



# CSIR

## *Poverty Alleviation Project Review*

*Albie Braun*

*CSIR, Manufacturing and Materials Technology*

*Port Elizabeth*

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# *CASHMERE IS KING*

## **What is cashmere?**

- All goats except Angora goats
- Second finest animal fibre  
(14 to 18,5 micron)
- Worlds sought after animal fibre
- Because of its superb softness and comfort
- World demand 12 000 tons
- World production 8 000 tons

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## How was the project started

- Recognising SA's rich resource of  $\pm$  5 mil. indigenous goats and possible potential to produce cashmere
- CSIR joined hands with Grootfontein Agric. Dev. Inst. in a countrywide survey
- Progress to date and outcome of survey
- Objectives
  - Aim to increase cashmere producing ability of indigenous goats
  - Purpose to establish viable enterprises (SMME's) in converting yarn into high quality cashmere products therefore improve socio economic life of the people



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## Project approach

- 3 Phases

**Farming:** Fibre production

**Processing:** Scouring, Dehairing, Carding, Roving, Yarn formation

**Manufacturing (SMME):** Knitting / Weaving

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## **Stakeholder:**

**Dept. of Science and Technology**

**Funders of the Cashmere Project**

## **Role Players:**

**Get the buy-in and determine roles of each**

- **Department of Agriculture through Animal Improvement Officers, Animal Scientists and Extension Officers of the Eastern Cape and North West provinces**
- **Members of the Local Economic Development Unit of Matatiele, Emalahleni and Lukhanji Municipalities, Ward Lukhanji Municipality Councilors, Tribal Leaders (Hlomendlini - Chief TM Magadla) and Communities of each of the areas**



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## **Location**

### **Established: 2 Farming activities and 2 SMME's**

- EC - Maluti area - Hlomendlini Junior Sec. School –  
30°S 28°E
- NW – Madikwe / Mankwe area - Klipkuil Res. Station -  
25°S 27°E

## **New**

- EC - Lady Frere area - 31°S 27°E
- EC - Whittlesea Area - 32°S 26°E

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## **Beneficiaries**

## **Communities**

1. Emerging farmers (138 EC and 10 NW)
2. Two SMME's (1EC and 1 NW with 17 participants in total)

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## *Participants*

	<b>No. of Jobs Created</b>
<b>Farming</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>SMME's</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>165</b>



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## *Investment*

<b>Duration</b>	<b>2001/2004</b>
<b>Total allocated</b>	<b>R 2.3 mil</b>
<b>Total invested</b>	<b>R1.1 mil</b>

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## Project Outcomes

### Emerging Farmers

- Three hundred combs for combing cashmere hair, constructed by CSIR, were provided to the farmers free of charge
- Farmers have earned in total  $\pm$  R11 000 income from harvesting cashmere hair for the 2002 combing season
- Farmers have received seven pure cashmere rams from project. EC farmers have also received 43 upgraded cashmere rams from Dept. of Agric. EC From the  $\pm$  1800 goats involved in the project at least 450 kids / offspring of the improved goats have been born
- At Maluti EC farmers received building plans and fencing material for the erection of handling facilities
- Animal health medicine, instrumentation and feeding licks for the dry winter months were provided continuously to the farmers in the EC
- Capacity and skills transfer

Farmers have received training in good goat farming practices, record keeping, upgrading of present animals and fibre harvesting

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## ■ Outcomes (Cont.)

### SMME's

- Screening process was followed to obtain the best 10 trainees at each area
- Secured knitting venue at each area
- Provided chairs and tables, 10 knitting and one sewing machine and 2 overlockers (industrial and domestic) at each knitting venue
- Electrified and supplied burglarproofing to knitting venue at Maluti
- Supplied acrylic yarn for training and between training session
- Capacity building and skills transfer in machine knitting



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## **Project Success**

A way to diversify existing agriculture resources

- Utilizing down fibres as an additional source of income (value addition)
- Development of technical skills of goat farmers
- Converting yarn into products to improve socio-economic life of people
- Capacity building and job opportunities

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## Lessons Learned

- Get the buy in of stakeholders
- Important to get community interested and involved
- Get community committed
- Get community eagerness to improve their skills and social well-being
- Sensitize beneficiaries of the enterprise
- To ensure that they perceive ownership as their own from beginning to end

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## WAY FORWARD

- Capitalise on foundation laid
- Give aftercare support
- Extend the project to other areas
- It needs to be expanded over a five year period