Rural Self-Help
Development Association



25
YEARS
Since 1991

EMPOWERING SMALL-HOLDER FARMERS

DENMARK
LESOTHO
NETWORK

Rural Self-Help Development Association

OUR TEAM

MANAGING DIRECTOR

'Mampho Thulo

PROJECTS & M&E MANAGER

Lineo Lekhanya

Community Animator/Farm Manager

Lieketso Ramoholi

Field Assistants/laborers

Mmemeng Ralenono

Nkoseabo Motakabone

FINANCE & ADMIN MANAGER

'Mateboho Lelimo

Book Keeper/Logistics

Ntsane Motsoale

Office assistants

'Mahopolang Piti

Lehlohonolo Makele

Admin secretary

Ntsoaki Molelekoa

Driver

Molefi Theko



From RSDA Managing Director



We at the Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) are extremely proud to be marking our 25th anniversary. Undoubtedly, this is a major milestone and we are very grateful.

To everyone involved – current and past RSDA staff, friends, farmers, young people, partners, funders and stakeholders – please accept my sincere gratitude for your ongoing passion and commitment. Without you all, RSDA simply could not have grown into the marvelous organisation that it is. Moreover, without your drive and vitality, we would not be able to inspire smallholder farmers across the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Reflecting on the long and winding (and at times difficult) journey of RSDA, I especially wish to acknowledge Mr Mathias Sommer. In his forward thinking, Mr Sommer convinced GAA that establishing a new non-governmental organisaion (NGO) would be a more meaningful exit strategy. Twenty-five years down the line and he is well and truly vindicated! RSDA is alive and kicking.

I would also like to acknowledge the Founding Board of Directors and employees, who set a wonderful tone for the organisation. They set us up for success. The first steps can be the hardest and we are forever in their debt. Subsequent Board members have also played a crucial role in keeping us moving and growing, and deserve great thanks. My current Board of Directors, with their energy and ideas and hard work, are ensuring RSDA's future is bright. I thank you all.

Most importantly, allow me to acknowledge all our funding partners. It is our funders who have not only trusted RSDA with their financial resources but have also enabled us to learn and grow. It is particularly gratifying to celebrate our 25th anniversary with our new farmers, as well as with our more established farmers – several of whom have been with RSDA since the beginning. We know that mixing the old with the new can only lead to great outcomes.

Now, while it is fun to look back, it is equally exciting to look forward. And even with current challenges – namely the impact of climate change and HIV/AIDS compounding our already fragile land resources, food insecurity and unemployment – RSDA remains forever optimistic for our Basotho Nation. We draw strength from knowing we will tackle these challenges together, arm in arm to meet any problem and overcome any obstacle. Working with farmers, agri-business, civil society, government, development partners, RSDA will continue to assist smallholder famers to deliver food security for our beautiful country. Full of hope and resolve, I share our 25th anniversary celebration with you and look forward to another fantastic 25 years.



'Mampho Thulo- RSDA Managing Director

Thank you!

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PREFACE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the successful compiling of this wonderful and informative booklet. Our history and our journey are important, and this booklet does a superb job in telling RSDA's story. Particular gratitude must go to those who told their own story for this publication. Your voices are at the heart of this project. Indeed, your voices are at the heart of RSDA.

This booklet shares RSDA's journey through the stories of those involved with the organisation. It is these individual stories that make up the collective that is RSDA. It is also these human stories that allow us to see where we've come from and where we are going. RSDA Board members and staff, past and present, will draw inspiration from the stories in this booklet. It also helps to foster a sense of identity and entrench our worth.

In these pages, we show that RSDA is always learning. We are learning not only from our own experiences but also learning from all our valued partners. Most importantly, we are learning from the smallholder farmers who are the life and soul of our organisation. Innovative and wonderful people like Ntate Moholo Machobane, who is wise beyond measure.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous financial support from Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN), who covered the costs of producing this booklet. Notwithstanding all this support, I take the responsibility for any shortcomings and misrepresentations that may still exist in this publication.



Mr Leutloileng Matsepe - RSDA Board of Directors Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

As Rural self-help Development Association (RSDA) celebrates 25 years of uninterrupted service to Basotho and the Government of Lesotho, we take this opportunity to thank all who have helped us to succeed. Throughout our journey, RSDA has been supported with financial resources and Development Workers several funding partners, without which we will not be celebrating 25 years today. We do celebrate because there is EVERY REASON TO CELEBRATE and wish to express our sincere appreciation. Without the RSDA Board of Directors (BOD)setting the strategic direction and policies shaping the operations of RSDA, we could have not come this far. The several BODs have consistently monitored RSDA's financial position, its operations and appointing auditors and ensuring that RSDA accounts are audited.

Back then in 1991, RSDA developed out of a food-for-work project which was implemented in Lesotho - Mafeteng and Leribe Districts by Welthungerhilfe also known as German Agro Action based in Born, Germany. RSDA was established as a Lesotho based NGO, when the country was in a food crisis. The reason for its establishment was to promote self -help among the same communities and graduate out of food aid by producing their own food using locally available assets –land, seeds, manure, village chickens, and livestock while also protecting their natural resources.

Since then RSDA has brought technical expertise and built social commitment with the smallholder farmers. Now believes on human rights based programming to food security as well as in being an advocate for social accountability and market oriented transformation of the smallholder agriculture.

Hence, RSDA vision being "A Lesotho where every person's right to quality and safe food is assured".

CONTINUED...

RSDA's Mission is to support smallholder farmers in Lesotho by providing advisory services for sustainable agriculture, by adding value in support of marketing of farmers' products and by capacity building and advocacy support of sustainable farmers' organisations, to ensure the right of every Basotho to quality food.

Over the past 25 years of its existence, implementing a range of agricultural projects, RSDA has built a commendable track record and experience as a provider of advisory, mentoring and support services to the smallholder farmers in Lesotho on both crops and livestock. As a national leader in technical and capacity support to small holder farmers RSDA has unique experience engaging with farmers at community level. This unique advantage has been supported by RSDA's physical presence in the field through placement of Animators. This presence has allowed RSDA to be aware of the constraints, issues and needs at farmer level.

We now understand the realities of Lesotho's Agriculture. We now know better that food production must recognise the specialised needs and capacities of the vulnerable households that are best served by homestead grown, highly nutritious vegetables supported by village poultry and linking production with Social protection strategies. There is a section of the Basotho who have off-farm income but not enough to obtain food security, and they still need to grow some food to eat. On the other hand there is a growing number of Basotho who can achieve all or some of their food needs by buying food rather than growing it. Hence a big opportunity for market oriented transformation of agriculture to cater for domestic requirements in Lesotho.

RSDA has also developed an understanding that smallholder farmers will not make it without collective action and speaking as one voice. Over time RSDA has gained experience in facilitating formation of farmers' groups, supporting and scaling up of smallholder farmers collective action and building women competence in the process. From humble beginnings, RSDA has grown to be a recognized NGO in Lesotho and Southern Africa, both within the civil society movement and as an implementing partner in some of the Lesotho government projects.

We do celebrate because there is EVERY REASON TO CELEBRATE and wish to express our sincere appreciation for helping us succeed and look forward to new opportunities.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING IS THE WAY FORWARD: 'MATEBALO HAS HER SAY



'Matebalo, 50, is married and has three daughters. She also has two grandsons and two granddaughters. Her husband, who worked in the mines, passed away in 1996. She's been farming since then. This is her story.

My name is 'Matebalo Mpeoa, and I started working with the Rural Self-Held Development Organisation in 2010. I first heard about RSDA from field workers from the Ministry of Agriculture, who held public gatherings in our community in Ribaneng, about 100km south of the capital city Maseru. RSDA has supported our community by giving us seeds, this was a great benefit. Also, our community was able to put together HIV/AIDS support groups with support from RSDA.

I have always loved farming, especially on a smaller scale. And when I joined RSDA, my horizons grew. I was introduced to new methods of farming, such as keyhole gardening, trench gardening and peace gardening. I used to plant only small areas in my garden and harvest produce for one month, but now - with these new methods - my harvests can reap produce for five month.

I farm for family consumption. And when I have a surplus, I share with my needy neighbours. In our culture, as Basotho, giving to those in need in normal.

Sustainability is also crucial, and I became sustainable when I received the seeds from RSDA. Moreover, RSDA run numerous training sessions on how to be the best farmer I can be. The trainings focused not only on farming, but also on empowering us as women to know

Sustainability is also crucial, and I became sustainable when I received the seeds from RSDA. Moreover, RSDA run numerous training sessions on how to be the best farmer I can be. The trainings focused not only on farming, but also on empowering us as women to know our rights. I didn't know about my rights before the trainings, including my right as a woman on inheritance.

Climate change is another factor that we learned more about thanks to RSDA. The effects of climate change are hitting us hard, and resulting in more hunger.

The wrong methods of farming can also cause greater hunger. However, with improved methods of farming and cultivating, we are better equipped to produce our own food.

"

I have always loved farming, especially on a smaller scale. And when I joined RSDA, my horizons grew.

MY NEIGHBOURS NOTICE MY NEW FARMING METHODS: PHELANE TALK SHOP AND PRAISES RSDA FOR SUPPORT



Phelane Ranthimo, 57, is the chair of the Thabana Tšoeu Sephula Small Farmers Association.

He used to work in the mines but was retrenched in 1991, when he started farming. He bought a water pump with his savings and hasn't looked back. Phelane is the eldest in the family and, thanks to farming, he's been able to educate four of his brothers. He's married with two boys and two girls. This is his story.

I first heard about about RSDA when they held public gatherings at our Chief's place in Thabaneng, in the district of Mafeteng, about 70km south of our capital Maseru.
It wasn't long after, in 1998, that I started working with the Rural Self-Help Development Association on improving my farming methods.

Since then, I have great support from RSDA. Whether it was practical help on setting up drip irrigation, installing a water tank, or advice on where and when to plant seeds, RSDA has been with me the whole way. They've also supplied me with fruit trees and chickens, to help me on my way to sustainability.

Above all else, though, RSDA has afforded me the opportunity to continue learning about farming and

They've also supplied me with fruit trees and chickens, to help me on my way to sustainability.

Above all else, though, RSDA has afforded me the opportunity to continue learning about farming and sustainability. Thanks to them, I have received wonderful training and I've been on study tours. This education is invaluable, and the highest of all support.

Now, for instance, when I farm I use new methods which save me a lot of money and time. What's more, the harvest is more fruitful. I should also say that I now use organic manure for my farming, and stay clear of fertilisers.

I have also learnt a great deal about climate change, and the impacts this is having on us. However, RSDA has taught me how to mitigate the effects of climate change.

If I had to say why RSDA training are so effective, it's because they are practical. We learn the theory, yes, but we put this theory into practice immediately and we learn as we go.

‘HANDOUTS ARE NOT SUSTAINABLE, LET’S PRODUCE OUR OWN FOOD’:

MOOKHO LIVES AND BREATHES THE CHANGE SHE WANTS TO SEE



Mookho Tšepiso, 36, is happiest when teaching kids. When she's not teaching, she's spends most of her time in the garden and attending to household chores.

Born in Masemousu, in Lifajaneng village, her house and family is now in Sekamaneng. The happy teacher was placed in Ribaneng, about 100km south of the capital Maseru as the local primary school needed a teacher. Mookho is married and has a one-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. This is her story.

I started working with RSDA in 2012, when they helped us to develop smaller gardens. Not knowing too much about the Rural Self-Help Association at that time, I did know they were a non-governmental organisations that supported people to become more sustainable farmers. RSDA assisted the school where I work, Pocha Primary School, in a program they ran with Action Aid.

Our school had no cement floor, so children had to spend a lot of time using cow dung to ensure that the floors weren't dusty. Before long, with help from RSDA and Action Aid, we had cement floors.

RSDA also helped the school to buy the materials we needed to build toilets for the boys and girls. In a typical display of community effort, the parents volunteered their labour in building this facility.

Not done there, RSDA supported when we gave the school a facelift, and helped us purchase garden tools - which continue to be of great help.

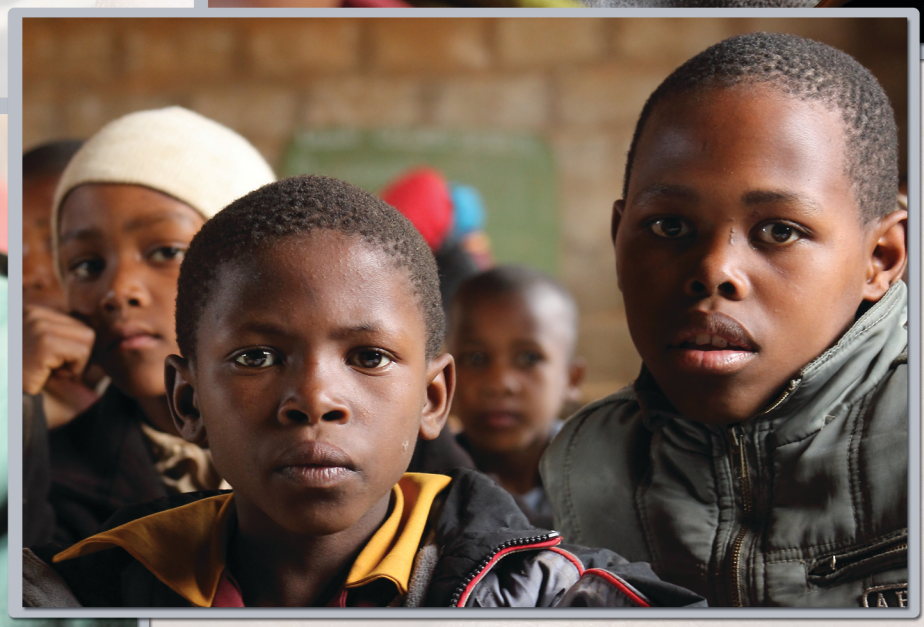
Thanks to RSDA, our school has more time to be a school: teaching kids and empowering them to take on the future. For instance, thanks to the new toilet, students now have much greater hygiene and general sanitation has improved significantly.

The provision of seeds and chickens by RSDA has helped, too, and we are now more sustainable in our farming methods. The major lesson I have learnt from RSDA is self-reliance. Community effort and community support, or course, but with self-reliance at the core. I have learnt one can harvest more if the right techniques are used.

Our school now has small gardens that supplement the students' food. There are challenges, however, as some community members steal from the school when our vegetables grow. We urgently need our gardens to be fenced properly.

Another challenge is hunger. Although at times it is difficult to see, we know it is there. We have number of vulnerable children at the school, who often battle against the odds just to get to school. We as Basotho have been introduced to handouts in a form of food packages, and, while this keeps the wolves from the door, it is not sustainable. We have land; good land. And if we plan carefully and farm smartly, we can produce enough food to reduce hunger and boost our stockpiles.







WHETHER IT'S SOCCER OR FARMING, MAKHABANE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IS KICKING GOALS



Rural Self-Help Development Association

The Makhabane Roman Catholic Primary School, in Ha Makhabane, Phamong, Mohale's Hoek, has just won their local soccer tournament. And it's not just soccer that they excel at. Thanks to RSDA, they are now taking their farming to new heights. This is their story.

The Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) came to our school, in the south of Lesotho, in 1997 to tell us about their innovative program. It left a good impression on us! Since then, RSDA has supported us to develop new methods of farming, such as keyhole gardening. Thanks to their support, we are now able to harvest water through the stone-tanks they built for us. It was a true team effort. We collected the stones and their muscle and know-how put the tanks together.

If you walk around our school you will find plenty of shade to take shelter from the sun. We have RSDA to thanks for this shade, for with their support we were able to plant the shade-giving fruit trees.

Always keeping an eye on healthy eating, too, RSDA provided us with seeds to grow vegetables. We're now able to harvest vegetables ... that go into our students' bellies via a tasty and healthy lunch!

Our trees are multiplying and we've been able to sell wood to the community while we plant more. The trees also protect our yards from strong winds.

RSDA has taught us better farming methods, and we now use natural methods to manage our soil. Our skills have increased, as has our knowledge of soil erosion. We are now much better equipped to put in place prevention techniques.

As you know, Lesotho has been hit by a stubborn drought – and this has affected our farming. With humility and respect, we would like to see RSDA extend their support to us again to fight the hunger that has hit our country. We have projects like a piggery that helps to sustain us, but we are always keen to form deeper partnerships with our proven supporters.

‘I AM NOW ABLE TO SEE THE CHANGE IN MY LIFE’: LETLAMORENG TAKES CHARGE OF HIS LIFE THROUGH FARMING



Letlamoreng Lehloenya, 57, from southern Lesotho, used to work in construction and photography, but not anymore. Farming is his go now. And with support from RSDA, he's making a good go of it! The father of four has a supportive wife who also loves farming. Here is his story.

I have 4 kids. My wife is very supportive and loves farming. I have a son and a daughter that also love farming. I started working with RSDA in 1995. I heard about the association from Tšeuoa Lephale, a former RSDA member. My request to be supplied with potatoes was met with a smile, and I've been a proud member ever since.

RSDA then supported my small farm in Ha Makhabane, Phamong by providing seeds. After harvesting we had some leftover seeds, which we passed back to RSDA so they can help other farmers. I like their mentality of never wasting things. This system taught me loyalty and honesty in partnership, and it builds a genuine sense of community.

Education is another mantra that RSDA practice. Their trainings have helped me a lot, particularly on promoting sustainability. There are no handouts from RSDA – just hand ups.

If you look at my farm now, I have much fresh produce. This is thanks to the knowledge (via trainings) I learned from RSDA. I've planted 8,000 fruit trees. Yes, 8,000!

The trainings also helped me to understand more about how markets operate, and I now have a deeper appreciation for the government's strategic plan is linked with agriculture. Through RSDA I am now able to see change in my life.

I used to work in construction and photography but now farming is for me. My harvest is great, and I'm now planting trees. This is my job now. My farming comprises of crop farming, livestock and nursery, and these aspects make up farm's key selling point.

Wherever you are there is soil. And wherever there is soil there is life. We can grow and have our own food from the soil we have. This is more wisdom I have learned from RSDA.

I work closely with my community. We share information,





contacts and different ideas on farming. I worked with about 15 members in our community to plant trees – now we have a green village!



However, there is always another side to the story, and the hunger that I see around is still painful. It's terrible. The culture of handouts in Lesotho is very high. When government announces to the nation to go and get handouts, I get busy planting my fields. This is my small way of countering the handout culture. More awareness about this should be raised among our people. We have soil and the government should offer support because farming can be expensive. But they will save money in the long run if people become more

THE GOOD EGG PLANTS SEEDS: 'MAPOTSANE TELLS US HOW RSDA'S SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY



Mapotsane, 61, of 'Masemousu, Ha Chechane, has been through some tough times of late. Recently, she lost two of her girls, as well as losing her husband and a son. Another daughter passed away in 2015. She says she survives by being a hands on person and staying positive. She is a remarkable woman, and this is her story.

I heard of RSDA at a community gathering in 2016. I was told that it is an organisation that supports good nutrition for the kids. Not long after I was part of RSDA. They supported me with a donation of seven bushveld chickens and five different types of seed – carrots, spinach, beetroot, onion and turnip.

The chickens have been a Godsend. The eggs they lay have contributed so much on the nutrition of my children and grandchildren.

Since being a member of RSDA, their trainings have helped enormously. They've helped teach me how to take good care of my chickens, and I've learned about keyhole gardening.

Though I'm a new member of RSDA, the seeds they've provided me will take me a long way, I just know it. My wish is to be supported with more seeds that can be planted at my fields, which are about 500 meters away from my house. This will help me become even more sustainable.

I have learned how to take care of my children through the provision of healthy nutrition, and I'm now able to sustain myself through farming. Also, I've learned new ways of conserving soil. Now, I can harvest despite the drought.

As I'm sure people are aware, hunger is rife in my community. We had one international NGO here not long time ago, asking us the same questions about hunger in Lesotho. This tells you that the country is going through a tough time due to the drought. There was a time when my kids would go to bed without food, but since I became member of RSDA and being supported, I am able to feed them eggs. But the chickens are also not immune from the drought – they sometimes perish from hunger, and this pains us all.

On top of my farming, I collect and sell rosehip. I managed to educate my grandchild through high school by selling rosehip. Lastly, I want to thank RSDA for their support of me my farming. Keep doing what you do.

TEAMWORK IS HOW WE THRIVE: RSDA MANAGING DIRECTOR 'MAMPHO THULO TELLS US WHAT MAKES HER TICK



'Mampho Thulo, 52, is RSDA's longstanding Managing Director. She has endured and thrived as leader of this innovative, nimble and respected association. As Managing Director, Mme Thulo is secretary to the Board as well as leader of the

My passion for working with local communities led me to RSDA. Applying for the job in 1995, and fortunate enough to be given the opportunity, it's proved to be all I hoped for – and more.

Before RSDA, I worked for the Lesotho Government as a Land Use Planner. As a planner, I negotiated with community members and engaged at all levels to ensure fair and equitable land use. I always advocated for the self-help approach, as I do now, because self-sufficiency – supported by the wider community – is the most sustainable way forward.

And since our nation is built on communal values, the job as land planner also allowed me express my commitment to collective approaches. Similarly at RSDA, we strike the right balance between self-sufficiency and community support. I am a big believer in giving people a hand up, not a hand out.

Coming from the government sector and joining an NGO gave me a renewed sense of professional freedom. There is less red tape in the NGO sector and therefore we are able to employ more innovative approaches and take a few more calculated risks. What's more, I jumped at the chance to work for RSDA because I knew it would afford me an opportunity to work both with community members on the ground – who are the heart and soul of RSDA – while also interacting with high-level government officials who are able to affect real policy change.

Our farmers at RSDA are amazing. The relationship we have built with them grows stronger and stronger. We don't see the smallholder farmers as beneficiaries but as equal partners. We learn a great deal from them – every day we pick up new ideas, which can then help others. It is like the University of Life!

Most encouragingly, we see farmers progressing from food insecurity to sustainable livelihoods. With practical support and advice from RSDA, we also see farmers coming out of poverty and into food security. We are witness to farmers who once could not engage in public speaking; but today I can confidently say they are strong

people with strong voices who address audiences on behalf of other farmers.

The story of RSDA is a wonderful and ongoing journey. When I joined as the Managing Director we were but five years old. What I recall from that time is that we used radio transmitter communication (roja-roja), which linked the Maseru, Mafeteng and Phamong offices with those in the field. The old typewriter was still being tapped, and the few computers we had operated through MS-DOS. The Programme Director preferred hand writing for his progress reports, believing that computers mess up the filling systems. Those were the days! But believe me, RSDA has never had such a sharp Programme Director.

Over the years, I have seen RSDA achieve so much, often with tiny resources. One thing that has always remained constant is RSDA's firm belief that a farmer must be the master of his or her own destiny. (That said, of course community and government support should offer a safety net for all.)
Hence, we believe in low external input agriculture and agro-ecology. We have promoted and implemented programmes that seek to identify farmers' assets, inspiring farmers to treat soil as a living organism: to keep their seeds, chickens and livestock and make them more productive.

Our learning is never done. But one man we have learned a great deal from is Dr JJ Machobane, a firm proponent in food sovereignty who believed that Basotho have a gift from God to eradicate hunger and prevent malnutrition. In that regard, RSDA developed a documentary so that his legacy will never die.

Today, RSDA is better positioned than ever before to help grow the harvest and confidence of smallholder farmers. If our nation is to meet the United Nations (UN) 2030 Hunger Goal, we know that farmers need to play their role in league with Government, all working together to reduce poverty and hunger.

On the 9th of December 2016, when RSDA turns 25, I would like people – young and old – to know that it our special day. Early on, the RSDA founders believed that if agriculture sustainability is to be achieved, Basotho would retain their dignity and not have to queue for food-aid in whatever form. Thus, our RSDA founders set out to encourage and support people at a grassroots

On the 9th of December 2016, when RSDA turns 25, I would like people – young and old – to know that it our special day. Early on, the RSDA founders believed that if agriculture sustainability is to be achieved, Basotho would retain their dignity and not have to queue for food-aid in whatever form. Thus, our RSDA founders set out to encourage and support people at a grassroots level. We thank the founders for their foresight, and we thank all previous Board members and staff members for their undeniable service.

Today, the association remains true to the founders' vision, enabling farmers to critically identify, analyse and solve their own problems. And in doing so, creating their own identities and organising principles.

We are very proud to be associated with all the farmers we've worked with in the past, present and future. And to all our partners, RSDA thanks you from the bottom of our hearts. From inception, we set out to cooperate with other like-minded organisations and stakeholders, and we believe we continue to do so, achieving great results. In particular, we are proud of our contributions and, when nominated, leadership within the Lesotho Council of NGOs.

We have grown from being just a service delivery NGO to also becoming a strategic advisor on all matters of agriculture and food security. And we continue to inspire smallholder farmers to reach their potential. We are especially proud of our work in helping farmers become sub-contractors to implement Lesotho Government Programmes.

Our motto, simply and practically, is Teamwork. And it is Teamwork that has helped RSDA stand the test of time, even as our paid employees have reduced in number. RSDA is like a family, where everyone is able to go beyond the call of duty. Our Board, farmers, stakeholders and staff work collectively to achieve our aims and meet the challenges. And as we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we cannot ignore the impact of climate change. But we draw strength from our beginnings in promoting development in rural communities.

We know that if we continue to stay true to this mission, we will overcome the challenges we face. With optimism and collective goodwill, we know we are on the right track to keep building smallholder farmers self-sufficiency.

A MESSAGE FROM SEABATA MOTSAMAI, DIRECTOR OF LESOTHO COUNCIL OF NGOS

RSDA has undoubtedly helped to strengthen the governance of the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN). We have had the likes of Mrs Thulo, Mr Tsikoane and Mrs Monica. These wonderful people have helped to build LCN and we have to thank RSDA for that role.



RSDA are doing great work despite challenges with funding. They are moving forward with their mandate. They recently engaged in policy issues, and this helps to influence policy makers in Lesotho.

The association has a niche in organising smallscale farmers in the country. The production of indigenous food for their members is another approach that RSDA does with their farmers.

They are also great at supplying low cost chickens for their farmers. The Mafeteng project has the potential to become a world class centre of excellence. This would only help to improve RSDA's sustainability credentials.

I am proud of RSDA, and people should be aware that RSDA has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to farming. My message to RSDA as they celebrate 25 years is that they should keep doing the great work despite the challenges of funding that we as NGOs face. It has been a journey of 25 successful years!

MALESHOANE RAMASIKE, RSDA CHAIRPERSON IN 1991



"The biggest challenge with NGOs is funding. As Board members, we worked with the team to ensure that projects continued. I am very happy today because much of what we started has helped to ensure RSDA is still strong. I am honoured to be one of the first Board members who served during the start of RSDA. I still feel very much at home, even today, when I visit the office."

MAKHAHLISO SEOPI, HA MAKHAOLA, BECAME A MEMBER OF RSDA IN 1991



"I still get support from RSDA, they are very much a part of my life. I encourage people to be members because RSDA has expertise in the field of training, and enabling self-reliance of farmers. As RSDA celebrates its 25th anniversary, I would like to say that the journey from 1991 has been great and we benefitted so much. Many people live because of RSDA."

MOFUMAHALI 'MAMATLOTLO MATŠOSA, A LOCAL CHIEF OF HA KHOLA, MAFETENG



"The forestation of my village is a big highlight. Also, the sale of trees in my village and other surrounding villages is a big highlight, and much thanks is due to RSDA. I want to see this organisation continue to grow as I have seen my people benefit. Happy 25 years RSDA!"

MONAHENG MAHLAKENG FROM MACHACHE, MEMBER OF RSDA SINCE 2007



"In 2007 we received many training sessions like milk handing and running dairy projects. RSDA has done excellent work in training us, and suppling us with equipment for the dairy and the structure. They have helped us to become a bigger producer. We have made great strides, however we now need to resuscitate our dairy project. And there is a need to liberalise the milk market in Lesotho. With RSDA by our side, anything can be possible. We wish them a happy 25th anniversary!"



Rural Self-Help Development Association

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