

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGING
SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN MBIZANA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY

By

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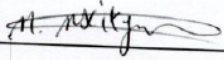
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DECLARATION

I, Nosithembiso Nxitywa, hereby declare the following:

- The contents in this treatise is my individual and original work,
- All sources utilised or referred to have been correctly recognised; and
- This treatise has not been previously submitted for assessment or completion of any postgraduate qualification to another University or for another qualification.

SIGNATURE: 
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ABSTRACT

The agricultural sector is among one of the sectors that contribute to the economy of the country, in job creation and food security to mention a few aspects. The Eastern Cape Province is one of the poorest provinces in the country where most people depend on small-scale agriculture as their major source of livelihood, particularly in the rural areas. This is mainly due to the challenges of poverty and unemployment. Small-scale farming is a key activity to eliminate poverty and unemployment. However, mainly obstacles prevail and this includes access to markets, support and skills development. This research study aims to investigate the sustainability of small-scale farmers.

The data was collected by means of in depth interviews from Mbizana local Municipality. A total of 12 respondents were selected as a sample for this investigation as well as ensuring that data quality is attained. Causal layered analysis was used to analyse the results.

The results indicate that small-scale farmers are faced with several challenges which include, finance, skilled contractors and land ownership. Furthermore, it is evident that small-scale farmers are struggling to obtain a sustainable economic return. Farmers can participate in high-value markets by obtaining the required food safety certifications, which otherwise would be inaccessible to them individually but as groups or cooperatives to enhance them to easily access markets. In local informal markets, for instance, smallholders often find their prices undercut by produce that informal traders buy from large-scale commercial farmers. Supermarket chains, on the other hand, provide a lucrative niche market for smallholders but these downstream linkages are limited to smallholders that meet product variety and quality standards.

Keywords: Agricultural Production, Small-scale farmers, Sustainability, Mbizana

CHAPTER 1

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The agricultural sector is among one of the sectors that contribute to the economy of the country, in job creation and food security to mention a few aspects. Sebopetji & Belete (2009) describes South Africa as a country which has a dual agricultural economy, with both well-developed commercial farming and subsistence farming in the remote rural areas. They further state that subsistence farming is characterised by low production, poor access to land, poor access to inputs, infrastructure, information and most importantly poor access to credit for production requisites (Sebopetji & Belete, 2009). The Eastern Cape Province is one of the poorest provinces in the country. And it is also one of the Provinces where most rural people depend on small-scale agriculture as their major source of income. This is mainly due to two things that prevail in the rural areas of South Africa, Mbizana included and that is the enormous challenge of poverty and unemployment. And through the practice of small-scale farming, households in rural Mbizana are working towards eliminating poverty and unemployment. Baloyi (2010) indicates that small farms still dominate the agricultural sector in much of the developing world and they are still significant players in the rural life of many rich countries.

However, as this maybe they are still faced with many challenges in achieving their goals in the agricultural sector. It is important to note that within the context of rural development, the role of agriculture is important. And small-scale agriculture is not achieving its goal of achieving commercial status in the agricultural sector and this is the case of rural Mbizana. This is mainly because of constraints that are faced by small-scale farmers such as access to markets, support services, and skills development to mention a few. Mukwevho & Anim (2014) state that in addressing constraints to small-scale agriculture, comprehensive agriculture support services become a necessity. Due

to the lack of access to markets and support services, small-scale farmers are faced with the challenge of being excluded from participating as commercial farmers in the agricultural sector. One of the major causes of high levels of poverty among small scale farmers is low producer prices and high input cost (Cai, Dai & Zhou, 2012). As long as the status quo prevails poverty alleviation will continue.

Mukwevho & Anim (2014) further adds that small-scale farmers are excluded from main street food markets in South Africa as a result of colonial legacy and due to the poor performance of their production, which is characterised by high production and transaction cost and poor quality making them less competitive. Small-scale farmers in rural Mbizana are located in rural areas that are far from town and this makes it difficult for them to transport their produce to the shops in town. There are challenges of transport, timeliness, distance and roads which hinders the farmer's participation in the market. Small-scale producers are often marginalised by their lack of access to decent inputs, including good quality land, smart technologies (including irrigation), and good quality seeds. Lack of access to capital markets, credit and information about both growing conditions and markets are also areas that marginalise small-scale producers (Singh, 2009; Castlacci, Los & De Vries, 2014).

In this regard several policies and strategies were developed in the year 2006 in order to promote sustainable agricultural production in South Africa. This demonstrates the importance of sustainable agriculture in the South African economy and agricultural development. And in order to address these social ills, the intended objectives of investigating the sustainability by small-scale black farmers in the Mbizana district, are the key priorities for this study. In South Africa, farmers consider the effectiveness of extension services in relation to receiving technological information and advice for purposes of crop and livestock production (Akpalu, 2013). Mbizana area is a rural area, therefore agricultural productivity is very important in this area and the associated agricultural extension services are significantly important to their livelihoods.

Moreover literature shows that Agricultural employment in South Africa's commercial farming sector is declining at an alarming rate. During the 11 year period from 1988 to 1998, for example, the commercial farm sector shed a staggering 140 000 regular jobs,

a decline of roughly 20% (Hall & Aliber, 2010). There is a trend away from employment of regular, permanent workers, and a simultaneous - though not commensurate - increase in the use of casual workers, meaning jobs of less security and consistency.

Strategies are required to assist the small-scale black farmers in order for them to be sustainable and be able to access markets for the crops they produce. This paper studies the constraints that challenge agricultural sustainability in Mbizana.

1.2. Problem Statement

The general problem is access to support services, credit, low production, and poor access to land, infrastructure, equipment, information and most importantly poor access to markets. Even though there are numerous agricultural markets in South Africa which are generally developed and accessible to the commercial farmers, the noticeable shortcoming is that the small-scale farmers are failing to fully exploit the available opportunities (Madzimure, Chimonyo, Zander & Dzama, 2013). The main technical constraints facing the sustainability of small-scale farmers are low agricultural productivity, lack of knowledge and access to opportunities. Mokoale, Spencer, Van Leengoed & Fasina (2014) argued that in order to boost agricultural activity, particularly amongst the black rural population, issues of access to land and the provision of adequate infrastructure and extension support will first need to be addressed.

The Province of the Eastern Cape is classified as the second poorest province in South Africa. The Eastern Cape Province has also the highest level of unemployment (48.5%) and has a population of about 6.3 million (Agholor, 2013). Therefore, agriculture in this district has been identified as one of the major key sectors of growth and an important contributor to employment. However, the above mentioned constraints and the uncertainty created by land claims is unfortunately discouraging the expansion of commercial agricultural activities in this district. Small-scale black farmers do not have access to the levels of state assistance and market share which the government previously guaranteed to white farmers. Under these conditions, trying to penetrate established markets is extremely difficult (Aliber & Hall, 2010).

There is a need for sustainable strategies that need to be put in place in ensuring that these challenges are thoroughly identified and are allocated accordingly. Therefore, this report explores the small-scale farmer's sustainability and or agricultural challenges and their implications in agricultural production in Mbizana.

1.3. Aims and Research Objectives

1.3.1 Aims

This study aims to find ways that will improve agricultural productivity in the Mbizana area among small-scale farmers. South Africa's government is committed in alleviating poverty through job creation and sustainable livelihoods, food security and economic development in a manner that fully incorporates black small-scale farmers. Hence the study is aimed at investigating the agricultural production and ways to improve sustainability. The thesis also aims to explore the important role that the government, grants and other key role players play as providers of information and support structure(s) in encouraging sustainable development in the agricultural sector.

1.3.2 Objectives

- Investigate the sustainability of small scale black farmers in Mbizana district;
- Assess how the small-scale farmers have contributed in building sustainable livelihoods for the community of Mbizana; and
- Draw readings on agricultural productivity in South Africa and provide recommendations on how to better the conditions for small-scale farmers.

1.4 Significance of the study

Small farms still dominate the agricultural sector in much of the developing world and they are still significant players in the rural life of many rich countries. The viability of small family farms is threatened today in all kinds of countries in historically unprecedented ways. Yet there are good reasons why policy makers should want to keep small farms around (Hazell, 2005). The future of smallholder farming is important to the development of the country as well as rural development. Small-scale farmers are able to create employment as minimal as it may be, reduce rural poverty, food insecurity and poverty alleviation. With new research higher yielding crops can be harvested with less land.

This study includes black small-scale farmers who face challenges that affect production levels and agricultural sustainability. The study looks at ways of connecting these black small-scale farmers to markets by buying their produce and re-selling it to larger retailers or national fresh markets (Brown, 2012).

The findings of the study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in agricultural development in particular in the Mbizana rural communities. The study will further explore and advise other means in which small-scale farmers can access markets which will aid in poverty alleviation and job creation for its community members.

1.5. Motivation

The research is motivated by the threats that seemed to be caused by these challenges on the sustainability of these initiatives. Highlighting the importance of agriculture and the role that the small-scale farmers play in the sustainability and growth of agriculture. Agricultural initiatives are known to be among the employment generators in this country and they have a meaningful contribution to the economy of this country as well as to alleviating poverty and unemployment. One precondition is that productivity must

increase. This will not only lay the groundwork for earnings to rise sufficiently for people to escape poverty, but it is often the first step towards more social security and other components of decent work (Baloyi, 2010).

The research is motivated by looking at ways to increase growth and development and maintaining sustainability in the agricultural sector.

1.6 Chapter Outline of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters:

Chapter 1- Introduction and Context: In this chapter we get the scope of the research. The background of the study is given, significance of the study, research objectives, problem statement and motivation etc. are outlined in this chapter.

Chapter 2- Literature Review: In this chapter, an in depth literature review is conducted on the constraints that are affecting agricultural sustainability in production of the small-scale farmers.

Chapter 3- Methodology: Outlines the methodological designs and tools of data that will be used during the study to gather data. It includes the sampling technique and analysis of the data.

Chapter 4- Findings: This chapter outlines and interprets findings of the study.

Chapter 5- Recommendations/ Conclusion: In this chapter the research is concluded. The research design and methodology, the research process, the research problem, research question and investigative questions and survey findings are revisited and final conclusions are drawn.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In poor countries the agricultural sector is essential to growth, poverty reduction, and food security (Brown, 2012). Throughout the years, agriculture has been viewed as a driving engine behind the countries growth, has a strong potential in growth and employment creation, however this sector is one sector that can be coupled with some challenges as well as successes, states (Pye-Smith, 2012).

Agriculture is one of the solutions among others to poverty reduction and in creating employment. However they face the challenge of being excluded from participating in commercial agri-food chains. Maree (2017) states that one of the major stumbling blocks that contribute to the exclusion of small-scale farmers from participation in commercial agri-food chains relates to their inability to ensure a consistent supply of good quality produce. Small-scale farmers are faced with the predicament of not being able to consistently supply the produce to their buyers as a result of the above mentioned factors.

Therefore, in order for small-scale farmers to create employment they need to increase productivity. Increasing productivity will not only lay the groundwork for earnings to rise sufficiently for people to escape poverty, but it is often the first step towards more social security and other components of decent work. This chapter looks at the overview of South African agriculture and at ways to ensure that there is sustainability for farmers especially black small-scale farmers.

2.2 Background of Agriculture in SA

The term “small-scale” is often used in South Africa to refer to black small-scale farmers characterized by non-productive, backwards, non-commercial and subsistence agriculture (Chikazunga & Paradza, 2012). And in recent years, the role of small-scale farmers in agricultural productivity has been questioned and the question is there still a future for small farms? In response to this question, Hazell (2005) states that small farms still dominate the agricultural sector in much of the developing world and they are still significant players in the rural life of many rich countries.

While on the other hand, Manyevere, Muchaonyerwa, Laker & Mnkeni (2014) points out that many agricultural projects have failed because of a lack of knowledge of the bio-physical, cultural and socioeconomic variables affecting agriculture and rural livelihoods. This is further emphasised by the Government in former homelands of South Africa, including the Transkei (Mbizana) and Ciskei in the Eastern Cape Province where there has been a general decline in agricultural production (Machethe, 2004). The reasons for this decline vary according to region; however they are almost similar if they are not the same. These include, crop diseases, water deficits, limited access to markets, declining agricultural production and poor access to support services.

Most small-scale farmers in South Africa are poor, less educated and reside in rural communities with less developed infrastructure which locates them in the so called second economy (Thamaga-Chitja & Morojele, 2014). And in rural South Africa and this is the case for Mbizana, almost all land in the rural areas is owned or administered by a Traditional Authority meaning that farmers do not have Title Deeds and would never qualify for bank loans as they have no assets. This is the challenge that most small-scale farmers are facing when it comes to agricultural productivity. Agricultural production in South Africa constitutes just over 5% of the country’s GDP, down from the 20% it enjoyed in the 1930s (Marandure, 2015). Key activities undertaken are maize farming, wheat, deciduous and subtropical fruit, sugar cane, vegetables, poultry, sheep and goats (for wool and meat) and the rearing of cattle (Narayana, S., & Gulati, 2002).

Environmental constraints are still an obstacle when it comes to agricultural productivity in rural South Africa. Climate changes are unreliable and unpredictable and this is a recurring problem in the current status of agriculture in South Africa.

Furthermore, small-scale farmers in South Africa face various challenges when it comes to agricultural production. Limited access to markets, production factors and credit combined with property right constraints and high transaction costs make life very difficult for these producers farming on small pieces of land (Thamaga-Chitja & Morojele, 2014). Simpson & Calitz (2014) argued that in order to boost agricultural activity, particularly regarding smallholder farmers issues regarding access to land and the provision of adequate infrastructure as well as extension support must first be addressed.

The poor performance of black farmers can be contributed to the influence of the apartheid laws that hindered them to perform sufficiently. This influence can be related to land ownership, marginalization and the fact that small-scale farmers have never been considered as part of the commercial farmers. It is apparent that black small-scale farmers are still faced with that stigma in this sector even today. Modern agricultural technology had been considered as a solution to this predicament (Mtega & Msungu, 2013). The use of agricultural technology together with extension services would then assist the black small-scale farmers by tapping into their potential of developing into commercial farmers as well as allowing them to enter the markets.

There is a marginal number of black farmers in South Africa that are able to provide a livelihood for their families and also create jobs for others. For the details mentioned, small-scale farmers still require support and the support of extension services where necessary. The support can include, access to markets, technological transfer, access to inputs, irrigation and transfer of skills. It is without a doubt that the agricultural sector is important to the economic growth of this country as well as its development. Poverty, inequality and unemployment is a growing development in this country. Consequently that is why there are strategies that were put in place in order to position agricultural

growth and development on the African continent (Frequin, Anseeuw & D'haese, 2012). Our rural areas are faced with poverty, unemployment and inequality. And in strengthening agricultural productivity we are then able to strategize on how to alleviate these issues.

This calls for more black farmers to be actively involved in eradicating poverty and creating jobs by being more active in production levels. The agricultural sector among the black small-scale farmers is a developing sector or programme that needs to be nurtured and mentored. In showing its commitment to agricultural development, South Africa increased the budget in land reform that was announced by the former Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel (NDAFF, 2011). This does not guarantee that all black small-scale farmers will have access to the land or even benefit from it. And without the appropriate knowledge of agriculture, appropriate skills, understanding of concepts, planning, technology and education the development of these farms is ruined. As noted, agriculture is important to the economy of the country as they are meaningful contributors to the economy. And despite these livelihood strategies, agricultural activities continue to play an important role in providing much needed subsistence especially in the form of food (Thamaga-Chitja & Morojele, 2010).

2.3 Agriculture Policy Framework for South Africa

According to the National Development Plan for South Africa and its Vision for 2030 South African's rural communities should have greater opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the country. Rural economies will be supported by agriculture and possibly by mining, tourism, agri-processing and fisheries. The following aspects were identified as essential, with special reference to extension and advisory services in South Africa:

- Improve and extend skills development and training in the agricultural sector, including entrepreneurship training and the training of a new cadre of extension

officers that will respond effectively to the needs of small-holding farmers and contribute to their successful integration into the food value chain; and

- For these extension officers to be successful, it is necessary to investigate whether extension and other agricultural services are appropriately located at provincial level. Innovative means for agricultural extension and training by the state in partnership with industries should be sought.

This is a clear indication that an effective and efficient extension and advisory service is essential for successful rural development in South Africa. The purpose of the study is to identify challenges facing the agricultural extension landscape from a global perspective namely a best-fit approach and a framework for designing and analysing agricultural and rural advisory services that include:

- Policy environment;
- Governance;
- Capacity, management and organisation; and
- Approaches

The vision for agriculture, forestry and fisheries as identified in the Integrated Growth and Development Plan (NDAFF, 2011) is to achieve equitable, productive, competitive, profitable and sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors that are growing to the benefit of all South Africans. The primary aim of the IGDP regarding agriculture is to: ‘position agriculture for the purpose of improving national food safety and security, and agricultural economic output in a profitable and sustainable manner, through a qualitative and quantitative improvement of South Africa’s agricultural productivity, and its trade and regulatory environment’.

It is anticipated that, by achieving the aforementioned, agriculture can contribute vitally to rural economic growth and development, and thus increase rural employment, both on- and off-farm. The key strategies identified are: support to new and existing producers, access to markets, and access to resources. In terms of support to the three categories of farmers identified the IGDP notes that farmers of all categories currently

receive less support from the State than their counterparts in every industrialized country in the world. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries have been identified among the sectors with the highest potential to make an immediate and sustainable contribution towards job creation in rural areas (NDAFF, 2012).

Since 1994, efforts have been made in all three sectors to address the disparities and inequities, to create broader access to services and markets. Land reform, targeted economic empowerment programmes, credit schemes and several other initiatives were instituted to attempt to bring equity and more broadly based prosperity. Various Acts addressing agriculture, forestry and fisheries were passed and implemented. While progress has been made, the agrarian system still reflects the disparities of the past with many rural people remaining on the economic margins (Obi, Herman & Tilburg, 2012).

Efficient and effective extension and advisory services can broker and facilitate information sharing and skills development in support of agricultural, forestry and fisheries' development especially for smallholder entrepreneurs. In its current form, public extension service cannot facilitate the accelerated capacity development of a range of producers that is desired to address, challenges of rural and economic growth, food and nutrition insecurity, inequality and unemployment. National extension services in the country is plagued with a number of structural and counterproductive challenges that limit the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts and investments in the development of smallholder producers in particular.

Changes in South African agriculture in the past two decade have been shaped by substantial macroeconomic and social reforms implemented from the mid-1900s, but reforms of agricultural policies were also initiated. These included deregulation of the marketing of agricultural products; abolishing certain tax concessions favouring the sector; reductions in budgetary expenditure on the sector; land reform and trade policy reform. The agricultural sector in South Africa is dualistic (Lauw, Madevu, Jordan & Vermeulen, 2007).

It consists of a well-integrated, highly capitalised commercial sector with approximately 35 000 white farmers, producing around 95% of agricultural output on 87% of total agricultural land (Hall & Aliber, 2010). In contrast, the smallholder sector

consists of around 4 million black farmers farming in the former homeland areas on 13% of agricultural land of South Africa (Hall & Aliber, 2010).

This dualistic nature and division between the commercial, large-scale farming sector and the comparatively low productive, struggling smallholder sector is a direct result of historical patterns of dispossession and impoverishment, which systematically eroded historically successful land-based production systems and livelihoods in South Africa (Lauw et al., 2007). Even after 20 years of democracy, this sector continues to be characterized by inequality in terms of the distribution of economic assets, support services, market access, infrastructure and income (Murphy, 2009).

2.4 Differential Advantage Theory in the Context of Smallholder Farmers in

South Africa

Small-scale farming communities in South Africa tend to have limited buyers for their products. It is argued that the primary reason for this is due to the lack of building close relationships with buyers. Buyers and sellers do not associate randomly; they seek a permanent relationship in order to sustain their commercial traders (Akpula, 2013). Secondly, the small-scale farmers are known to sell their products at low prices making it easier for the buyer to select their products in the markets. However, because these farmers do not always seek to innovate and to improve their products to make them attractive, buyers tend to buy from the competitors. In addition, smallholder farmers relying excessively on traditional farming practices makes their products take long to arrive at market place, the competitors who in most cases using modern farming makes it easier to produce end up taking all their business.

As a result of low competitive advantage, smallholder farming's survival ability in a tough economic environment becomes questionable. Their low innovation for new products that can satisfy the needs of the consumers also reduces their competitiveness. The low competitive profile of smallholder farming makes this type of farming less impact in reducing economic growth and creation of jobs for the society. The freedom of these entrepreneurs to start new venture or value chain becomes constrained in many

aspects. The growth of these farming systems is very low such that their sustainability and survival becomes serious issues (Ngqangweni, 2000). The low profit making also compound their growth and sustainability for these farming sector to growth, the differential advantage theory advocate that they should start new innovations.

2.5 Agricultural Extension Services

According to Frequin et al. (2012) support to the small-scale farming sector in South Africa was first introduced by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in the mid 1980's. This was done by providing Farmer Support Programmes (FSP) supporting small-scale farmers in the homeland areas and provided support services in the form of inputs, capital, mechanism, marketing, training and extension.

These interventions, though perfect, were formally ended when the homelands were reintegrated into the provinces of South Africa in 1994 (Frequin, Anseeuw & D'haese, 2012). And as it stands rural areas are the most marginalized in most parts of developing countries and are characterized by poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, inequality and lack of important socioeconomic services (Chikazunga & Paradza, 2012). As a result of this, the lack of support services to small-scale farmers contributes to the decline in agricultural production. And some of these programmes are not there yet as they are still getting off the ground and still trying to find their feet and as for state-sponsored programmes they are poorly designed, not properly administered and are under-funded.

Akpalu (2013) states that several attempts have been made to improve the agricultural extension sector of the South African economy. Not just of the economy but that of the small-scale farmers (mostly blacks) who in the past had limited access or no access at all to farmer support services. These extension services are there to assist small-scale farmers to be able to gather information from and for the government. Provide assistance to small-scale farmers in how they can gain access to finance, maintain production activity and how to gain access to the markets to mention but a few.

In response to the marginalization of small-scale farmers, there are organizations that have taken it upon their shoulders to assist and provide support to the farmers. These organizations include the IDC, SEDA, Farm Africa, Oxfarm, as well as other NGO's. In rural South Africa small-scale farmers consider the effectiveness of extension services in relation to receiving technological information and advice for purposes of crop production. Majority of small-scale farmers are found in rural areas of South Africa and some of these places can be remote areas, therefore support services serve as informants on new technology, agricultural production information, and early warning systems for drought, climate change and market prices. It is without a doubt that these approaches are vital for agricultural growth, what is more important is the fact that they must be implemented to ensure their effectiveness and relevance (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016).

The aforementioned approaches are there to support local innovations, bring in knowledge, stress the importance of sharing knowledge and information among farmers; and encourage learning among the farmers. However, these approaches have been criticized; especially small-scale farmers who may not be able to recognize problems when faced with them, information can also not flow as expected. There may be fundamental issues that are not discussed between the farmers and extension officers and these issues may have an effect on productivity.

Services or programmes aimed at assisting small-scale farmers have not had the desired effects that they desired. Baloyi (2010) states that low investor confidence in agriculture is a result of many factors. For small-scale farmers this is often a result of inadequate, ineffective and inefficient service delivery from government agencies such as extension and research and in some areas of some provinces the extension services are ineffective. Consequently, the agricultural sector still has a long way as far as extension support programmes are concerned.

Akpalu (2013) stated that in improving the agricultural extension sector agricultural extension service has been identified as an important part of the agricultural sector in South Africa. The development of these small-scale farmers has areas that still need attention including the extension services sector.

2.6 Agriculture and Production Challenges

The trend of agricultural productivity in South Africa is traced back from 1910. Various authors have had an interest in estimating agricultural productivity over the years. Estimates from all these studies have shown that over the years the productivity of the agricultural sector has been fluctuating (Hall & Aliber, 2010).

The agricultural sector is a sector that is sometimes coupled with challenges or barriers that hinder its development based on the fluctuating productivity. These range from difficulty of accessing finance, inconsistencies in cash flow, lack of skills, lack of business planning during conception stages, difficulties in accessing land or other facilities, lack of support or not enough support, lack of experience among owners or lack of business acumen, difficulty in accessing markets and competition from large enterprises affect growth productivity. These factors make it difficult for small-scale farmers to participate in formal markets, making this difficult for agricultural growth.

Blignaut, Knot, Smith, Nkambule, Crookes, Saki, Drimie, Midgley, De Wit, Von Loeper, Khapayi & Celliers (2015) further point out some of the challenges that are experienced by small-scale farmers adding to what has been already mentioned, are irrigation challenges and water availability. As a result of this farmers have to get alternative ways to get water from the rivers to their fields as there is no proper or adequate irrigation infrastructure. Infrastructure, these can be tunnels, fencing, water pipes etc. Farming equipment that will ensure the work goes on. Farmers do not have access to vehicles to deliver their produce to the markets restricting the amount of produce the farmers can deliver on a daily basis. Market access challenges, product quality, market knowledge and business skills are all important components in ensuring agricultural development and growth. And these programmes or strategies that are put in place need to be monitored and evaluated.

2.5 Summary

There is an urgent need to increase productivity among black small-scale farmers so that they can be able to become more professional. It is also evident that enormous training, mentoring and financial support is a necessity for the small-scale growth. Information changes from time to time therefore they need to be provided with new, relevant and timely information. Technical advice, skills transfer, materials, technology and guidance are vital for the growth and development of these farmers. And in conclusion, small-scale farmers need to be able to grab opportunities even before they are presented to them.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The study will make use of a qualitative research approach. The method provides a detailed description and analysis of the quality or the substance of the human quality and the approach strives for more depth for understanding of a natural setting. The data will be collected by means of in depth interviews with respondents from the Mbizana region.

Research methodology has been defined as an operational framework within which the facts or specifics are placed so that their meanings may be seen more clearly (Leedy, 1989). Research methodology is a plan or design for the process of finding a solution to identify the influence of servant leadership on team effectiveness. This chapter outlines the methodology used for collecting and analysing data to achieve the aim and objectives of this research. Babbie (2012) defines research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. It is an art of scientific investigation.

A systematic approach towards resolving an issue is the key aspect of any research as it allows the researcher to identify specific tools and methods that will help him/her reach the desired outcomes of research (Robson, 2011). Bryman (2008) state that a logical approach needs that the researchers are aware of the final objective and select data tools which are appropriate to achieve the ultimate objective. The research methodology will then be the plan or design for finding solutions to these objectives. A survey will be conducted using a questionnaire as a research instrument. Questionnaires are one of the most widely used survey data collection techniques. The standard questionnaires are designed to reduce the error that can be attributed to the interviewer, by scripting the question format and order and defining in detail how the interviewer is to proceed through the questionnaire. As each person was required to respond to the

same set of questions, it provides an efficient way of collecting responses from a sample.

A survey was found to be appropriate for this study because it was the most effective technique for the research. According to Cresswell (2013) research is a recurring progression of steps that naturally begin with finding a problem or matter for study. It then includes the reviewing of literature, specifying a purpose for the study, gathering and examining facts, and generating the understanding of the evidence at hand. This chapter outlines the research methodology for this current study, comprising the following sections: research design, data collection description of the instruments, sample and population, validity and reliability, feasibility and appropriateness, and data analysis and ethical considerations. According to Dellinger & Leech (2007) research is the process of achieving solutions to problems using a planned and systematic method. This chapter also provides an insight into the need for and how ethical considerations were maintained in this study.

3.2 Research Methodology

Welman, Kruger and Mitchell (2005) research methodology considers and explains the research methods and techniques that were employed in this study. The forces of nature, social and political dynamics, scientific discovery and technological innovation determine the future (Maital & Seshadri, 2012). There are thirty-nine futures methodologies that are available for use in the study of futures (Maital & Seshadri, 2012).

For the purposes of this research causal layered analysis (CLA) and environmental scanning as the preferred futures methods to analyse the present and the possible futures for jobs in South Africa by 2030. A simple taxonomy of futures research methods (Maital & Seshadri, 2012) reviews that these two methods can be applied in qualitative and exploratory studies. This study will adopt an exploratory approach in studying the literature relevant to the topic under consideration. Exploratory studies are considered

an invaluable means of establishing the current situation, to without considering the desired outcomes (Zikmund, Babin, Carr & Griffin, 2013) pursue new understandings, to make inquiries and assess issues differently. Methodologies utilised in explorative studies are termed “opportunity-oriented” and they explore possible futures.

3.2.1 Research Approach

The manner in which research is conducted may be conceived of in terms of the research philosophy subscribed to, the type of research strategy and so the research instruments utilised in line with research goals, research objectives and the research questions. The manner in which a research is approached is based on a belief system. A research philosophy is a belief about the way in which data about a phenomenon should be gathered, analysed and interpreted. My approach for this work is to understand the phenomenon presented and to offer some contribution. The term epistemology (what is known to be true) as opposed to doxology (what is believed to be true) encompasses the various philosophies of research approach. Epistemological thought and consequent epistemic stances have been constantly subjected to change. In some cases multiple stances can co-exist (Zikmund et al., 2013). In this regard the purpose of science is the procedure of transforming things believed into things that become known. Two major research philosophies have been identified in the Western tradition of science, namely positivist (sometimes called scientific) and interpretivist (also known as anti-positivist) (Galliers, 1991).

Positivists believe that reality is stable and can be observed and described from an objective viewpoint (Lee, 1991). This view suggests that phenomena should be isolated and that observations should be repeatable over time. This can imply manipulation of reality with variations in only a single independent variable so as to identify regularities in, and to form relationships between, some of the constituent elements of the social world. Predictions can be made on the basis of the previously observed and explained realities and their inter-relationships. For purposes of this study I will employ a positivist stance in understanding the phenomenon.

According to (Silverman, 1988) qualitative research is defined as research which seeks to preserve the integrity of narrative data and attempts to use the data to exemplify unusual or core themes embedded in contexts. The study aims to find ways that will improve agricultural productivity in the Mbizana area among the small-scale farmers, to ensure that they are sustainable and have the ability to access markets.

The use of different data sources used not only confirm the findings but equally get a comprehensive knowledge of the investigation as suggested by Mbeng (2013). The data will be sourced from primary sources (structured interviews) as well as secondary sources (document analysis) and the respondents will be treated with confidentiality and respect. And the study mainly focuses on small-scale farmers in the Mbizana region.

3.3 Quantitative Research

According to Welman, Kruger and Mitchell (2005) qualitative research adopts an anti-positivist stance. The anti-positivist perspective advocates a natural scientific method as the standard in human behavioural research. The anti-positivist view suggests that its inappropriate to follow rigid scientific procedures when collecting and interpreting data. This view is also indicative of shortcomings of quantitative approaches in social science studies.

This study will employ quantitative methodology to investigate the phenomena being investigated. The unstructured interviews will be ready before the interviews. In addition, it will allow the interviewees to provide open-ended answers for greater insight and to obtain more in-depth answers Interviews can be very time consuming and may be difficult to include a wide variety of themes being investigated (Colin & Hussey, 2009).

3.4 Research Questions

Mbizana Local Municipality is the main unit of analysis of this study, and the following questions are addressed to the study:

- What is the current situation regarding the sustainability of black small-scale farmers in Mbizana?
- What is the impact of existing support programs?
- What are the existing strategies that have been put in place to assist the development and sustainability of these farms?
- What suggestions can be innovated to ensure the sustainability and growth of the farms in this region?

3.5 Data Collection Tools

There are different purposes for different tools, these tools determine the interpretations, relations and variations within a phenomenon/social structure/society related to the dependent variable and the research question and sub-questions to build a typology representing the interpretations, relations, and variations within a phenomenon/social structure/society which may later be empirically tested (Babie, 2012). Therefore the data collection process that will be followed is to test respondents/participants' perceptions about the challenges that black small-scale farmers are faced with and how these can be mitigated.

Using the right techniques when collecting data is very important as this will later determine the validity and reliability of the data collected. This results in high-quality research and thus credible findings. (Margaret C. Harrell Melissa A. Bradley- 2009). Therefore in ensuring data quality, the data that is gathered needs to be relevant, accessible, timely, understandable and accurate.

The tools below will be used to gather data:

3.5.1 Structured Interviews

Both structured and semi-structured interview questions will be designed to gather data for this research. After having structured these questions face-to face interviews will be conducted with the community members (farm employers and employees). According to Babie (2012) one can use interviews when they want to fully understand someone's impressions or experiences, or learn more about their answers to questionnaires. They allow for full range, depth of information and they develop relationships with clients and can also be flexible. In capturing the information, the researcher will make use of a diary notebook and take notes.

3.5.2 Secondary Sources

Secondary sources will also be used in gathering data for this research. This data will be gathered through the review of appropriate literature. Information evolves daily; therefore the use of the review of relevant literature will be the suitable way to go about in collecting the data. These include legislations, academic journals and policy manuals. Literature reviewed will assist and guide the researcher to gather information that is relevant to the investigation by reviewing what other academics have written about the topic.

Interview procedures are one of the main data collection tools; it is a very good way of accessing people's perceptions and constructions of reality. Before the questions are asked, the respondents will be made aware of the context of the study. The respondents will be selected based on their hierarchic positions, Municipal officials, employers and employees. And where necessary a tape recorder will be used to gather the information, this will enable the investigator to go back to the records of the interview if there are details that might have been missed during note taking.

3.6 The population and the sample

Webster (1985) describes a sample as a component of the population in an attempt to draw conclusions about the population. Salkind (2000) highlights that a convenience sample is one in which “refers to a sample of participants that are readily available”. With the exciting prospects facing financial regulators in South Africa, it was prudent to utilise convenience sampling as a way of obtaining the information from the relevant population. According to Jackson (2011) a sample should be precisely selected so that through it the investigator can see all the attributes of the aggregate population in a similar relationship that they would be seen if the total population was under investigation. Therefore a non-probability stratified convenience sampling method was applied in this study. For studies of this nature an alpha probability level of 0.05 is generally accepted.

Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill (2012) indicate that there are several challenges in collecting data from the whole population. There are various reasons rendering such endeavours as challenging. The key reasons often put forward relate to practicality, time and costs. Hence, the unit of analysis for this research was based on the individual level employees working for financial regulators were used. The employees were classified by their gender, age, years of service and job titles. The sample size included 679 employees. The questionnaire were distributed electronically and endorsed by the management in order to improve the response rate.

The reason for concentrating on these employees was based on the drive that this group of employees valuable into supervision and regulation of the banking and insurance sector - they have gained hands-on practical experience of financial services sector.

This study was conducted within the financial regulation sector in South Africa and the sample was selected from management and specialists who are working in these institutions. This limited generalisation to employees who are employed in other

functions within financial regulators such Human Resources, Finance, etcetera. Given the nature of this study, the results and findings may be generalised to the other institutions that are not regarded as financial regulators.

Jackson (2011) states that a sample is a subject of elements of the population that is obtained by some process for the people being studied. He further adds that, one of the first steps of conducting a research is the selection of participants or respondents. A total of 12 respondents will be selected as a sample for this investigation as well as ensuring that data quality is attained. The respondents that will participate in the study will assist in generating additional data that will add to the literature that already exists. The population to be sampled will consist of 06 black emerging farmers and 06 employees. The respondents will be both male and female.

3.7 Data Analysis

Neuman (2011) defines data analysis as a process of transforming raw data which has been collected through surveys, interviews and observation into meaningful information. This process starts only after the research has fully finished data collection, tried finding meaning and understanding on the data which was collected. Data analysis is dividing categories into two categories namely quantitative and qualitative data analysis. The data in study was analysed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a widely qualitative method used for “identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns (themes) with data” (Neuman, 2006).

3.8 Validity and Reliability

According to Leedy & Omrod (2010) reliability refers to the consistency or dependability of a measuring instrument. Validity, on the other hand, refers to the extent to which a measurement procedure actually measures what it is intended to measure rather than measuring something else, or nothing at all. Collis & Hussey (2014) further point out that validity is the extent to which the research findings are accurate in their

depiction of the actual occurrences in a situation. In terms of the measuring instrument, validity is concerned with the soundness and effectiveness of the measuring instrument (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005). Creswell (2005) adds that validity is concerned with whether the measuring instrument actually measures what it is supposed to be measuring.

3.9 Ethical considerations

The study forms part of the Development Studies research at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University about investigating the sustainability of black small-scale farmers in Mbizana. By participating in the study, the respondents will be adding to the existing body of knowledge about this topic. There will be no money or any kind of rewards that will be paid out to any respondents in this study. An individual, who participates, participates out of their free will in assisting with the collection of data for this research.

The information provided by the respondents will be treated confidentially. Once a participant agrees to do the interview, one will be made aware that the participation is not legally binding and if anyone wishes to withdraw from the interview they will be given the will to do so. The view will also be treated with respect and honesty is required from the respondents.

3.10 Summary

It is important that the right approaches are used to collect the data. The variety of data collection tools to be used fall within the qualitative research approach. The succeeding chapter will present the research findings.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

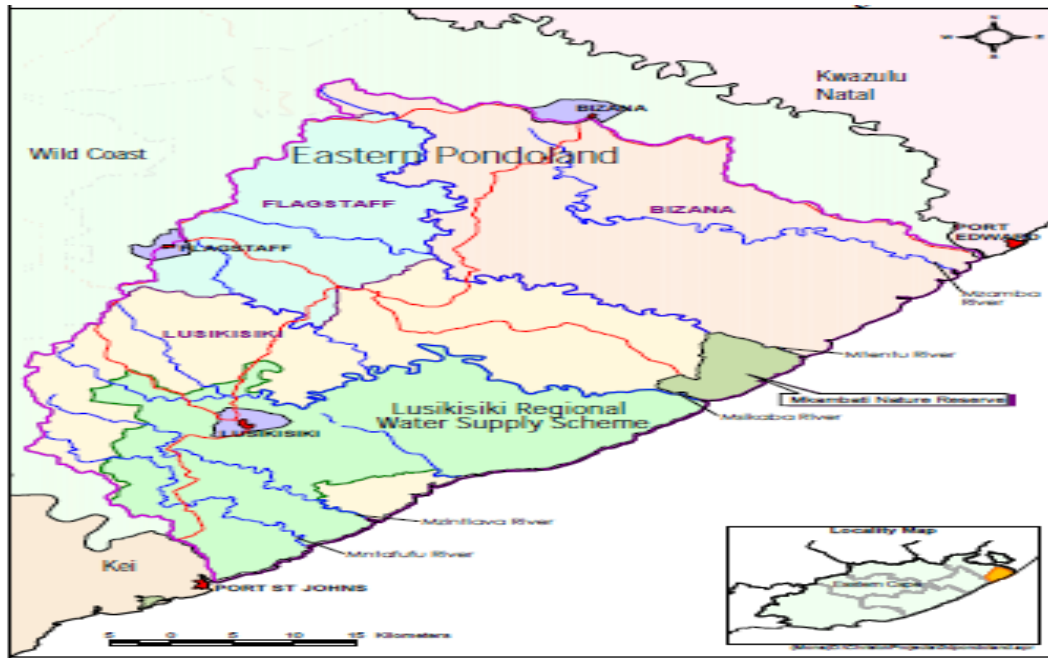
The previous chapter outlined the research methodology for this study. This chapter provides the findings on agricultural development and small-scale farming in the Mbizana Municipality. The chapter provides detailed information on how data was collected. There are numerous farming projects in the Mbizana Municipality area that falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture in Mbizana. This study tries to explore the obstacles that these small-scale farmers come across and the causes for these obstacles and looking at how these projects have changed their livelihoods by interviewing the individuals that are involved in the projects. In collecting the data, interviews were conducted in conjunction with project leaders from Mbizana. Structured interviews were done in order to gather information about the obstacles in agriculture and also to evaluate the effectiveness of these projects. A total number of twelve individuals that are involved in the projects and are members of Mbizana were interviewed from different locations within the Mbizana Municipality.

4.2 Site Location

Mbizana is located in the Eastern Pondoland in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and the study was conducted in the rural locations. Mbizana is an IsiMpondo speaking community, a dialect of the IsiXhosa language in the Eastern Cape representing one of the poorest Provinces in South Africa. Small-scale agriculture is not achieving its pivotal role of attaining food security in developing countries like South Africa.

Therefore data was collected from various districts of the Mbizana Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province and seven project leaders and five team members were interviewed using structured interviews to gather the data. The data collected looks at demographic and biographical information, working resources, farming experience, education and employment status.

Figure 1: Local Overview of Eastern Pondoland (Doudenski, 2001)



4.3 Demographic Information

The research was conducted in Mbizana (South Africa) and the target group or the individuals interviewed were randomly selected from agriculture projects from various districts in the Mbizana Local Municipality. Permission for the demographic information was requested from the participants at the beginning of interviews

Table 1: Demographic Information of Participants

Demographics	Farmers/ Participants	Frequencies

Gender	Male	7
	Females	5
Age	20 – 29	1
	30 – 39	2
	40 – 49	3
	50 – 59	4
	60 – 69	1
	70 – 79	1
Race	Black	12
Marital Status	Married	7
	Single	4
	Divorced	0
	Widowed	1
Educational Level	No Formal Education	1
	Primary School	3
	Matric	7
	University	1
Employment Status (Outside of Farming)	Permanent	0
	Unemployed	11
	Casual	1
Experience (Years)	1 – 5	2
	6 – 10	3
	11 – 20	2
	21 – 30	3
	31 – 40	2
Number of Participants in a Project	15	1
	10	7
	9	3
	8	1

Table 4.1 shows the demographic information of the participants who were interviewed. Out of the twelve participants interviewed, there are mostly male farmers between the ages of 50 – 59, most participants are married with matric and only 1 out of the 12 has a job as a casual. The participants are all black and their experience in farming varies and table 4.1 does demonstrate the number of years as well as the number of participants in each group. The groups seldom diminish in numbers and this is as a result of people dropping out of the groups.

4.3.1 The Participants

Structured interviews were conducted with a total number of twelve participants and these were selected from the districts of the Mbizana Municipality. The participants

only consisted of black small-scale farmers. The participants were informed prior the interviews that this forms part of my University studies and that there will be no incentives offered. After they were informed why they were participating in the research, they then agreed to participate. In fulfilling the research objectives it was important to interview both male and female, looking at the different ages, employment status, educational background and farming experience. This helps the researcher to get different dynamics of the participants and also understand the different reasons that got them into farming.

4.3.2 Project Details

The districts in the Mbizana Municipality have various farming projects and these were designed to eradicate poverty, build sustainable livelihoods and empower local individuals to work for their families, learn to cultivate the land and provide income. The projects mostly have 10 people involved in a project even though some individuals drop out along the way for various reasons. The projects are supported by the Department of Agriculture in Mbizana and the farmers do receive some substantial amount to commence with the projects and they also contribute some money from their own pockets, a fee of R150 for registration. They then take this money and put it into a bank account so that they can be able to have funds whenever they need to buy seeds or manure. They come with 20% and the Department of Agriculture contributes 5% or 10%.

The participants do crop farming however during the research I found out that they mostly produce mealies on the farms and others have small gardens at home where they produce vegetables. Even though the farmers are in a group, an individual has his or her own land to produce whatever they want to produce; the others are there so that they can assist one another. The projects or groups work as a support system. So if an individual does not come to assist at one farm they cannot expect to be assisted when it is their turn. And most of them sell their produce locally as it was identified during the research process. And most people who are involved in the projects are pensioners.

4.4 Farming Challenges

From interviews with farmers they indicated that they received support from the government. However, they also showed some dissatisfaction as far as the government's continued support was concerned. The following responses by the farmers reveal the challenges that the farmers are currently faced with:

Participant 4 - *"They start farming with nothing, no money and no resources and he further explained that they are pensioners in his area so they really struggle financially.*
“

Participant 7 - *"What we get from the government is very little and we cannot get by. Our farms do not have fences and that means our produce is not safe from the animals and we cannot afford to fence the farms. And another thing, bags of manure are very expensive and not all of us have that kind of money. I recently bought 8 bags and they cost me around R13 345 and still some of us produce dies and we do not get to where we want to be which is markets".*

Participant 5 - *"I got involved with farming in 1989 after I was retrenched at work, so I do have a number of years in experience. Even so, competition is rife and we as blacks lack a lot of support when it comes to funding. Even when we want to apply for loans we cannot because we have no assets that we can give the banks as collateral and we cannot use our land as well because the land is controlled by the Chiefs."*

Participant 3 - *"Some of us we do not have land that is ours, so we target individuals that are not using their land so that we can practice farming. However once the owner sees that you are making money they wait for you to harvest and then they take their land back. Maybe it would help to have contracts in place".*

Participant 1 - *"One of the challenges we have in working as group is that people are lazy, they do not want to work at all. And they do not want to do things on their own; they end up being too dependent on others. They mostly plant mealies more than other*

vegetables and the reason for this is the fact that capital is the main reason why they cannot plant vegetables”.

Participant 11 *“One of the challenges we face is the scarcity of water especially when it is during winter. This then forces either to fetch water from the river which is also far or we buy from cars that are selling water and that costs money to do so. There are also a lot of us who do farming in our area and there are months are harvesting where we do not sell much produce and this costs us too. Regardless of the challenges I will never leave farming because I love my independence and I will always use my hands to produce”.*

Participant 12 - *“Another challenge we have is an age challenge, the elderly quickly get tired from working. Not having our own tools to work with is killing us because we must always borrow or hire and hiring is also expensive. We cannot afford to buy our own tools and this would make life to be much easier”.*

The overall responses from the participants from the different districts tend to have many common perspectives. Access to finance represents a critical challenge across the board. Maintaining the farming business has proven to be quite expensive and some individuals are pensioners and they cannot afford to inject money into the business. Another factor that they pointed out was the fact that there are a lot of people that are into farming and competition is rife. There are days or months where they do not sell a lot of produce because the market is very limited.

They also pointed out that security presented another critical challenge, particularly regarding wild animals. Therefore, the animals tend to roam around in the area and consume their crops. The farms need fencing and often this is something that they cannot afford. There is also the factor of climate change that has a direct bearing on crop development. Farmers have indicated that they experience higher temperatures and less rainfall as a result of [climate change](#). Resulting changes in regional water endowments and soil moisture affects the productivity of cropland, leading to changes in food production. Climate change has varied effects on different crops. There are crops that die from too much exposure to the heat and there are those that die because they didn't get enough rain and others die because they were exposed to too much

rainfall.

Another aspect raised was the timing of planting seeds. At times they get the seeds late and this delays the process of harvesting crops in time. Other factors include challenges regarding soil. Farmers indicated that they do not have access to laboratories for testing soil conditions. In addition, the closest laboratory is based in Pietermaritzburg which represents additional challenges to the farmers. These challenges often cause setbacks for these farmers for the reason that at times they harvest close to nothing and at times they must re-plant the crops.

It also appears that in many districts that the government is not giving the much needed support that it promised to give in the beginning or it has stopped giving the support that it used to give to the farmers and this has caused some setbacks as far as productivity is concerned. One of the other challenges that they cried about was the issue of sub-contractors who would be hired by the Department of Agriculture, for example, someone contracted to assist with their tractor would be trained by the Department, and however, that person will then send someone else in their place who has limited knowledge about farming. This creates additional problems in rendering effective support to the farmers and results in further setbacks.

Some of the participants indicated that they preferred their own tools since the appointed contractors are not competent or efficient. Farming under these conditions continue to be very challenging and frustrating. They work on dry land and the boreholes need to be upgraded for sprinklers. Therefore by the time the researcher gets to the last participant, there is already a repetition of challenges.

In summary these are the findings:

- Capital Support
- Skilled contractors
- Soil, water and weather challenges
- Having their own tools for working
- Fencing

- Land issues
- Working people can be challenging
- Need more working resources

4.5 Training and Skills

It is evident in the research that most farmers need to go through a series of trainings in order to be able to acquire the skills that are needed to support sustainable farming. The following responses by the farmers reveals just how much they need these trainings and how important it is to have certain skills or experience in farming:

Participant 8 - *“I got into farming in 2003 and at the time I didn’t have any experience, the only experience I had been the knowledge I gathered growing up as a young boy and would assist at home whenever it was planting season. However I cannot say the same for my fellow colleagues who still need to be taught about farming. People are negligent and there is no discipline at all. They do not do things on time. They still need to be taught about handling finances as well, therefore we need more training”.*

Participant 9 - *“We still lack skills in the rural areas. Personally I entered farming with no skills at all, however I grew up in a farming environment so that worked to my advantage and I never received any training up to date. As farmers we really need skill so that we can know where to go and what to do when the challenges overcome us. They have promised to give us training since 2015 and nothing has happened since. The trainings are a need because when you attend trainings you know which doors to knock on for different challenges or even advise”.*

Participant 6 - *“The Department of Agriculture has been promising to give us trainings about farming however that hasn’t been done. When I joined farming I saw others doing it and then I also decided to join. I have been doing this since I was young however I still feel that we must go through some training to get to where we want to get”.*

Participant 2 - *“We do receive workshops from the municipality from time to time and they do assist here and there.”*

Participant 3 - *“The ward councilors are negligent and there is no farming knowledge with our people. More training are needed, mentally the farmers need it more. They need it more on the positive side for the reason that people are very negative and they easily discourage others in the farming business. The land is fertile however people are just lazy so they need to be trained in how to take care of the land and what the land can do for them”.*

The agricultural sector remains critical to rural development and contributes significantly to any initiative for poverty alleviation, particularly, smallholder farmers residing in these areas. For this reason there is a great need for a strong agricultural extension and advisory services led by government's operations in partnership with relevant role-players. From the evidence it is clear that the agricultural sector has the potential to create economic growth in rural areas. It generates job opportunities in adding value through agro-processing in bringing agricultural products to the consumers (market linkages), and providing support (infrastructure, information, quality control and training).

There are few institutions that are prepared to provide skills development to smallholder farmers because of lack of funds on the part of small scale farmers. Without requisite skills it difficult to keep records and therefore inputs can be easily used inefficiently. Consequently, the challenge for the country is therefore to bring the previously excluded black community into the mainstream economy through job creation and entrepreneurship; agriculture is clearly one important avenue to redress past inequalities. Higher economic growth will not be possible without addressing, among others, illiteracy and low education and skills development levels which are most prevalent in rural South Africa, and where agriculture is most likely to play an important role in resolving both economic and human development.

According to the National Development Plan for South Africa and its Vision for 2030, South African's rural communities should have greater opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the country. Rural economies will be

supported by agriculture and possibly by mining, tourism, agri-processing and fisheries. The following aspects were identified as essential, with special reference to extension and advisory services in South Africa:

- Improve and extend skills development and training in the agricultural sector, including entrepreneurship training and the training of a new cadre of extension officers that will respond effectively to the needs of small-holding farmers and contribute to their successful integration into the food value chain; and
- For these extension officers to be successful, it is necessary to investigate whether extension and other agricultural services are appropriately located at provincial level. Innovative means for agricultural extension and training by the state in partnership with industries should be sought.

In summary these are the findings:

- More skills trainings are needed;
- People are lazy;
- Finance trainings; and
- Mind-set trainings

4.6 Markets

Zithutha (2010) argues that developing countries are generally characterised by inefficiency of their marketing system and as a result are faced with a vicious circle: if the farmer does not obtain an economic return from the sale of surplus production, the farmer will tend to produce at a subsistence level only. This is one of the hindrances to agricultural development in these small-scale projects. From the interview with the farmers it can be seen that transport, drying of crops and finances are some of the limitations to reaching the market status.

Smallholder farmers usually sell their produce at the farm gate to intermediaries, often at a low price. There is limited innovation in the manner in which produce is channeled to the markets. However, innovations in marketing arrangements can transform market relations in favour of smallholder farmers. Producer organizations and cooperatives are

well-positioned to take advantage of these new opportunities that may incorporate smallholder farmers into high value chains.

In addition to filling in the gaps created by market imperfections, collective action can open up new marketing opportunities for smallholders by introducing innovations to existing value chains or creating entry ways into new markets. For example, creating new demand for traditional products through processing and value-adding activities has proved to be an innovative route to higher prices, such as through design of a branding strategy and awareness for agricultural products from smallholder farmers.

Farmers can participate in high-value markets by obtaining the required food safety certifications, which otherwise would be inaccessible to them individually but as groups or cooperatives to enhance them to easily access markets. In local informal markets, for instance, smallholders often find their prices undercut by produce that informal traders buy from large-scale commercial farmers. Supermarket chains, on the other hand, provide a lucrative niche market for smallholders but these downstream linkages are limited to smallholders that meet product variety and quality standards. Farm workers in the sector are becoming more impoverished as they are squeezed in agricultural labour markets and agro-food output markets. Other sectors of the rural poor, specifically smallholder farming and informal trading, face similar pressures as a result of the market-oriented restructuring of food and agricultural value chains.

The following responses by the farmer's reveal just how much they desire to get into markets or how important it is for their agricultural development:

Participant 10 - *“After harvesting we then sell the produce to people in the location. I find that it is better to sell in the location than in the markets because we gain more profit when we sell locally than in the markets”*.

Participant 7 - *“Markets are far and we cannot reach them so we have opted to sell locally”*.

Participant 3 - *“The market is there however every time we have to deliver we must hire cars to deliver the harvest and we end up not seeing the profit. We then opted to sell locally”*.

Participant 11 - *“Some of the farmers we are not good in marketing. When you plant you have a goal of selling to big markets and that means you must know where you will sell the mealies or whatever you have harvested”*.

Participant 5 - *“We would really love to get into markets, however it is expensive for us to do so and we do not have all the resources that we need in order for us to be successful”*.

In summary these are the findings:

- Transport challenges
- Finance constraints
- Lack of innovation

4.7 Experience and Agricultural Support

Majority of the participants are full-time in farming and they do not see themselves doing anything else regardless of the challenges. Most do not have University education, however they are using the knowledge that they grew up with. From the participants responses they have noted that the Department of Agriculture used to assist them however they no longer receive the support that they used to receive. The department used to buy the farmers seeds however they stopped. While on the other hand some farmers didn't get anything from the department when they started. They had always wanted to be in farming however they didn't know how, therefore they formed a group and approached the Department of Agriculture for assistance. Overall they feel that the department can still do more to assist them as far as support is concerned.

4.8 Conclusion

This chapter provided the findings conducted from data collection using the structured interviews. The aim of the study was to explore the obstacles to agricultural development among black small-scale farmers in Mbizana. The findings presented a

number of challenges faced by farmers in the Mbizana Municipality. It is evident that the skills development is a critical area for improving the current situation. In this regard the Department of Agriculture support is still very much needed. Extension services and the overall framework by the Department must be explored to render greater value and effectiveness. Although some skills are prevalent among smallholder farmers there are shortage of skills most notably in entrepreneurship, management and technical areas. Farmers require access to onsite tools to mitigate the dependency of contractors who often are not adequately skilled and this contributes to limited productivity.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter looked at the findings conducted from data collection using structured interviews and this closing chapter will discuss the conclusion and recommendations of the study.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Partnerships

Farmers can establish partnerships in effort to assist one another with resources and skills. This will help promote the sharing of information, expertise, and productivity and ensure sustainability. And two groups of co-operatives are better than one.

5.2.2 Taking Advantage of Rural Markets

As indicated earlier access to markets continues to be one of the critical challenges facing farmers. Often supply chains are dominated by large retail organisations and cooperative organisations. One of the objectives of the study was to look at ways by which black small-scale farmers in Mbizana can be sustainable and be able to access markets. Farmer's don't have to go far to sell their produce, they can take advantage of the small rural markets. In this way they save on transport which was one of the constraints that was mentioned in the findings.

5.2.3 Training among Farmers

Education and skills training: One of the major and or important things that kept on coming up during the interviews was the fact that the farmers had inadequate skills in regards to their line of work. Kimemia (2004) recommends that skilled Farm Manager's with small financial resources may be brought together with those with substantial financial resources but who lack farm managerial ability. These trainings will help small-scale farmers to gain tools that will enable them to increase productivity and improve the chances of getting into markets.

5.2.4 Encourage Use of Home Gardens

One of the challenges that the small-scale farmers of Mbizana experience is the issue of land ownership. By encouraging the use of home gardens, they ensure that productivity doesn't stop. And they also contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

The limitation of the study could be traced from its design since this study was cross-sectionally designed and thus may have some associative limitation on the sample adequacy. Secondly, the study reflected the views of smallholder farmers and not of the extension workers. This implies that the study cannot be generalized on the views of entire spectrum, i.e. subsistence and commercial farmers in relation to a framework for extension for stallholder farmers. Ideally, the study should have included all the views of interested stakeholder in order to get a balanced opinion.

5.4 Suggestions for Future Research

This study seems to suggest that there is a credible evidence to investigate the sources of ineffectiveness of extension services from the point of view of extension workers themselves since this study uncovered the views of smallholder farmers. It would also be important to ensure that studies be conducted to test the feasibility and efficacy of the proposed extension service framework developed in this study.

5.5 Conclusion

There is much that small-scale farmers need to be taught as far as farming is concerned and not just farming alone. They also need to be taught on finances as well. You cannot provide someone with a resource and not explain how it is to be used. If they do not know why they are doing what they are doing abuse is inevitable. Meaning that they will never value what they do. And communication skills need to be emphasized between the farmer and the Agricultural Officer. Whenever a farmer doesn't know what to do they should be able to easily reach the officer. In closing, the farmers are definitely not where they were when they embarked on this journey of farming and they have come a long way. The potential for these small-scale farms to grow and access the markets is possible. All it needs is a positive mind set and unwavering support not only from the Department of Agriculture, however support also from the local people whether it be shops or financial institutions.

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Appendix A: Letter of Informed Consent



Consent Form for Participation in a Research Study

In this study, the focus is on Emerging Small-scale Farmers and the aim is to look at challenges that are faced by Farmers in Mbizana local Municipality. We will also be exploring how these challenges limit productivity in achieving commercial status in the agricultural sector.

The researcher will conduct face to face interviews with the local Farmers to gather sufficient information. The interviews will be audio recorded and all the interviewed farmers are taking an active role in adding knowledge to existing studies. All participants will be made comfortable and no uncomfortable personal questions will be asked during the research. This will be done so that participants can be able to give more information and feel comfortable and confident enough to ask questions where necessary. All of your information and interview responses will be kept confidential and will not be used without your consent.

A major role is your voluntary participation in this study. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study but you will need to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part in this study, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. This will not affect the relationship with the researcher and there are no potential risks involved.

Only the researcher will have access to the study data and information gathered during this project. There will not be any identifying names on the interviews transcripts, they will be coded. Your names and other details will never be revealed in any publications of the study results. The audio recorded will be destroyed at completion of the study. The results of the research will be published in a professional journal.

Consent

I have read this consent form and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I give my consent to participate in this study.

Participant _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

Researcher _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

Appendix B: Interview Schedule

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR PROJECT LEADERS AND FARMERS

The researcher from Nelson Mandela University (NMU) would like to request your participation in this study research on agricultural development and emerging small-scale farmers in Mbizana Local Municipality. You will participate in this study by answering and completing the research questions. Please note that participation is voluntary and all participants will remain anonymous and there will be no reimbursement for participation.

And if you have any questions or queries to this study, please direct them to the Researcher:

Nosithembiso Nxitywa: 076 5545 390

About the interview

All information will be treated as confidential and participation is voluntary. Interview will be recorded for analysis.

Purpose of the interview

- To investigate the sustainability of black small-scale farmers in Mbizana.
- To investigate the impact of existing support programs.
- Assess how the small-scale farmers have contributed in building sustainable livelihoods for the community of Mbizana.
- To investigate suggestions that can be innovated to ensure the sustainability and growth of the farms in this region?

Project Details

1. What is your position in the Project?

2. What is the number of participants involved in each project?

3. What type of farming do you do?

4. What does your typical day look like on the Farm?

5. Are there any skills that are needed in order to be a Farmer?

Demographic Information

6. What is your gender and age?

7. What is your Marital and Employment status?

8. Educational level and Farming Experience?

Farming Sustainability

9. What obstacles do you face daily?

10. What is your overall experience when it comes to farming?

11. How sustainable are your farms?

Training and Skills

12. Are there any skills that are needed in order to get into farming?

13. What training or support have you received from the Government?

14. The training that you receive from the government, is it enough and self-sufficient?

Access to Markets

15. Do you have access to the Markets?

16. What is your overall experience to markets?

17. Do you have a vehicle to transport your produce?

Farming Obstacles

18. What are the most common obstacles do you experience?

19. How have you tried to mitigate these?

20. Are you receiving enough government support?

Land Issues

21. Do you have title deeds for the land?

22. Who owns the land?

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE

NAME: MOSITHEMBISO MXITYWA

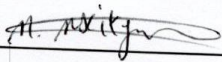
STUDENT NUMBER: 209065906

QUALIFICATION: MA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

TITLE OF PROJECT: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
EMERGING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN
MBIZANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

DECLARATION:

In accordance with Rule G5.6.3, I hereby declare that the above-mentioned treatise/ dissertation/ thesis is my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment to another University or for another qualification.

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 26 July 2018