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A DAY WITH VHUTHU GAVHI

Jeanne-Louise Bekker, Matsunke Malefane, Xolile Dlamini and Michèle Cloete

Vhuthu Gavhi is no stranger to the Extension Suite Online (ESO) community. After winning the ESO Top National User award for the first time in July 2012, he continued winning it for four consecutive months after that, and in the process gained a 4 Gig USB flash disk, Digital Camera, Blackberry Mobile phone and the Samsung Galaxy Tablet as prizes.

During interviews conducted with Vhuthu, he always talked with great enthusiasm about his school projects. We thought it would be a good idea to visit him and show our readers exactly what it was that made Vhuthu so successful, and so eager to serve his school communities, and farmers. During the visit he introduced us to some of his school garden projects, at the same time allowing us to watch him operate in his working environment.

During March 2013 a number of us met up with Vhuthu at his offices in Randfontein, Gauteng from where we drove to Zuurbekom Primary School in Westonaria next to Westrand Agricultural Holdings, situated in a peri urban area. The school has 677 learners and 18 teachers.

The principal is Mr Ben Vinger, a very enthusiastic official who had originally contacted Vhuthu for assistance. Vhuthu introduced a “starter pack” to the school in 2008 and after a couple of months of hard work, with Vhuthu’s guidance, the vegetable garden was flourishing under the nurturing hands of parents, teachers and children alike. Two years later, in 2011, they won the National Nestle competition for school gardens. Currently agriculture is taught as a subject at the school under the category ‘Life Skills’ and the school boasts 21 neatly maintained vegetable beds planted with Cabbage, Spinach, Tomatoes and Carrots, etc.

The second school project that we visited was Tshebedisano Primary School where Mr Philip Mokgogoa is the principal. Tshebedisano Primary School is situated in Pimville Soweto, South west of Johannesburg. Vhuthu introduced the “starter pack” to the school only recently, and the school has already won the Bontle ke Botho (BKB) and the Nestle for nutrition awards. Mr Mokgogoa speaks highly of Vhuthu adding that he is an extension officer who sustains his projects, and he applauded Vhuthu’s efforts when saying that “he is passionate about his job” They planted Chillies, Cabbage, Spinach, Sweet potatoes and eggplants and also two indigenous crops which were introduced recently – Amaranthus and Cowpeas.

Our day with Vhuthu ended with us in awe when we realised the amount of time, effort and passion extension



Principal Ben Vinger, Vhuthu Gavhi, Ms Poppie Maphaka



Vhuthu Gavhi, Principal Philip Mokgogoa

officers, such as Vhuthu Ghavhi, put into assisting their clients and nourishing their projects towards growing a better future for agriculture in South Africa.

Thank you Vhuthu for allowing us a glimpse into your projects and for sharing your passion with the ESO community.

Community Nutrition award sponsored by Nestle.



TIPS FOR EXTENSIONISTS

Matsunke Malefane and Michèle Cloete

Writing a business plan's executive summary

Most reports require a summary to entice readers to read the whole document. To achieve this, one may utilise the following tips:

- DO NOT cut-and-paste.
- Keep the summary short.
- Keep it clear, clean and to the point.
- Use graphics to highlight the message.
- Tailor the summary to the audience, include the loan amount.
- Present the need for the product.
- Show how results (profits) overshadow the initial financial inputs.
- Proof-read the summary.

Most browsers use a storage place on our computers called a cache to store copies of internet pages that we have visited. When you want to go back to a page, the browser will draw that page from the cache, rather than getting a new page from the website. The reason for this is to speed up internet browsing experience, and to prevent having to download new data from scratch.

This feature, in general, is very purposeful, but it might at times happen that the computer cache is still holding an old copy of a page, and then it becomes necessary to do a force refresh of the cache. Browsers such as Chrome and Firefox keep relatively up to date with refreshing their cache, but Internet Explorer (IE) at times needs a little help. There are two easy methods to force refresh your IE browser:



Method 1:

1. Open a blank tab in IE. (You can navigate straight to step 3 by pressing the CTRL, SHIFT and DELETE buttons on your keyboard.)
2. Select "Tools" from the menu bar.
3. Click on "Internet Options".
4. Select the "General" tab and click on "Delete".
5. Select the option "Temporary Internet Files" and click "Delete".
6. Wait until the process is completed and click "OK".

Method 2: Simply press the CTRL and F5 keys on your keyboard together. This will refresh your web page completely and download the latest information from the server.

MONTHLY NATIONAL ESO USER: APRIL 2013

ESO utilisation is determined through monitoring user utilisation in the nine provinces and by attaching values to Visits, Pages Visited and Duration of Visits; a rating is calculated to establish the National ESO USER of the Month. The monthly national ESO user will receive the following prizes: First time National ESO User 2013: **4 Gig USB memory stick**, second time National ESO User 2013: **Sony Digital Camera**, third time National ESO User 2013: **Blackberry cell phone**, National ESO User 2013: **Samsung Galaxy Tab**.

Congratulations to Mr Sindile Magoda (Eastern Cape Department Rural Development and Agrarian Reform), who is the ESO National User for April 2013.

Sindile Magoda, a BSc Agric graduate from Fort Hare and ESO Top User for April 2013, has been working at the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform since 2007. Since 2011 he has won the ESO Top User title three times, and tells us that he uses ESO at least 5 times per week and even during weekends.

Sindile provides farmers with livestock production information, through the Animal module in ESO, and more specifically the Production Information Option, he also uses the Problem Solver and Economics Sections to keep up to date with meat prices. Extension Suite Online gave him the opportunity to become more assertive in his work and to gain more confidence in the knowledge that he shares with his farmers.



Mr Magoda Sindile during a visit in Stytleville Angora Project.



Mr Magoda Sindile during tick collection at Hlumela Beef Farm in Uitenhage.

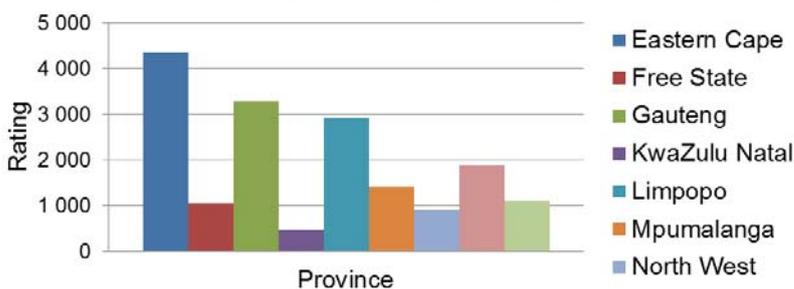
UTILISATION OVERVIEW FOR APRIL 2013

Piet van Zyl

It should be mentioned that overall utilisation of ESO in the provinces were adversely affected, as always, by the school and public holidays in April. Despite this, overall utilisation of the system is still growing as it has been doing since June 2010 and new entrants are joining the ESO user-family on a monthly basis.

At the MAIS Information Centre we are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve ESO, its maintenance regimes and the way in which we measure its utilisation. We have moved away from "unique" as a measuring tool as it only portrayed actual usage in a general way and did not take particular use into consideration. The measuring of utilisation in terms of Unique Users, Visits, Unique Pages Visited and Duration of Visits have been replaced by a more effective and accurate measurement and reporting system. This system has been under developmental and monitoring scrutiny since January 2012 and will show utilisation data on: Number of Visitors, Total Pages Visited, Total Megabyte Data Accessed, and Duration of Visits, on a twelve month comparative basis.

Provincial top user rating for April 2013



Top users in each province: April 2013

Province	Top User
Eastern Cape	Sindile Magoda
Free State	Gabaiphiwe Gorden Godfrey Kgang
Gauteng	Lesego Phakedi
KwaZulu Natal	Elphas Msimanga
Limpopo	Tebogo Thobakgale
Mpumalanga	Lucas Shabangu
North West	Sindile Ndaki
Northern Cape	George du Preez
Western Cape	Jacob Mapheto