful people committee in North Hhohho.

In **SIPHOFANENI** (Hlutse) the community wanted potable water and approached Rural Water Department, a government agency that provides rural communities with potable clean water. Rural Water was funded by the government of Netherlands and the United Nations Development Programme to implement the water scheme. The project which cost several millions of Emalangenani was a success. The water was supplied to about 300 homesteads. It was not established as to when the water scheme came into being.

Rural Water then took the pump for repairs and it was never returned. World Vision bought the community another pump but it was discovered that the electricity was still an issue as some refused to pay for electricity to power the water pump, the piping system was also severely compromised due to rust, damaged by road constructions and cultivation. Since the pipes were metal they had a limited lifespan because Hlutse water is salty.



After some years, the scheme collapsed due to several factors, including the fact that due to lack of funds to pay for the electricity and to service the water pump, the piping system was metal and could not withstand the salty water it was to carry and eventually developed rust and started leaking. Some were damaged by tractor ploughs others by road construction. The water pump was then taken by Rural Water Department for fixing. It could not be established as to what really happened to it. Rural Water Department said the scheme

was perhaps implemented long before regulations for such projects were put in place.

They said government had developed regulations that require communities to own water schemes and collectively save money for electricity, repairs, replacement and servicing, which they say the Hlutse scheme did not have. **Rural Water Department** said the new regulations required affected communities to have a constitution clearly defining the role of members in keeping the scheme running without government intervention once it was signed off. For this to happen, constitutions must create a rehabilitation fund and pay for the electricity to power the pump.



They said the regulations empower them not to approved any scheme, whether government or donor-funded, to go through if some of the regulations have not been followed. Subsequent to PETS engagement, they promised to follow the matter and check the whereabouts of the pump, but mentioned that it could have been extensively damaged and scrapped. They also advised the Hlutse community to apply for a new scheme seeing that the old one could not be rehabilitated from what was gathered on the ground

MTSAMBAMA (Shiselweni): The Committee tracked farm inputs subsidies in which it discovered that the Ministry of Agriculture farm inputs programme was always delayed and often damaged by the time farmers receive them after good rains had passed. The committee noted that some inputs, particularly fertilizers and lime were often damaged and unusable, The PETS committee followed with the



Ministry of Agriculture which said chemicals needed to produce fertilizers were not in good supplies and scarce. That fertilizers and lime were exposed to the sea long humid conditions from India and spent a long time in the sea where are damaged. The Ministry of Agriculture agreed that there were loopholes in procurement and timing and promised to work on the challenges.