

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS / STAKEHOLDERS

**Interviewer:** Thank you for availing yourself to assist and impart the wealth of knowledge you have. This interview is to solicit your response on the viability of pig farming in the Eastern Cape and it should take less than an hour. Please note that participation is voluntary and all responses shall be treated in absolute confidentiality, and it is for research purpose only. Are you comfortable for us to proceed?

**Interviewee:** Yes, we may proceed.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, great. The first question is what are the pig farming strategies, interventions and tools in place to assist small scale pig farmers in the Eastern Cape?

**Interviewee:** What do you mean by strategies? Let's start with technical advice. The department has officials that provide farmers with technical advice on how to produce pig farming/ pig production. There is no financial assistance in place, set aside for piggery production.

**Interviewer:** So, it's basically only assistance with the business plans and the knowledge. No funding? Is that correct?

**Interviewee:** Yes, there is no financial assistance that is specifically budgeted for pig farming.

**Interviewer:** How does government disperse information to the communities on programs offered to support pig farmers?

**Interviewee:** There are 17 service centres/satellite offices in the Amathole district besides the one in East London, officials in these service centres consists of services officers and veterinary services known as Animal health technicians. They have the responsibility to go out to farmers to inform and update them of the programs the department has to offer. They usually have awareness campaigns set up. The Extension officers setup workshops with the farmers and have information days. These service centres have open door policy.

**Interviewer:** Please describe the pig farming programs in the Eastern Cape with focus on the Buffalo City Municipality. Please provide brief explanation how these programs are implemented.

**Interviewee:** There are non-programs specific to pig farming but more toward Agriculture at large but when a people are interested in pig farming, they do get assistance in the form of advice. The department sends out extension officers to the site to inspect if it is suitable for pig farming, advice is also offered given in terms of the structure. Which direction it should face and the structure requirements. There is also an engineering service that assist with the drawing

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of pig pens. There are instances whereby when funds are available for specific items eg. if the farmer needs a bore hole, they are assisted with the necessary application for the provision of bore hole. Such assistance falls under the Directorate: Projects. Pig farmers get assistance under such programmes, these programmes are not only directed for pig farmers but all farmers in general. There are funds, the CASP funds but they focus more on infrastructural needs and aimed at Agriculture in general. No specific program that focusses on pig farming only. There is a directorate that provides pig farmers with assistance to register their Co-ops, but no funding provided. The state has the responsibility to look after certain aspects regarding animal health. There are veterinary services that are free, there are guides in government offices that advice which ones are free. For some of the veterinary service farmers are charged a minimum set fee.

**Interviewer:** How do you evaluate the government programs offered to farmers? How do they influence performance and sustainability of the farmers, please provide more explanations?

**Interviewee:** Please, I'm unable to respond to this question as it might put me in the bad light with my employer.

**Interviewer:** Ok, I understand.

**Interviewer:** The Eastern Cape is surrounded by abundant land. How is government encouraging low-income communities in the Buffalo City Municipality to engage in livestock Farming? Why do you think people are not interested in pig farming?

**Interviewee:** People are encouraged in the form of workshops and roadshows but sometimes due to a lack of resources/means that's why people appear not to be interested. There are those that are not interested at all.

**Interviewer:** Is there financial support given to upcoming pig farmers and how is it distributed? What are the qualifying criteria for such support?

**Interviewee:** No funding that is set aside specifically for pig farming.

**Interviewer:** Would you describe the environment in the Buffalo City Municipality as conducive for pig farming? The environment in this case includes infrastructure like roads, lines of communication and facilities of farming.

**Interviewee:** The environment is conducive for pig farming however one requires a lot of support. With support in place the individual can make a profit.

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**Interviewer:** Is there a policy on pig production in the national livestock development program? How is it implemented? What other policies that can be introduced to encourage pig farmers?

**Interviewee:** There are not policy in place that are directed for pig farming. Your study will assist us with developing the policy.

**Interviewer:** Consultation with the farmers can also assist with policy development. Is there anything more you would like add?

**Interviewee:** People are very interested in pig farming, but the industry is very difficult to infiltrate, previously pig farmers prior 1994 were subsidised. That assistance is no longer in place. Many people make a misconception of thinking that farming pigs is easy, its's a very difficult. It requires a lot of finance, without finance you won't make profit. The profitability of pig farming also depends on the numbers, if you are farming small numbers; you won't make a profit. It's only when you farm large numbers and have a fully-fledged pig production unit that's when you know that you are in business.

**Interviewer:** We have come to the end of our interview, thank you for giving off your valuable time to respond to my questions. Once again, all information you provided will be treated with confidentiality and will be used for research only.

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