

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

Researcher in Action



Community engagement



Full Name: Faith Kudzai Tanyanyiwa

Country of Research: South Africa

Research Topic: An assessment of entrepreneurial attributes determining the potential of smallholder dairy farmers progressing to commercial farming

Institutional Affiliation: University of KwaZulu Natal

Research Supervisor: Prof Michael Chimonyo and Prof Unathi Kolanisi

Research Background/Summary

Dairy production plays an important role in the economies of developing countries where it contributes to national gross production, provides milk for nutrition and is used for income generation. Dairy farming is critical in rural development, poverty alleviation and food and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa due to the large number of cattle owned by smallholder

rural communities. Entrepreneurial skills among communal and emerging farmers have not been widely assessed and profiled to determine their importance among smallholder farmers. Successful entrepreneurship requires the farmer to possess a vision for growth, good interpersonal skills, strong marketing strategies, sound management skills, sharp cost-benefit consciousness and exploitation of IKS opportunities. Many smallholder farmers are not able to realize meaningful economic returns from the dairy enterprise because of lack of entrepreneurial skills. The objective of the study was to determine whether emerging and communal dairy farmers have the entrepreneurial attributes required to progress to commercial dairy cattle farming and to investigate the use of IKS in cattle husbandry.

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