

LACTIS

AN AGRICULTURE AND TRAINING FACILITY ON
THE IRENE DAIRY FARM

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree MArch (Prof)
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TO
DANELLE



FOR THE LOVE OF AGRICULTURE

I was named after my grandfather, a great man, who passed away during the course of this difficult year. Christoffel Jacobus Mentz, a family name in the Mentz family has been passed down for four generations, it is a name I carry with pride and I strive to live up to the name I carry. My grandfather was a farmer of profession and exceptionally hard working during his life till the age of 92, when my father and uncle asked him to please step down from the windmill. His love for nature and his surroundings made it easy to choose the topic for my dissertation, he cultured a love for nature and agriculture in all of his grand children. He had a light sense of humour and had the ability to always make his guests laugh and leave his farm with a smile. I live my life according to the example he set for all his children and grand children, to always work hard and to see the light side to life.

This is a tribute to the man who's name I have and who nurtured a love for agriculture.

E K S E R P

In Afrika en spesifiek in Suid-Afrika, is landbou die sektor waaruit die meederheid landelike gemeenskappe hulle finansiële inkomste put, dit is ook die bron van voedsel vir beide landelike en stedelike gemeenskappe. Die grootste uitdaging in landbou ontwikkeling is die wyse waarop landboukundiges kennis bekom in volhoubare boerderymetodes. Daar bestaan 'n gebrek aan kennis onder boere oor die wyse waarop hulle volhoubare boerderypraktyke en omstandighede kan verbeter.

Landbou speel 'n kritieke rol in volhoubare ontwikkeling en in hongersnood en armoede verligting (Departement van Landbou, 2002:3).

'n Opleiding en didaktiese fasiliteite is die hoof konsep vir die ingryping op die Irene Suiwel Plaas. 'n Plek of ruimte waar aspirerende entrepreneurs en landboukundiges kennis kan opdoen in hulle veld. 'n Praktiese leersproses in landbou en die effektiewe en verantwoordelike gebruik van bestaande natuurlike hulpbronne op die terrein en die omliggende gebied sal deel vorm van die leerervaring.

ABSTRACT

In Africa and specifically in South Africa, agriculture is the sector from which most rural communities derive their financial income, it is also the source of food for both rural and urban communities. The greatest challenge that Agricultural development faces is the means by which agriculturalists gain their knowledge in terms of the practice of sustainable agriculture. There lacks a structure between farmers about improving their practices and situations in terms sustainable agriculture.

Agriculture plays a crucial role in sustainable development and in hunger and poverty eradication (Department of Agriculture, 2002:3).

A learning and didactic facility for aspiring farmers and agriculturalists is the main concept for the intervention on the Irene Dairy Farm. A place and space where aspiring entrepreneurs and agriculturalists will gain knowledge in their field. A practical learning process of agriculture and the efficient and responsible use of available resources on site and the surrounding area will form part of this learning experience.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Title:	'Lactis' - Latin <i>lactis</i> is of crucial importance for manufacturing dairy products, such as buttermilk and cheeses.
Building type:	The precinct is a Agricultural Education and Training Facility and is characterised as a School building.
Address:	391 Nellmapius drive Centurion 0046 South Africa
GPS coordinates:	25° 52' 34" S; 28° 12' 39" E
Research field:	Heritage and Cultural Landscape, Environmental Potential.
Client:	Department of Agriculture, The Irene Dairy Farm (van der Byl family).
Theoretical premise:	Adaptive re-use of significant heritage buildings.
Keywords:	Nellmapius, Irene, Dairy farming, productive landscape, Agricultural Education and Training, Agriculture development, heritage, Conventional agricultural buildings, pastoral landscape.

INTRODUCTION

'Most people in sub-saharan Africa live in rural areas, and most Africans work in agriculture (57,3 percent), according to data from the UNFood and Agriculture Organization (faostat).' (Dercon and Gollin 2014:2)

Alois Hugo Nellmapius, bought the Northern and Western portions of the Doornkloof farm from Erasmus brothers, the sons of Daniel Elardus Erasmus. After he saw the productive potential of this part of Pretoria's landscape he bought several other farms along the Hennops River. In 1889 Nellmapius commissioned Willem de Zwaan to build a farmhouse and dairy which are still in use today (Allen 2007:198). Nellmapius named the farm after his daughter, who pronounced her name with three syllables, *Ireenee*.

This portion of the urban landscape of Pretoria was once defined as a productive landscape, with various productive activities taking place in the area (quarries, lime works, brick production). Agriculture forms part of the productive character of the area and will be the main focus of this dissertation.

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