

REPORT ON STUDENT INTERNSHIP 2013

Goal

The short term objective of the internship program is to give a student from a previously disadvantage background, whom has recently finished his higher certificate or comparable qualification in agricultural studies at an Agricultural college, the opportunity to gain practical experience of small grains on a commercial farm and in a research facility environment. The long term goal is to provide critical skills for a sustainable small grain/barley industry.

Introduction

The program kicked off in 2009 with the development of the curriculum based on learning opportunities identified in conjunction with the first student intern and Institute of Agricultural Training at Elsenburg. The curriculum is only a rough guide and is flexible depending on the student intern's interest and development plan. To identify and appoint a student intern for the program we work in close relationship with various Institutes of Agricultural Training. They identify a shortlist of candidates which meets the requirements. After interviewing the candidates we appointed Mr. Nduzuzo Qwabe at the start of February 2012 and Miss Nelisa Jonga at the beginning of July 2013. Miss Jessica-Ann van Rooy ended her internship at the end of June 2013.

The student interns

Ndzuzo Godfrey Qwabe



Ndzuzo matriculated in 2007 at Tolweni Secondary School in Mount Frere. He completed his Higher Certificate in Agriculture in 2011. Currently he is busy with his Diploma in Agriculture (Agronomy) which has been extended to a 2 year course, which he will complete at the end of 2013. Ndzuzo will stay on until January 2014.

Nelisa Jonga



Nelisa matriculated in 2009 at Zingisa Comprehensive High School in Mtata. She just completed her National Diploma in Agricultural Management at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University at the George Campus, Saasveld. She is currently enrolled to complete her Experiential Training: Agricultural Management, and she has been contracted by us for one year. Nelisa would like to be involve in plant production or do a B. Sc. Agric degree after she has completed her internship

Learning areas

The curriculum includes, but is not limited, to the following learning areas:

Small grain production (*D Groenewald - seasonal*)

- Production practices (no till vs. conventional)
- Rotation systems
- Soil preparation
- Soil samples and interpretation of analysis (*B Erasmus*)
- Fertilizers/organic fertilizers (*B Erasmus*)
- Seed (*N de Lange*)
- Planting process
- Planting methods
- Harvesting procedures
- Grading of grain (*SABBI; Overberg Agri*)

Grain maintenance (*D Groenewald; F Smit - seasonal*)

- Weed control
- Insect control
- Fungi control
- Top dressing
- Inspections

Plant diseases (*F Smit - seasonal*)

- Foliar diseases
- Root diseases
- Viruses

Financial planning (*T van Rensburg - June, July, Augustus*)

- Budget (November)
- Rotation systems
- Long term planning
- Input costs

Marketing (*T van Rensburg - June, July, Augustus*)

- Market instruments
- Role players

Personnel management (*F Potgieter, C Meyer - continuous*)

- Performance evaluation
- Safety

Technical (*D Groenewald, N de Lange - continuous*)

- Mechanical needs analyses
- Mechanical management
- Driver training
- Mechanical maintenance training

Implement training

Breeding program and Research (*F Potgieter, F Smit - continuous*)

Extension work (*J Kokome - September*)

Irrigation scheduling (*B Erasmus - September*)

Progress

SABBI

The students have been involved in various activities at the research facility of SABBI. They helped with the threshing of material, seed preparation for planting of the trials, cleaning of the seed, randomization and packing of seed, planting of trials and filial generations, planting in the greenhouse, binding of plants in the greenhouse and introduced to doubled haploid production in the laboratory.

They attended all the staff meetings, were given an induction into all the safety procedures on the farm, especially when chemicals are involved.

The following discussions have been held with the student:

- Background on the grain production in the Southern Cape;
- Information on the breeding program and the different activities;
- Budget and long term planning in a small grain environment;
- Rotation systems in small grain production;
- Marketing of small grains

SAB Barley Farm

The students also worked during certain critical phases on the farm of SABBF. Here they were involved in activities of soil preparation, planting, spraying of crops, pre-emergence chemical control of weed and the application of top dressing and harvesting.