



Agricultural Support Programme 2020/21 - Post 2021

As at March 2020 - Version 2



Agricultural Support Programme

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Buy Local, Supply Local



Background / Context

For several years Enterprise St Helena (ESH) in partnership with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) and the industry have been facilitating collaborative attempts to improve and accelerate production; increasing variety and quality of local produce.

Whilst the intent and the objectives of the SHG *National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020* communicate areas of focus, there is a sense that there is currently no means of consolidating purposeful efforts.

During 2018/19 an ESH-led initiative entitled the “2018 Agriculture Programme” was one of the core areas of focus communicated. This initiative was a ‘promotion, awareness and engagement’ campaign that was run over the course of 2018/2019 via a series of business and social-styled events focused on agriculture, ending in May 2019 with the grand finale event: A Country Fair, promoting the theme of ‘Supply Local, Buy Local’. This links heavily to the Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP).

This programme was launched at the Agriculture Industry Family Fun Day on 28th April 2018 and was seen as an essential means to strategic planning and action that will support a much needed short-medium term Agricultural Support Programme (ASP).

A consultant, Leigh Morris, was commissioned by ANRD from May until September 2018 to research upskilling, capacity building and development initiatives, to help achieve the outcomes of the NAP. Leigh Morris, a chartered horticulturist, has 35 plus years of experience working in horticulture, agriculture and the wider land-based sector.

Subsequently a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) was compiled by Leigh to determine priority training and development requirements. The TNA covered cropping (open field and covered production), livestock, poultry and beekeeping. This was carried out through a series of face-to-face interviews and group meetings with 54 individuals from across the agriculture sector. Most interviews were carried out on the farms/small holdings, so enabling some visual appraisal of the production methods in use. Digital communication with UK individuals/organisations added to the findings of the TNA to inform the conclusions and recommendations.

Initiatives have been aligned where practicable, to the NAP and associated implementation strategy as well as the recruiting of an agronomist mid-2019 to support the agriculture sector, eg soil management, improved crop management and productivity. All inputs to the ASP are anticipated to achieve the objectives outlined in the SEDP, particularly increase exports, reduce imports and increase supply and demand of local agricultural products. Where possible incorporation of green initiatives in farming practices should be implemented.

Hence, this ASP is a partnership approach to drive agriculture development; enabling and facilitating improved and continuous collaboration to deliver support initiatives within the industry; facilitate various needs analysis (youth, skills, and targeted investment), attracting



local and foreign investments; and offering opportunities and support necessary for formalising the industry. ESH in partnership with ANRD, will implement and facilitate the delivery of the ASP.

The Proposal

The ASP 2020-2021, “Enabling Increased Food Production”, will be a deliberate intervention to marry the ESH project programme with the ANRD NAP as a means of supporting sustainable agriculture development.

Where possible, the ASP aims to justify and (re)align resources purposefully so that existing objectives, funding and future identified needs can be considered and delivered in an effective manner. Key objectives of this programme are:

1. achieving enhanced collaboration in agriculture
2. encouraging youth into the agriculture sector
3. provide upskilling opportunities to various aspects within the agriculture sector.

Moreover, the ASP will serve as a tool for funding short-term strategy-based inputs to agricultural development whilst planning, monitoring and measuring the initiatives supported.

Whilst a short-term intervention, the ASP sets the scene for a longer term agricultural development programme beyond 2021 which supports the aspirations of the SEDP.

Key areas to be supported:

- *Water security:* Changing climatic conditions particularly with the drought experienced over the past seven years have increased the focus on the need to secure and use scarce water supplies. Attention to targeted irrigation practices as well as adequate storage facilities are to be supported to conserve water use.
- *Rehabilitation of pastureland:* To enable rotational grazing to sustain current stock numbers and increase stock numbers where possible and to mitigate the effects of drought on pastureland.
- *Youth:* It is vital that interest in agriculture is instilled at a very young age. The development of Harpers Agriculture Centre to increase its use for incentivising agriculture achievements in education are steps towards achieving this goal. It is anticipated that an increase number of youth will embark in agricultural production either on full or part time basis.
- *Training:* Ongoing training and development is essential to keep abreast of current practices and to upskill farmers to work towards achievement of key SEDP objectives, i.e. beekeepers upskilling; development of Harpers Agriculture Centre for encouraging youth into farming and training of farmers; support for any offshore training and/or



agronomy training, eg an exposure visit based around marketing co-operation and machinery sharing.

- *Products / Services:* Enhancing existing product lines and increasing shelf life of all products are expected outcomes of the ASP. Improvements in farming technologies are to be implemented to improve efficiency of farming practices thus increasing productivity and profitability. Incorporating green initiatives, eg recycling, use of solar and conservation of water in agricultural practices are to be explored and utilised where practicable to make energy efficiencies. Undertake market research into what the consumers on the island actually want.
- *Collaboration:* Collaboration is essential for the cohesion of all areas supported. The use of Harpers Agriculture Centre, promotion of farming and training activities all contribute to this end which could include trials and demonstrations relating to new techniques and products. Expected outcomes of improved collaboration includes scheduling of crop planting to provide a more reliable supply to consumers.

Potential Projects & Budget Breakdown

The ASP will underpin the repurposing/channelling of existing committed budgets.

Description & Purpose	Year & Estimated Costs	ESH Responsibility	ANRD Responsibility
<u>Water Security</u>	£40,000 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movable drip irrigation • Large water storage units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Climate Policy Action Plan, eg green taxation – support local produce
<u>Rehabilitation of pastureland / Arable land brought back into production</u>	£50,000 p/a Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for pastureland management projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify pastureland /projects for ESH's consideration
<u>Youth Support</u> a) Encourage new youth start-ups	£1,000 p/a Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & ESH to work together to support agriculture related activities within the curriculum • Explore possibility of sponsoring prize / competition at KS 1-3 	

<p><u>Training:</u></p> <p>a) Continue objectives of the Training MOU / Development & Training Report that was initiated by Leigh Morris</p> <p>b) Refresh training with DICLA / Harper Adams University, UK / Exposure visits for different / various farming techniques as well as pack house training / general & new products – individual training</p> <p>c) Beekeeping Upskilling</p>	<p>£2,000 p/a 2020/21</p> <p>£4,000</p> <p>£3,000 p/person x 5 2020/21 £ 5,250 (breakdown: Harper Adams 50 hrs @ £55 p/hr NIAB 25 hrs @ £100 p/h)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Business Skills with Business Advisor • Support for trainers • Financial support for further enhancement to Harpers, eg Re-establish bee hive; purchase of teaching resources; poly tunnel cover; window blinds for security • Call Down Support • Awaiting training needs from the Beekeepers Association. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPM training • Agronomist – crop planning & scheduling • Agri-Business Skills with agronomist • Submission of proposals for all areas of training
<p><u>Improved Products & Services</u></p>	<p>£60,000 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVC windbreakers on arable land • Mechanising local production • Improve storage by installing solar powered refrigeration & fans on existing refrigeration as well as storage units at EX-ADA fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Research relating to consumer base • Research & development

<p>a) <u>Honey Production</u></p> <p>i. MOU in place with St Helena Beekeepers Association (Type of bee experiment; equipment; planting of bee loving plants)</p> <p>ii. Establish bee DNA</p> <p>iii. Consideration for new MOU to be developed, eg rearing of queen bees</p> <p>b) <u>Recycling</u></p>	<p>£7,750.43 2019/2020</p> <p>£15,132 2020/2021</p> <p>5,000.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the progress of the testing. • This will depend on the outcome of the bee DNA • Support for making compost, eg using flax • Financial support for CoC led events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and processing of samples • Submission of proposal
<p><u>Improved Collaboration through local Business engagements & promotions:</u></p> <p>a) Two farmer's markets</p> <p>b) Country Fair</p>	<p>£500 per event 2020/2021 £6,500</p> <p>2021/2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for CoC led events 	
<p><u>Funding Proposals for Agriculture Development Projects:</u></p> <p>Consideration given to a more focused approach on supporting specific proposals relating to items noted above</p>			

The 2020/21 budget allocation will be determined on reflection of 2019/20 and accordingly to the annual budgeting process.

Delivery

The ASP is a living document which will be developed and delivered by the Business Development Team (BDT) in partnership with ANRD.

