



New Technical Advisor and Area Coordinator for Southern KZN and Cape Regions

Kamukota Kaluwa is a Zambian citizen who grew up in the capital city of Lusaka. The unique name “Ka-mukota” is from the Senga tribe in the eastern province and means “small medicine”. His grandparents gave him this name as it was believed that his mother had to take some traditional medicine in order to conceive him.

KK FIRST CAME to South Africa in 2003 to pursue his studies in Horticultural Science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg. “I have always been passionate about agriculture as a science, and from a young age, I came to understand its importance. All the food we eat comes from the worthy toil of a farmer,” says Kamukota. He completed his BSc (Agric) degree in Horticulture in 2007 and went on to pursue his MSc (Agric) degree the following year in 2008.

For his MSc (Agric) degree, KK focused on the post-harvest aspects of avocado fruit. His research thesis was titled “The effects of postharvest silicon application on the ripening physiology of Hass avocado fruit”. After two years of study and research on this topic, KK was awarded his MSc (Agric) degree in 2010.

In 2011, KK joined Lima Rural Development Foundation, an agricultural NPO based in Pietermaritzburg. He

initially worked as a Lead Researcher and was tasked with compiling a production guidelines manual for indigenous vegetables and crops for the KwaZulu-Natal province. During this time he engaged with many stakeholders, including the KZN Department of Agriculture, DAFF, Cedara research personnel, suppliers of seed and seedlings, and researchers of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The project was completed at the end of 2011 and the final production guidelines manual was submitted to the client – KZN Department of Agriculture. KK was then transferred to Mpumalanga province in February 2012 where he worked on a small-holder farmer support programme, called Abalimi Phambili.

The Abalimi Phambili programme (APP) was one of Lima’s flagship projects and was highly appreciated by everyone in the community. The programme was funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa and its aim was to provide support to small-scale farmers through the provision of technical support, training workshops, information days and loans through a revolving credit system.

“At Lima, I learnt a lot about the farmers and the daily struggles they go through. I came to respect them highly



Kamukota Kaluwa, commonly referred to as “KK”.

as individuals and working alongside them taught me a lot about humility. I am so grateful for the exposure that this job offered me,” explains KK.

KK left Lima in 2015 and joined a private hydroponic farm in Nelspruit focussing on the production of tomatoes and cucumbers. The name of the farm is LA Visagie en Seuns and is owned by the Visagie family. He only worked here for four months as he was filling in for one of the production managers who went on leave.

“Working at LA Visagie opened my eyes to the world of greenhouse farming. I was so impressed by how advanced their systems were and the level of technology that was in place. I had a very positive experience working at LA Visagie en Seuns,” says KK. ♦

Kamukota Kaluwa, commonly referred to by his initials as “KK”, has been recently appointed by SUBTROP as an additional Technical Advisor and Area Coordinator to cover the southern part KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern and Western Cape. KK will work closely with the SAMAC South Coast Area Committee to address area-wide factors which affect yield and quality. This will be done on a programme basis with emphasis on study groups to provide relevant technical information. He will be involved in a similar way with the SAAGA KZN Area Committee. KK is 32 years old, is married to Colleta and they have a one-year-old child.

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