

REPORT

**AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE &
BOTSWANA FARMING AWARDS
HELD ON THE
23RD NOVEMBER 2018
AT TLOTLO HOTEL &
CONFERENCE CENTRE**

ORGANISED BY:



AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Botswana Young Farmers Association and Farmers Guide hosted The Agribusiness Conference and Botswana Farming Awards, an initiative which is aimed at increasing participation of youth in agriculture as well as create a platform for stakeholder dialogue on the pathways to excellence in Agriculture.

We do acknowledge that the development and growth of the sector requires commitment of all the sectors of the economy; it is of this realization that we consider it important to initiate on projects that cultivate dialogue on the discourse and future of Agriculture in Botswana, which can enable the society to understand and appreciate the importance of a viable food production sector. The conference's main aim is to engage all the stakeholders in the discussion of priority issues affecting the sector. This inaugural Agribusiness Conference was held under the theme 'Attracting investment in Agriculture.'

The Agribusiness conference was held on the 23rd November 2018 at Tlotlo Hotel & Conference Centre. The conference was officiated by His Honour, Mr Slumber Tsogwane, The Vice President of the Republic of Botswana.

The Agribusiness Conference provided a platform for young farmers to engage with stakeholders and find markets for their produce. This will also provide a platform for the participants to learn on the current trends of production and the challenges met by young farmers. The public also interacted with the exhibitors to familiarise themselves with the issue at hand.

The one day conference was broken down into three sessions which featured issue specific presentations and panel discussions. The presenters shared information with the delegates in various issues of outlined below that focus developing a sustainable agriculture sector.

The presentations served as means of introducing the topics to the participants and also inducing participation in the panel discussions. Each sessions featured a presentation by invited expert in that certain area. Each panel discussion featured a; Moderator, and three panellists with various backgrounds to provide a diverse perspective on the issues.

The sessions looked at various issues which will included;

Session One:

Topic: Developing a Viable Agriculture Sector; A focus of the National agriculture Strategy

The Session assessed the National Agriculture strategy relative to the current production trends, locally and internationally. The discussion also assessed the strategy's alignment with the broader government policy focus and identify key areas for improvement and focus for Botswana. The panel discussion also identified whether the policies and strategies have allowed agriculture to be comparatively attractive for investment, that is, does the current agriculture policy framework provide a conducive environment for investors, as well financial institutions to provide meaningful investment to drive production output and economic diversification.

Session Two:

Topic: Value Chain and Smallholder Farmer Participation

The session aimed to identity key areas for the local agriculture sector to focus on as way of ensuring that the sector grows inclusive and viable for both large scale and small scale farmers. The discussion outlined on the possible policy interventions that can be put forward to ascertain that small holder farmers participate equitably at various levels of the value chain; including assessing the role of subsidies, competition and regulation, standardization and monitoring.

Session Three:

Developing a Farmer; A focus on Capacity Building

The majority of farmers in Botswana are small-scale farmers who typically need continued assistance through capacity building to commercialize agriculture. Furthermore, production land is largely in communal areas for both arable and pastoral production. The discussion outlined on initiatives that can be put forward to ensure that the land is put into production to achieve food security.

AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES:

The conference was an overall success. The discussions as well as audience participation were relevant and active in addressing the issues and questions at hand. The goal was to address the issues from the perspective of government, farmers, BUAN students and the corporate world. The hiccup we experienced was less attendance than expected. Our target was 250 people and only close to 100 people attended. We assume the poor attendance was due to work commitments, clashes with other events, finances, poor event marketing and advertising strategy.

In future, we wish to have;

- more farmers being part of the panel discussion.
- improved conference marketing strategy
- Ensure that more farmers (even those not in the city) participate or take part.
- To conduct mini workshops around the country to keep the farmers motivated and looking forward to the Agribusiness Conference
- Request for sponsorship for farmers in deep rural areas who cannot afford to attend.

AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

(See Attached)

INVITED GUESTS

His Honour The Vice President of Botswana	Mr. Slumber Tsogwane
Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry	Honourable Bogolo Kenewendo
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security	Mr. Jimmy Opelo
European Union Ambassador	
Clover Botswana Managing Director	Mr. Mike Joyner
DR. H. K. Sigwele	HRDC
Head SMME Banking, Barclays Bank	Keletso Setimela
Executive Director BIDPA	Dr Tebogo Seleka
Senior Researcher BIDPA	Dr Patrick Malope
Coordinator CBNRM MENRCT	Mr Boat Modukanele
Head of Commercial FNBB	Mr Petrus Sebina
GIZ/CCARDESA	Mr Nathaniel Mtunji
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Mrs Milly Monkhei
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Professor. C. Tsopito
Young Farmer	Theresa D. Mokoka
United Nations Development Programme	Mr Christopher Batsalelwang
Students	20 BUAN Students
MYSC Acting Policy Specialist	Mr Geoffrey Gare
Youth Officer, Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security	Mrs Mokgadi Mantswe

SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

SPONSOR	AMOUNT	USE OF FUNDS
German Cooperation	P50 000.00	PAYED FOR VENUE (TLOTLO)
Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport & Culture Development	P40 000.00	PAYED FOR VENUE(TLOTLO)
Ministry of Youth Agricultural Development & Food Security	P35 000.00	Covered costs of three artists and a disc jockey.
THE AGRI-SHOP	P20 000.00	P10 000 Sponsored Young Male & Female Farmer living with Disability categories. P10 000 covered event logistics
BARCLAYS	P20 500.00	Sponsored two categories Barclays Phenomenal Woman In Farming and Barclays Farmer of the Year
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	P20 000.00	P5 000 sponsored Beef Farmer of the Year category P15 000 covered event logistics
BOTSWANA INSURANCE COMPANY	P15 000.00	P5 000 sponsored Integrated Farmer of the Year category
BOTSWANA AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (BAMB)	P10 000.00	P5 000 sponsored Food Processor category P5 000 Covered 5 tickets
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	P10 000.00	P10 000 covered event logistics
STARKE AYRES	P10 000.00	Prize was a hamper (seeds and fertilizers) worth P10 000.
CROSSCORN	P6 000.00	P6 000 sponsored Arable farmer of the year category
AGRIFEED	P5 000.00	Prize was a hamper (dog feed and medicines) worth P5 000.00
MSD ANIMAL HEALTH	P5 000.00	P3 000 was cash prize for small stock farmer category P2 000 was a hamper (small stock medicines)
KOLOBENG SPRINGS	P2 000.00	Donated 300 bottles of water
TOTAL		

The Botswana Farming Awards Ceremony which was held on the 23rd November, aim to annually reward the extraordinary breed of farmers who have made their businesses a success through sheer determination, grit and foresight. The Botswana Farming Awards initiative began on the 3rd of May with call for entries, then followed shortlisting, the on farm judging in different districts and the winners were announced on the 23rd of November 2018 in Gaborone at Tlotlo Hotel & Conference Centre.

This year the Awards which are only open to youth aged 18-35 years were contested for across twelve (12) categories with the will to celebrate the very best of Botswana farming by recognizing and rewarding innovation, dedication, hard work and passion for agriculture. The Botswana Farming Awards are aimed at increasing participation, create a platform for networking and acknowledge excellence in Agriculture. Through these awards, it is expected that the achievements of young farmers, women and farmers with disability will be showcased so as to inspire not only farmers but the public at large to venture into farming.

Purpose/Goal

The general purpose of this event is to:

- Change the perception of agriculture among Botswana youth and encourage entrepreneurship.
- Help decrease youth unemployment by providing an enabling environment.

The main objectives of the Awards are to:

- Raise awareness and educate youth on the diverse opportunities in agribusiness and entrepreneurship.
- Expose youth to the various potential partners.
- Create an opportunity for farmers and aspiring farmers to network with potential partners.
- Encourage organisations in the agriculture sector to invest in youth in order for them to develop their skills so as to invest back into the economy.
- Provide youth, private sector and other organisations in the agriculture sector and government with an opportunity to discuss and debate on issues/challenges faced by all players in order for both sides to understand how they can work together to attract and retain youth in the agriculture sector.
- Acknowledge & highlight the achievements of farmers.
- Develop a sense of pride in being a Botswana farmer.
- Build self-confidence through rewards for excellence.
- Provide role models & mentors for our youth by highlighting their achievements and the pursuit of excellence.

Five (5) of the award winners were funded by the Youth Development Fund, (Two) 2 were funded by the poverty eradication scheme and (Three) 3 were self-funded. The dissemination of information regarding the achievements of the 2018 award winners was shared with comparable bodies and institutions as models of excellence in agriculture can be a strong inspiration and motivator for all those who are strenuously working to improve the agricultural sector.

The initiative was conceptualized to encourage and increase the participation of women, youth and people living with disabilities in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the initiative is aimed at rewarding the efforts and contribution of women, youth and people with disabilities in matters of food security, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The organizers believe that farmers should be recognized and rewarded for innovation, hard work and passion for agriculture.

The Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony began with welcome remarks by Botswana Young Farmers Association Secretary, Mr Rapula Kegopilwe who encouraged the attendants to stay positive even in difficult circumstances.

Then followed the Minister's remarks by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development Mr Jimmy Opelo who emphasized the importance of agriculture in any country's strides in fighting poverty.

The awarding of awards followed and were presented by category sponsors.

Closing remarks were done by the event coordinator from Farmers Guide, Mr Godfrey Modise

2018 Botswana Farming Awards Programme

23 November, Tlotlo Hotel & Conference Centre

Director of ceremony: Skillo Aabobe
Entertainment by Sereetsi & The Natives

TIME	SESSION	LEAD PERSON
18:20	Arrival of guests	
18:30	All guests seated	
18:30 – 18:35	National Anthem	
18:35 – 18:40	Introduction of Guests & Welcome Remarks	Botswana Young Farmers Association Vice Chairman, Dr Edwin Dikoloti
18:40 – 18:45	Entertainment - Sereetsi & The Natives	
18:45 – 18:45	Keynote Address	Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security Mr. Jimmy Opelo
18:45 – 19:10	Awards	Category Sponsors
19:10 – 19:15	Vote of Thanks	Mr Godfrey Modise, Event Coordinator
19:15 – 20:15	Dinner Entertainment - Sereetsi & The Natives	

AWARDS SESSION

CATEGORY	PRESENTER
<i>Barclays Phenomenal</i> Woman in Farming	Barclays Representative
<i>BAMB</i> Food Processor of the Year	BAMB CEO – Mr Leonard Morakaladi
<i>MSD Animal Health</i> Small Stock Farmer of the Year	Mr Seeletso Komoki
<i>Starke Ayres</i> Horticulture Farmer of the Year	Mr Sijabuliso Samupindi
<i>Crosscorn</i> Arable Farmer of the Year	Crosscorn Representative
<i>First National Bank</i> Beef farmer of the Year	FNB Representative
<i>The Agri-shop</i> Young Male Farmer Living with Disability	The Agri-shop Representative
<i>The Agri-shop</i> Young Female Farmer Living With Disability	The Agri-shop Representative
<i>Botswana Insurance Company</i> Integrated Farmer of the Year	Mrs Nokuthaba Mtunzie
<i>Agrifeed</i> Dog Breeder of the Year	Agrifeed Representative
Outstanding contribution to Botswana Agricultural Sector Mr - Vlado Rubezic	Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security Mr. Jimmy Opelo
Barclays Farmer of the Year	Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security Mr. Jimmy Opelo

Award Winners at the 2018 Botswana Farming Awards.

NAME OF BUSINESS	CATEGORY	BUSINESS PLACE
Spring Deals	CROSS-CORN - ARABLE FARMER OF THE YEAR	Mosetse
Monate wa Temo	BAMB – FOOD PROCESSOR OF THE YEAR	Molepolole
Vic Stone Investments	BIC – INTEGRATED FARMER OF THE YEAR	Palapye
Senela Farm	STARKE AYRES – HORTICULTURE FARMER OF THE YEAR	Serinane
Ontefetse Farmers	BARCLAYS BANK – PHENOMENAL WOMAN IN FARMING	Jwaneng
Dukwigoree	MSD ANIMAL HEALTH – SMALL STOCK FARMER OF THE YEAR	Dukwi
Mr. Mmoloki Medicine	FIRST NATIONAL BANK – BEEF FARMER OF THE YEAR	Tutume
Ms. Kenanao Phelefu	THE AGRI-SHOP - FEMALE FARMER LIVING WITH DISABILITY	Kweneng Settlement
Mr. Goitsemodimo Kemodisa	THE AGRI-SHOP - MALE FARMER LIVING WITH DISABILITY	Molepolole
Dignified Dog Breeding	AGRIFEED – DOG BREEDER OF THE YEAR	Tlokweng
Spring Deals	BARCLAYS BANK FARMER OF THE YEAR	Mosetse
Mr. Vlado Rubezic The Agri-shop Managing Director	OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO BOTSWANA AGRICULTURAL SECTOR	

MEDIA

The event was covered by the following media houses:

Botswana Television

Temo Thuo - Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security

Agrinews - Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security

The Voice Newspaper

Daily news

Mmegi

Farmer's Review

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!!



