



VOLUME #40

SONOP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

NEWS @ SONOP

We are at the start of a New Year full of hope and anticipation for the new season in our lives with a new planting season on both tomato and butternut. Butternuts have already been planted at Makalane, Oranje Vallei and Modderdrift and tomatoes at Ramansdrift and Kieta.

Even with the high temperatures we experienced during the butternut planting season late December, the farming teams worked tirelessly, managing the irrigation timing with precision. Their dedication bore fruit, quite literally, as the first shoots were already visible on the first day of January. The beautiful blooming flowers followed shortly thereafter and the butternut growth shows a healthy crop while the teams estimated a promising harvest starting the first week of April. Our strategy is again to export and with the harvest starting earlier than the previous year, we plan to increase the quantity of containers to our loyal export customers.

With the lessons learned from previous seasons, the farmers devised a strategic plan to expand their export reach. The butternut harvest, expected earlier than the previous year, prompted them to increase the quantity of containers for export.

In the quiet moments between tending to the crops, the team paused to offer prayers to their Heavenly Father. Gratitude flowed from their hearts for the blessings bestowed upon them in the previous season and guidance for the one unfolding.

Reflecting on the grape season that concluded just before the New Year, the Sonop team were filled with thankfulness. A staggering 325 000 cartons of grapes were meticulously packed for the export market. The year 2023 marked a significant milestone as the farmers explored new avenues for export. Some of the grape containers made their way through the Namibia Walvis Bay Harbor, a recent upgrade that opened doors for fresh produce suppliers.

The journey through Namibian logistics had its challenges, but the farmers believed in the potential of this new venture. Despite the hurdles, it was a good year and the quality of the grapes delivered to customers spoke volumes about the commitment to the core values of **Quality, Integrity and Excellence**.

"There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity."
- Douglas MacArthur -





WITHOUT POWER FOR 7 DAYS

In the heart of the farming community in Noordoewer and Aussenkehr, where the land meets the sky, Sonop Farms stood as a testament to the delicate dance between nature, hard work, and divine grace. To the farmers at Sonop, cultivating the earth was not merely a profession; it was a sacred calling, a partnership with the Creator Himself.

Farming, they believed, was one of the most blessed things in life. Each day unfolded like a chapter in a book of growth and life, where the Lord's hand guided the seeds into the embrace of the fertile soil. Yet, with every blessing came a set of challenges that tested the resilience and mettle of those who chose to till the land.

Over the past three years, Sonop faced a series of trials – floods, hailstorms, black frost and heat waves. These challenges, though formidable, were met with the farmer's undying spirit, a spirit that understood the ebb and flow of nature and the unpredictability of life. They learned to think on their feet, make plans, muster courage, and work tirelessly, day in and day out.

The week of the 19th of February brought a new challenge, a challenge that cast a shadow over Noordoewer and Aussenkehr. A large transformer was faulty in the Karasburg area, leaving the entire region powerless. In a place where power means life for crops, this outage posed a threat to the very essence of Sonop's existence.

With young plants in the ground and temperatures soaring to extreme heights, the team at Sonop didn't falter. They understood the urgency of the situation and immediately devised plans to hand-water the crops using water carts and black pipes. In those scorching days, the team's dedication to save the plants was unwavering.

Realizing that they needed external support, another part of the team embarked on a journey to Cape Town overnight. Their mission was to collect generators from rental companies, a lifeline to revive the vital pumps that would bring water to the parched fields. By the fourth day, the generators hummed with life, and the team could once again provide the necessary care to the crops.

In the face of the plants rising again from their dire circumstances, gratitude bloomed. The farmers at Sonop were thankful for each member of the team, individuals who didn't think twice to help, who jumped in and gave their best when the land cried out for assistance.

Through it all, the team held onto their gratitude for the privilege of farming. The ability to make plans, the opportunity to experience grace during adversities – these were seen as gifts beyond measure. The recent trials served as poignant reminders of the value of technology and a renewed appreciation for the simple, yet essential, things in life – like the flow of water when opening a tap.

The partnership with nature and the Creator continued, and every day in the fields remained the greatest privilege, a dance of gratitude, hard work, and the ever-present grace of the Almighty.

Our ability to handle life's challenges is a measure of our strength of character

- Les Brown -





Arno Basson
Security Guard



Petrus Kanyeua
Makalane



Claudia Mukanda
Packhouse

"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later." —Og Mandino



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE SONOP TEAM

Which season/time of the year is your favorite?



■ Summer ■ Winter

How do you release stress?



■ Family ■ Exercise ■ Braai ■ Sleep ■ Read

Which of the Sonop products are your favorite?



■ Butternut ■ Tomato ■ Grape ■ Watermelon

How do you relax after hours?



■ Music ■ Games ■ TV ■ Drink Coffee



COMMUNITY PROJECT - SONOP FARMS



In the heart of the Orange River Valley, where the soil is nurtured to yield bountiful harvests, Sonop Farms stands not only as a symbol of agricultural prosperity but also as a beacon of compassion. Since 2022, Sonop Farms has been orchestrating an annual **Blanket Project**, a community initiative that has touched the lives of many and become a testament to the company's commitment to social responsibility.

The inaugural year of the Blanket Project in 2022 proved to be a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of both the Sonop Farms team and the communities it served. Sonop Farms' Blanket Project extends warmth across the Noordoewer, Aussenkehr, Grunau, Karasburg, and Keetmanshoop area. Inspired by the spirit of giving and the desire to make a tangible difference, Sonop Farms embarked on a mission to provide warmth and comfort to those in need during the chilly winter months.

The Blanket Project is a collaborative effort that draws support from sponsors near and far. These sponsors, ranging from local businesses to global entities, share in the vision of making a positive impact on communities facing economic challenges. The generosity of these sponsors allows Sonop Farms to purchase high-quality winter blankets that serve as tokens of warmth for individuals who might otherwise face the harsh realities of winter without adequate protection.

In the first year of the project, Sonop Farms identified individuals with special needs, homeless individuals, and elderly community members in various neighbourhoods. The team worked closely with local organizations and community leaders to ensure that the blankets reached those who needed them the most. Each blanket was accompanied by a special touch, a carefully chosen Word of God, symbolizing the spiritual warmth and hope that Sonop Farms aims to share with the community.

Upon facing economic pressures in 2023, Sonop Farms made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend the Blanket Project. However, this hiatus only fueled the team's determination to resume the initiative in 2024 with even greater fervour. Sonop Farms acknowledges the immense impact that community projects like these can have on fostering a culture of giving and solidarity. The team at Sonop Farms hopes that the success of their Blanket Project will inspire other businesses and individuals across Namibia to take an active role in making a difference in their own communities.

As the Blanket Project continues to unfold, Sonop Farms invites all Namibians and companies to join in this endeavour. By standing together in solidarity, we can build a future where no one is left in the cold, and every community is warmed by the collective spirit of compassion and giving. Sonop Farms extends its deepest gratitude to all those who have supported the Blanket Project, making a positive impact that reverberates far beyond the winter months.



*Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love
- Mother Theresa -*



1st VALUE OF SONOP FARMS

INTEGRITY : Always be trustworthy, loyal and honest.
Take responsibility and be accountable for your actions, stay humble, be consistent and fair.





VALENTINES DAY @ SONOP FARMS OFFICE

14 FEBRUARY 2024

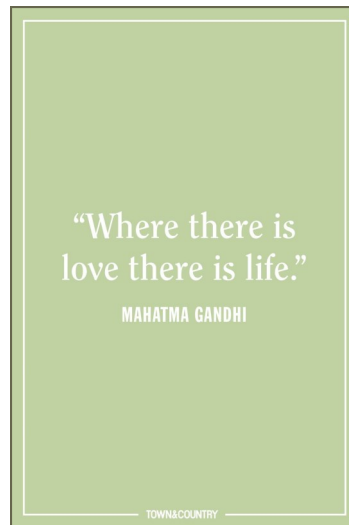


At Sonop Farms, nestled in the heart of the countryside, Valentine's Day dawned with a burst of sunlight, promising warmth, and love to all who called this farm their second home. The air buzzed with excitement as the Sonop team prepared for a unique celebration of love.

Colleagues gathered in front of the office, their faces adorned with smiles and anticipation, enjoying an ice-cream on this hot summer day. Laughter echoed across the office as colleagues shared stories and exchanged tokens of appreciation. The sense of community and warmth among the employees make every celebration special, and Valentine's Day was no exception.

At Sonop Farms, the celebration of love on Valentine's Day wasn't just about romantic relationships; it was about the appreciation that bound colleagues together, creating a tight-knit family that found joy in the simplest of moments. And as the day concluded, hearts were full, and the promise of love lingered in the warm summer air.

May this day serve as a reminder of the beautiful connections we've built here at Sonop Farms.



BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

FRANCOIS VAN DER MERWE	02 MARCH
ARNOLD KANGUMBE	03 MARCH
STOFFEL BRIERS	09 MARCH
STELLIE VAN DEN HEEVER	15 MARCH
HELENA IIVULA	17 MARCH
BRAAM VAN DER MERWE	21 MARCH
MARCELLE ROSSOUW	22 MARCH
KARORA MPANDE	25 MARCH
NICO VAN DER MERWE (SNR)	27 MARCH
ADRIANA LE GRANGE	29 MARCH

APRIL

LYDIA CLOETE	04 APRIL
LOUIS LE GRANGE	24 APRIL
DANIKA VAN DER MERWE	24 APRIL
ANTON GELDENHUYS	27 APRIL

MAY

HILMA MATHIAS	04 MAY
NICO VAN DER MERWE (JNR)	06 MAY
LIAH VAN DER MERWE	06 MAY
ENJE VAN DER MERWE	09 MAY
STANLEY DAWIDS	14 MAY
ANTHONY GERTZE	18-May
HELVI MALENGI	23 MAY
ANNABELL VAN DER MERWE	25 MAY

