

FARMERS HOLD A MINI EXHIBITION OF MAIZE AND BEAN SEED UNDER THE APPSA SUBPROJECT TITLED “DRIVERS TO TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION AND PROFITABILITY-DISSEMINATION OF IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES MAIZE AND BEANS IN LESOTHO AND ANGOLA.”



Farmers under the Tale Resource Centre in Leribe District held a mini exhibition of maize (ZM521 & 523) and beans (NUA 45 and Pinto) seed varieties. These are the varieties that were planted under the APPSA Sub Project titled “*Drivers to Technology Adoption and Profitability-Dissemination of improved technologies maize and beans in Lesotho and Angola.*” The purpose of the exhibition was to show these varieties to the farmers in Tale and surrounding villages. Mrs. Konstable who took part in the demonstrations, narrated the journey that she, Tale Resource Centre Extension

Personnel and DAR Researchers took from the day she agreed to offer her field for the demonstrations and through all the ups and downs of crop development till the day she harvested 850kgs of ZM521 and 450kgs of ZM523. Unfortunately, the beans did not perform that well due to heavy rains that were experienced during the growing season.

A seed producer from the neighbouring Berea District was invited to speak at this event who also brought some of his packaged seeds for those farmers who wanted to buy. In his speech, Mr. Molefi Mokhethi mentioned the characteristics and yield potential of these varieties. NUA 45 yields between 2900-3500kg/ha in the lowlands and between 2000-2400kg/ha in the highlands. One of the most important characteristics that Mr. Mokhethi stressed about these maize varieties was that of being resilient to the calamities of climate change. The Tale Resource Centre had also invited representatives from the Lehakoe Seed Company; the only Basotho owned seed company in the country.

Mr. Poloko echoed Mr. Mokhethi sentiments by reiterating the characteristics of these maize and bean varieties and also adding that farmers need to remember that good agricultural practices are now more important than ever due to climate change where seasons have become shorter than before and incidences of hail, early frost and drought have become the order of the day.

By: Rethabile Nchee