



Building with Thatch

Desk Research

Prepared for:

rise international

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Key Informants to be interviewed

- **Suppliers of Thatch**
- **Skilled Thatchers**
- **Pax**
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Ministry of Natural Resources**
- **Ministry of Trade, industry, Business Development and Tourism**

Demographics

SECTION A

Question 1

Names

Contact information (emails and phone numbers)

Question 2

What is your Gender?

Male	Female

Question 3

Highest Level of Education

Tertiary	
High School	
Secondary School	
Primary School	
Vocational Training	
No Schooling	

Question 4

What is the name of your company/ organization/ ministry?

Question 5

Please provide a brief description of your company/ministry? Describe what services your organization provides. Specifically with regards to wool - how is your organization involved with this material?

Thatch

1.Section A Questions for Suppliers of Thatch

1. What type of thatch do you harvest between agricultural (wheat straws) and natural (water reed)?

2. Do you harvest at mass production or on a small scale? Get info on quantities harvested each year.

2. Are there any laws with regard to harvesting natural (water reed) for commercial purposes? Is it in a preserved area?

3. Is agricultural or natural thatch available in all parts of the country? If not, which parts of the country are currently available?

4. Where do you get the thatch?

5. How accessible is that area? And how much is the transportation?

6. Is agricultural or natural thatch free?

7. If not, how much does it cost? Please state the quantity

8. Can natural (water reed) or agricultural (wheat straws) used for thatch be found throughout the year?

9. After harvesting natural (water reed) how long does it take to grow?

10. What are the techniques used for harvesting the agricultural (wheat straws) and natural (water reed)?

11. Does extraction of thatch lead to emission of carbon dioxide? And how does the harvesting of natural thatch affect the environment?

12. Once harvested, what steps are taken for it to be ready? How long does each step take to process?

13. With regards to the changing climatic conditions, is natural or agricultural thatch still available in abundance? Has the quality of thatch been affected and can it withstand the test of time like in the previous years?

14. Can thatch be grown and harvested on an industrial level in Lesotho?

2. Section C for skilled thatchers

1a. Where did you acquire your knowledge of using thatch ?

1b. Have you trained anyone else in how to use thatch? If yes how many, if not why not?

1c. How many other thatchers do you know in Lesotho? Do you have a list?

2. What is the thermal efficiency of using thatch?

3a. What maintenance does thatch require? And how frequently?

3b. What is the durability of thatch? How often does it have to be replaced?

4. What modern techniques have you incorporated when building thatch that were not used before?

5. Which weather condition is thatch most susceptible to?

- a) Snow
- b) Rain
- c) Hail
- d) Wind

6. Has the quality of thatch changed in the previous years?

7. Are there any differences between natural and agricultural thatch? If yes, what are they?

7b. Which do you prefer and why?

8. Do you have enough demand for your work? I.e. Are you busy all year around?

8b. If not, why do you think there is not more demand for thatch?

8b. Is the demand mainly on new builds or repair work?

8c. From whom do the demands come from?

9. Costs

9a. How much do you charge people for thatch for labour and materials? Get cost per sqm or for the total sqm of a house.

9b. What is the cost of the materials?

9c. What is the cost for labour?

3. Section C Questions for Ministries

Ministry Of Agriculture

1. In which parts of which districts is wheat yield available in abundance?

2. Why is it available in abundance in that district?

2b. How much grass for thatch is currently grown each year?

2c. What % of this is in the wild and what % is cultivated?

3. After harvesting straws what is done with the straws ?

4. Can wheat straws be used for thatch at an industrial scale in the built industry?

4a. Where can we get a list / database of farmers who grow wheat for thatch in Lesotho?

Ministry of Natural resource

1. In which part of the country is natural thatch available in abundance?

2. How accessible is it?

3. In which season is natural thatch available?

4. Given the changing climatic conditions can natural thatch be harvested at an industrial scale?

5. Has the quality of natural thatch changed?

6. What practices are being done to conserve natural thatch?

7. Can natural thatch be harvested at mass production?

7a. How long does it take for natural thatch to re-grow?

Ministry of trade, industry, Business Development and Tourism

1. Are there any companies harvesting thatch in the country for commercial purposes?

1b. If not, do you think this is a viable business? Explain why or why not.

1c. If yes, is it on an industrial level or small scale?

3. Is there a list of companies in the built industry using thatch?

4. Where can we get a list / database of thatchers in Lesotho?
