

Ikemisetseng Agricultural Cooperative



PROJECT PROFILE

Name of the CSO: Ikemisetseng Agricultural Cooperative

NPO Number/Cooperative registration number:

Established: 2007

District: Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Contact: Mammie Monakali – 078 464 7423

NDA funding: Grant funding

Grant funding: 2007

Number of jobs created: 7 (2 males, 5 women)

Population sector: Women and youth



Cooperative Infrastructure

Ikemisetseng Agricultural Cooperative (IAC) was established in 2007 in a remote village, Tweefontein, outside of Thaba Nchu in the Free State after receiving 50-hectare land from the Barolong Tribal Authority. Currently, only a hectare and a half is productive with crop production. The remaining land has been laying fallow due to limited resources.

The Department of Social Development deployed IAC to supply local Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs) in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu with vegetables. This boosted the income generation outputs of the Cooperative. However, Covid-19 had an adverse effect on supply when pandemic regulations announce the closure of CNDCs, when regulations were finally eased the contract had terminated. Further to this, recent floods have also adversely affected crop production.

The National Development Agency granted funds to the value of R71 222, 13 for repairs of the delivery vehicle and windmill pump as well as seasonal worker wages. The Department of Agriculture erected a shade net structure and irrigation system.

The Cooperative is fully equipped with adequate land, water infrastructure, solar, shade net tunnels, irrigation systems and experienced staff.

They have recently started a small piggery operation as a future plan while they recover their crop production. “We are seeking new markets to grow our income and create more jobs as there are no jobs in our village. As a Cooperative we have wealth of experience, capacity and resources to supply and deliver an assortment of fresh vegetables all year as we have tunnels also. We rely on markets from CNDCs and schools – we want to provide more businesses with our production” says Mammie Monakali, Chairperson of the Cooperative.

Ikemisetseng is situated in one of the rural and deprived areas, where there is little development to empower the youth and create jobs. With support and monitoring, the cooperative has a potential of expanding its production and securing a bigger market supply which would lead to food security and job creation in the area.

In 2011, IAC won the Best Nutritional Cooperative competition from the Department of Agriculture and Women in Water by Department of Water Affairs in 2013. The Cooperative again entered and won a competition for Best Female Farmers in 2015, they competed at District level and advanced to National Level where they won a runner up position. Winnings from these competitions put them in good stead to purchase a delivery vehicle and purchase farming equipment.



Vegetables at the Cooperative



Cooperative Infrastructure



Cooperative members



Vegetables at the Cooperative