

Brief Curriculum Vitae: Ms. VR Dlamini



Career

The Bachelor of Science majoring in Chemistry and Biology with a minor in Mathematics, obtained from the University of Swaziland, paved the way for a career in teaching Chemistry and Mathematics at high school level. A career change to agricultural economics took place with the assistance of a Sugar Industry scholarship at the University of Natal in 1994. Awarded the HI Behrmann Prize for best independent work in 1996 at the University of Natal. Completed the BSc. in Agriculture, majoring in Agricultural Economics in 1996.

The scholarship came with a work contract. Experience working as an economist and later project accountant in the expansion of sugar milling capacity in anticipation of emerging farmer cane development in Swaziland, paved the way for further project management opportunities. Exposure to emerging farmer development in Swaziland, paved the way for transition to facilitating land reform farm acquisition by emerging sugarcane farmers in South Africa.

Land reform acquisition experience provided an understanding of the challenges facing emerging farmers. Intellectual versatility has allowed for transition from extensive regional sugar industry knowledge to the exciting arena of livestock production and processing. Agro-processing is the main focus at present with projects ranging from processing of vegetables and fruits to processed milk and a tannery.

The work at ADA has afforded the opportunity to achieve many firsts in the province, such as a fully automated milk processing packing line for an emerging farmer, digital feeding of calves on a dairy, milking more than 600 cows and the first cohort of emerging farmers to qualify as HACCP auditors. The first HACCP ready processing plant is currently under construction and it is owned by two young women who are previously disadvantaged. Commissioning is scheduled for the end of November 2017.

The strongest attribute is the ability to develop solutions for complex agribusiness situations.