

Research Fellows and Research Projects

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

RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: FOOD SECURITY

Image of researcher in action



Full Name: Atlehang Makakole

Country of Research: South Africa

Research Topic: Assessing the food and nutrition security potential of smallholder dairy farming in Matatiele, Eastern Cape, and the evaluation of milk handling and hygiene practices.

Institutional Affiliation: University of KwaZulu Natal

Research Supervisor: Dr Siwela and Professor Kolanisi

Research Background/Summary

Milk production from smallholder farmers in rural areas has a potential to provide access to milk thus contribute towards improved household nutrition and food security. Quality of milk is however an issue due to its high susceptibility to microbial contamination. Consumption of contaminated milk presents health risks and could lead to economic loss. Smallholder famers

might not be able to actively participate in commercial dairy markets due to high requirements for quality and safety assurance demanded by such markets. Resource poor farmers are likely to rely on Indigenous Knowledge Systems for their milk handling and hygiene practices, which could hinder them from meeting the legal minimum standard of milk quality. These challenges could result in compromised practices which result in high probability of the milk being contaminated. Whilst some studies have been conducted in Sub-Saharan, it seem that there has not been a study conducted in South Africa, that looks into the IKS- based and conventional handling and hygiene practices and the quality of milk produced by smallholder farmers. The purpose of this study will be to investigate whether the milk and hygiene practices of smallholder dairy farmers in the Matatiele Local Municipality, compromises the quality and safety of locally produced milk for improved food and nutrition security and maximization of livelihood options.

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