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Transcending boundaries

Swaans, C.P.M.

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AIDS is one of the main social and development concerns in sub-Saharan Africa. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is directly linked to food insecurity. The effects are two-way. Not only does HIV/AIDS precipitate and exacerbate food and nutrition insecurity as people are weakened and unable to engage in production activities, but poverty and food insecurity may lead people to engage in more risky strategies to ensure a livelihood.

Scientists and development practitioners have stressed the importance of integrated and interactive approaches to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and rural development. In contrast to top-down approaches – often based on positivistic thinking – interactive approaches ensure a complete integration of knowledge through participation of and mutual learning between stakeholders. Results are promising so far, but interactive approaches are relatively new, and particularly at the interface of agriculture and HIV/AIDS, there is little systematic knowledge to build upon.

This thesis aims to contribute to the further development of a conceptual and methodological framework for interactive approaches to agricultural innovation in the context of HIV/AIDS. This may lead to better informed and effective development programs for the improvement of food security and well-being among poor and HIV/AIDS-affected households. The study embarks on literature research and experiences of an action research project in a HIV high-prevalence area in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Transcending boundaries

Interactive Learning and Action at the interface of HIV/AIDS and agriculture

