



The following short-courses have been scheduled for 2016/17 financial year of Limpopo Department of Agriculture.

Name of Course: Poultry Production

Date/s: 16 May – 30 June 2016 (47 days)

Target Group: The course is highly beneficial for new entrants to poultry production, both broiler and layer productions

Course Outline: Housing and farm layout, furnishing of broilers, ordering of broilers, preparing chicks, feeding, health control and vaccination, feeding of laying hens, rearing, temperature control, health and hygiene of layers, record keeping, marketing, and poultry farm budget.

Name of Course: Leadership of organisations

Date/s: 17 May 2016, 20 September 2016, 22 November 2016 and 10 February 2017

Target Group: Identifying and promoting authentic farmers' organisations that empower smallholders, is a big challenge for government and their development partners. Most groups are hastily formed, often with no regard for the sociocultural, and economic structures of the farming communities. Such groups are not viable and incapable of serving as channels through which farmers can take part in decision-making.

Madzivhandila College of Agriculture has taken it upon itself to take the lead in capacitating these farmer's groups by imparting leadership skills so that they continue to empower other smallholder farmer organisations

The course covers: Types of leaders and their influence, Leadership model in relation to human resource development, Leadership styles, Organisational structures, Management of groups

Name of Course: Farm Machinery/Tractor operation and management

Date/s: 23-24 May 2016, 15-16 August 2016, 17-18 October 2016 and 16-17 January 2017

Target Group: Tractor owners

Course covers: The role of farm machinery in farm operation, knowing your farm tractor, Implement/machinery selection and use, Farm machinery management.

Name of Course: Nursery Practices & Management

Date/s: 31 May-03 June 2016 (4 days)

Target Group: Existing and new entrants into seedling and nursery business

The course covers: Construction of nursery structures, Growth media, Propagation by means of seeds, Grafting, Budding, Layering, Sanitation, Irrigation, Fertilization, and Hardening off of seedlings.

Name of Course: Soil Fertility Management

Date/s: 06-08 June 2016 (3 days)

Target Group: Existing and new entrants into crop production – vegetable and field crops

The course covers: Soil types, how to identify soil declination, how to take soil samples, fertilizers and how to fertilize economically and effectively.

Name of Course: Sweet potato production

Date/s: 06-10 June 2016, 12-16 September 2016, 21-25 November 2016, and 13-17 February 2017

Target Group: Existing and new entrants into sweet potato production

Course outline: Climatic and soil requirements, Site selection, cultivar selection, Soil preparation, Fertilisation, Irrigation, Weed control, Diseases and pests, Harvesting

Name of Course: Conservation Farming

Date/s: 17 June 2016, 21 October 2016, 16 February 2017

Target Group: Farmers and Land care groups

Course covers: Selection of tillage implements, Conservation structures, Benefits of conservation agriculture, Water management, Fertilisation of soil

Name of Course: Pig Production

Date/s: 20-24 June 2016, 19-23 September 2016

Target Group: highly beneficial for new entrants to pig production



The Course Covers: Pig housing and equipment, breeds and breeding, management, treatment during pregnancy and lactation, management during farrowing and lactation, sow cycle, and keeping records, animal health and marketing.

Name of Course: Vegetable Atchaar processing

Date/s: 23 June 2016, 18 October 2016

Target Group: Farmers and ordinary community members

Course covers: hygiene when handling food, understand risk factor in food contamination, how to make vegetable atchaar and how to preserve vegetable atchaar.

Name of Course: Vegetable Production

Date/s: 04 July – 30 September 2016 (Full Cycle Course), 07-18 November 2016 (10 days)

Target Group: Highly beneficial for new entrants into vegetable production

Course: provides step by step skills of how to grow most commonly grown vegetables such as Cabbage, Carrots, Lettuce, Tomato and Spinach under various farming systems. Also covers nursery practices, soil fertility management, water management and book keeping.

Name of Course: Mango Atchaar Making

Date/s: 08 September 2016

Target Group: Farmers and ordinary community members

Course covers: hygiene when handling food, understand risk factor in food contamination, how to make mango atchaar and how to preserve mango atchaar.

Name of course: Soil and water conservation

Date/s: 19 August 2016

Target Group: Farmers

Course outline: Use of cover crops and planting of trees, Use of organic manures, Use of conservation structures to control soil erosion, Crop rotation, Soil and water management, Tillage implements, Benefits of soil and water conservation to smallholder farmers

Name of course: Small-stock production

Date/s: 17-21 October 2016 (5 days)

Target Group: Existing and new entrants into small-stock production

Course outline: Different goat and sheep breeds, characteristics of goats and sheep, Importance of smallstock, breeding, kraal construction, Feeding, control and prevention of diseases, marketing

Name of course: Safe Use of Chemicals

Date/s: 23-26 January 2017 (4 days)

Target Group: Crop and animal production farmers

Course covers: Classification of chemicals. Storage of chemicals, protecting yourself during use of chemicals, mixing and calibration of sprays, process of using chemicals, maintaining equipment after use, disposal of empty chemical containers.

Name of course: Bee Keeping

Date/s: 06-17 February 2017 (10 days)

Target Group: Existing and new entrants into bee keeping

Course covers: Sustainable beekeeping practice, basic bee anatomy and morphology, social behaviour and honeybee castes, colony behaviour and communication, labour divisions among worker bees, pests, diseases, and other problems, beekeeping terminology and equipment and bee handling skills

Name of course: Marula Jam making

Date/s: 22 February 2017 (1 day)

Target Group: Farmers and ordinary community members



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Course outline: Brief introduction on hygiene when handling food, Selection of suitable marula fruits for jam making, making jam, Sterilisation of storage bottles and packaging of jam, Labelling of containers.