



GRO AFRICA FARMING

Locality, description and climate

The subject property is located on the Highveld of Mpumalanga, where frost sometimes occurs during the winter months; in the summertime hailstorms occurs occasionally.

Delmas normally receives about 700mm of rain per year, with most rainfall occurring during summer. Day temperatures range from around 17 degrees in June to 26 degrees in January. The region is the coldest during July when the mercury drops to 0.8°C on average during the night.

The farm is located in the Delmas region, Mpumalanga. Access and egress to and from the property is very good via the R50, R555 and N12 regional and national roads. Gravel roads in the area are well maintained.

This farm portion is fairly level with no obstructions visible that could affect normal farming operations. The soil is a mixture of the Avalon and Hutton types with typical Highveld vegetation.

Current activities on the farm

- 500 ha under irrigation with central pivot systems
- Products:
 - potatoes, green beans, sweet corn for processing markets
 - maize (corn), dry beans and soya beans for local markets
- 3 ha Pad and Fan green zone tunnels (global gap): currently producing cucumbers. Need to go from soil to substrate because of nematode and root diseases
- 10 high tech chicken broiler houses

Advantages of farm

- Near OR Tambo International airport (JHB) and local markets - about 30 min drive
- Water-rich farm: bore holes from underground aquifers
- Fertile Hutton soil suited to cultivation of wide ranges of produce
- 28 years of farming experience and expertise

Technology needs for future projects on farm

- Expansion of technology in existing greenhouses - good water supply is available, expansion will be beneficial, but technology must be upgraded
- More vegetables and/or fruit can be produced, but netting will be required to increase yields by preventing frost during blooming stages of plants
- Production of food making use of less chemicals
- Proposed products in this area for export markets (vegetables or fruit)
- Improved water technology required for more effective irrigation systems to produce higher value products
- Technology for precision farming
- Solar technology and solar energy as innovative systems
- More advanced technology required for heating in greenhouses
- Ideas for value adding products on farm for export markets

Benefits to local communities

- Africa's biggest challenge is unemployment
- Job creation in a community has the following benefits to the local populace:
 - Social and economic upliftment
 - Skills transfer
 - Promotion of community members to next level in management
 - Ability to reach higher achievements in business sectors

Advantages and investment opportunities for Israeli companies

- Use farm as innovative showcase for Africa (products and technology)
- Use farm as hub for products from African countries to be branded for export markets (especially organically grown products)
- Link Africa and Israel regarding opportunities for export and genetically advanced products (fruits, vegetables) that can be produced in South Africa and Africa



