

Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in
Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Image of researcher in action



Community engagement/ knowledge holders



Full Name: Magoro Madimetja David

Country of Research: Republic of South Africa

Research Topic: The role of indigenous weather and climate knowledge on crop production: the case of Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality in Limpopo Province

Institutional Affiliation: North West University

Research Supervisor: Professor S.A Materechera

Research Background/Summary

The research on indigenous weather and climate knowledge is very important in post-colonial era where knowledge development and economy is critical. During apartheid in South Africa, communities were marginalized in different forms e.g language, gender, race etc. This

hampered knowledge development and advancement. Since my study is focusing on the *role of indigenous weather and climate knowledge on crop production in Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality*, it is clear that the research addresses the voices of the previously marginalized. The meteorological and climatological information in the country is only disseminated from national level for use by farmers in different provinces. However, at a micro level, smallholder farmers cannot use the information because; the data is difficult for farmers to interpret, analyze, and use since is not written in local language. Farmers if not many communities in the study area have experienced and observed extreme weather and climate events in their lifetime. Therefore, the use of indigenous knowledge (IK) on weather and climate in the production of crops guided farmers in making informed decisions on what to plant, when, how and on what type of land. Moreover, the extreme temperatures and weather poses many threats to agriculture, food security and livelihoods of farmers.

Achievement:

- ✓ A paper has been presented at the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Conference at University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban. The title of the paper: *The role of indigenous weather and climate in crop production: A review*
- ✓ Produced six DVD's of six traditional councils interviewed during 2015
- ✓ A workshop was held at Lebowakgomo, Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality Hall in Limpopo Province on the 16th March 2016. The theme of the workshop was: *how can we integrate indigenous weather and climate knowledge with Western weather knowledge*. Participants (28) from six traditional councils (kgoros) attended the workshop. The workshop was also aimed at validating the information recorded in 2015 using video camera.

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