



NEWS @ SONOP

As the winter season arrives Sonop's vineyards experience a significant transformation. The drop in temperature signals the vines to enter a crucial phase of their lifecycle: dormancy. After a season of vigorous growth, the vines shed their leaves and 'shut down,' conserving their energy to focus on their root systems. This natural process is like, hibernation, where the vine's visible growth halts, and it focuses inwardly on sustaining its root system. The roots continue to pull in vital nutrients from the soil, ensuring the vine's survival through the cold months. This underground activity is critical, as it strengthens the vine and prepares it for the next growth cycle.

While the vines rest and rejuvenate, the grape production team engage in essential tasks that ensure the health and productivity of the vineyards. This season of dormancy and pruning is vital for the vines, preparing them for the burst of growth and fruit production that will come with the warmer months. So, as the vineyards appears dormant and still, it's undergoing a period of critical preparation and care, setting the foundation for another fruitful season ahead.

Pruning is a laborious yet crucial activity that ensures the vines are well-organized and manageable for the next growing season. Pruning plays a very important role for a successful harvest. The purpose of pruning is to take out all the old wood and only keep the new and strongest shoots that will determine the harvest of the new season. If you don't remove the old wood, you would have random clusters growing everywhere on the old canes, plus new canes popping up on your vines, making the clusters very small and very difficult to harvest. By controlling the vine's structure and reducing its yield, pruning helps the vine concentrate its energy on producing high-quality fruit. With the start of the pruning action, the vineyards are awakened from their previous rest period and ready for new growth. Dormex application takes place 24 hours after pruning. The reason for Dormex application is to break dormancy and to ensure even budding which ensures easier actions and manipulation during harvest time. Dormex is applied at the coldest time of the day, which is in the evenings and early mornings. This means great sacrifice from our spray operators, spraying very late in the evenings or early mornings in cold conditions.



The grapes production team started pruning at the beginning of July and will end pruning in the first week of August. The pruning team consists of 108 workers who each prunes 130 to 140 vines per day. The shoots are in excellent condition and the quality of the pruned wood is great. The grape team is very optimistic for a promising season, despite concerns that the vines haven't got enough rest because the cold units was a bit low this winter. The first bud breaks are expected beginning of August. This will transform the vineyards once again as spring nears.

We are looking forward to enjoying the fruit of your focused efforts.



WELCOME TO SONOP

In June 2024 Wessel Erasmus joined the Sonop team as Packhouse Manager along with Anton Geldenhuis.

Wessel previously worked on a farm in the Swellendam area and as a born Namibian, have always wanted to return to his roots.

Wessel we wish you, your wife Antoinette and 2 children, Daneil and Ammi a warm welcome and a hope you enjoy your future here at Sonop.



BIRTHDAYS

WILLIE VAN DEN HEEVER	03 AUG
AJ DE REBEIRA	20 AUG
THESME VAN ZYL	22 AUG
ANDRIES ROSSOUW	24 AUG
HAIMAT HAINONGO	25 AUG
MORNÉ VAN ZYL	26 AUG
GIDEON CORNELISSEN	28 AUG
NIEKIE VAN DER MERWE	05 SEPT
KLEMENT NGOMA	06 SEPT
NATALIA JOHANNES	20 SEPT
JANINE BURGER	20 SEPT

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.
We are very proud of you.



APRIL 24
PETRUS MOLLER
WORKSHOP TEAM



MAY 2024
AULERIA HAINGURA
PACKHOUSE TEAMLEADER



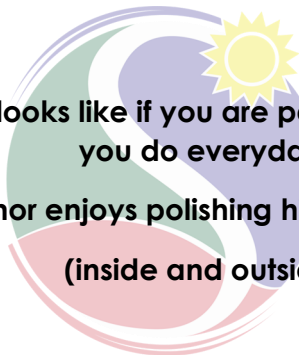
JUNE 2024
SAKARIA SHANHIFIA
SECURITY TEAM

Passion - Enjoy what you do and have fun, be enthusiastic.



This is what it looks like if you are passionate about what you do everyday.

Nikanor enjoys polishing his truck's rims
(inside and outside)



Give a gift of “warmth” this winter



2024 Annual Blanket Project of Sonop Farms/Community.



We as a Sonop Team are overjoyed to share the remarkable success of our 2024 Blanket Project with you. Reflecting on the blessed and successful project started in 2022, where we were able to reach individuals in Noordoewer, Aussenkehr, Grunau, Karasburg, and Keetmanshoop, we took a pause in 2023 after much deliberation.

However, this year, we embraced the project with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, determined to make an even greater impact.

Our mission remains steadfast: to provide blankets to the less fortunate as a symbol of the **Lord's love and warmth** during the cold winter months. This year, we adapted our strategy in Noordoewer, involving thorough research and a more personalized approach. Our team with participants from the community packed the vehicles according to specific areas, allowing us to drive door to door, pray with residents, and offer support and comfort. We connected with people in need, those in pain, and those with concerns about the future, sharing the message of the Lord's love and care. Each blanket we distributed symbolized the **Lord's grace, blessing, and love**. Along with the blankets, we provided food packages to nourish families during a cold winter morning. The day was blessed for both recipients and those involved in the distribution, as the presence of the Lord was deeply felt throughout the action.



In 2024, we conducted four distinct actions. We also spent a morning at the Namibian Grape Company in Aussenkehr, where buses brought people to the community centre. There, Albé Steenkamp from Amos addressed everyone, sharing how to be a blessing to others with engaging and practical demonstrations for the children. Dirk Coetzee and Albert van der Merwe explained the symbol of the blanket, reminding everyone how special they are to God, how loved they are, and that they are chosen for His kingdom.



A few songs were sung by Lua Kaneketera, Helvi Malengi, Pauline Mungongi, and Janie Mungongi, whose extraordinarily lovely voices, each one a gift from God, filled the room with gratitude and happiness. Everyone enjoyed a warm bowl of butternut soup with fresh bread before receiving their blankets and vegetable packages.

Silverlands organized and managed the second action in Aussenkehr, focusing on children in need. Willem Visser and his team, along with local teachers, identified the children and brought them to Silverlands' creche area. Willem and his team explained the significance of the blankets in a child-friendly manner, and the children were treated with homemade butternut soup and fresh bread before receiving their cozy fleece blankets. The children's excitement, love, and sincerity were a profound blessing to all involved.



In Keetmanshoop, volunteers from the My Family Church distributed 100 blankets along with vegetable packages. Their dedication and involvement ensured the success of this action, and they will continue to participate in future outreach efforts.



We are truly blessed by this year's project, grateful for every individual, business, and group who contributed selflessly to be a blessing to others. It was an incredible privilege to witness the impact of our collective efforts, and

we look forward to continuing this mission in the years to come. With heartfelt thanks and blessings,



The Sonop Team, community and business that all participate in this action. We invite everyone—individuals and companies—to join us in this community project next year, helping us reach more people and areas throughout Namibia.

RAMANSDRIFT

Extreme weather conditions on Ramansdrift in July



On Sunday 7 July 2024 Ramansdrift had a severe windstorm which caused some of the anker poles on the tomato rows to break, leaving the plants laying on the ground – mother nature once again showed us that she is a force to be reckoned with.

The windstorm did not break our spirit, on the Monday morning the teams started working tirelessly to repair the damages while others continued to harvest tomatoes. While in the summertime temperatures can reach way over 40°C, July was the coldest month thus far with temperatures dropping to under 5°C at morning time and frost were observed.



JOHN HAINGURA NDUMBA



Andrew and family

On behalf of the entire Sonop team, please accept our deepest sympathies on the loss of your son John Haingura Ndumba. We want to let you know our thoughts are with you and your family. Today and always, may loving memories bring you strength and peace. Know that you are never far from our thoughts. In these disheartening times we would like you to seek solace in Psalm 34;18 and seek consolidation in Mathew 19;14.

AMOS: LIVING AND FARMING GOD'S WAY

During the week, 13 May 2024 Reverend Albie Steenkamp from Opi Berg visited Sonop by starting the weekly Monday morning Church. On Thursday, 16th of May 2024 he gave a guidance session to the various Manager's on how to be living and farming God's way.

