

## **“We don't need another breed than our Tswana sheep.”**

Livestock plays a vital role in the arid region of Molognwana, Botswana. Mmaphuthego Mothoosele is fond of her Tswana goats and appreciates what the goats give her: milk and meat. She sometimes thinks it would be nice to have Boer goats and dairy breeds “because they are improved breeds and therefore could increase production”.

Mr Ramatiki has a similar idea: although he is happy with his Tswana cattle – “they are easy to manage as they seldom need supplementation and they also provide financial security” – he would still like to try Jersey cattle “because they would stick around more than my own Tswana cattle. My cattle often wander away”.

Johannes Metlhaleng owns Tswana donkeys: “The main problem keeping the donkeys is that there is a lack of feed during the dry periods. Yet he says: “Donkeys perform important duties in society. I use them for transport and draught power.”

But Ngapa Molome realizes that the local breeds are not easily replaced by other, ‘improved’ breeds. Living in a *kraal*, she keeps a sheep breed from Botswana. “Tswana sheep have a significant role in our lives. They are an important source of income and food, like milk and meat.” She continues: “We don't have any problems with these animals. They require little attention and can easily find food themselves in the dry areas. We don't need another breed, and we wouldn't be able to afford another breed anyway.”



Clockwise:  
Mmaphuthego Mothoosele with a Tswana goat,  
Johannes Metlhaleng with his donkeys, Ngapa Molome with her sheep and Mr Ramatiki with his cattle.

Credit: Utlwanang Mosupiemang

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