

**AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND POST-SETTLEMENT SUPPORT OF LAND  
REFORM BENEFICIARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA: THE CASE OF IXOPO IN THE  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

By

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## **ABSTRACT**

Land reform is a political project which started after World War II in many countries around the world (Japan, Latin America and Africa). In South Africa it started with the advent of democracy in 1994. Experiences around the globe have been perceived by some as unsuccessful. South Africa is no exception in this, with some farms acquired through the land reform programme never used from the day of transfer. Reasons for lack of production range from insecure land tenure rights to the many challenges which hinder the utilization and production on farms. Furthermore, there is poor co-ordination of institutions responsible for post-settlement support.

This study contributes insider perspectives from within the current discussion around how agricultural extension in South Africa can improve sustainable land utilization and production in land reform farms in the context of post-settlement support. The investigation explored the experiences of three beneficiary land owner groups in the Ixopo area of KwaZulu-Natal. Purposive sampling was used to select these farms and the research participants. A total of 29 respondents participated in the study. A qualitative methodology utilising interviews, focus group discussion, Venn diagram and priority ranking as data collection tools contributed to the findings around post-settlement support.

The analysis showed that these three land reform farms have a high potential to succeed if agricultural extension could play a pro-active role in the process of land utilization and production. The stakeholders' analysis has shown that there is poor co-ordination of stakeholders involved in the post-transfer support in the three land reform farms which participated in this study. The participants' responses showed that when farmers had access to good quality technical services, they can manage the farm/s. Those who accessed mentorship from Department of Rural Development and Land Reform mentors, reported that they tended to manage their farms rather than facilitate skills transfer to beneficiaries. It was also identified that current land utilization and production is driven by the support available to beneficiary farmers, resorting in unplanned land uses when support is unavailable or inaccessible. The findings suggest that agricultural extension should play a pro-active role in co-ordination that ensures communication between various role players relevant to sustainable land utilization and production, and should also enable the farmers to take an active leading role in sustainable land utilization and production.

**DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation is my own work, does not involve plagiarism or collusion and has not been submitted in any form for any degree or diploma in any University. Where use has been made of the work of others it is duly acknowledged in the text.



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As supervisor, I agree to submission of this dissertation for examination

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Mrs. Simphiwe Mngomezulu-Dube (Co-Supervisor)

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my brother “*Ndumiso Jimson Sibisi*” who helped me since I started at University and did everything in his power to enable me, as his brother to get a decent education.

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
CPA	Community Property Association
CRDP	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
CRLR	Commission on the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DLA	Department of Land Affairs
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (recently change to Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS))
HGDA	Harry Gwala Development Agency
LCC	Land Claims Court
LDA	Local Department of Agriculture
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agrarian Development
NDA	National Department of Agriculture
PDA	Provincial Department of Agriculture
RADP	Recapitalisation and Development Programme/RECAP
Sappi	South African Pulp and Paper Industry
SASRI	South African Sugar Research Institute
SPLUMA	Spatial Planning and Land Utilization Management
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
WfW	Working for Water

## DEFINITIONS OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

**Agricultural extension/extension** is an out-of-school education or adult learning practice which began in late 1880 after the Oxford and Cambridge University had discussions on addressing the educational needs of people unable to access formal education training (University education). Extension became famous and was adopted as a good practice for agricultural development (Oladele, 2013; Birmingham, 1999; Jones & Garforth in Swanson *et al.*, 1997).

**Beneficiaries** refers to the group of people who own the land designated as a specific land reform farm. For example, Platt Estate, Vukani Trust, and Mpakameni Trust.

**Extension services** are planned programmes envisioning agricultural and rural development. These programmes could be training, capacity development, demonstration, field trips, field trials and many more aimed at agricultural education for development of the poor (Cobbet, 2001; Leagans, 1971).

**Extension worker/officer/agent or agricultural advisor** is someone educated and assigned to offer extension services (Oladele, 2013).

**Farmer**, in this study the word “*Farmer*” is used to refer to both male and female respondents that practise farming. In this study, farmers are members of the beneficiary group who have opted to work on the land on behalf of the others.

A **Mentor** is someone assigned to help somebody to learn a new skill that would have been difficult to learn independently (Terblanché, 2011). Mentoring is often used in land reform to build farm management skills and capacity for unskilled emerging commercial farmers (DRDLR, 2015b).

**Participants** are individuals drawn from the group of beneficiaries on each farm who have made themselves available to participate in the investigation. They may be farmers or non-farming beneficiaries.

**Post-settlement/transfer/acquisition or after care or follow-up support** is the support given to the beneficiary of land reform once the land has been transferred officially and it may vary.

Different types of support may be given such as human capacity development, or financial support and training (Cousins, 2013; Tilley, 2008).

**Sustainable land utilization and production** is part of sustainable agriculture under environmental sustainability pillar (Worth, 2012; DoA, 2006; FAO, 1981).

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Introduction

Land reform is considered a developmental political project (Hall, 2004) which started after World War II in 1950s in countries around the world such as in Latin America, Europe and Africa. It is a developmental agenda in that it seeks to address drastic imbalance in the economic, social, and political systems. The socio-economic and political dimensions of land reform seek to address employment opportunity, meeting basic needs and redistribution of national wealth. This political agenda goes beyond governmental system changes to address imbalances and to share social benefits for the majority of the population (Holden *et al.*, 2013; Reyes, 2008; Lei, 2005).

The social system of sharing amongst the majority of a population includes the sharing of land to all vulnerable groups in a society (landless, unemployed and underemployed). According to Tilley (2008), access to land is important but does not itself bring agricultural transformation. Agricultural extension, however, should be capable of bringing support to achieve agricultural transformation (Cristóvão *et al.*, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998). Tilley (2008) mentioned that if there is no appropriate support for sustainable land production, the poor rural farmers are likely to abandon the land or transfer it to a farmer with the funding and expertise to utilise it. In South Africa this would likely be a white farmer or a large scale agri-business. If the poor, rural farmers abandon or transfer such land to “elite” white farmers, this will undermine the de-racialisation of the rural economy and equal land ownership regardless of the social groups underpinning principles of land reform (Anseeuw & Mathebula, 2008).

According to Cobbet (2001) and Cristóvão *et al.* (1997) in Swanson *et al.* (1998), worldwide, extension agents are trusted to and entrusted with agricultural development. This development of agriculture depends on extension services catered for by extension organisations and their extension workers. However, in many countries around the world, for example Zimbabwe, Brazil and Columbia, the land reform programme has also not been so successful because of the poor post-settlement support for agricultural development given to beneficiaries (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; Wiedeman, 2004). In Colombia in 1994 the beneficiaries were unable to utilize land and produce on it without appropriate extension services. In Zimbabwe, since 2000 little attention was

paid to catering for extension services and training after the so-called land invasions and thus the failure of land reform has increased drastically. In Brazil, extension agents were involved in land reform but did not play a role in land utilization and production (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; Tilley, 2008; Wiedeman, 2004 & DFID, 2002). Reflection on these countries' experiences show a huge need of agricultural extension inclusion in land utilization and production.

In South Africa, at the advent of democracy in 1994, the undertaking of land reform formed part of a total social system change. The initial purpose of undertaking land reform was to address social injustice created by a discriminating government, a skewed rural economy, an imbalanced distribution of land ownership and to remove all discrimination barriers which countered social justice (O'Laughlin *et al.*, 2013; Pepeteka, 2013; DLA, 1997). To ensure that land was shared amongst all landless Africans, the democratic government adopted a three-legged programme, namely redistribution, restitution and the land tenure system. These three programmes were included in the *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa No. 108 of 1996* under section 25 (5), (6) and (7) of Property Clause to ensure their protection (RSA, 1996; pp.1253; DLA, 1997).

While the democratic government continues land reform processes to redress social justice, less attention has been paid to offering post-settlement support for people who acquired land identified as suitable for agricultural production and development (DRDLR, 2015b). Many scholars or writers have castigated the government for inability to cater post-settlement support. They claim this neglect has resulted in failure of the reform programme (Cousins, 2015; PLAAS, 2015; Hall *et al.*, 2003; Jacobs, 2003).

## **1.2 Contextual need for the research**

In South Africa, the political system was historically commanded by a colonial government where most of the land, public goods and services were only shared amongst the white minority. The African majority had limited social benefits to share despite high population congestion in homeland areas. Another challenge for homelands was to produce enough food to meet demands and ensure food security (Hall, 2010; Kariuki, 2009; Treurtha & Vink, 2008; DLA, 1997). Many policies and legislation enacted by the colonial government restricted African farmers from occupying productive land reserved for white commercial farming. As a result most Africans

sought employment in the urban cities to sustain their living (Hall, 2003). Those that remained behind utilised whatever resources they had for subsistence and small scale production.

The new focus of South African land reform is on agricultural production for commercial use (Terblanché, 2008; Hall *et al.*, 2003). The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the follow up that ensures production in post-settlement support. It makes use of extension agents to cater for the services identified for agricultural development (Cousins, 2015; NDA, 2005). However, there is minimal inclusion of agricultural extension (Worth, 2012; Tilley, 2008). Furthermore, there is poor co-ordination of stakeholders responsible for post-transfer support in land utilization and production, such as DRDLR, DoA and DWS (Cousins, 2015). The beneficiaries who have acquired land have poor skills possession, lack commercial farming experience and the human capacity needed for sustainable land utilization and production (Cousins & Dubb 2014; Terblanché, 2008; Universiteit van Pretoria, 2005; Anseeuw & Mathebula, 2008). At the same time, agricultural extension is still trusted for agricultural development. A reflection on extension shows that effective extension agents should be capable of fostering stakeholders' co-ordination and human capacity development needed for sustainable land utilization and production once the land had officially transferred to the beneficiary (Worth, 2012; Zwane, 2012; Živković *et al.*, 2009; Cristóvão *et al.*, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998).

There are three objectives that South African Land reform is concerned with: the de-racialisation of the rural economy; democratic and equitable land redistribution regardless of social group; and sustainable land production which guarantees national food security (DRDLR, 2015b). Ultimately, however, the desired outcome of land reform is for productivity from land reform farms. In order to achieve this outcome, commercial production is the priority. Successful land reform, therefore, requires the beneficiaries to optimise their land for production purposes (Terblanché, 2008; Tilley, 2008; Hall *et al.*, 2003). However, many farms given to beneficiaries have neither produced nor have effectively utilised land since they were transferred, because of unavailability of support (Business Enterprise, 2013) and there has been no progress for sustainable livelihoods. If there is no support – either financial or technical – there will be no sustainable land production which guarantees national food security (Business Enterprise, 2013; Anseeuw & Mathebula, 2008).

Sustainable land utilization and production are important part of using agriculture for development. Agricultural extension has been identified by Worth (2012), Zwane (2012) and Cristóvão *et al.* (1997) in Swanson *et al.* (1998) as an effective system to address challenges relating to human capacity development, management skills, poor co-ordination of stakeholders and technology development needed for sustainable land utilization and production. However, there is little evidence of how agricultural extension is improving sustainable land utilization and production, more especially in land reform farms. Therefore, it is important to study how agricultural extension can improve sustainable land utilization in land reform farms.

### **1.3 Design of research**

#### ***1.3.1 The problem statement***

The investigation reported in this dissertation sought to understand poor land utilization and production of land reform farms in South Africa through agricultural extension. The investigation was driven by the theoretical question: How can South African agricultural extension improve sustainable land utilization and production for land reform farms in the context of post-settlement support?

The objective of this study then was to investigate the perceptions of specific beneficiary farmers about their experiences of post-settlement support and in particular, the influence and roles of stakeholders.

#### ***1.3.2 The research objectives***

This study investigates the perceptions of beneficiary farmers around the stakeholder relationships and challenges for capacity in both managing farms and utilising land for production on three land reform farms in Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust

In order to address the main objective effectively and assist with the collection of primary data, the study included the following sub-objectives:

- To investigate the importance, relationship and influence of stakeholders and extension support involved in post-settlement support;

- To investigate the support in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production, and challenges; and
- To investigate the current land utilization and production against the planned sustainable land utilization and production

### ***1.3.3 Limitation and de-limitations***

#### *1.3.3.1 Generalization*

The study employed qualitative research methods. One of the characteristics of qualitative research methods is that the qualitative results cannot be generalized to the rest of the population (Welman *et al.*, 2005). The results presented in this dissertation solely represent the sampled population and cannot be generalized to other land reform farms in Ixopo, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa or elsewhere in the world.

#### *1.3.3.2 Sampling*

There were a number of land reform farms that could have participated in the study. However, as University of Surrey (2015) stated, sampling the whole population is impractical. Thus, the sample was limited to only three land reform farms and their beneficiaries who were available for individual interviews and focus group discussions. Furthermore, the sample of extension agents and mentors was also limited to extension agents and mentors who had worked or are currently working with the three selected land reform farms.

#### *1.3.3.3 Participants' perception*

The data presented in this study used the views and thoughts of participants to construct meaningful knowledge about their situation in post-settlement support. There may be other perceptions or knowledge (by other stakeholders) about the extension agents and mentor, and the three land reform farms that were sampled. However, since only volunteer participants were pursued and engaged with, other potential views are not presented in this study.

#### *1.3.3.4 Political agenda*

In the literature review, there is a section which discusses the policies of land reform. The intention of the study was not to discuss all policies of land reform in South Africa, but only those which

supports sustainable land utilization and production, and agricultural extension in the context of pre-/post-settlement support.

#### ***1.3.4 Methodology followed***

The research employed a qualitative research approach. Tools and instruments for gathering information were individual interviews, focus group discussion, Venn diagrams and priority ranking. A total of 29 participants engaged in land reform and post-settlement support were invited and subsequently selected to participate in this study using a purposive sampling technique. The Local Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was approached for assistance in identifying land reform farms in the Ixopo region. The local department manager (LDA) provided a list of 18 farms acquired through the land redistribution and/or restitution programme. Of the farms approached, three were selected as willing and appropriate in terms of the limitations of the study. Snowball sampling was used to identify the participants in this study.

The researcher began by interviewing 21 participants in all three land reform farms. The farmers who participated in the individual interviews were further invited to join the focus group discussions using responses obtained from individual interviews. The focus group discussions were used to validate the data gathered from individual interviews included Venn diagramming and priority ranking. They were held on the three different farms included in this study. After gathering data from the farmers, the researcher then conducted individual interviews with extension agents and mentors involved with these land reform farms. A total of eight extension agents and mentors were interviewed, including the LDA manager.

#### **1.4 Shape of the dissertation**

Chapter 1 provides a summarised introduction and background of the investigation and the layout of this dissertation. The chapter demonstrates the contextual need of the research and provides the research design which includes the objectives, sub-objectives, limitations and methodology followed.

Chapter 2 demonstrates how agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization of land reform farms. The chapter further identifies the gap in post-settlement support which the agricultural extension should or would have filled. Four aspects are reviewed: history and context

of land reform, political agenda in land reform, agricultural extension and post-settlement support, and development theory on land reform.

Chapter 3 provides the background of Ixopo area where the study was conducted. The chapter discusses the physical location, agriculture and natural resources, demographics and economic factors of Ixopo. The maps of Ixopo area (Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality – name used by Municipality for Ixopo) are also provided.

Chapter 4 clearly articulates the methodology deployed in gathering primary data from three land reform farms and extension agents and mentors. The chapter explains the research approach, methods, data collection tools and instruments, and the sampling technique used to collect qualitative data for the research.

Chapter 5 includes the presentation of results, discussion of results and discussion of findings in relation to the literature review. The results are presented according to participants' responses and research sub-objectives. The discussion lays a foundation for discussion of the findings in relation to literature. The discussions are guided by the research sub-objectives.

Chapter 6 draws a conclusion regarding the whole investigation which sought to understand sustainable land utilization and production through South African agricultural extension in the context of post-settlement. The chapter summarises the findings which are then used to draw a conclusion guided by the research objective and sub-objectives. The summary of findings is also used to make recommendations for practice and further research.

## **1.5 Conclusion**

This chapter provided an overall map of the dissertation and, including background of the study which included introduction, the need of the research, design of the research and shape of the dissertation as a report of a descriptive investigation. The chapter described how the study of agricultural extension and post-settlement support was undertaken. Chapter 2 explores the literature around agricultural extension and post-settlement of land reform beneficiaries at local, national and international levels.

## **Chapter 2**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The South African democratic government proclaimed their agenda for land reform with an intention to correct the wrongs of the past, to promote social equity and to balance the rural economy (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014). However, since the initiation of land reform major attention has focussed on the number of hectares transferred to previously disadvantaged group and less attention has fallen on offering post-settlement support after officially transfer to the beneficiaries (Cousins, 2015; DRDLR, 2015b). Land utilization and production has become a serious challenge with some beneficiaries' land not being utilized since it was officially transferred (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014). Interestingly, agricultural extension has been identified as potential channel to facilitate capacity needed to bring land utilization and production (Zwane, 2012; Worth, 2012)

This chapter reviews the current knowledge of post-settlement support of land reform beneficiaries and agricultural extension. It synthesises information from other scholars about issues related to understanding the roles and responsibilities of South African agricultural extension in supporting sustainable land utilization and production. Four aspects guide this review, namely: history and context of land reform, political agenda in land reform, agricultural extension and post-settlement support, and development theory on land reform.

#### **2.2 History and context of land reform**

##### ***2.2.1 History and context in South Africa***

The history of land reform in South Africa tells of incidences of colonisation, wars and violence amongst Boers/Voortrekkers, British, and Africans. Finally, the native black Africans (Khoi-san, blacks, and coloureds) were defeated and colonised by expatriate settlers (Boers and British). The expatriate settlers established the colonial government which authorised acts and legislation that delimited Africans' rights to access land and utilize it independently. However, those acts and legislations such as the *Occupation Act 1886*, *The Glen Grey Act 1894* and *Land Settlement Act 1912* did not contribute vastly to the dispossession of Africans, but laid the foundation for land segregation (SAHO, 2015a; Nefolovhodwe, 2013). On 19 June 1913 the colonial government

promulgated the notorious act known as *Natives Land Act No. 27 of 1913* that prohibited Africans from occupying land outside the “native reserve” or “homelands”<sup>1</sup> areas, as stipulated in the act (SAHO, 2015b; Pepeteka, 2013; Visser, 2013).

When the *Native Land Act* was passed in 1913, it allocated 93% of land to white commercial farmers and 7% to African farmers as “native reserves”, despite this creating a high population density in these areas. Before Lord Gladstone officially signed and promulgated the Act, some white commercial farmers were already enforce to apply the Act by forcing black farmers to rent land from them, either for cropping or livestock or to serve as labour tenants, failing which they were required to depart. As a result, African people were obliged to change their livelihood system in favour of white commercial farming (Nefolovhodwe, 2013; Dodson, 2013). According to SAHO (2015a), van Schoor (1986) and Visser (2013) the dispossession of Africans of their own land actually started as early as the 1800s after colonial wars.

The African homelands were eventually increased from 7% to 13% of the total land after the enactment of the *Native Administration Act of 1927* and the *Bantu Trust and Land Act of 1936* (SAHO, 2015a; Pepeteka, 2013; Butler *et al.*, 1978). Van Schoor (1986) stated that from 1910 to 1940 the legislation and acts of land were directly oppressing Africans. In 1950 the apartheid government passed the *Group Areas Act No. 41 of 1950* which forced similar ethnic groups to live together in designated areas. It also prohibited Africans to own or occupy land within the white reserve areas. As a result, over 3.5 million blacks were removed from white reserve areas (Manenzhe, 2007; Van Schoor, 1986) to farm in their 13% of allocated land with highly limited access to resources such as fertile land, proper infrastructure and markets, in comparison to white commercial farmers (Manenzhe, 2007; Rugege, 2004).

The apartheid political agenda regarding land ownership patterns was reversed by the advent of the democratic government in 1994 (Dlamini, 2007). At that time, approximately 87% of fertile land was held under white ownership, supporting 60 000 white commercial farmers (Pepeteka, 2013; Adams, 2000). Even in the current context, white commercial farmers still own 82 million

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<sup>1</sup> **Native reserve** or **Homelands** refers to rural areas which constituted 13% of 122, 071, 300 hectares of the Republic of South African land that were reserved for blacks as their legal place of residence. These areas were established by government after the inauguration of *Native Land, Native Administration, and Bantu Trust and Land Acts*. Ten official rural areas around South Africa were established as homelands (Butler *et al.*, 1978).

hectares of South African land, an amount which is far too high when compared to land under African ownership (Worth, 2012).

### ***2.2.2 International perspective of land reform and post-settlement support***

In the sub-Saharan Africa and global arena, food prices, infrastructure development, access to market and information, increased income, amendment/change of policies, and land tenure and property rights are important and influential factors impacting on land use and production. Increased food prices attract farmers to use land productively for food production. Access to infrastructure such as roads, electricity and communication infrastructure is associated with high farm productivity (Nkonya *et al.*, 2012). Access to markets and information assists farmers to make appropriate decisions about their land use. Increased country's earning per capita may influence consumers' food preferences and thus influence the primary producers and their products. Amendments and changes to policies may have favoured farmers and/or consumers. For example in the 1960s the Chilean Christian Democrats released a series of policies to increase food prices at farm level as part of an agrarian reform and production promotion strategy (Heit, 2003).

Land tenure and property rights provide incentives to farmers to plan for long-term land utilization and production or invest in long-term land improvement such as soil conservation measures. If tenure rights are not secure it is difficult for marginal groups to stand in opposition during land rights and ownership disputes. Furthermore, the farmers cannot access credit and compete in the market (FAO, 2010; Nkonya *et al.*, 2012; Heit, 2003).

International conversation around land reform is understood from different angles, for example, focussing on varied land types, land use, post-settlement support; social, economic and political objectives (Adams, 1995). Adams (1995) proposed that an understanding of the meaning is essential because of the various intentions toward implementing land reform other than changing land distribution and rural power. There are several authors who have defined the term "land reform" (Wächter, 2008; Manenzhe, 2007; Adams, 1995). According to Adams (1995) *in* Manenzhe (2007), land reform can be defined as equitable sharing of land and land rights with the poor and landless. An additional understanding of this meaning proposed by Wächter (2008) was that nationally and internationally, land reform is categorized to two groups, namely land redistribution and tenure systems. Land redistribution refers to expropriation of land from large

land holdings (including state and private-owned land) to small farmers, while land tenure system refers to repossession of land and restitution rights for the landless disposed due to past policies.

In Latin America and Europe, land reform has been undertaken in various ways. In Brazil, for example, selected land holdings were expropriated with compensation and reshaped into small farms and family farms. Small farmers are responsible for trading locally while large commercial farmers are responsible for trading internationally. In Chile, land reform was initiated in 1964 by introducing legislation to change the constitution around the extent of established agrarian reform. In 1967 the government inaugurated land reform with the major goal of increasing farm production and productivity of the agricultural industry and also established policies promoting production at farm level. In Europe during the 1990s, accessing land was a complex issue and leasing was a key tool for doing so. In Belgium, 71% of land was leased from government while 48% was leased in Netherlands (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; Tilley 2008; Janvry & Sadoulet, 2002; Heit, 2003).

On the African continent, land reform has been considered as core to the development agenda which realizes state and large holdings being expropriated and divided into small holder farms (AU, 2015; Vien, 2011). This is crucial for development as it re-balances the rural economy, combats poverty and addresses social inequality. Africa has comparative resources, but the majority of rural, poor people are found in Africa. Therefore, there is an imperative need for land reform and sharing out the natural resources in order to prevent and reverse poverty, bring social equity and reduce vulnerability (AU, 2015; World Bank, 2013).

Many African countries have taken part in land reform (Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda). In Algeria, at the advent of their independent era in 1962, farm workers invaded abandoned French farms and started their own management. Production was sustained even ten years after independence even though knowledge of land management seemed limited. In Egypt in 1950, land was limited to 42 hectares per farmer. In Ghana in the 1960s, migrants were offered the use of agricultural land and were farming cocoa on a rental basis. One third of the output was used as rent payable to the land owners (DRDLR, 2011a; RNR *et al*, 2004; Pfeifer, 1981).

The majority of Southern African countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe) have undertaken land reform intending to redress past social injustice and inequitable distribution of land. Botswana's reasoning is slightly different in that, it has

undertaken land reform to increase agricultural productivity, sustain spectrum land resources and close the gap between the rich and poor (Kleinbooi, 2010; Malope & Batisani, 2008).

In most cases land reform projects have not achieved the desired outputs (for example, Southern Africa and Latin America). There is poor collaboration of ministries and lack of scope of post-settlement support needed to be implemented which results in poor after-care support. Locally and internationally, poor post-settlement support has appeared to be a hindrance to achieving success. In Zimbabwe, for example, since the inception of land invasion in 2000 to date, no support has been given to legal small plot beneficiaries and little attention has been paid to the provision of after-care support such as extension and services, training and human capacity development. Another example is Brazil, where extension officers are expected to offer extension services for proper land use, business and post-settlement support planning. However, extension agents often play a role in land price bargaining and immediate re-acquisition whilst land use remained a serious issue that impacts the rural economy. In Colombia in 1994, without post-settlement support such as training, extension services, and infrastructure and social services, farmers were unable to utilize the land (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; Kariuki, 2009; Tilley, 2008; Wiedeman, 2004 & DFID, 2002).

In Southern Africa, land reform history tells of colonial groups who triumphed and the oppression of indigenous people on their native land (O’Laughlin et al., 2013; Nefolovhodwe 2013; Kleinbooi, 2010). The colonisation created division over land ownership, land access and control of land; native Africans were forced out of productive land to marginalised and alienated native reserves. With the advent of the post-apartheid government in South Africa, it was an inevitable that reversing the division created by the previous political regime would be in order to reduce land-based disparity (O’Laughlin et al., 2013; Manenzhe, 2007). According to Kahn (2007), repossession of land is meaningless without appropriate post-settlement support. The problem still remains in that in many countries land reform is failing because of poor and absent post-settlement support (Binswinger-Mkhize 2014).

## 2.3 Political agenda on land reform and post-settlement support in South Africa

### 2.3.1 *White Paper on Land Policy*

The implementation of land reform started immediately in 1994 after the elections of democratic government took place. The *White Paper on South Africa Land Policy* was then completed in 1997 as formal guidance of the Land Reform process (Treurtha & Vink, 2008). The major purpose of DLA on White Paper agenda was to redress socially biased ownership of land and inequality in possession and distribution of land, to provide security of tenure for all, to facilitate sustainable use of land, the restoration of land rights and the removal of all discriminatory barriers which were set by the apartheid regime that discriminated against certain groups of people (DLA, 1997).

The displacement of people from the land that they own is a harrowing experience and reform is a complex issue (Kariuki, 2009). Land reform was implemented by the democratic government to restore the dignity of landless people who lost land ownership under the previous discriminatory government. The meaning of “*Land reform*” is not constant (it is evolving), but in short can be described as the change of land ownership patterns by passing policies, legislature and other mandates (Acts and amendments) of ownership (DRDLR, 2015a; Adams, 1995).

The government debated which policy or method would be used in the Land Reform Programmes to ensure that claimants receive their land back (Jacobs *et al.*, 2003). To successfully redress this issue, the government devised a three-legged programme consisting of land redistribution, land restitution and the land tenure system. This programme represented the recommendation from policy discussions and embodied the *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa No. 108 of 1996* (RSA, 1996; pp.253) under *section 25 (5), (6) and (7)* of Property Clause to ensure that this programme protected. Each of the three components of the programme is discussed below.

**Land redistribution** is implemented through the *Provision of Land and Assistance Act No. 126 of 1993* and property clause *section 25 (5)* (South Africa Yearbook, 2010). It provides entitlement to people dispossessed from land by the apartheid government to lodge a claim; either for agricultural development, non-agricultural enterprise or settlement purposes. Land redistribution takes into consideration that claimants have varied needs of land; therefore, land is redistributed to urban and rural poor labour tenants, and to households to improve their livelihoods (DLA,

1997). The grant of R16 000 was originally made available for farmers to purchase the land they were to buy. This approach was widely criticized because of the insufficiency of funds compared to land selling price. Consequently, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs discontinued the Land redistribution programme in 1999 for revision. In 2000, a new policy was released to guide the process; the Land Redistribution and Agrarian Development Policy (LRAD). Its target was to gradually transfer 30% of land (approximately 25 million hectares at a rate of 2.5 million hectares per year) under white ownership to black commercial farmers by the end of 2015 (Pepeteka, 2013; Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs, 2001). Land redistribution entirely opposes the Zimbabwean land reform style, also known as “*Land invasion*”; priority is given to groups of people working with government in a civilised manner that would promote sustainable development (DLA, 1997).

**Land Restitution** deals with claimants as prescribed in *Section 25 (6)* of Property Clause and *Restitution of Land Right Act, 22 of 1994*, that every household or community evicted from their own land or property after 19 June 1913 was entitled to make a claim for restitution redress. The claimants had an opportunity to reclaim their own land or property or access remedies for compensation of dispossession. There were two commissions established to help claimants in lodging their claims, namely the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR) and the Land Claims Court (LCC). The CRLR is responsible for advising land claimants throughout with the claims process and on other matters connected with land restitution, whilst LCC is responsible for matters connected with the Land Reform (Labour Tenant) Act and other court law connected with *Restitution of Land Right Act, 22 of 1994* and transferring of land (DLA, 1997). By the end of 2013/14, both land restitution and redistribution had managed to settle 78 334 claims and in 2014 alone, 863 claims (153 543 hectares) were settled compared to the target of settling 533 claims (311 917 hectares) (DRDLR, 2014).

**Reforming Tenure** aims to provide secured rights of land to rural dwellers, land owners or people using land as a result of labour tenancy to curtail illegal eviction from their own land or that of land owners (Hall, 2004). The overarching goal for this programme is to secure people’s right of using land for farming or residential purposes, harvesting natural resources and minerals. This may also enable farm or rural dwellers to start using the land independently and in a sustainable manner (Adams, 1999). To successfully secure tenure rights, the government has employed a myriad of

acts to control the creation of land rights for different groups of land owners. These are in terms of the *Section 25 (7)* property clause such as the *Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Act No. 34 of 1996*, the *Land Reform (Labour tenants) Act No. 3 of 1996 (LTA)*, the *Interim Protection of Informal land Rights Act No. 31 of 1996 (IPILRA)* and the *Extension of Security of Tenure Act No. 62 of 1997 (ESTA)* (Hall, 2004; DLA, 1997).

### ***2.3.2 Models of land use and production of land reform beneficiaries***

Once the land has been completely transferred to the rightful owner, it is important to understand the structural arrangement of beneficiaries (Hall, 2010). According to the South Africa Yearbook (2010), as from April 2010 the department organized land reform beneficiaries according to their land needs. The land reform beneficiaries are therefore structured into four models, detailed below.

**Large groups for commercial production** is a dominant model for South African land reform due to large communities claiming land for restitution redress and the grant system for redistribution. For example, in the period between 1995 and 1999 under SLAG grants, farmers were granted R16 000 to pool their grants and purchase land that they preferred. In this model farmers are farming as a single commercial entity and often emulate the land use and production of the previous owner. However, this poses a contradiction because the model is officially discouraged and widely criticized for the expansion of Bantustan agriculture (Hall, 2010). Furthermore it is not successful (Bingwanger-Mkhize, 2014).

**Large groups farming in small groups** are formed as the result of project members of group-based production who have deviated and retracted from the original project. This is sometimes caused by not transforming objectives into reality in a collaborative venture or lack of clarity about envisaging over implementation of business ambition. In this model, beneficiaries are farming as a single entity or a small group for household food production, although not often found (Hall, 2010; & Lahiff, 2008).

**Small groups, individuals or families** are strongly encouraged and are made up of black farmers farming as a single commercial entity. Most of them are farming successfully in spite of inadequate government support. This model was formed as result of beneficiaries with their own capital contributions for purchasing the land under LRAD programme and a family-based claim for

restitution redress. For example, under LRAD programme if the beneficiary farmer contributes R20 000, the minimum grant of R5 000 can be accessed and if the beneficiary farmer contributes R400 000, the LRAD grant increases to R100 000. Farmers involved in this model have a comparative advantage for success where conflicts and other hindrances to group performance are less common (Hall, 2010; South Africa Yearbook, 2010; Ministry of Agriculture and Land Affairs, 2001). Moreover, it is a very successful model in both developed and developing countries (Bingwanger-Mkhize, 2014).

**Strategic partnerships or joint ventures** are utilised by beneficiary farmers with insufficient grants to buy land. Under these conditions, beneficiaries ought to have a strategic partner in order to remain on the land (DRDLR, 2013b). The beneficiary farmer co-operates in a strategic partnership with commercial farmers, private/state sectors for agricultural production and other related activities. There are five types of strategic partnership, namely; contract farming schemes, share-equity arrangement schemes<sup>2</sup>, municipal commonage schemes<sup>3</sup>, share-produce schemes<sup>4</sup> and company supported schemes<sup>5</sup> (Hall, 2010; Hall *et al.*, 2003; & Mayson, 2003). However, according to Business Enterprise (2013) the strategic partnership is seen as outsourcing of post-settlement support due to lack of post-settlement strategy.

The government has also employed a number of post-settlement support strategies to support farmers who acquired land either through restitution and redistribution. Those are Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP) and extension and advisory services (DRDLR, 2015b). However, after receipt of land by beneficiaries, the post-settlement programmes have not been effective in promoting maximum utilization of land and production.

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<sup>2</sup> **Share-equity arrangement schemes** are where resource poor farmers or previously disadvantaged group buy shares of land from commercial farmer or private agricultural company with the intention of acquiring more technical, financial and management skills (Greenberg, 2009; see also <http://sacsis.org.za/site/article/357.1>)

<sup>3</sup> **Municipal commonage schemes** are land owned by local municipalities which is used by landless local people with strict conditions of its use and disposal (Mayson, 2003).

<sup>4</sup> **Share-produce/sharecropping schemes** are a form of agreement taken by landowners and leasers where instead of paying a certain amount of rent to land owner; a certain portion of output is shared as rent. The produce is exchanged for cash (Mayson, 2003).

<sup>5</sup> **Company supported schemes** are a coalition of a large company with the local community to fulfil the company's social improvement strategy (Mayson, 2003).

The results are enormous post-settlement challenges such as under/no utilization of land, lack of production and failure to meeting intended objectives (Hall, 2004 & 2010).

### **2.3.3 Land use planning and regulation**

Proper land use and management of the land resources is important for social, economic and environment benefit. Land use and management in South Africa reflects past laws and policies of the apartheid government (SAG, 2015). To rectify this, *Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), Act No. 16 of 2013* was established by DRDLR with an intention to ensure the promotion of social and economic inclusion, and ensure equity in the practice of spatial development and land use management systems. SPLUMA also serves as a basis for workable land use practice to ensure homogeneity and harmony in land use management and spatial planning (DRDLR, 2013d).

This act has three processes through which SPLUMA is implemented: municipal planning, provincial planning, and national planning. Municipal planning consists of legalisation around the integrated development plan, ensuring obedience to an integrated development plan as stipulated in the municipal legislation and control of the use of land to ensure that land use does not affect provincial and national planning. Provincial planning consists of endorsement of provincial spatial development, ensuring compliance with the acts and provincial legislation at municipal level, ensuring implementation of the act and creating law and policies needed for implementation of provincial planning. National planning consists of controlling the act at the national level, making relevant changes relating to land use and management, and reviewing, monitoring and supporting performance of spatial planning, land use management and land development functions (DRDLR, 2013d).

### **2.3.4 Land development, post-settlement support and maximum land utilization**

According to the *Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, very little attention has been paid to land development and post-settlement support to ensure that redistributed land is used to its best potential. The major attention focuses on transferring land and the number of previously disadvantaged groups who acquire land through the land reform programme (DRDLR, 2015b). However, development was recognised in the *White Paper on Land*

*policy* (1997) as having the purpose of establishing fixed measures to facilitate development of affordable housing, production, communal services and recreation. Furthermore, the White paper recognises the *Development Facilitation Act No. 67 of 1995* as the main conduit for facilitating required measures of development (DLA, 1997). Development of the land has been specifically operationalised as part of the strategy adopted to achieve land reform in South Africa (DRDL, 2014).

The *Development Facilitation Act No. 67 of 1995* aims to intervene with special measures to accelerate developmental programmes related to land, to initiate a Development and Planning Commission, to initiate provincial land development tribunals which have the authority to take decisions and resolve conflicts of, to promote land development for farming and residential and other incentives for land development (DLA, 1995). Despite this act, in the Medium Term Review and Final Review of the Land Reform Pilot Project (LRPP), a significant gap is shown in the provision of post-settlement support (Greenberg, 2010). There is also a lack of prominent policy to provide guidance to after-care support (Greenberg, 2010). As a consequence of post-settlement issues that continued to surface, the Department of Land Affairs and Agriculture were challenged to merge and launch the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) in an attempt to deliver improved post-settlement support services (Treurtha & Vink, 2008). The CASP is further explained below, as are other post-settlement support and rural development programmes:

#### *2.3.4.1 Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP)*

The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme is the post-settlement support programme directed toward land and agrarian reform farmers and also other producers who acquired land through private means (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; NDA, 2004 & 2012). CASP was launched on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2004 by the Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs. It realised that it is not ideal to offer land and capital investments to the beneficiary without enhancing their capabilities in farm management to bring forth the best farming practices. The beneficiary farmers of the programme are subsistence and household farmers; small scale farmers; land reform and agrarian programme beneficiaries and large scale commercial farmers (NDA, 2005).

Through surveys, workshops and other formal and informal studies conducted by Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Provincial Departments of Agriculture (PDAs); six priority supports have

been identified that require implementation under CASP: Information and Knowledge Management; Technical and Advisory Assistance and Regulatory Services; Training and Capacity building; Marketing and business Development; On/off farm Infrastructure; and Production inputs and Financial Assistance (NDA, 2004 & 2005). The NDA (2005) further mentioned that the department has to impart a repertoire of skills required by extension workers or mentors to provide this support to the CASP beneficiaries. In order to implement objectives, the DAFF allocated the following budget.

Each province acquires a share from the budget (see Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 national and provincial budgets) depending on the variability of the following aspects: competitive CASP performance, land size (ha), delivered land under restitution and redistribution, and production variation. The results of CASP in 2009/10 nationally were 26 266 targeted clients supported and 706 projects completed (NDA, 2011). On the extension workers' side, over 2000 extension workers were taken through skills development and registered for qualification upgrades (DAFF, 2009). In 2015/2016, DAFF has allocated 678 million to the Fetsa Tlala<sup>6</sup> programme to bring about 128 000 hectares of land under production and 511 projects which will assist small scale and smallholder farmers (Senzeni Zokwane (MP) Speech, 2015).

Table 2.1: CASP Budget allocations nationally in billions of rands

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Grant	0.76	0.90	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6

Source: Senzeni Zokwane (MP) Speech, 2015, 2014 & 2013; Worth, 2012; NDA, 2011.

<sup>6</sup> Fetsa Tlala is a programme designated to deal with the food insecurity problem amongst small holder and small scale farmers. Its target is to bring 1 million hectares under production by 2019. For more information please visit <http://www.nda.agric.za/docs/media/fetsa%20tlala.pdf>

Table 2.2: CASP Budget allocations provincially in millions of rands

<b>Province</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Eastern Cape	111301	160760	175225	195198
Free State	61514	64754	106372	194382
Gauteng	33844	42187	44060	48016
KwaZulu-Natal	117762	135804	164691	183726
Limpopo	131196	172743	212076	264062
Mpumalanga	70067	72026	102932	114829
Northern Cape	84685	102138	143054	424999
North West	101724	112424	134412	155277
Western Cape	63064	63064	82346	91863

Source: Worth, 2012

#### *2.3.4.2 Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)*

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme was launched in 2009 by the DRDLR to focus on improving rural livelihoods through optimum utilization and management of resources and hence creating vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural livelihoods. Apart from improving rural livelihoods, the CRDP also seeks to accelerate the redistribution of farming land and the correction of wrongs created by the apartheid government. The CRDP is a tri-legged framework of agrarian transformation, rural development and land reform improvement. Job creation and skills development are at the very heart of the framework. The strategic objective is to promote social cohesion and rural development. Temporary workers are assigned to work as development specialists to cater for training and supervision of local members who have never been employed formally (Worth, 2012; DRDLR, 2009).

The inception of CRDP by the department has made significant progress in improving rural livelihoods and skills development, and also laid the foundation for developing spectra of policies such as the Recapitalisation and Development Policy (2013) and Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land Policy Proposal (2013) (DRDLR, 2015b). The results of CRDP in improving rural livelihoods and skills development are 15 336 jobs created relating to skills and

infrastructure development, 3 819 people trained under skills development, and 464 key Council of Stakeholders (COS) selected to serve as local members (DRDLR, 2015c).

#### *2.3.4.3 Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP)*

The Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP) is the post-settlement support given to all types of dormant land reform beneficiaries who acquired land since 1994 and also for agricultural reallocated properties (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014; DRDLR, 2013a). The support primarily focuses on infrastructure development, organisational human capacity development and other incentives required for the survival of farming. The objectives of the RADP are to increase production, ensure food security, facilitate the process of emerging farmers development to commercial farming, impart skills to new emerging farmers, create jobs opportunities and establish rural development monitors (DRDLR, 2013a; DRDLR, 2013b; DRDLR, 2011b).

The DRDLR has employed a number of strategic approaches to achieve RADP: provision of mentors for mentorship; joint management approach<sup>7</sup>; strategic partnership approach<sup>8</sup>; and contract farming and concessions<sup>9</sup>. The RADP recognises that beneficiaries require vast engagement in training, finance and networking with suppliers of inputs for successful farming (DRDLR, 2013a; DRDLR, 2011b). In a study conducted from 2005 to 2008, it was discovered that poor after-care support had been plaguing farm operations in over 3 000 farms and 504 projects (DRDLR, 2015d). Therefore, at the beginning of RADP, all dormant farms were put under recapitalisation to be “rescued”. Furthermore, the mentors employed by DRDLR are farmers who have experience in commercial farming (DRDLR, 2015d). The fruition of RADP efforts are: all land reform farms are 100 % productive, farms destroyed after 19 June 1913 have been revived and rural emigration to urban areas has been reduced (DRDLR, 2013b).

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<sup>7</sup> **Joint management approach** is co-operation of various sectors interested in developing partnership with land reform beneficiaries and the state

<sup>8</sup> **Strategic partnership approach** is partnering of land reform beneficiaries with private commercial actors with a core focus to improve beneficiaries’ enterprises (DRDLR, 2011b)

<sup>9</sup> **Contract farming** is an agreement between the primary producer and buyer to produce a predetermined quantity and retail at market or processors at a predetermined price. The buyer supports production of the producer (FAO, 2012).

#### *2.3.4.4 Agricultural extension and mentorship*

The Department of Agriculture is well known for offering extension and advisory services since 1925 (Koch & Terblanché, 2012). However, the clients of the Land and Agrarian Reform Programme (LARP) have shown a great need for extension and advisory services, particularly in commercial farming skills and knowledge. The Provincial Departments of Agriculture (PDAs) are responsible for provision of mentors or extension workers to facilitate the organisational capacity development of farmers and offer professional expertise to impart much needed farming knowledge and skills for sustainable farming (NDA, 2005).

The DoA developed numerous supporting activities or agricultural development programmes to assist with matters concerning food security, poverty reduction, food safety, economic growth and environmental sustainability. The LARP and CASP are amongst those and the rest are the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy (ISRDS), the Integrated Food Security Nutrition Programme (IFSNP), the National Land Care Programme and Marketing and Entrepreneurship Development. The success of these programmes has inherently relied on the organisation and capacity of extension and advisory services (NDA, 2005).

#### ***2.3.5 Newly proposed land reform policy***

##### *2.3.5.1 Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land*

‘Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land’ is a policy currently under discussion in South Africa. The proposed agenda seeks to bring recognition to people working on farms by sharing 50% of farm ownership with their employer. The farm owners favoured by the previous apartheid regime are expected to give away 50% of the farm to farm workers and retain the remaining 50%. Farm workers will move from being ordinary workers into farm owners. The 50% share will be segmented based on beneficiaries’ farm working experiences. For example, a 10% share requires 10 years of farm experience, 15% of shares require less than 10 years farm experience, 25% of share require 25 years farm experience and 50% require 50 or more years of farm experience (Steward 2015; Archary, 2014; DRDLR, 2013c). Figure 2.1 illustrates how 50% of productive land on any farm is to be set aside for the purpose of tenant subsistence and how the ownership/land use is distributed according to a tenant’s farming experience.

This policy is envisaged to actualise the equitable ownership of commercial farming areas between white farmers and previously disadvantaged farmers while the previously disadvantaged farmers progressively becoming capable owners, managers, professionals and well-compensated workers in the agricultural sector. Since the target of redistributing 30% of 82 million hectares under white ownership is nowhere near being reached, this policy seeks a swift redistribution process and ensures equity in land ownership (Archary, 2014; DRDLR, 2013c).

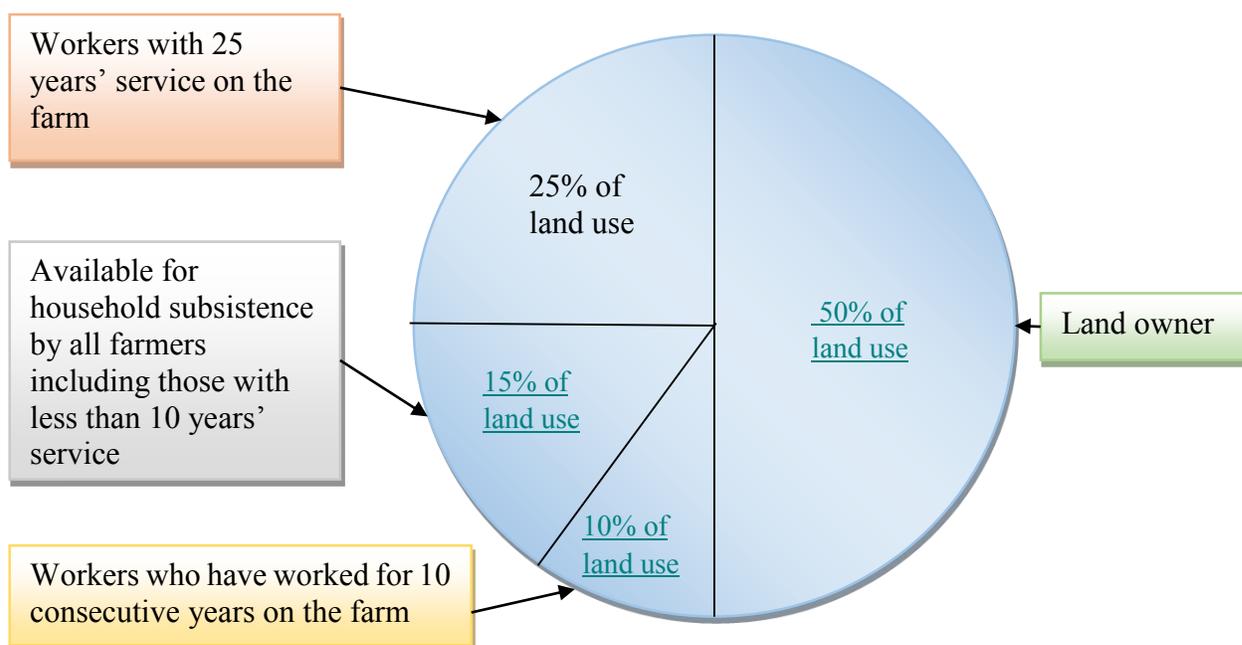


Figure 2.1: An example of how land ownership would be distributed under the shareholding model

The DRDLR is responsible for planning the implementation strategy, the monitoring and evaluation of this policy. During this transition, it has committed to ensuring minimum disturbance in household and national food security (Archary, 2014; DRDLR, 2013c). The department proposes that it will test the policy idea by establishing a pilot project on some commercial land (DRDLR, 2013c). The African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFAS) has stood up as protagonist for the 50/50 policy proposal since it is aligned with National Development Plan (Farmers Weekly, 10 April 2015). However many South African commercial farmers and Agri-

SA believe this policy as going to cause a mammoth disturbance in food production and therefore the country's food security (SONA, 12 February 2015; Farmers Weekly, 22 August 2014).

Hall and du Toit (2014) disapproved in that “strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land policy” does not strengthen workers’ rights. Instead it encourages sharing equity with people working on land. These authors labelled it as a “*misnamed*” policy. Du Toit (2015) disapproved of the 50/50 policy by stating that it will cause a huge confusion in the political regime and the policy itself is brief on details. In the SONA debate (12 February 2015) the state seemed keen on pushing the 50/50 policy, but it is still in progress in terms of debates and approval.

## **2.4 Extension theory, land reform, sustainable land utilization and production**

### **2.4.1 *History and understanding of agricultural extension***

There are numerous definitions of agricultural extension (Abdu-Raheem and Worth, 2011; Davis, 2009). According to Davis (2009) the term “*extension*” refers to something expandable or which can be extended. In extension, farming or research based knowledge is extended to remote and sparse areas to improve farmers’ livelihoods and well-being. According to Oladele (2013) agricultural extension refers to assistance given to farmers to find solutions in their livelihoods and embrace new opportunities. The primary understanding of agricultural extension in sub-Saharan Africa lies in advancing food production and yields, technology transfer and training. However, agricultural extension goes far beyond training and technology transfer to play a crucial part in economics, human capacity development and natural resources management for sustainable agriculture and rural development (Davis, 2009; Kroma, 2003).

Extension was invented by two great England universities to address the issue of educational needs for rural people who were unable to access formal education. Discussions occurred in the 1850s between Oxford and Cambridge universities about paving the way for surrounding rural and urban communities to access out-of-school education. This form of education was labelled as “extension education” or “out-of-school education” or “adult learning”. It was tested in 1867 and used from 1873. At the beginning, the teachings were dominated by social matters, but in the 1890s agricultural matters were incorporated more especially for rural people. The impact of extension education influenced development in England, grew exceedingly and spread throughout Britain

and other parts of Europe and North America (Birmingham, 1999; Jones & Garforth in Swanson *et al.*, 1997).

In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) agricultural extension became active during the colonial expansion in latter 1800s and early 1900s, whereby professionals were trained to render technical advices to commercial farmers for increasing crop productivity (World Bank, 2010). In South Africa, the term “extension” came into existence in the 1920s after Col. H. Du Toit realized its development contribution in the United States of America (USA). He attempted to emulate it locally. Later in 1925, he was officially appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, General Camp to be the-head of extension services. He then configured the services in all four provinces that South Africa consisted of at the time; one in Natal and Orange Free State and two in Transvaal and the Cape Province respectively (Koch, 2007).

South African agriculture was characterized by two diverse agricultural practices. One was white commercial farming which was politically-backed and supported with good resources for successful commercial farming. The other was for Bantustan (Blacks) which only occurred within their 13% land share. There were very limited resources for successful small scale black farming, compared to whites. Black farmers were excluded from the mainstream of the country’s economy; their production was primarily for their families’ consumption and they were not allowed to trade in formal markets (Worth, 2012; Jacobs, 2003).

Typically, the extension services were not identical. The country had two main systems of providing extension services. The first system served only white commercial farmers and deployed the best extension professionals to serve the white minority. The second system served only blacks (Black, Indian, Khoi-san, Coloured and other African groups) with poor extension services and professionals to serve in their homelands. The extension system for blacks was characterised by poor resources, poor use of technology, poor policies, unproductive land, limited services and underfunding while for white commercial farmers it was characterised by good resources, professionally trained experts, was demand driven, protected by good policies, and afforded a high use of technology and mechanisation (Worth, 2012; Koch, 2007).

After 1994, the extension services for black and white farmers were merged. All farmers ranging from small scale to large commercial farmers, including land reform beneficiaries, were included

and granted equal opportunity to access the services regardless of ethnic group (NDA, 2005; DLA, 1997). According to NDA (2001; pp.07) the agrarian sector sought to generate “equity and participation” in international commercial and sustainable agriculture to improve livelihoods for all.

The long-standing challenge since the inception of land reform programme has been poor provision of settlement support by government and lack of co-ordination of the stakeholders involved (Cousins, 2015; Jacobs, 2003). The DRDLR (2015b) states that the department was not aware of enhancing land development and production in post-acquisition settlement, but major attention was paid to redistribution of land. Terblanché (2013) states that the implemented land reform projects are failing with the number of failed projects being surprisingly high. According to Cousin and Aliber (2013), land reform beneficiaries find themselves in a situation where the land reform programme is not working or improving the livelihoods of the poor.

According to Jacobs (2003), land reform beneficiaries lack human capacity development, extension services, training, and other social services. In the study conducted by Zwane (2012), which sought to justify that extension has a role in rural development, it was found that extension is specialised to develop human capital, capacity for co-operative learning, taking informed decision making and finding solutions to problems. However, South Africa has a high number of failing land reform projects, although extensionists are capable to bring forth sustainability. Where does the problem of poor settlement support lie? The fundamental factors to consider include that public extension services are continue to be used ineffectively and inefficiently, extension is not well-understood (Tilley, 2008) and land reform policies exclude agricultural extension (Worth, 2012).

Živković *et al.* (2009) identified types of extension services as compulsory extension service, economical and universal extension services, educational extension services, and optional extension services. These types are further explained with their characteristics in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Types of extension services after Živković *et al.* (2009)

Types of service	Description	Service offered
Compulsory Extension Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given to emerging farmer at an early stage of development</li> <li>• Economical-driven agriculture</li> <li>• Given to farmers that have low levels of literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human capacity development</li> <li>• Adult education and learning</li> <li>• Introducing farmers to the mainstream of economy</li> </ul>
Economic Extension Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal extension services are viable where farmers have high levels of literacy and economic well-being, but also in a commercial business</li> <li>• It focuses on economic matters such as price bonus, insurance incentives, interest rates and market assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic advice (Bookkeeping)</li> <li>• Financial management</li> <li>• Other requested advice</li> </ul>
Universal extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economical extension services are driven by the market and uses economic opportunity to identify its goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the market and economic opportunity</li> </ul>
Educational Extension Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This type of service is mainly used for ecological conservation to ensure that farmers use natural resources in a sustainable manner</li> <li>• Various extension methods of learning are employed to impart new skills and knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some are effective at reading publications, participating in short courses, workshops, demonstrations, field trainings, field visits and study trips</li> </ul>
Optional Extension Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional extension services are often used where farmers are able to learn autonomously; plan, implement and evaluate their progress independently</li> <li>• It occurs where farmer have high levels of literacy and economic well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested advice, or if needed</li> </ul>

According to Terblanché (2008) and Tilley (2008) extensionists should be involved in pre-settlement negotiations to offer extension services in land use and business planning and budgeting. During post-settlement, they offer continuous extension services in various areas. In South Africa, extensionists are only available once the farmer acquires land. Gauteng is the only province that has incorporated extensionists in pre-settlement support activities such as project planning before beneficiaries start to seek assistance from government. In 2003, there were 20 extensionists serving about 150 land reform projects across Gauteng (Jacobs, 2003).

If land is transferred, it has to be commercially viable, i.e. sustainable land utilization and production has to be practiced. However, the majority of the land transferred is without production even though it is designated for agricultural production (Lubambo, 2011; Greenberg, 2010). “Land reform in SA is a priority program with efficient productivity as its ultimate outcome” and in the process, post-transfer support becomes the decisive factor to accomplish this outcome (Terblanché, 2008; pp.59).

#### ***2.4.2 Extension support of land reform and post-settlement***

Post-settlement support can be understood as settlement support, post-transfer support, post-acquisition support or after-care support, but the understanding may vary depending on a country’s framework of land reform (Tilley, 2008). In South Africa, it is understood as post-settlement/settlement support. Post-settlement support is follow-up support given to beneficiaries once they have acquired land through the land and agrarian reform programme. This support incorporates productive and sustainable land use; access to financial resources, markets and extension services (Masoka, 2008). The purpose of post-settlement support services is to encourage and ease agricultural development where land reform beneficiaries are the main clients (Business Enterprise, 2013).

Manenzhe (2007) investigated beneficiary experiences following a repossession of land in Limpopo province. The researcher found that land reform farmers were confronted with a plethora of challenges that made it difficult to proceed without mitigation. These issues hampered land utilization and included lack of planning and technical support from legal entities and poor infrastructure. In his concluding remarks, the researcher asserted that the lack of transfer support and limited planning was a critical weakness of the South African land reform programme. Poor

co-ordination of service providers and the absence of post-transfer support adversely affected land utilization and livelihoods designated for beneficiaries. Other researchers evaluating land and agrarian reform in South Africa, also found that post-settlement support was the weakness of South African land reform (Hall *et al.*, 2003; Jacobs, 2003). They found that while some farmers were receiving some support, others were not any support at all.

A study conducted by Terblanché *et al.* (2014) sought to determine the special ingredient of two post-acquisition support models of restitution. When the RCC members were asked about extension services, they were unclear about extension services. However, the authors made an excellent recommendation that the management should have to access professional extension services, and in cases where an extension agent is not available, a mentor should be provided instead. Another study conducted by Terblanché (2008) sought to investigate the role that extension can play in a number of issues affecting South African agrarian reform, such as 50% failure of land reform projects and shortage of essential food. In the concluding remark, the author pointed out that extension agents play a tremendous role in meeting the major goal of South African land reform for using land productively. The role of the extension professional is to facilitate innovation (Davis, 2015) and learning (Worth, 2006). This Learning approach to extension suggests that the role has expanded to a focus on the interactions between actors. Stakeholder interactions are influenced by the institutions (formal and informal) and policies in the enabling environment (Worth, 2006). Extension and advisory services therefore now look at the way in which systems, and processes work towards stimulating innovation through learning with farmers.

The approximate failure of the contribution of land reform farms to production since its inauguration in 1994 was sitting at 50% in 2013 (Business Enterprise, 2013; DA, 2013; Terblanché, 2008). More recent statistics of national land reform projects showed that 29% of projects have failed completely, 22% are considered to be struggling for survival, but with high possibilities of failure, 21% have improved performance and 28% are sustainable (Cousin and Dubb, 2014). In order to redress the failure and revive dormant land reform projects into development, it is important to understand the causes of failure (Answew & Mathebula, 2008).

Government has employed a number of post-settlement programmes, such as CASP, CRDP, and RADP (discussed in section 2.3.4). However, these programmes have not solved the issue of post-settlement support completely. On the CASP perspective, it focuses on specific investment or production input and does not focus on the needs of farmers (Binswinger-Mkhize, 2014; Business Enterprise, 2014). Furthermore, based on the field research conducted by Bailey (2007), the researcher found that PDAs lacked clarity over implementation of CASP and poor co-ordination with extension services which resulted in delaying implementation and delivery of production inputs.

According to Binswinger-Mkhize (2014), the RADP is one of the best post-settlement programmes that DRDL has employed, because it focuses on whole farm development. However at the beginning of RADP in 2010, 504 farms were put under recapitalization, and by the end of 2012 only 1 269 projects were in process, leaving many reform projects in need of recapitalization. The mentors employed by DRDLR under this programme to give guidance to beneficiaries have done exceptionally well to bring forth productivity on beneficiaries' farms. According to van Niekerk *et al.* (2014), mentors are employed to improve productivity. However, skills and knowledge, training and extension services are still lacking and not all projects are sustainable even though it has been reported that 100% of land reform farms are productive (Business Enterprise, 2013 & DRDLR, 2013b). An evaluation done by Business Enterprise (2013), found that at least one of three beneficiaries farms put under RADP has no production taking place. Some farms are partially utilized and some have never been utilized or used for production since transferred to the new owner.

Land reform is very important to bring egalitarianism over land ownership and redistribution patterns, but not necessary to bring production and utilization (Tilley, 2008). According to Kahn (2007) bringing back lost land to the rightful owner without appropriate post-settlement support such as technical support, capital investments and other crucial services for using land effectively is not worthwhile. Furthermore, the number of issues that the South African land reform programme is concerned with, such as deracialising the rural economy, combating poverty, redressing past injustice and empowering rural people will never be rectified if there are no support services offered to foster land development (Answew & Mathebula, 2008).

A study conducted by the Universiteit van Pretoria (2005) investigated the emerging previously disadvantaged farmers in land reform projects. This study showed that the failure of producing on land reform farms was attributed to the lack of: contracts to supply products; commercial farming experience; mentoring and business planning; assistance from the previous owner; support from DoA; and no capital investment, as well as conflicts and droughts. Other common hindrance factors related to not producing have been identified by Cousin and Dubb (2014) in a national survey of LRAD projects, and Answeew & Mathebula (2008) in the study of land reform projects in Mole-mole, Limpopo. These include poor post-transfer support and unfeasibility of land reform projects, lack of training and extension services, rigid and inflexible support services not able to be easily adapted; shortage of infrastructure and irrigation; poor support for small holder production systems; poor mechanism of legal entities and isolation of institutions; and limited subdivision.

Despite all post-settlement programmes employed by DARD, DRDL and other role players to offer support services, the land reform farms still lack relevant support to utilize land productively and sustainably. This is a result of poor co-ordination amongst key services providers, inappropriate support and indistinct frameworks of the post-settlement support needed to be implemented (Cousin, 2015; Hall, 2010 & 2004; de Satgé, 2010; Andrew *et al.*, 2003). However some beneficiaries are making progress regardless of poor government support services for planning and production and even under conditions of very limited resources (Cousin & Dubb, 2014).

### ***2.4.3 Extension influence on sustainable land utilization and production***

In agricultural development, extension services are indispensable. Extensionists are well-known for providing technical support in agricultural production and process, but move very little beyond providing technical support to ensure that scientific findings are put into practice (Živković *et al.*, 2009). In South Africa, according to the NDA (2001), agricultural development has relied on the quality of extension services invested in farmers. In fact, the intended outcomes as stipulated in *The Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture 2001* such as increased agricultural productivity, increased farm efficiency, improved food security and sustainable rural development, rely on agricultural extension as the main channel for capacity building and resources to accomplish these

outcomes, whether offered by government, semi-private or private sectors (Worth, 2006; NDA, 2001).

Sustainable land utilization and production are some of the areas in which extension is capable to facilitate agricultural development (Worth, 2012; NDA, 2006). Land use planning may present more than one enterprise or mixed farming, depending on land potential (FAO, 1981). According to Worth (2012), Hall (2010) and FAO (1981) sustainable land utilization and production are made up of the following 11 elements:

- Produce produced;
- Land use type, land size, land improvement e.g. infrastructure;
- Land tenure held by individual or group;
- Input supply;
- Technical support;
- Technology employed (Machinery, fertilisation);
- Infrastructure and Infrastructure requirement;
- Market orientation (Commercial production);
- Capital intensity;
- Labour intensity; and
- Income.

The role of extension services is to engage interactively with rural farmers in delivering training courses and seminars/workshops, farm visits to deal with regular issues and ensure farmer participation in research activities (farm experimentation and farmer field trials) (IFAD, 2015; Röling & Pretty, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1997). According to Živković *et al.* (2009), this type of extension service is used to put emphasis on sustainable production while utilizing natural resources sustainably. The resultant products are the increased skills and knowledge possession that leads to increased crop productivity, improved conservation agriculture, increased biodiversity conservation, and people benefit from their resources and improved land conservation measures (IFAD, 2015; Abdu-Raheem & Worth, 2011; NDA, 2006).

Although land use patterns and production are largely dependent on available natural resources in the physical environment, agricultural extension and education are at the heart of sustainable agricultural development (Worth 2006 & 2012). Extension services themselves can be understood as the planned activities to foster agricultural and rural development (Leagans, 1971). Agricultural extension services comprise the educational enrichment, technology development, uplifting production and income sustainability and human capacity development which is crucial for sustainability of farmers and farming (Zwane, 2012). The key areas of technical knowledge and skills required by extension and extension professionals to support sustainable livelihoods are identified in the extension learning carousel model (Worth, 2012). Extension needs to be flexible enough to support land sustainable production, which includes land, technology development, infrastructure management and input supply. The failure of productivity and acquisition of relevant skills for farming by farmers depends on the degree of extension services and technical advice offered to farmers by extension agents (Cobbet, 2001; Leagans, 1971).

Sustainable land utilization and production planning are frequently captured in a business plan which is mandatory for accessing support services (Hall, 2010). A business plan can be referred to as a “roadmap” which stipulates business ambition and the means of achieving it, to avoid unnecessary faults during the process of implementation (Premchander *et al.*, 2004). According to Pongwat (2003), business planning is a preliminary thinking and layout process which reflects the business being proposed while capturing everything associated with it such as marketing, labour, materials, capital and other costs.

In the context of South African land reform, unplanned land uses have become frequent and resulted in parting of ways of the role players responsible for post-settlement. In most instance the delay of promised funding for the projects has led beneficiaries to turn towards unplanned land uses and agricultural activities (Hall, 2010). Erlank (2014) also agrees that finance is needed in order for beneficiary farmers to develop and embrace the special opportunity of holding land and land rights by using agricultural land productively. However, Cousins (2013) does not believe that a business plan can solve the failure of land reform farms. His argument is that many business plans drawn are not suitable to guide a farmer and have limited scope to measure the performance of beneficiaries. So, what is the road to success? He suggests that beneficiaries can succeed on their own given appropriate advice and initial capital.

#### ***2.4.4 The role of extension in rural development***

Rural people are unable to benefit from agricultural and rural development if they are without land (South Africa Yearbook, 2010; Adams, 2000; De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000). The use of agriculture for development is concerned with land potential and delivery pace and presence of appropriate post-acquisition support which is crucial for sustainable rural development. It is, however, through development that rural communities should be upgraded to vibrant, equitable and sustainable, and food secured (South Africa Yearbook, 2010; Hall *et al.*, 2003).

Extension is applicable in different areas of society other than agriculture and rural development. These other areas are education – understood as extended education, health – understood as health extension services, and industry – understood as industrial extension. In this study the focus is on agriculture and rural development which is understood as agricultural extension (Rivera *et al.*, 2001). Agricultural extension operates within the core of rural development and agricultural development is consistent with rural development. About three quarters of the world rely on agricultural extension in order for rural development plans to succeed (Akpalu, 2013).

Agricultural extension is capable of changing agricultural productivity through agricultural development, in co-operation with rural development in the entire world (Anaeto *et al.*, 2012; Cristóvão *et al.*, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998). The primary role of extension services has historically been to train farmers and disseminate useful knowledge about new technologies of agriculture and rural development. Since the combination of former homeland and white extension services into a single service, this role has expanded significantly.

In land reform, extension has to play a role in pre- and post-settlement to ensure that land is utilised effectively and productively, according to Terblanché (2008) and Tilley (2008). Extension services are also now expected to play a role in arranging communal farmers into groups, to help farmers to access credit and other production and related matters such as accessing market and government support (Akpalu, 2013; Zwane, 2012; Tregurtha & Vink, 2008; NDA, 2005). Extension also plays a role in helping farmers to farm through organisations designed to assist with a number of issues such as access to agricultural inputs, markets and marketing of agricultural products, partnering with wide range of relevant stakeholders such credit institutions (Anaeto, 2012; Davis *et al.*, 2006; Chamala & Shing, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1997).

The main developmental role of agricultural extension therefore is to facilitate the capability of farmers to allow them inclusion in the national economy. This can be understood as human capacity development which encompasses the development of technical and management capabilities. Technical and management capabilities encompass farming skills, knowledge and technology development, willingness and ability to learn, and change of attitude and behaviour (Terblanché, 2008; Cristóvão *et al.*, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998; Chamala and Shing, 1998 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998; Oakley & Garforth, 1997). Zwane (2012) stated that once the farm has been transferred and the beneficiaries have to manage the daily activities, management can be understood as human capability. Agricultural extensionists are equipped to enhance human and management capabilities.

#### ***2.4.5 Provision of agricultural extension in South Africa***

In Africa and Asia, the public sector has led extension services offerings since the pre- and post-independence era. This approach is called Ministry-Based General Extension (Nagel, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1997). In South Africa, since the establishment of service in 1925; the Ministry of Agriculture has been well-known for providing extension services. At the advent of democratic government in 1994, two extension services were combined to form one service. The NDA continued to provide extension services and decentralised to the Provincial Departments Agriculture (Koch & Terblanché, 2013; Koch 2007; Worth, 2012).

After the colonial government, extension services were severely criticized for being inefficient to the recipient (farmers), lacking in relevant skills in agricultural training and education (professionalism) and with a high number of farmers assigned to one extension agent. In response to this, the NDA (2005) drafted policy which set norms and standards to be followed by extension agents and fund extensionists to upgrade their qualification under the programme called Extension Recovery Plan. However, the ration of extension agent to farmers is still 1: 400, ranging small scale to commercial farmers including land reform farmers (Koch & Terblanché, 2013; Williams *et al.*, 2006; NDA, 2005).

Among land reform farmers, the challenge facing extension agents is to facilitate land reform, ensure access to financial resources and other related activities which are fundamental for the development of emerging farmers (Koch & Terblanché, 2013). In order for extension agents to

render efficient extension services, they have to be competent in at least one field of agriculture, possess effective communication skills and group facilitation/group dynamics skills, as well as extension management skills (Terblanché, 2008). However, recently land reform projects have shown great need for mentorship, but remain indistinct from the role of agricultural extension (van Niekerk *et al.*, 2014; Terblanché, 2011). Mentorship is further explained below:

#### *2.4.5.1 Agricultural extension and mentorship in post-settlement support*

Mentorship is a priority programme implemented by DRDL and forms a great feature of RADP. It is consistent with coaching and can be understood as the process of capacitating less experienced farmer by highly experienced farmers in order to foster professional and personal development (van Niekerk *et al.*, 2014; Grain SA, 2012; Terblanché, 2011). In this programme, the new farmer is groomed, taught, sponsored, encouraged and counselled to face the new challenge of being a commercial farmer (Grain SA, 2012; Terblanché, 2011).

The DRDL uses experienced farmers, some of whom are retired farmers to act as mentors (Grain SA, 2012). It is notable that retired commercial farmers are willing to act as mentor (Terblanché, 2011). The role of the mentor is to enrich and empower the less experienced farmer to perform management duties, to operate as mediator in mentorship and as project leader (Terblanché, 2011; Standard Bank & Stellenbosch University, 2010). The evaluation done by Business Enterprise (2013) has shown that there is an increase of agricultural production and positive changes in farm operation. However, an extension services gap still exists among beneficiary farmers. Terblanché *et al.* (2014) state that mentorship should be provided in cases where extension professionals are not available to serve farmers.

#### ***2.4.6 Reflections on the success of land reform***

Just as Adams (1995) stated that due to varied political aims, social and economic perspectives; land reform is understood differently. Tuma (2013) asserted that measuring success of land reform is a complicated aspect due to varied political, social and economic intentions of land reform. Even commanders of the programme are finding it difficult to measure the success due to diverse thoughts and views about it. Furthermore according to Tuma (2013) there are no fixed criteria or satisfactory tools that can be used to measure the success.

More importantly, two schools of thought have risen to address this tension. One school of thought points out farm production and commercial viability, farm output, farm profitability and efficiency, farm revenues and productivity per hectare or per capita as an appropriate measure of success. Another school of thought points out food security and nutrition status, infrastructure development, improved income generation, secure access to water and ecological sustainability as an appropriate measure of success. The livelihood quality and sustainability is at the heart of this school since farmers are the main clients of land reform (Cousins & Dubb, 2014).

South Africa has attempted to define measures of success. The expected ultimate outcome of land reform is “vibrant, equitable and sustainable” (South Africa Yearbook, 2010; pp.410) of rural communities and will be measured in terms of food security, ecological sustainability, economic growth, human capacity development, social networking, healthy rural community and political maturity (South Africa Yearbook, 2010).

## **2.5 Development theory on land reform**

### ***2.5.1 Land reform and issues of development***

According to De Beer and Swanepoel (2000), the majority of the population of developing countries rely on land as a resource for their livelihoods. The Africa continent has comparative land resources and minerals (World Bank, 2013), but over 800 million people in developing countries is food insecure and a majority of these are rural dwellers engaged in agri-related activities (Mwaniki, 2011). The continuation of poverty, food insecurity, poor economic growth and poor development is attributed to land access and land tenure issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. To prevent and reverse this, World Bank (2013) recommended working together to ensure land access and tenure for the poverty-stricken by sharing rural land, providing land to unlawful settlers in open public land in cities and promoting gender equity. However, until today the land access and tenure issues remain a reality in most parts of the region (De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000). South Africa, in particular, has a further complication in that the majority of rural land is still in possession of a white minority (World Bank, 2013; Lei, 2005; De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000).

In South Africa, rural development and land reform has been identified as a key area of development, but minimal land has been transferred, eviction of farm tenants is escalating and

rural employment is in a downward trend (PLAAS, 2015). Land reform is a crucial element of rural development, political reform and social justice. According to Zarin (1994), the nature of land reform speaks to equality and social justice as an important feature of democratic government. Lei (2005) stated that when land possession statistics show that colonial farmers still hold the majority of land, this is a contradiction to the notion of democracy and social justice.

Rural development can be understood as series of programmes employed by individual, government/non-government or international organisations and groups to facilitate progress. Rural progress is described as historical and material progress, an increase of income and wealth creation and poverty reduction. These elements of rural progress are the main consideration of development theory and practice (Shepherd, 1998).

### ***2.5.2 Importance of development theory and four generations of development theory***

Without a theory, development is almost impossible (Pieterse, 2001). Having a theory helps to deal with an issue attentively to achieve intended results and it is necessary for development. Where there is no theory, the development agency tends to be outcome oriented instead of dealing with the cause of the problem. Schenck and Louw (1995) stated that development theory describes the problem in details which helps the development agency to direct the action. Schenck and Louw (1995) further stated that theory is an aid to radical change and prevents the development agency or practitioner from facilitating obvious matters instead of development and change. For example, when mitigation strategies are employed and the resources of the agency are spent on obvious issues, this is good for relieving people from suffering (Korten, 1990). It may rescue them, but it does not achieve development.

In the absence of theory, the intended results of the development agency of employing mitigation strategy remain vague and unclear. As a result, the organisation cannot unpack the motivation or justify the strategies employed. Development theory is important for making an eloquent assumption regarding the strategy and motive of an agency's resources allocation rather than relieving obvious issues. It is also important for identifying weakness within the strategy and considering where the mitigation strategy employed will strengthen and create an effective balance (Korten, 1990).

Korten (1990) identifies four conceptual strategies as generations of development in theory. These are relief and welfare, community development, sustainable systems development, and people's movement (Table 2.4).

#### *2.5.2.1 First generation: Relief and welfare*

In the first generation, the private/state organisation service is based on supplying the population with what is needed to meet immediate needs. This could be food, health care or shelter. This direct service is categorized as humanitarian assistance, not development assistance (Korten, 1990).

De Beer and Swanepoel (2000) alluded to the idea that in development, especially rural development, some people would like to be relieved first from tragedy before further dealing with a situation long term (Korten, 1990). Relief or welfare of the poor is very important, but is not the only aspect of rural development. Rural development moves beyond relieving the poor to the alleviation of famine (De Beer and Swanepoel, 2000). Post 1994, South Africa has implemented relief strategies in terms of land issues to support previously disadvantaged groups in various ways, such as:

- **Equal treatment** – From 1994 onwards, all citizens of the Republic of South Africa were treated equally as drafted in *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No. 108 of 1996 clause 9 sections (2) (3) (4) and (5)* (RSA, 1996; pp.1253). Equal treatment addresses the unfair historical distribution of resources or enrichment, discrimination and empowerment of the poor (De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000).
- **Redistribution of land** – Since 1994 the government has distributed significant amounts of land. One of the remarkable redistributions has been the transfer of 600 000 hectares of land to about 35 000 households in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Disadvantaged groups were also given rights to lodge claims to land, based on *section 25* of the Constitution in terms of *Restitution of Land Right Act No. 22 of 1994* and *Provision and Land Assistance Act No. 12 of 1993* (Adams, 2000).

Table 2.4: Strategies of development-oriented government: Four generations, adapted from Korten (1990)

	<b>Generation</b>			
	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
	<i>Relief and Welfare</i>	<i>Community Development</i>	<i>Sustainable systems development</i>	<i>People's movement</i>
<b>Problem definition</b>	Depression	Local inertia	Institutional and policy constraints	Inadequate mobilizing vision
<b>Time frame</b>	Immediate	Project life	10 to 20 years	Indefinite future
<b>Scope</b>	Previously disadvantaged groups	Local communities	Region or nation	National or global
<b>Chief actors</b>	The state	Local and national government + community	All relevant stakeholders (state, private and international organisation)	Loosely defined networks of people and organisation
<b>NGO role</b>	Doer	Mobiliser	Catalyst	Activist/educator
<b>Management orientation</b>	Logistics management	Project management	Strategic management	Coalescing and energizing self-managing networks
<b>Development education</b>	Resource poor Africans majority	Community/farm self-help	Constraining policies and institutions	Spaceship earth

- **Land tenure** – Land tenure is a complex issue and incorporates access to land and tenure reform. According to De Beer and Swanepoel (2000) land tenure is also associated with equality, migration pressure and economic relationships. Land tenure is also gazetted on the constitution *section 25 (7)* of property clause. The provision of land is there to create job opportunities for people living in rural areas (DRDLR, 2013b). However, while land reform continues to be unresolved, eviction is still common (PLAAS, 2015).
- **Migration and population pressure** – According to the UN (2004) and De Beer and Swanepoel (2000) rural-to-urban immigration is related to the unavailability of opportunities for rural people to sustain their livelihoods. Consequently, they migrate from rural to urban areas to seek better opportunities.

#### *2.5.2.2 Second generation: Community development*

Relieving people from immediate difficulties has very little to do with human growth. The second generation focuses on the input that the NGO or government agency makes to capacitate local people through self-sufficient activities to ensure that they do not rely on aid from outsiders. The overarching objective of this phase is to create sustainability within the community; this is referred as community development. Common activities that occur are health care and prevention measures, facilitation of agricultural practices for development, community leadership formation, infrastructure development and other miscellaneous activities (De Beer & Swanepoel, 2000; Korten, 1990).

Acquiring land from any land reform programme is a relief from the experience of being landless. Once the land has been completely transferred to the rightful owner, post-settlement support such as health care and prevention measures education, agricultural practice development and committee formation are needed for better community/farm development. When the pressure is high, however, the relief and welfare activities are challenged to respond to immediate needs. As a result, organisational resources may be over-spent and fall short on the activities required to create self-reliance of the community (Korten, 1990).

#### *2.5.2.3 Third generation: Sustainable systems development*

The term system is used here as an “*umbrella term*” for sub-systems operating within a system (Bartlett, 2001). The third generation focuses on creating sustainable systems that develop

sustainable local communities (Korten, 1990). Process looks further than community development to seek particular improvements to policies and the stakeholder base at local, national and international levels. For example, an NGO will work closely with national organisations to ensure that public policies are put into practice but respond to the dynamics of rural communities (Korten, 1990). In this phase, ways are created to connect communities with national development systems and ensure sustainability after development project donors withdraw their support. This is to facilitate sustainable institutions and processes that will support the local communities' self-help actions.

#### *2.5.2.4 Fourth generation: People's movements*

The fourth generation seeks to invigorate the social systems for people's movement. It strengthens the independency and self-help action for local communities to support the social vision. Furthermore, it is significant to make contribution in invigorating local community development in a broader perspective, which goes beyond the scope of second and third generation strategies (Korten, 1990).

## **2.6 Conclusion**

This chapter described three aspects, namely political agenda in land reform; extension theory, land reform, sustainable land utilization and production; and development theory on land reform. The review of literature has presented a clear understanding of the importance of agricultural extension in the post-settlement support locally and globally. Firstly, the review explained how the South African government envisions land reform and post-settlement support once the rightful owner has repossessed the land. It also highlighted how the government regulates land utilization in terms of SPLUMA and the scope of the government support programmes such as CASP, RADP and CRDP all of which are important for land development and sustainability. Some of the challenges that the farmers experience after being settled on the new land were identified. Finally, the review explored South African land reform in terms of four generations of development theory, expressing land reform and agricultural extension as part of rural development.

The following Chapter 3 describes the Ixopo area where the investigation for primary data was undertaken.

## **Chapter 3**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a description of the Ixopo area/Ubuhlebezwe region in which the study was conducted. It clearly describes the study area in terms of geographic location, agricultural potential, demographics, economic and socio-cultural characteristics. Maps of the Ixopo area are provided for especial geographic location unit and agricultural potential.

Agriculture is one of the major economic activities in Ixopo. The whole area is suitable for extensive farming (Camp, 2015). However, there is a high poverty rate as recent statistics show that about 76.7% of people in the area live in poverty (Sineke, 2012). Land reform is one of the programmes under agriculture which can improve poverty whilst fostering rural development. However, reflection on the theoretical framework has shown that land utilization and production, and extension services are some of the areas which hinder the performance of land reform farms in South Africa. With regard to these problematic areas, there are few studies being conducted to address the issues, particularly in the area of Ixopo. Furthermore land reform, post-settlement support, and agricultural extension and rural development are key areas that the researcher was interested in pursuing research on.

#### **3.2 Location**

*“Ubuhlebethu”* Ubuhlebezwe is one of the five local municipalities which make up the Harry Gwala District Municipality (previously known as Sisonke District Municipality) in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The Harry Gwala District is located in the Southern part of the province of KwaZulu-Natal (see Figure 3.1 top right hand corner map of KwaZulu-Natal). The Ubuhlebezwe is located on the eastern part of Harry Gwala District municipality (see Figure 3.1 bottom left hand corner map of Harry Gwala District) and bordered by uMzimkhulu Local Municipality to the east, uMgungundlovu District Municipality to the north and Ugu District to the east and south (Sineke, 2012).

The research and collection of data was based on three restitution farms which are located in four wards of Ixopo area; ward 3, 5, 6 and 9. These farms are Vukani Trust Farm, located in ward 3; Mpakameni Trust Farm, located in ward 6; and Platt Estate Farm which is located in Ward 5 and spread across to ward 9 (see Figure 3.1, it is labelled as study area on the legend).

Based on latitude, South Africa ranges from 22 to 35 degree south. One degrees of latitude is equivalent to 100 km. The Ixopo co-ordinates are 30°08'59"S and 30°04'59"E (see Figure 3.1 and 3.2 below). The latitude is inversely proportional to the temperature; if the latitude increases, the temperature decreases. The Ixopo has an annual average temperature of 17.3°C. The altitude of South Africa falls between 0 and 3400 m above sea level. The Ixopo altitude ranges from 828 to 1192 m above sea level (Camp, 2015; Smith, 2007).

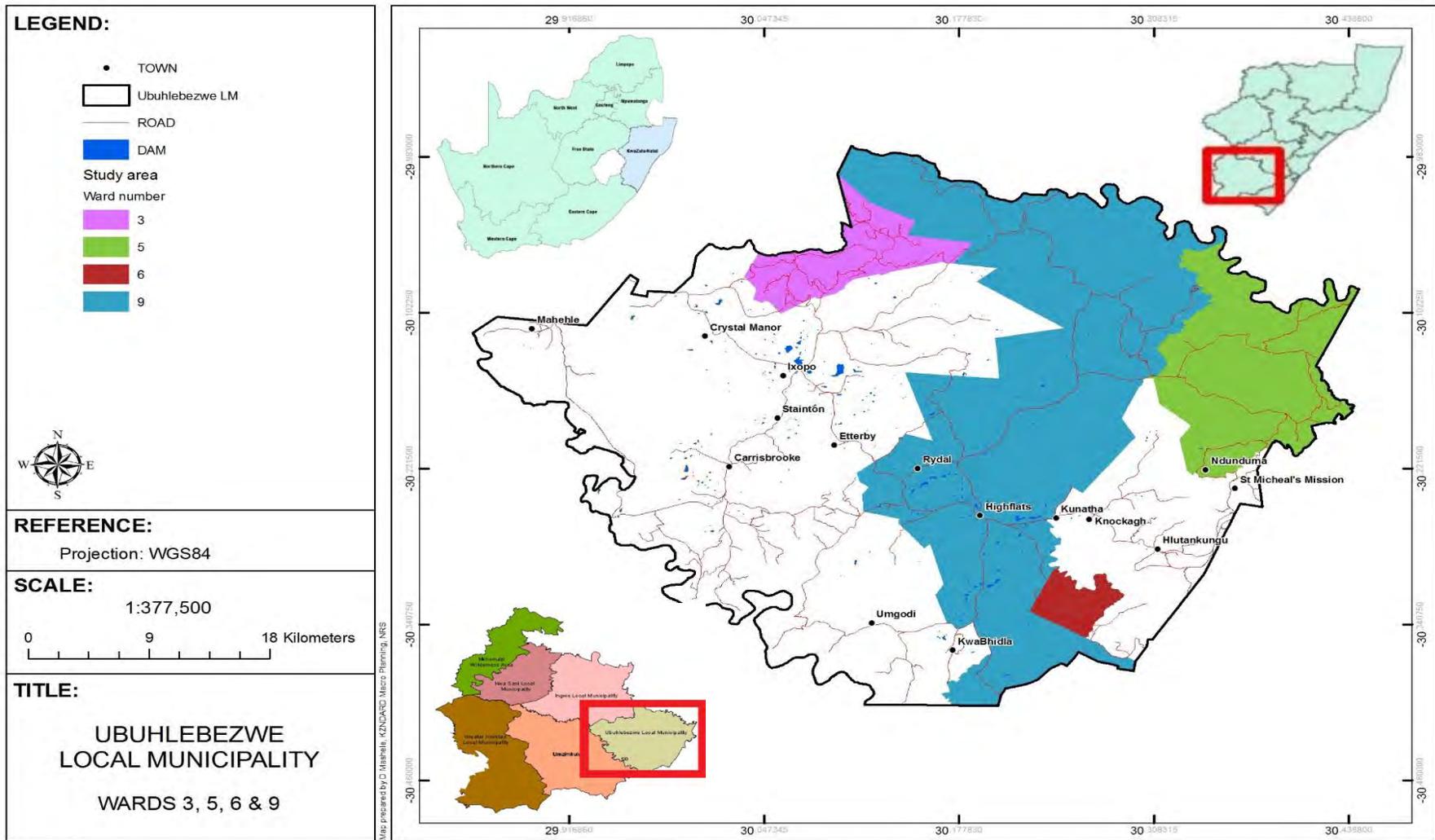
### **3.3 Agriculture and natural resources**

#### ***3.3.1 BRU and BRG classification***

The Bioresource Unit can be described by environmental aspects found in an area such as soil type, climate, altitude, terrain form and level of sameness of vegetation found. Bioresource Group can be described as a series of particular flora which is made up of single or many BRUs and categorized based on the relationship of climate, altitude and soil factors which is fundamental for agricultural planning development (Smith, 2007 & 1998; Camp, 1995).

The Bioresource Unit (BRU) of Ixopo is Wc40, which is located within Bioresource Group (BRG) 5 and subgroup 5.4. Bioresource Group 5 is referred as “Moist Mistbelt” and found in areas that are 900–1400 m above sea level and have annual average precipitation between 800 and 1280 mm. Ixopo has a moderate to high mean annual rainfall (MAR) of 824 mm.

What this means practically is that Ixopo is cold in winter and hot in summer. The entire area is suitable for extensive grazing. In terms of crops, selections are chosen according to the environmental conditions required for good yields. About three quarters of arable soil is suitable for cropping and also suitable for irrigation cropping, but varies between high and low irrigation cropping suitability (see also *Appendix 1* Agricultural potential surface map of Ubuhlebezwe Municipality) (Camp, 2015).



Disclaimer:  
All information relating to the Bioresource Classification Program of KwaZulu-Natal must be regarded as a first approximation. While every reasonable effort has been made by the authors to obtain objective and realistic results, neither they nor the Department of Agriculture of KwaZulu-Natal make any warranty, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information, product or process disclosed in reports relating to the Bioresource Program.

Figure 3.1: Location of the study area (Sibisi, 2015a using GIS).



Figure 3.2: The Ixopo area within the map of South Africa (Sibisi, 2015b using World Atlas Map)

### ***3.3.2 Agriculture and agricultural potential***

Agriculture is one of the main three economic sectors of the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality. The other two are tourism and business. The land of Ixopo is arable and has a moderate potential<sup>10</sup> and thus is suitable for diverse agricultural activities (see *Appendix 1* Agricultural potential surface map). However, climate conditions such as low temperatures and frost are the main hindrance factors for agricultural development in the area (Sineke, 2012). The climate capability of Ixopo is Class 5 (C5); in terms of limitation, it is rated as moderate to severe which possesses average land restrictions as a result of soil slope, temperature or rainfall (Camp 2015; Smith, 2007).

The commodities from Ixopo are largely derived from timber, crops and livestock. Timber is grown mostly by private companies such as Sappi Forests, Mondi, Masonite Africa, Merensky and other private companies, but there are some emerging farmers which are supported by Sappi and government support schemes. A variety of crops are grown mostly for consumption purposes, although some like sugar cane are commercial crops. The dominant crops for consumption are maize, beans, potatoes, and vegetables grown especially in communal gardens for consumption purposes. Livestock such as cattle are raised by individual black farmers for cultural purposes. Farming cattle for commercial purposes is rare in this area (Sineke, 2012).

### ***3.3.3 Land reform***

The Ubuhlebezwe area has three existing land reform programmes, namely land redistribution (LRAD and state land), land restitution and tenure reform (labour tenants). Most of the Ubuhlebezwe land is still owned by private commercial farmers and there is an urgent need to fast-track land reform to promote equity in land ownership (Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, 2015; Sineke, 2012).

According to Ubuhlebezwe Municipality records, the approximate number of transferred land under both redistribution and restitution are 41 farms, with 48 settled labour tenants and a further 48 land restitution claims which have been lodged (see *Appendix 2* Land reform projects in Ubuhlebezwe Municipality). Once the land is fully transferred, working hand-in-hand with Department of Agriculture is vital especially for claims that involve commercial farming business. This is to ensure that land remains commercially viable and

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<sup>10</sup> **Moderate potential** is the land that has regular or severe limitations due to soil type, slope, temperature and rainfall (Smith, 2007).

support services are provided to the beneficiaries (Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, 2015; Sineke, 2012).

### **3.4 Demographics**

The latest demographic figures depict that within Ubuhlebezwe Municipality there are approximately 32 000 households which represents a population of about 101 691 people. The total area of Ubuhlebezwe is 1606 km<sup>2</sup> which means there are theoretically 70 people per square kilometre. The population figures of 101 691 people represent 46.4 % males and 53.6% females. The low male population can be attributed to the temporary migration of males out of the area to bigger cities as workers, while females remain behind to look after their families and take responsibility for household chores (Sineke, 2012).

In terms of literacy levels, there has been a significant increase in the number of people aged 20 years and above who have completed at least Grade 7 and above, compared to previous years' statistics. In 2001 there were about 20 050 people who had completed Grade 7 or higher; while in 2005 statistics showed that the number had risen by 25% (25 061 people in total) ; and in 2010 the number risen by 23.3% (30 910 people in total) in the same category. However, there is still a need for implementing Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) in the area (Sineke, 2012).

### **3.5 Economic factors**

Agriculture is one of the major sources of economic activity in Ubuhlebezwe. Timber and sugarcane are the main agricultural commodities. However, emerging farmers including land reform farmers have been identified as lacking the education and training required to enter into the main-stream economy. As a result, the municipality has prioritised developing the agricultural potential in low income communities, protecting the land of Ubuhlebezwe Municipality that has great potential in terms of commercial production and offering post-settlement support to land reform beneficiaries with an intent to increase agricultural productivity (Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, 2015).

### **3.6 Conclusion**

This chapter described various aspects of the Ixopo area where the study was undertaken. These included location of the area, agriculture and natural resources, demographics and economic

factors. Chapter 4, which follows, details the methodology employed in conducting primary research in the area of Ixopo in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

## Chapter 4

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Introduction

All research is developed by using a certain procedure or methodology to discover new or existing knowledge of a given study area (Creswell, 2003). This chapter presents the methodology deployed in collecting primary data carried out in the area of Ixopo. The methods used are presented in a logical sequence and include the research approach and tools, ethical considerations, data analysis and finally a summary of the overall methodology.

In the case of Ixopo, the literature presented in Chapter 2 was used to determine the issues around post-settlement support to identify key themes for gathering information. The data collected is presented in Chapter 5, as a gradual construct of the insider's knowledge about the issues participants face on land reform farms.

#### 4.2 Research approach

Research methodology is requisite for a research project to address the chosen problem (Rajasekar *et al.*, 2006). It goes beyond carrying out the particular methods selected and should explain the approach behind the methods being applied. This research study looks at the phenomenon of post-settlement support for land reform beneficiaries in Ixopo. This approach of social research is challenging because the science is ever changing since it is based on naturalistic conditions and relies on the human construction of knowledge to define reality (Lauckner *et al.*, 2012; Adams, 2003 *cited by* Bailey, 2007).

Appropriate research methods should be adopted for the purpose of answering the research question in the most appropriate way (Bryman, 1988). This study uses qualitative research methods, but quantitative tools are also used to determine quantifiable variables. Qualitative research is connected to a constructivist research approach. Traditionally, it focuses on the selected individuals' perspectives and interpretations to construct knowledge through individual communication.

Constructivism is based on the assumption that the reality of the research is socially constructed and in this, way human experiences and perspectives are used to establish the reality of the situation (Lauckner *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, the aim of this research was to select a particular

case and to understand how the participants defined knowledge and shared common ideas about the world they live and work in (Creswell, 2003).

Constructivism is also referred to in the literature as “*Social Construction of reality*” by Berger and Luckmann 1967 cited by Creswell (2003); and “*Naturalistic Inquire*” by Lincoln and Guba (1985) also cited by Creswell (2003; pp.08). The social construction of reality is the integration of thoughts, description and interpretation of the real world (Creswell, 2003). As information for analysis, the researcher pays special attention to perspectives about reality and interprets them. The process of interpretation of views about reality by the research is itself “*construction*” (Lauckner *et al.*, 2012). Interpreted through the world view of the researcher it becomes a subjective explanation for reality.

Furthermore, Lauckner *et al.* (2012) highlights that the researcher has to establish a theoretical framework or literature which informs the researcher of the type of data to be collected in a case study. The theoretical framework identifies major information that the researcher should focus on during the collection of primary data as well as a guide for how to construct or organise the knowledge around the issue. The research had the following methodological assumptions as identified by Crotty (1998):

- Knowledge is constructed through engaging with world that the participants interpret;
- People live in the world and make sense of it through historical and social perspectives; and
- Basic knowledge is socially constructed and is generated as people interact with their situations.

#### **4.3 Methods of collecting qualitative data**

Methods can be referred as the procedures and techniques deployed by the researcher in collection of data such as interviews, surveys, ranking and group discussions (Creswell, 2003). The nature of data collection in a qualitative research method generally uses engagement, interaction, and sharing of views, interpretations and experiences to understand the social reality (University of Surrey, 2015; Lauckner *et al.*, 2012). Data is collected in two processes, i.e. direct communication with individual in a one-to-one dialogue and direct communication with individuals in a group dialogue. Usually these processes are time consuming, as a result small populations are sampled. Data collected thus cannot be generalised and solely represents

the case of the sampled population (University of Surrey, 2015; Brikci & Green, 2007; Welman *et al.*, 2005).

Direct communication with individuals allows the researcher to ask in-depth questions which are interactive and developmental. During this process, a platform for further probing of emergent issues is created. Qualitative research methods seek to answer the questions like “*why?*” and “*how?*” It is difficult to discover a meaningful understanding of these questions when using quantitative research methods in data collection. The advantage of using these methods is the ability to further investigate or probe the responses given by research participants which gives a detailed explanation and description of the experience of the world in which they live in (Moriarty, 2011).

The researcher adopted four qualitative research methods, specifically an interview questionnaire, focus group discussion, Venn diagram and priority ranking (Bryman, 1988). A total of 29 respondents participated in the research study, all of whom were engaged in land reform, post-settlement support and extension services in the area of Ixopo. Twenty-one of them were land reform farmers and the remain eight comprised two extension officers form each NGO organisation (HDSA and Illovo), one mentor from NGO organisation (Sappi Forests through Project Grow) and three extension officers from Ixopo LDA, including extension manager. The data collected was in four stages (Figure 4.1).

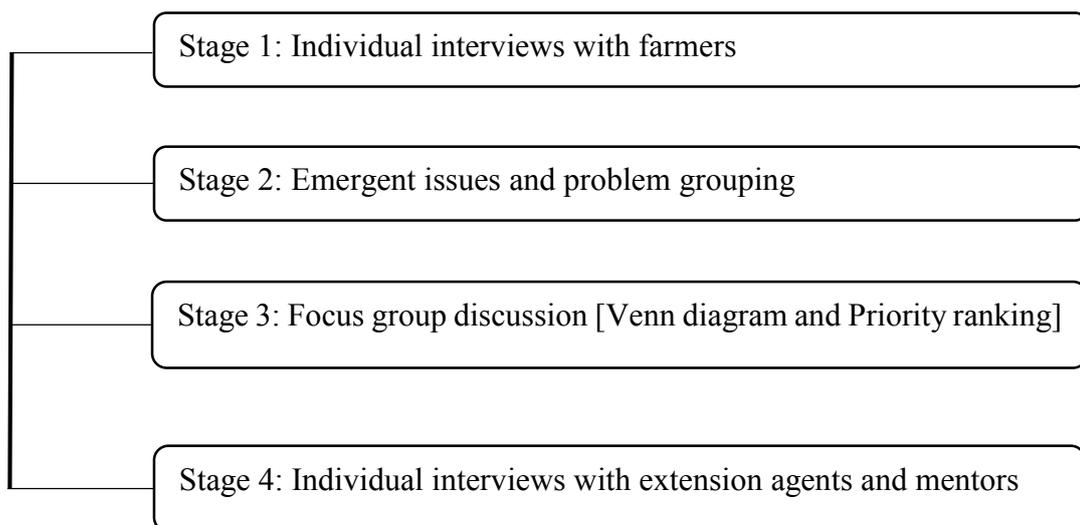


Figure 4.1: Data collection stages

#### ***4.3.1 Interview questionnaire***

Making use of qualitative research methods means that the researcher collects data which is in the form of words, not numbers. The most relevant and commonly used tools to produce this kind of data are individual interviews with research respondents and group discussions (Brikci & Green, 2007). The researcher employed an interview questionnaire tool to interview individuals with the intent of acquiring in-depth and rich information which best described the issue of agricultural extension and post-settlement support in the area of Ixopo (Valenzuela & Shrivstava, 2005).

This was the first step of data collection as portrayed in Figure 4.1. The individual interviews began with the land reform beneficiary farmers in all three participating farms, namely Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust and were carried out in venues convenient to the participating farmers. Other individual interviews were conducted with extension officers and mentors involved in post-settlement support and who were working with the selected farms. This was the last stage of research after gathering data from all three selected farms. The motive behind stage four of data collecting was to ensure that the researcher had deeper understanding of the context and meaningful understanding of the beneficiaries' situation.

The conversations were audio-recorded to ensure that the researcher did not miss valuable information whilst avoiding disturbance of interviews. The interview questionnaire also had an answer entry field where the notes could be captured (Berg, 2001), and the interviewer was also able to take notes during the interviews. Farmers, and extension officers and mentors participated on the study were not asked the same questions, instead the researcher developed two different questionnaires suited their respective roles in the post-settlement process (see *Appendix 3* and *4* the questionnaires used). The participants were given enough time to respond to each question asked. Further probing was done to clarify some responses that seemed unclear to the researcher.

#### ***4.3.2 Focus group discussion***

The focus group discussion was the third stage of data collection. The second stage was to review all responses from farmers to identify emergent issues which could be further discussed in a focus group discussion. This was to create a platform to elicit information through group interactions and behaviours.

From the knowledge generated from individual interviews, the researcher then developed a discussion guide which guided the focus group discussion (see *Appendix 7A* Example of focus group discussion guide). The questions asked were identified during the collection of primary data using knowledge from emergent issues and problem grouping (see *Appendix 7B* Example of focus group discussion question guide). Thus, the content included matters that the participants were familiar with or had already informed the researcher about during individual interviews. The discussion guide was dissimilar to the questionnaire, but designed to invigorate the debate during discussion (Freitas *et al.*, 1998; Morgan, 2001).

At least four to eight people were invited to join the focus group discussion from those who participated during individual interviews. Overall there were three focus group discussions held, one for each participating land reform farm. The reason for conducting focus group discussions was to clarify unclear issues which emerged from individual interviews. During the process, notes were taken (see field notes example *Appendix 10, 11* and *12*) and two other participatory method tools were used to explore relationships affecting each of the three land reform farms. These were specifically, Venn diagram and priority ranking and further described below.

#### **4.3.3 Institutional analysis (Venn diagram)**

A Venn diagram is a figure that portrays relationships, the importance and roles of various institutions, groups or individuals present in a community; and how individual community members perceive their importance in the community (Sontheimer *et al.*, 1999). A Venn diagram was generated by participants from all three participating farms during focus group discussions. The participants were asked about which institutions or groups were working with them and who was responsible for addressing sustainable land utilization and production on their farms. Furthermore, questions about the roles, relationships and importance of institutions present were also asked to allow for an understanding of stakeholders' co-ordination in post-settlement process.

To facilitate this, the name of the farm was placed on the centre of an A1-sized sheet of paper on a flipchart and cards were given to participants to write the name/s of the institutions, groups and people present in post-transfer process. There were two different sizes of cards; the big and small sizes represented the importance of the institutions. The participants were asked to place the visual cards on the A1 flipchart paper next to their farm name depending on the

stakeholder's relationship with farmers and the role played in farmers' land utilization and production. The distance between individual farms written on the centre and stakeholder written on a visual paper shows the interaction between the farmers/beneficiaries and stakeholder (see *Appendix 7C* for an example of farmers placing cards to complete a Venn diagram and *Appendix 8* a complete Venn diagrams generated by participants).

#### **4.3.4 Priority ranking**

Drawing from stage two of the research process that revealed the problems perceived by all the participants affecting land utilization and production, the researcher was able to group identified problems according to their association. These grouped problems were brought forth and further discussed in the group discussions. After discussing the identified problems, the participants selected problems that they thought were relevant to their situation and wrote them on an A4-sized sheet of paper separately in order to rank them (see *Appendix 6* and *7D* for examples of participants ranking problems which affect land utilization and production). Priority ranking meant ranking the problems or issues they identified related to land utilization and production in terms of most to least severity.

### **4.4 Selection of sample**

#### **4.4.1 Sampling techniques**

To select the most appropriate and suitable research participants to contribute to the study the research deployed one sampling technique, namely purposive sampling. Since the study used qualitative research methods, a small population has to be selected to collect rich information and allow for in-depth investigation from which to describe the phenomenon (Patton, 1990). According to Patton (1990; pp.169-186) purposive sampling technique encompasses sixteen (16) manifold samplings. The researcher employed two purposive sampling methods, namely random and snowball or chain purposive sampling. The Figure 4.2 below illustrates how the research participants were selected:

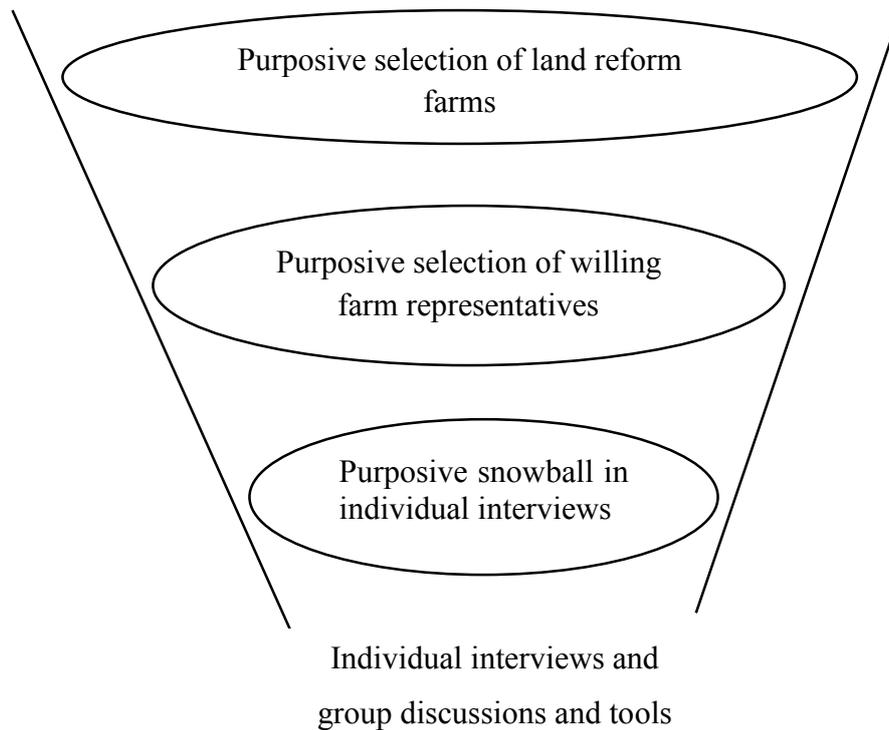


Figure 4.2: Sampling technique hierarchy

In purposive sampling, the research selects the best sample representing the goals of the investigation (Haque & Bharati, 2010). The area of Ixopo consists of wide spectra of farms which range from subsistence to large scale commercial farm including land reforms farms (Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, 2015). The researcher purposefully selected farmers who had acquired land through either the land redistribution or restitution reform programme.

Inquiry was made through the Local DARD to ask for assistance about identifying land reform farms in the area. The local department manager provided a list of 18 farms acquired by beneficiaries as land through either land redistribution and/or restitution processes. The list displayed the name of the farm and name of the representative of each farm with their contact numbers. The researcher went through the list to find-out which farmers were willing to participate in this study. There were other farmers willing to participate in the study, but due to unavailability of participants and the scope of the investigation they were not included. There were ultimately three restitution farms selected.

After selection of three land reform farms, it was time to proceed with individual interviews and other data collection tools. Since the researcher was not familiar with the rest of the population, the researcher communicated with the representatives telephonically and asked them to refer the researcher to other beneficiaries of farms or potential research participants. A similar method was used in interviewing extension officers. The local department manager referred the researcher to the extension officers assigned to the selected farms. This selection method is also known as snowball sampling (Patton, 1994). Snowball sampling is also known as a *chain or referral* method. All participants at some point referred the researcher to other participants who could potentially participate in the investigation (Haque & Bharati, 2010).

#### **4.5 Validity**

Validity focuses on two aspects which are accuracy and trustworthiness of the socially constructed knowledge about an issue (Welman *et al.*, 2005; Golafshani, 2003; Brink, 1993). There are two forms of validity, namely internal and external validity with each consisting of many types used in qualitative research (Guba, 1981). The researcher used triangulation (internal validity) to validate data collected in the field.

##### **4.5.1 Triangulation**

Triangulation can be understood as the use of multitude methods in order to cross verify data collected from a particular method (Guba, 1981; Campbell & Stanley, 1963). In the first place, the researcher began with individual interviews of farmers. Their responses were then analysed for issues and interviewees were invited to join a focus group discussion which also included the facilitation of creating a Venn diagram and priority ranking. As a last stage, extension officers and mentors were interviewed to identify a different perspective around the information collected from farmers.

#### **4.6 Ethical issues**

Following the ethical protocols is important for researchers engaged in social science research to protect human rights and ensure that the sample population are not treated unfairly or abused during their participation (Berg, 2001). It is mandatory for student or staff of the UKZN to comply with the Research Ethics Policy if the researcher is to engage with society (UKZN, 2014). For this reason, the community was approached through the gate keepers represented by the farm representatives (mentioned in 4.4.1 above) so entry into the field was documented and voluntary. The research design and data collection tools/instruments also have to be

submitted to the Human Social Science Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) to ensure that professional ethics are followed. Indeed, the data collection tools were submitted and approved by the University Ethics Committee (UEC) (see *Appendix 5*).

According to Brikci (2007) there are two ethical issues that the researcher should be concerned with when engaging with society for social research purposes. These are consent and confidentiality. Details relating to these two aspects are included below.

#### **4.6.1 Informed consent**

Informed consent refers to an understanding of agreement between the individuals that participation in a study is voluntary and that they may withdraw from the study at any time should they so wish (Brikci, 2007; Berg, 2001). The letter of consent was attached to each questionnaire either for extension officers, mentors or farmers, to ensure that the participants fully understood the nature of the research (see *Appendix 3 and 4*). This was read and signed by the respondents prior to their participation to ensure that participants agreed to the condition of the study.

#### **4.6.2 Confidentiality**

The real names of research participants should not be divulged where data was collected and should be treated as a matter of confidentiality (Brikci, 2007). The letter of consent informed participants in advance that their real names would not be displayed, instead class names like farmer, and mentor, were used to protect their identities. Their views were treated with great respect and all records including audio-recorded data were carefully protected. The original data was stored in the supervisor's office and will be destroyed after five years to comply with the UKZN Research Ethics Policy (UKZN, 2014).

#### **4.7 Data analysis**

All data was captured in Microsoft Excel to identify patterns for analysis and to digitise a record of information (see example of field notes in *Appendix 10, 11 and 12*). Numerical data was coded to reduce the large volume of data obtained from the field into manageable and readable information (Welman *et al.*, 2003). These codes were used to document information and then count frequencies. For the analysis of the Venn diagram, a stakeholder analysis (see *Appendix 8*) was drawn-up using data provided by key informants. From the priority ranking exercises, analysed rankings were drawn using prioritised challenges identified by farmers.

Furthermore, content and theme analysis was employed to explore all information acquired through individual interviews and group discussions. Content analysis takes place when the researcher looks for patterns and comparisons with an intention of pinpointing key words and/or characteristics in the content of field notes. This information can then be arranged into themes, relationships and concepts (Welman *et al.*, 2003).

#### 4.8 Summary of overall methodology

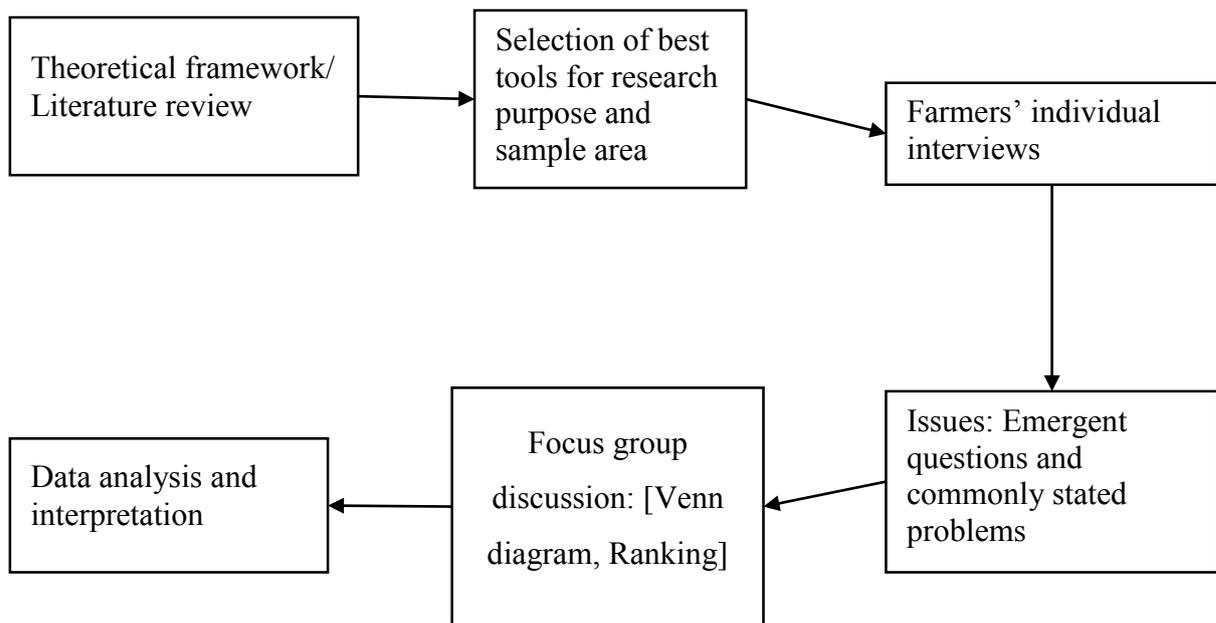


Figure 4.3: The logical sequence of research methodology followed

The above figure depicts the process followed for the overall methodology. The researcher started with the theoretical framework which made a clear map of data to be collected in primary research, and tools and techniques to be used. After understanding which data was to be collected; data collection tools and techniques, and study area were selected and designed. The researcher then proceeded with individual interviews for farmers which was a pre-requisite for the research focus group discussions. The group discussions used responses from individual interviews as the discussion material with similar respondents were grouped together for discussions. The group discussion also included creating a Venn diagram and a priority ranking exercise. After collecting data through individual interviews and focus group discussion, the researcher proceeded to data analysis and interpretation in order to present primary data in Chapter 5, which follows.

## **4.9 Conclusion**

This chapter detailed the methodology employed in collecting and analysing field data. It further explained the research approach, data collection tools, validity, ethical consideration and data analysis as they were carried out. The following chapter presents an analysis of information collected using the methodology articulated.

**Chapter 5**  
**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

**5.1 Introduction**

This chapter is an analysis and discussion of results obtained from three restitution farms. These farms are Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust located in the area of Ixopo. The restitution farms were described by the LDA manager as the most complicated farms in which to facilitate agricultural development because they involved large groups of people. As a result there was a great deal of contestation over ideas around the development that should take place on the land (LDA Manager). These groups have a traceable history of how the land ownership was lost, but some of those people had already lost farming skills.

Table 5.1 below, shows the demographics of participants in this research from all three farms. It details gender, age group, literacy level and commercial farming experience or related experience:

Table 5.1: Demographic table of farmers who participated in the research (n=21)

	<b>Population</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Subgroup</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Gender	Male	10	47.61
	Female	11	52.39
Age group	Youth (0-39)	4	19.05
	Adult (40-60)	13	61.90
	Pensioner (>60)	4	19.05
Literacy level	Never schooled	4	19.05
	Primary	7	33.34
	Secondary	10	47.61
	Tertiary	0	0
Farm experience /related experience	0-5 years	4	19.05
	6-10 years	5	23.81
	>10 years	12	57.14
<b>Farmers' Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

This chapter is presented according to the responses of farmers from each land reform farm, with extension agents' and mentors' responses separately. After the presentation, these responses were discussed to draw out relationships found to create a platform for discussion of the overall findings in relation to the review of literature. The discussion of findings in relation to the review of literature is then presented towards the end of this chapter.

## **5.2 Farmers' responses: Platt Estate Farm (n= 11)**

### **5.2.1 Land claim process**

The Platt Estate claim was lodged through the restitution programme. This information was acquired from participants' through individual interviews and the focus group discussion. However, most of the farmers interviewed were not familiar with land reform programmes instead they provided a brief descriptive statement on how they acquired land. Below are examples of responses on how they accessed land:

*I was born in this land and my grandfather told me that they lost land ownership in 1920's as a result of laws and legislations that came into effect in that era. Most people were evicted from the Platt Estate land and reserved for white commercial farmers. The people who remained on the farm were only farm workers working for a low salary. We claimed the land in 1994 and our claim was settled toward the latter part of 1998 (Farm 03).*

*I was born in this farm, worked on the farm since I was 10 through assisting my father in his chores. Our fathers lost the ownership of the land before I was born in 1940's and we were depressed until the advent of democracy in 1994. When the government announced that those people who lost their land due to apartheid regime can lodge the land claim, we stepped up and lodged the claim which was settled in 1999 (Farmer 06).*

### **5.2.2 Land size**

Platt Estate Farm is located in Ward 09 of Ixopo, but also spreads across ward 05. It has a total area of 4 581.9 hectares. Notably, during individual interviews of 11 participants and a focus group discussion made up of 6 participants, none of the participants had knowledge of the size of their land. Information regarding land size was accessed through the DRDLR's Deed Registry (see *Appendix 13A*). However, farmers do know the boundary of their farm and some of the areas that are under production. It also appeared during the data collection that there

were some documents showing the layout of the whole farm, but there were not available because they had been submitted to Sappi Forests together with an application for support services (Project Grow and funding).

### **5.2.3 Land ownership and beneficiaries**

The Platt Estate is under the ownership of about 120 households who lodged the claim in 1994. There is confusion amongst the people who live on the land about who the beneficiaries are. The participants, however, provided a list of households which they believe are the main beneficiaries of the Platt Estate Farm. However, these beneficiaries still do not have a legal document stating that they have right of land ownership called a title deed. The participants ascribed to DRDLR bureaucracy and unnecessary delays in processing related documents.

Not having a title deed, participants believe that that has led to mammoth challenges such as land invasion and violating of land rights. There is confusion on the farm itself about who the official beneficiaries are. From the individual interviews it emerged that Platt Estate Farm is not the only farm experiencing problems with accessing the title deed problem, but other land reform farmers have similar issues:

*I attended the National Land Tenure Summit that was held in Boksburg in Johannesburg from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014, I found that it is not only our farm that has a title deed problem and other land reform beneficiaries have a similar problem, but the Department of Land Affairs vowed to deal with the issue of unavailability of title deeds as a matter of urgency (Farmer 05).*

### **5.2.4 Farm constitution**

The Communal Property Association (CPA) constitution was drafted in 2000 in the farm headquarters by the LCC representative, assisted by Platt Estate Committee. It was drafted in English and translated into the local dialect (IsiZulu) to ensure that all beneficiaries understood its full content. The CPA constitution was read to the rest of the beneficiaries, by common consent no amendments were made to the original draft and it was signed as a proof of agreement.

### **5.2.5 Land division**

Managing 4 581.9 hectares of land was described by participants as a challenging task to accomplish. As a result, the Platt Estate Farm agreed to subdivide the farm into six segments with each segment representing beneficiaries who are staying in that particular part of Platt Estate. The first segment is Ebholeni which represents about 18 households, second segment is Tapashiya which represents about 26 households, the third segment is Ezitendeni which represents about 32 households, the fourth segment is Myanyabuzi which representing about 19 households, the fifth segment is Mkhunya which represents about 25 households and the last segment, Daily Bread, is a commonage for all beneficiaries of the Platt Estate. The division of these segments are demarcated by physical land marks such as a river or gully, hills, farm/public roads and other land marks.

### **5.2.6 Stakeholders involved**

#### *5.2.6.1 Co-ordination of stakeholders involved in support services*

According to the participants' perceptions there is a disintegration of stakeholders (institutes, people and processes) rendering support services to Platt Estate. Each stakeholder has its own programme that does not connect to other stakeholders. The active stakeholders primarily responsible for support services currently are Project Grow<sup>11</sup> for Sappi Forests, Working for Water<sup>12</sup> for DWAF/DWS<sup>13</sup>, and agricultural extension services for DoA.

The Daily Bread segment has about 360 hectares of forest which is over-grown and the wood quality does not meet the market requirements. Through Project Grow, Sappi Forests had made a proposal that this land should be cleared and the vegetation burnt down to prepare land for new plantation. Somewhat similarly, the DWAF through its WfW programme made a recommendation that the unwanted species should be cleared to create more job opportunities for beneficiaries. In contrast, the DoA had made a recommendation that the forest should not

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<sup>11</sup> **Project Grow** is the subsistence farming programme which seeks to ensure participation of subsistence farmers in the forest industry whilst creating sustainable livelihoods, economic growth and entrepreneurship of rural forest growers. The Project Grow programme provides free mentorship, interest-free loan, free seedlings and a guaranteed market at the date of harvest. It started in 1980 in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in the area of Mangusi, Port Edward and spread across to Ixopo and Nongoma. It recently expanded to accommodate farmers who acquired land through the land reform programme (Sappi Forests, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> **Working for Water** (WfW) is a programme for removing alien plants which outcompete the indigenous species. It was originally administered by DWAF, but has since been taken over by the DEA (DEA, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> **DWAF** was the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, but recently changed to Department of Water and Sanitation. As a result the WfW programme was also changed to be managed by the DEA (DEA, 2015).

be wasted, instead the over-grown wood could be used to produce charcoal which could bring the income to beneficiaries. However, none of these proposals had resulted in any action. There was consensus expressed that these proposals left them stranded, distracted and not knowing which suggestion to follow. The participants also described this as poor co-ordination of support services and sometimes a lack of accountability.

Between DoA at national level and Sappi there is some degree of co-ordination in offering post-settlement support which is not transparent to the farmers. While interviewing *Farmer 08*, it was discovered that some of the training and short courses that the farmer participated in and attended were sponsored by DoA through Sappi Forests' Project Grow. The mentor provided by Sappi Forests made it explicit that most of the training and short courses offered through Project Grow programme were sponsored by DAFF since forestry is part of the development sphere that the National Department is concerned with.

The Figure 5.1 below shows how the Sappi Forests' mentor perceives how the DoA and Sappi Forests co-ordinate from a national to local level in offering support services to Platt Estate beneficiaries. The DAFF sponsors Sappi Forests who decentralises their service to the local level through Project Grow. Project Grow utilises a mentor to provide supplies and services to the small scale growers including land reform beneficiaries. From the DoA, the national, provincial and local DoA are primarily responsible for post-settlement support.

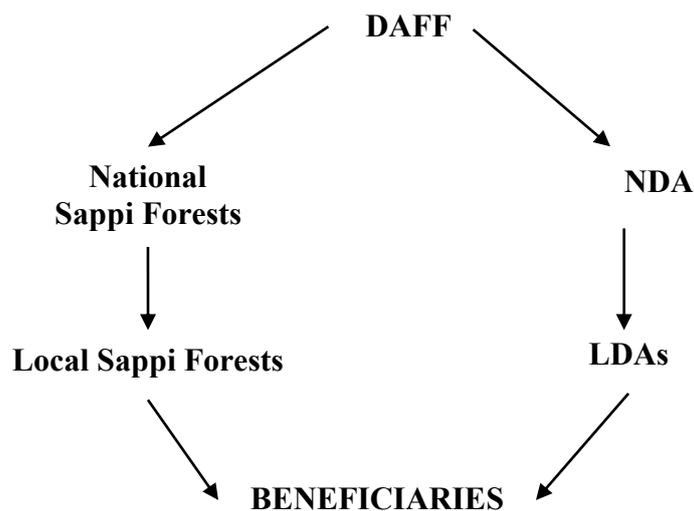


Figure 5.1: Co-ordination of Sappi Forests and DoA

The participants have a limited knowledge about this co-ordination. The reason behind this could be assumed that there is lack of communication with farmers and farmers are unable to trace this co-ordination because of its long, indistinct nature and farmers' low levels of literacy (Table 5.1).

#### *5.2.6.2 Importance and role of stakeholders involved in support services*

Through Venn diagramming participants showed the importance of the stakeholders involved in offering post-settlement support services. The analysis of stakeholders (see *Appendix 8A*) showed that all stakeholders are important in various ways, but their relationship with each other and with farmers and the roles they play is what it makes them more or less important to the farm operation. Perceptions were that the Sappi Forests and Mentor are the only stakeholders that are always available to assist with production and marketing issues. This is valued by the participants. During the focus group discussion with participants it appeared that farmers are unable to do anything in the forest without the assistance from SAPPI. Practical support through Project Grow assist farmers with free seedlings, free technical advice through the Mentor, an interest free loan, a secured market after harvesting and free trainings.

The other important stakeholders are the LDA and Agricultural Advisor. During the group discussion, participants mentioned that these stakeholders are important in offering technical advice, ensuring strong communication with other stakeholders and human capacity development, but are not available to work with farmers. The interview held with the local DoA manger revealed that the Platt Estate advisory position is currently vacant and yet to be filled, but farmers were not aware of that. This depicts that the relationship between the DoA and farmers is very poor, but their importance remains unchanged.

Another stakeholder that is important, but less directly involved, is the DLA. The DLA is important in protecting land tenure rights for beneficiaries which is crucial for land utilization. However, outsiders are invading the land for settlement and there appears to be little legal action taken against this. Participants also reported that there are other beneficiaries who legally have settled on the land but allegedly invite their relatives to settle in the land too which makes it difficult for DLA to take legal action.

The DWAF/DWS and its WfW programme has been an important stakeholder in sustainable land utilization and production. The participants believed that DWAF was still facilitating the WfW programme, but according to Department of Environmental Affairs (2015) website, the

management of the programme had been moved from DWAF to DEA. The participants are not aware of this development. However, the researcher was not able to get hold of any representative from either DWAF or DEA to explain about the WfW programme.

The community Counsellor is also important for off farm infrastructure development such as the road to market since the farm is far away from town. He focusses on many areas of community development, but he is not directly involved in farm development.

#### 5.2.6.3 Influence of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support

##### Business and land use planning

Participants were asked about who assisted them with business planning and if extension was involved. At least six interviewees knew that the farming decision was to emulate the previous owner's land use planning and believe that no business plan was required. Five interviewees had little or no knowledge as to what the business plan is. Table 5.2 is analysis of participants' responses about business and land use planning.

Table 5.2: Content analysis about business and land use planning (n=11)

<b>Response</b>	<b>Description of Response</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
No business plan required	<i>We decided to emulate the land use of the previous land owner, we wanted to continue with what we already worked with, the former land owner left so many trees here so it was a wise decision to continue with timber production</i>	5
I do not know	<i>I was not part of any planning, the committee are responsible for planning, the committee do not share information with us</i>	4
Never heard	<i>I never heard about planning</i>	1

##### Species selection

Participants reported that *Eucalyptus* (Gumtree) and *Acacia mearnsii* (Black wattle) were the current choice because they were left by former land owner. The majority of tree species left on land was *Acacia mearnsii*. However, it emerged that the beneficiaries do not like the *Acacia mearnsii* because this tree species take a long time to mature for harvest while beneficiaries need to make fast income:

*Acacia mearnsii* takes about eight to ten years to get matured for harvest and *Eucalyptus* takes a maximum of seven years to reach maturity for harvesting (Farmer 01)

The farmers wanted a species which could grow fast and yield high timber value. The farm committee contacted two prominent key stakeholders; DoA and Sappi Forests through their mentor to get appropriate advice. According to a statement made during focus group discussion, the DoA was late to respond and had always a number of meetings. The Sappi Forests and mentor were described as reliable and were able to help the farmers with their requests. *Farmer 01* shared the following, which the other farmers agreed to be truthful:

*The Sappi Forests' mentor conducted land assessment and species tests for a species suitable for local growing conditions while not interfering with the local needs. After the land assessment the mentor strongly recommended the Eucalyptus which is aligned with our needs of fast growing. It takes seven years to mature depending on the management. It has high yields, high value and is more in demand by the market than Acacia mearnsii.*

#### 5.2.6.4 Role of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support

Two people, namely the agricultural advisor for LDA (but no longer available) and the mentor from Sappi Forests through Project Grow programme, were identified as the people responsible for offering extension and technical services in support for sustainable land utilisation and production. Two farmers mentioned that they heard rumours of existence of Sappi Forests and DoA, but did not have clear details of the issue. One farmer had no knowledge of people offering extension or technical services. It was clear from the participants that extension was perceived as having a lesser role to play in land utilization than the mentors (Table 5.3).

The perceptions of the role of extension services showed an absence of extension agents with regard to rendering support services. Most farmers perceived the extension agent as not being influential in sustainable land utilization and production. At least nine farmers thought he is not influential and the remaining two were neutral since they have not engaged with any extension services offered by an extension agent (Table 5.4).

Table 5.3: Perceptions of supportive roles drawn from participants' responses (n=11)

Theme	Extension: Role factors identified	Mentor: Role factors identified
Extension agent's and mentor's role in sustainable land utilization and production/ stakeholders' co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach farmers how to access government support and make different applications every time they visit</li> <li>• Extension officer never discussed anything regarding land utilization and production except producing charcoal from unwanted species in Daily Bread</li> <li>• Ensure partnering with various role players</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure compliance with environmental policy</li> <li>• Give guidance from planting to growing until harvest</li> <li>• Transfer forest farming skills by demonstrating to farmers</li> <li>• Supply farmers with production inputs such as seedlings and working tools</li> <li>• Mediate between farmers and Sappi Forests</li> <li>• Ensure good timber quality for high market value</li> <li>• Uncertainty about mentors role in stakeholders co-ordination</li> </ul>
Scarcity of support person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension officers does not visit farmers often and some were not aware of their role</li> <li>• Some had never heard about an agricultural advisor before</li> <li>• Meetings were frequently postponed when extension services were requested</li> <li>• Some farmers use the knowledge inherited from family member and learnt from white commercial farmers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No awareness of mentor</li> <li>• Using the knowledge inherited from family members and learnt from white commercial farmers.</li> </ul>

In terms of the influence of technical services and other services offered by the mentor, participants unanimously and strongly agreed that the mentor had a significant influence on land utilization and production. Below are a selection of responses provided by individual farmers during individual interviews.

*The mentor has done a lot for us and without the services that they offered to us, it wouldn't be possible to start utilizing the land and producing on it. The mentor is always available whenever we need him or have a problem in the forest (Farmer 05).*

*The mentor from Sappi Forests is providing us with a lot of production inputs which we would not afford and without their support, continue with the forestry looks impossible (Farmer 06).*

*Previously we were farm workers and not managing the farm, but the mentor has bridged that gap through technical advices offered to us (Farmer 01).*

It is evident that the Sappi Forests' mentor is the most influential person in sustainable land utilization and production, but the intention here was not to compare the mentor with the extension agent (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Perceptions of influence of extension agents and mentors drawn from participants' responses (n=11)

<b>Level of agreement</b>	<b>Extension Agent</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Strongly Agree	0	4
Agree	0	5
Neutral	2	2
Disagree	9	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

## ***5.2.6 Human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production***

### *5.2.7.1 Human capacity development programmes*

Participants were asked about how they develop their farming abilities both individually and/or collectively and what has changed toward applying their skills in an enabling environment. It was discovered that at least four farmers (Farmer 01, 05, 08 & 10) have undergone technical

skills development by training courses in five different training areas. Only one participant (Farmer 11) is developing his capacity from surrounding farmers and other farmers that he contracted to. The rest of the participants had never had access to any capacity development programme because the trainings were only limited to people who were elected by beneficiaries to be part of the farm committee. The reason behind this, was that there are over 100 beneficiaries, so either Sappi Forests, LDA or WfW cannot train all beneficiaries while there are other farmers who need training.

Common training courses that these four respondents had participated on were Limited Pest Control, Land Care and Herbicides Application, Emerging Timber Growers Technical Toolkit, Project Management Training, and Alien Weed Eradication (Ecosystem). The participants who attended the training courses had developed important skills and knowledge from land preparation, plantation, growing, contracting and marketing of timber. Below are the exact responses from two participants who participated on training courses:

*After participating in various training courses, I have managed to plant five hectares of Eucalyptus in the absence of a mentor and Sappi Forests or extension officer using the knowledge taught and gained from trainings courses. These Eucalyptus trees are looking great and growing well since they were planted (Farmer 05).*

*I am able to do anything from land preparation, plantation, growing, contracting and marketing of timber. I have planted more than 169 hectares of Eucalyptus using skills acquired through training courses that I have participated in. The training courses did a great job to develop my ability to farm timber (Farmer 08).*

Participants who have participated in training mentioned that their perception about farming timber has changed drastically and that they want to plant more forests in unoccupied land of the Platt Estate Farm. However, even participants who never received any training courses believe that their lives can still be improved through farming timber.

*I was working in Johannesburg to feed my family since I did not have land to farm on, but when the government announced that the Platt Estate Farm will be transferred to us after claiming it, I quit my job to begin farming timber. Regardless to the fact that I had never attend training course, I still believe that timber production can improve my our lives (Farmer 04)*

### 5.2.7.2 Challenges in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production

Many challenges affect the farmers in terms of human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production. The challenges captured during interviews were grouped (see *Appendix 6* an example of emergent issues and problem grouping) and further brought in a group discussion for conducting priority ranking. The *Appendix 9A* is an original priority ranking conducted with the farmers during group discussion. Figure 5.2 below is an analysis drawn from this information.

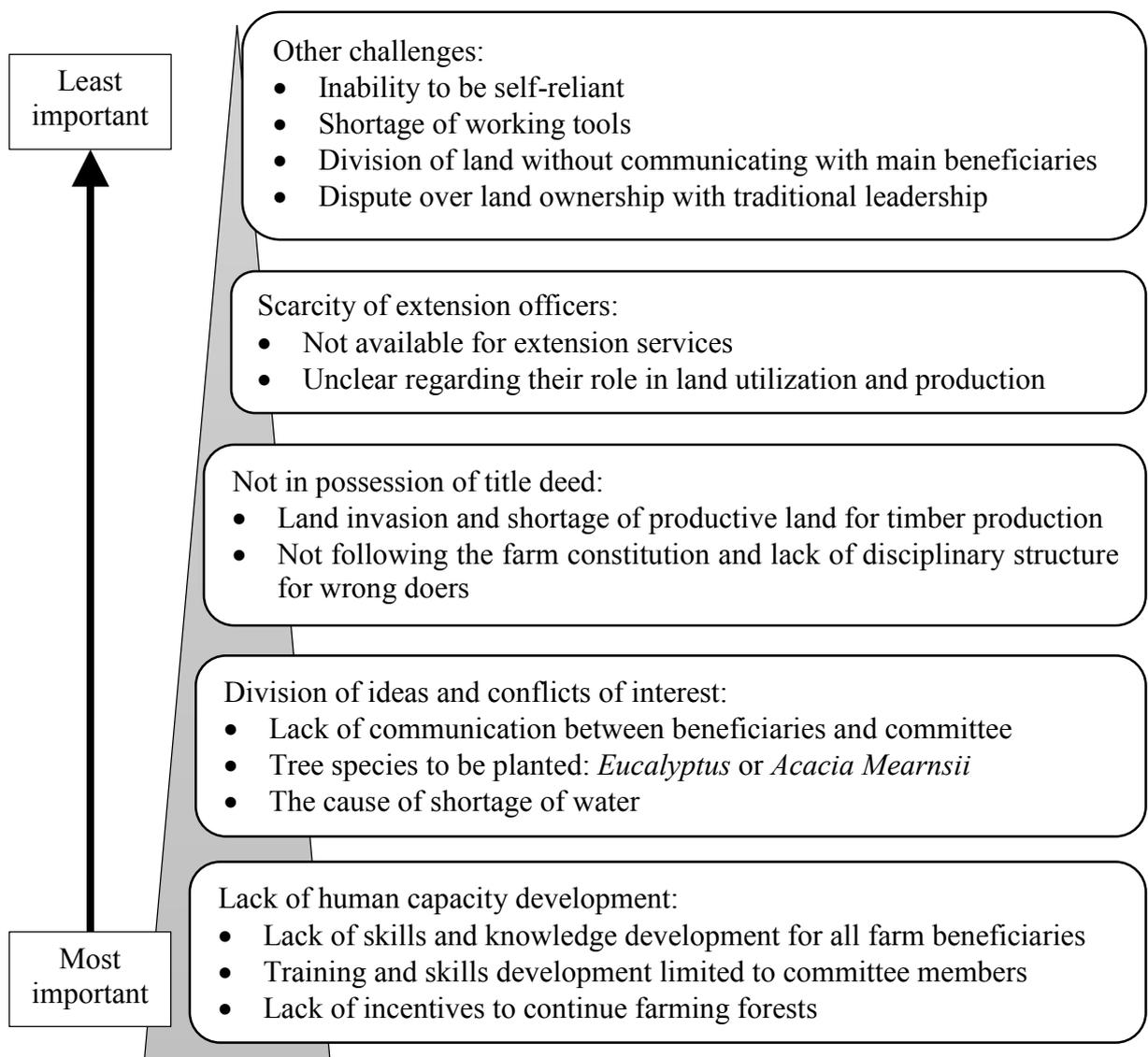


Figure 5.2: Perceptions of challenges drawn from priority rankings as ranked by participants of Platt Estate

The above pyramid represents challenges that farmers are encountering in human capacity development and land utilization and production. The least important challenges are placed at the top with the most important ones at the bottom.

The first challenge is the perception that there is a huge discrepancy amongst farmers in terms of technical skills possession and access to formal training. During the group discussion it appeared that the trainings were limited to elected committee members and were not available to the rest of beneficiaries because there are many. According to the participants this has led to more challenges such as land invasion. Participants believed that there needs to be a change of perception that beneficiaries' land is for production not settlement. The land invasion was attributed to the lack of human capacity development of beneficiaries and some two responses quoted:

*When the land is transferred to farmers there is no human capacity development occurring to enable beneficiaries to realise that if they own productive land they have a precious resource that everybody cannot afford to have. Once land is transferred there is inadequate follow-up support which would have provided incentives to beneficiaries to farm on new land instead of just settling on it (Farmer 08).*

*Once the land is transferred we are not told what to do on the land. People do what looks pleasing in their eyes, for example settling on land unofficially (Farmer 10).*

In terms of incentives to continue with farming *Farmer 03* mentioned that training is important for motivation.

*I never had access to formal education before due to oppression by past government. I worked on the farm since I was young being tasked every day. After the democratic government settled our land claim I thought they will teach us how to farm which would provide incentives for me to continue with farming. But it is way different because the government is providing training to only farm committee members.*

While the issue of human capacity development remains the trend on Platt Estate, according to *Farmer 01* the committee had tried to get advice from LDA or perhaps train other farmers that do not have access to training. However the LDA could not come up a solution and was always delaying.

Another serious challenge is the division of ideas over which timber species should be planted on the land. Some farmers think of the subsistence needs for planting *Acacia mearnsii*, while others think of the commercial business of planting *Eucalyptus*. Participants perceive that *Acacia mearnsii* is best because wood can be used to build houses, as fire wood and to bury loved ones. Further *Acacia mearnsii* is touted as not consuming a lot of water, compared to *Eucalyptus*. The shortage of water in streams in Platt Estate Farm is attributed to the increase population of *Eucalyptus* trees.

Some farmers want *Eucalyptus* because of its high economic value and demand in the market. What also perpetuates the division is that the Platt Estate Farm is in transition from *Acacia mearnsii* to *Eucalyptus* after the recommendation of the mentor. Participants believe that this has not been communicated properly to the rest of beneficiaries and some beneficiaries are not convinced about the transition. While some beneficiaries disagree with the plantation of *Eucalyptus* due to high water consumption, the Sappi Forests' mentor clarified the statement during his interview.

*The Sappi Nursery was aware of concerns about Eucalyptus that it consumes a lot of water. To address this the nursery has come up with a variety of species which suit the local condition where the Eucalyptus is to be planted. The Eucalyptus species planted on Platt Estate Farm is able to drain underground water and make it available on the soil surface (EXTN/Mentor 01).*

Other challenges which were raised by participants are disputes of land ownership with traditional leadership where headmen (*Izinduna*) and Chiefs (*namaKhosi*) want to own the land and allocate people for settlement and household farming. There is also an inability to be self-reliant and own resources which would lessen the reliance on Sappi Forests and foster farmers' development.

#### **5.2.8 Planned versus current land utilization and production**

During individual interviews, farmers were asked about how they planned their land utilization and production, and were also asked to reflect on the current land utilization. If the current land utilization and production is dissimilar or similar to the planned land utilization and production, the farmers were further asked to substantiate the cause of variation in planned and current land utilization. The responses from individual interviews were also brought for the group discussion. Ten elements of sustainable land utilization and production were used in order to

break down the question. These were land and management, input supply, infrastructure development, technical support, technology and development, market orientation, capital intensity and labour intensity (refer to discussion in section 2.3.4).

The individual interviews showed that there is inadequate planning and the farmers' plans about land utilization and production are not given priority. The current land utilization and production reflected the land use of the former land owner; and are largely driven by the support available to farmers through the Project Grow and SAPPI Mentor. The participants' responses to elements of sustainable land utilization and production are discussed below.

#### *5.2.8.1 Land and management*

The beneficiaries planned to divide the land to ease land management and ensure that all people benefit equally. Currently, the land is divided into six subdivisions, namely Ebholeni, Ezitendeni, Tapashiya, Mkhunya, Myanyabuzi and Daily Bread and the division was accomplished with the aid of DLA. In terms of management of natural resources the land has contours for reducing soil erosion. Participants reported that these were left by their predecessor and do not require any intervention. Furthermore, the DWAF through WfW programme and DoA had offered training to about four beneficiaries on the Principles of Production without Destruction (Ecosystem) and Land Care (Agri-Planner).

The Sappi Forests and beneficiaries had drafted and signed the environmental policy to ensure that all environmental legislatures were followed and development taking place on land are socially, economically and environmental sustainable. However, with the plantation of *Eucalyptus* some beneficiaries see this as environmentally unsustainable since these trees consumes a large amount of water and leave community with very little to drink.

#### *5.2.8.2 Input supply*

There is an inadequate plan on how the farmers are going to access the input for timber production. The responses were based on perceptions rather than a formal plan. The majority of participants mentioned that LDA or DLA would not provide both durable and consumable inputs. The farmers access inputs from Sappi Forests through Project Grow's loan. The consumable inputs such as seedlings (free for farmers partnered with Project Grow), fertilizers and agro-chemicals are purchased using loan money. The durable inputs such as knapsack sprays, fire beaters, fire fighters and other working tools are purchased using farmers' capital.

Other working tools that they cannot afford, such as forest fire truck for emergency situations are borrowed from Sappi Forests.

#### *5.2.8.3 Infrastructure development*

Farmers planned to continue with the infrastructure left by former land owner such as roads, fencing, buildings for residence, and to establish water sources for irrigation of seedlings after the plantation. However, the roads are too old and causes trouble for the trucks hauling timber, but cannot be renewed because farmers lacked capital investments. The fence which was protecting the farm was stolen and there are no current plans to replace it. The buildings left by former land owner farmers were intended for use as Platt Estate Farm headquarters from which the operations of farm would be controlled. However, all these buildings had been vandalised and the removable material such as corrugated iron, doors and door frames, windows were taken by unknown thieves. The Platt Estate is discussing how they were going to resurrect the buildings. Farmers were not willing to divulge specific details of their plans because no formal proposal had been made.

#### *5.2.8.4 Technical support*

When the DLA transferred land to beneficiaries, it linked farmers with relevant role players responsible for post-settlement support i.e. DoA and farmers were also linked to private companies interested in timber production such as Sappi Forests, Mondi and Merensky but beneficiaries opted to partner with Sappi Forests after consideration of all the private companies' support that was on offer.

The DoA makes use of extension agents and SAPPI make use of mentors through Project Grow. The farmers decided to continue with the extension agent and mentor to help with transforming plans into reality, ensuring minimum group disturbance on land utilization and production, and help the farmers to secure financial support. However, the only available technical support provider is the mentor through Project Grow. The extension agent from LDA is not available because the position continued to be vacant as previously indicated.

#### *5.2.8.5 Technology and development, and labour intensity*

The farmers use planned modern farming technology such as fertilizers, pesticides and labour, with minimal machinery involved. Being more labour focused provides job opportunities for the beneficiaries and other local community members. Farmers had implemented the plans and

are using labour (five people per hectare) paid at a rate of R60 per day. The Project Grow programme and mentor made this possible and people working on the land were paid using loan money obtained from Project Grow. Training in the use of technology was done through various training courses such as the Herbicides Application Course offered by DoA and Emerging Timber Growers Technical Toolkit offered by Sappi Forests.

In terms of exposure to new technology, farmers do not have adequate planning, but through training courses offered by various role players, farmers were exposed to new technology. During the collection of data in July 2015 participants had reported that some farm committee members would be attending the training course in September 2015 about Mechanisation in Timber Production, offered by Sappi Forests. As farmers attend the training courses their skills and knowledge are developed which gives a platform to evaluate and plan the technology employed on Platt Estate Farm.

#### *5.2.8.6 Market orientation*

Farmers realized that producing timber for subsistence use would not allow them to benefit sufficiently from their land. Two participants (*Farmer 08 & 11*) who have experience in timber contracting and marketing, played significant role to convince other beneficiaries about producing timber commercially, as also agreed in the focus group discussion. Furthermore, the beneficiaries have partnered with Sappi Forests through Project Grow which, according to the programme, beneficiaries have guaranteed markets for their timber after harvest. As a result, beneficiaries are marketing their timber in Umkomaas SAPPI Saiccor which is owned by Sappi Forests. However, there are some farmers who wanted the forest for subsistence use, which will not allow equal sharing of resources.

#### *5.2.8.7 Capital intensity*

To be a commercial farmer, a large capital investment is required in order to commence the commercial business and pursue business venture. Participants mentioned that they thought the capital investment would come from the DoA. From 2000 to 2009, participants indicated that they had made applications for capital investment through DoA, but none of their applications were successful. Fortunately, a partnership with Sappi Forests was forged round 2003 to 2005 where farmers managed to secure capital investment through the Project Grow programme.

#### *5.2.8.8 Income*

The participants mentioned that they planned to save the money made from selling of timber which will allow them to be self-reliant and buy their own resources. This would relieve the loaning from Sappi Forests through Project Grow and the beneficiaries would still benefit by means of being employed to work on the farm and receive wages. However, progress id not made as planned as there are challenges in settling the interest free loan secured from Sappi Forests. Participants mentioned that it is difficult to be self-reliant as internal challenges are putting more pressure on land utilization and production. However, the process of employing beneficiaries to allow them to benefit from their land is still on course.

#### **5.2.9 *The position of post-settlement support in Platt Estate Farm***

The participants' experiences of post-settlement support in Platt Estate Farm have shown that the Sappi Forests together with its mentor is the leading stakeholder supporting farmers in sustainable land utilization and production. Without the support from Sappi Forests and its mentor, the participants showed that it would have been almost impossible to carry on with growing timber in commercial business venture. However, there are other stakeholders such as DoA and DLA. The participants' responses showed less involvement of these two stakeholders especially DoA and agricultural advisor. This could be explained by the long-vacant agricultural advisor position.

### **5.3 Farmers' responses: Vukani Trust Farm (n=5)**

#### **5.3.1 *Land claim process***

The Vukani Trust Farm claim was settled through the restitution programme. The participants provided the history of how they lost land ownership during the apartheid era. The farmers managed to retain land ownership until early 1950s where most people were evicted from the land and settled in the nearest township areas like Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

However, there were some people who remained until 1979 when about 15 households were finally evicted by the land owner. Some of the participants interviewed are victims of the evictions and reported that they had been assaulted by the land owner because they refused to leave the land. The participants hailed the democratic government for undertaking peaceful land reform which does not use violence and ensure that there is agreement between the white farmers and previously disadvantaged farmers.

*I was working and residing on my land in 1979 but we had already lost the land ownership completely back in the 1950s. My herd of cattle was increasing abundantly on the land and the land owner requested me to cut-off my herd forcefully. I refused to do so, but he attacked me until I did as he commanded. However, our democratic government deserves to be applauded for peaceful land reform (Farmer 12).*

### **5.3.2 Location and land size**

The Vukani Trust Farm is located in Ward 3 near the border of Ubuhlebezwe and Ingwe Local Municipalities. The land size of the farm is approximately 1 800 hectares. This information was obtained from participants and the DRDLR deed registry (see *Appendix 13B*). The majority of the land is not suitable for crop farming because of hills and high slopes. However, there are approximately 120 hectares (estimated by participant) suitable for field crop production. The participants say that no land assessment had been done, and is not yet being utilized.

### **5.3.3 Land ownership and beneficiaries**

The Vukani Trust Farm is under the ownership of about 200 households who were evicted from the land between the 1950s and 1979. The land claim included all people who were victims of eviction and the grandchildren of these farmers displaced during eviction era. The beneficiaries are in possession of a title deed and their land rights are protected. Furthermore, there are eight beneficiaries' households living on the farm. All official beneficiaries are entitled to return in the farm if they are willing to do so. The land that deemed unsuitable for agricultural production and with low agricultural potential is used for human settlement while the high agricultural potential land has been reserved for agricultural production.

### **5.3.4 Stakeholders involved**

#### *5.3.4.1 Co-ordination of stakeholders involved in support services*

According to participants' experiences and stakeholder analysis (see *Appendix 8B*), there is a collective dysfunction within the stakeholder relationships. The relationship between the stakeholders themselves is not transparent because of limited support offered to farmers since the land was officially transferred back in 2004. What was transparent to participants was that the DLA linked farmers with LDA as the main stakeholder responsible for post-settlement support. During the group discussion it emerged that farmers had accessed once-off post-settlement support. This was in the form of a free tractor from the municipality, reconstruction

of the farm road from main road to beneficiaries' households by the municipality, and extension officer support that lasted for almost a year in 2013.

*We cannot judge the co-ordination of stakeholders offering post-settlement support to us since we have not seen their performance in catering support services (All farmers of Vukani Trust Farm present during focus group discussion).*

#### 5.3.4.2 Importance and role of stakeholders involved in support services

The stakeholder analysis and Venn diagram (see *Appendix 8B*) showed that three stakeholders that are believed to be important in offering support services related to sustainable land utilization and production. These are LDA with agricultural advisor, Municipality and DLA. However, these stakeholders have not asserted their roles and importance since the land has not yet been commercialized since it was transferred in 2004.

The LDA is the main stakeholder responsible for post-settlement support, important in ensuring that the land acquired from DLA is utilized for commercial production. In order to achieve this, the LDA provided agricultural advisor to render extension services, offer technical advices to agricultural production and link farmers with the DoA services. However, the x allocated was specialised in livestock production, not in crop production. The livestock owned by the eight households living in farm are for domestic use and not for commercial business, as indicated by participants during the focus group discussion.

The DLA is important for protection of land rights of the Vukani Trust Farm and ensures that land is not invaded. The DLA also linked farmers with stakeholders assigned to offer post-settlement support such as DoA. There is a controversy between the DLA and the farmers over whether it is responsible for post-settlement support or not. Recently, the DLA representative wanted to help farmers to draft the business plan, but could not get contacted with relevant people as most of the committee members do not reside on the farm. As a result of this farmers were puzzled regarding the DLA's responsibility in post-settlement support. However, the LDA manager made it clear that it is not a DoA role to develop business plans for farmers.

*The extension officers from DoA are not responsible for developing business plan for land reform farmers. That role is often played either by DLA or the Municipality or the Harry Gwala Development Agency. Our role as extension officers is to check it properly if there is loopholes in it and apply for the support (EXTN/Mentor 04).*

Other stakeholders that are important are municipality which reconstructed the road from the main road to the farm and beneficiaries households. Participants see this as an important role played by the municipality regardless of the fact that it was once-off support. The other stakeholders are the Vukani Trust Farm Committee and communal counsellor. The Vukani Trust Farm Committee was appointed as per ordinance from LDA, but inactive because of no instruction given regarding the role of committee in land utilization for commercial production. Furthermore, participants reported that some of the committee members are not residing on the farm and engage in activities other than farming. The counsellor is responsible for off-farm infrastructure and not directly involved in support farm operation.

#### *5.3.4.3 Influence of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support*

##### Business and land use planning

The extension officers responsible for offering extension services have little influence on land use and business planning according to participants. The business plan was about to be developed by representative from DLA and Vukani Trust Farm Committee. Since the DLA representative could not find committee members and the business plan template was left at the farm headquarters to be filled in by farmers. The participants made it clear that they never did anything with the document since then, reporting that low levels of literacy and unfamiliarity with the terminology used on the business plan template.

*The representative from DLA left a bunch of paper which we should fill when we want to access the financial support from DLA, but we are not educated and there is nobody available to help us (Farmer 15).*

##### Current farm produce

The current enterprises on the Vukani Trust Farm are enterprises left by previous land owner. These include numerous orange fruit trees and game animals such as Kudu, Impala and Bush Buck. The beneficiaries residing on farm have added domestic animals such as cattle and indigenous chickens. However, the domestic animals have nothing to do with commercial farming, but are very valuable for cultural practices such as ancestral ceremonies and feasts. Since the extension officer began advising farmers on livestock production, this improved on the herd value. Participants believe that their animals are better looked after and in better condition.

#### 5.3.4.4 Role of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support

Table 5.5: Perceptions of supportive roles drawn from participants' responses (n=5)

Theme	Role of the extension agent identified
Role of extension agent in livestock production/ stakeholders' co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide health coverage to the livestock</li> <li>• Provide farmers with vaccines and dip available from LDA for small holder farmers</li> <li>• Teach farmers to dip and vaccinate cattle</li> <li>• Capacitate farmers with management skills during visits</li> </ul>
Scarcity of extension officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The livestock extension officer left his position and DLA has not assigned any person to the position yet</li> <li>• Unavailability of extension agents</li> <li>• Not sure about extension role in stakeholders' co-ordination</li> </ul>

There is no evidence that extension has influenced commercial production or support for the overarching goal to market the farm produce. Participants mentioned that the current production on the farm is mainly for subsistence use. For subsistence use of livestock there has been an increment in the number of livestock and improvements of the herd quality. Below are two quotes from participants:

*I had six cows and one bull at the time extension officer came to our farm, but in a poor condition. After the extension agent come to us, my herd quality has improved and multiplying rapidly (Farmer 16).*

*Ticks and other diseases were killing our cattle but since the arrival of livestock extension agent there is great improvement of our herd quality and less cattle die from ticks and other diseases like black leg and diarrhoea (Farmer 12).*

### 5.3.5 Human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production

#### 5.3.5.1 Human capacity development programmes

Participants were asked about how they develop their farming abilities both individually and/or collectively and what had changed toward applying their skills in farm production. It was

discovered that there are no current human capacity development programme available to farmers. However, the assistance of the extension agent back in 2013, offered farmers the opportunity to participate in extension services for their capacity development.

### 5.3.5.2 Challenges in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production

During the individual interviews farmers were asked to list all the challenges that are affecting them in human capacity development, sustainable land utilization and production. The challenges captured during interviews were grouped (see *Appendix 6* an example of emergent issues and problem grouping) and further brought into group discussion for conducting priority ranking. The *Appendix 9B* is an original priority ranking conducted with the farmers during group discussion. The figure below is an analysis drawn from individual interviews, priority ranking and focus group discussion:

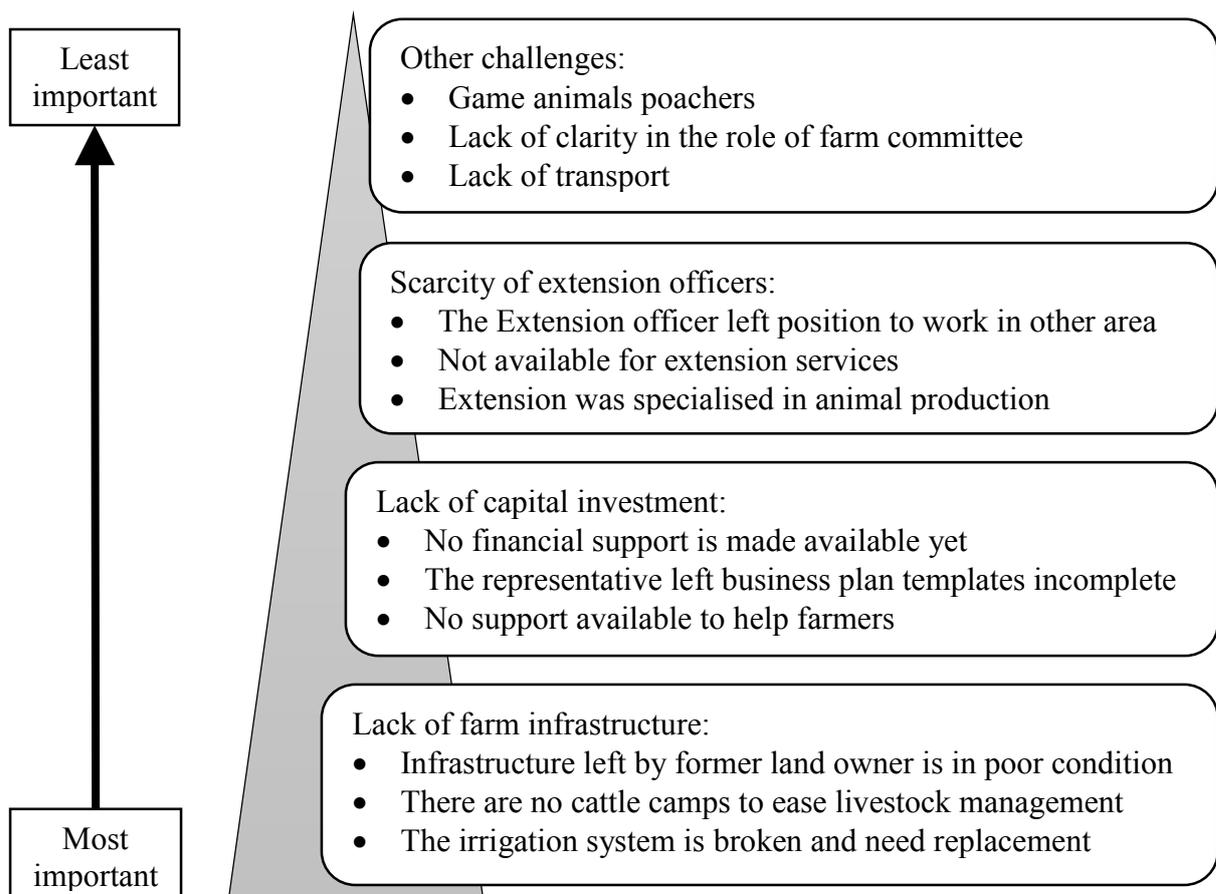


Figure 5.3: Perceptions of challenges drawn from priority rankings as ranked by participants in Vukani Trust

The current Vukani Trust Farm infrastructure reflects the ailing infrastructure left by the previous land owner. The fence around the farm boundary is old and lying on the ground an invitation for poachers to hunt, and for game animals to escape from the designated area for game. Although farmers had tried to reconstruct the old fence, it keeps breaking.

The farmers own livestock, with each family having an average of five head of cattle. The farm does not have cattle camps where cattle could be kept during grazing to ease herd management. As such, the cattle are grazing all around the farm. The participants expressed a worry that the cattle tramping could cause soil erosion since the land is susceptible to erosion due to high land slope. The farmers also have to go after their cattle during the day when grazing because there is no proper fencing around the farm boundary, meaning that the cattle could escape easily.

The previous land owner left numerous orange fruit trees planted in about one hectare of the farm land. However, the irrigation system which was left in for oranges trees is in poor condition; too old, broken, and in need of replacement. With no capital investment the farmers could not raise the funds to install a new irrigation system. As a result, the orange trees are experiencing poor growth; some are decaying; and the fruits born are sour and uneven in size and shape due to high moisture stress.

Obtaining capital investment for land management is a challenge. As previously mentioned, participants reported that there was one representative from the DLA who assisted them with a business plan template, but nobody was able to fill the template because of the farmers' low levels of literacy and absenteeism. It can be interpreted that there is inadequate communication between farmers and the DLA. Furthermore there is nobody assigned to continue to assist the farmers with their business plan for applying financial support needed by the farm to utilize land for commercial purpose.

Although the participants indicated that they do not feel in desperate need of financial support, they still needed it. The participants placed emphasis on the need for a tractor and during the group discussion, unanimously agreed that if they could find a tractor they can be successful on their own:

*All we need is a tractor and maybe we can start farming commercially on our own, even since I have worked more than 20 years driving tractor for different white commercial farmers. I know how to farm and with the skills that I have I think we can do better (Farmer 12).*

Another challenge was the scarcity of extension personnel offering extension and technical services. The last time the farmers had met with the extension agent was toward the end of 2013 when he told them that he would no longer be working with them since he had found other employment. However, at the time of data collection, the position still had not been filled, according to LDA manager responsible for managing extension personnel. The extension agent to help the farmers with crop production was going to be allocated soon after farmers made an enquiry to LDA in early 2014. However, as at July 2015 the farmers were still waiting for new extension officer.

Other problems deemed to be of least important are game animal poachers, lack of clarity in the role of the farm committee and lack of transport from farm to town. It is alleged that the hunters from surrounding local communities Ofafa, Nhlamvini, Dlangala and Mshangule were hunting illegally on the farm, but the participants believe this could be controlled if fencing was erected around the farm boundary. In terms of lack in clarity regarding the role and absenteeism of the farm committee, participants perceive this as something which is not an important challenge since they could form another committee consisting of farmers residing on farm if the committee is desperately needed. Another challenge was the lack of transport to town, not seen as important since farmers can walk to the nearest community, Ofafa, just seven kilometres away from the farm.

### ***5.3.6 Planned versus current land utilization and production***

During individual interviews, participants were asked about how they planned their land utilization and production, and were also asked to reflect on the current land utilization. If the current land utilization and production is dissimilar or similar to the planned land utilization and production, the farmers were further asked to substantiate the variation of planned and current land utilization. The responses from individual interviews were also brought forward in the group discussion. Ten elements of sustainable land utilization and production were used to break down the question. These were land and management, produce produced, input supply, infrastructure development, technical support, technology and development, market orientation, capital intensity and labour intensity.

It was found that the farmers have no formal business plan. In terms of the ten elements of sustainable land utilization and production, there were minor land improvements, such as roads, occurring on land to pursue a commercial business. In terms of infrastructure, the municipality reconstructed the road from main road to the farm. In terms of land and income, about one

hectare of land is rented by the neighbouring white commercial farmer where he planted his cattle's forage. Some legal hunters also come to shoot some game animals and pay a small amount of money to the beneficiaries. Accessing technical support was done through the agricultural advisor from LDA, but the support is stagnant since the beneficiaries settled on their new land. In terms of the market, there is no evident that farmers are producing commercial use, except subsistence purposes. These farmers had limited discussion around the other elements of sustainable land utilisation and production this confirmed the lack of planning and farming activity because of the lack of support already mentioned.

### **5.3.7 *The position of post-settlement support in Vukani Trust Farm***

The Vukani Trust Farm was transferred to beneficiaries almost a decade ago (10 years), but no post-settlement support was made available to enable farmers to embark on commercial business venture where land could be fully utilized. The extension support from LDA is not consistent nor had it helped farmers fully to kick-start a commercial farming business. However, participants still believe that they could still become commercial farmers if the stakeholders responsible for post-settlement support could make support available to them.

*There is no support available yet to start using all the land we own and we are still waiting for the right support to come, but if we can have a tractor, the other support can find us along the way (Farmer 12).*

*It has been a decade since the land was transferred to us. The support offered to us is stagnant and not seriously helpful. But hope never kill and we still hope that our time is coming (Farmer 14).*

## **5.4 Farmers' responses: Mpakameni Trust Farm (n=5)**

### **5.4.1 *Land claim process***

The Mpakameni land was owned by various Zulu tribe families back in the 1850s. Historically, they used the land to produce maize and farmed Nguni cattle to feed their families and carry-out cultural practices. Toward the end of the 1800s the Boer and British colony were gaining more power and dispossession of the land had already started. The Zulu tribe families Ncobela, Mkhize, Mthembu and Ngema managed to retain ownership of the land until 1913, and were evicted without compensation under the *Native Land Act No. 27 of 1913*. They settled elsewhere around Ixopo and in Durban township areas.

The restitution claimants of the Mpakameni land included all the people who could still trace how the land ownership was lost and those who were farm workers at the time of lodging the land claim. The claim of Mpakameni land was initiated and fuelled by Mr Ncobela whose father was one of the eviction victims. Unfortunately Mr Ncobela passed away in 2013, a century after of the land dispossession incident occurred.

#### **5.4.2 Location and land size**

The Mpakameni Trust Farm is located in ward 6 and constitutes about 202.6 hectares of land. Previously, the land was 211.4 hectares in size, but 8.8 hectares was expropriated by the Department of Roads and Safety to construct the tar road between Highflats and Hlokozi. All this information was acquired from participants during the individual interviews and focus group discussion, and from the Deed Registry in DRDLR (see *Appendix 13C*)

#### **5.4.3 Land ownership and beneficiaries**

The Mpakameni Trust Farm is owned by 42 households and the beneficiaries are in possession of the title deed. This was obtained from the DRDLR back in 2008 when the land was officially transferred to them. These 42 households were part of the land claim that was lodged back in 1995. In every household there is one member who is a beneficiary of the land. However, the beneficiaries who lodged the claim in 1995 became too old and some retired, but their children replaced them and started working on land. Below is an original statement on this:

*My parents applied to the government to buy them the land that they owned long ago. Fortunately the application was successful and they got their land back. My mother was one of the beneficiaries, so she decided to retire in 2009 and I have taken over her duties (Farmer 18).*

#### **5.4.4 Farm name and sub-names**

The whole farm name is Mpakameni Trust Farm. The Mpakameni Trust Farm has two main enterprises which are crop production and egg production. To ease the management, farmers decided to divide these enterprises and give them separate names. The crop enterprise was named Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative where about ten farmers work on a full time basis. The egg production enterprise was named Mpakameni Trading Enterprise, with about 15 farmers working with there.

### **5.4.5 Stakeholders involved**

#### *5.4.5.1 Co-ordination of stakeholders involved in support services*

The stakeholder analysis, using participants experience and Venn diagram (see *Appendix 8C*), showed that there is little co-ordination of stakeholders involved in offering post-settlement support in Mpakameni Trust. During the focus group discussion, it emerged that there is no current system which brings the present stakeholders together, for example meetings. They identified that the Mpakameni Trading Enterprise mentor has a relationship with the Marketing Agent, but farmers have parted ways with the mentor. Farmers are since communicating directly with the Marketing Agent.

#### *5.4.5.2 Importance and role of stakeholders involved in support services*

In the Venn diagramming exercise in *Appendix 8C* where participants were asked about importance and role of stakeholder present in sustainable land utilization and production. Participants identified SASRI/Ilovo, market agent (egg production), Local Municipality, mentor (crop production), DRDLR, and LDA and agricultural advisor as the most important.

The mentor (egg production) was provided by DRDLR through the RADP programme to transfer skills to beneficiary farmers, to assist farmers with management and groom farmers for commercial business. However, the participants mentioned that the mentor was managing the farm for them and was not teaching them anything about egg production and management. The farmers were less involved in decision making and there was poor communication between farmers and the mentor.

The most important stakeholders for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise are the market agent and Local Municipality. The market agent is the one who purchases the eggs produced by Mpakameni Trading Enterprise. The market agent also helping farmers to buy feed and replace old broilers. He claims his fees through the purchase of eggs. However, participants mentioned that “*We are not happy with him*” because the market agent does not communicate with beneficiary farmers. For example, participant reported that as farmers, they requested the market agent to buy feed from Meadow Feeds because the layers lay better quality eggs from that feed. Instead, the Agent brought a different feed and they discovered that the egg quality was not as expected. As a result, the participants mentioned that they are in desperate need of a new formal market, but no advices and connection is available yet.

Another important stakeholder is the Local Municipality which drafted the business plan for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise in order to access RADP financial support. That is when the Local Municipality played a role in post-settlement support.

There is also the DRDLR who provided funding through RADP to Mpakameni Trading Enterprise and linked farmers with various stakeholders interested in agricultural production. The DRDLR also provided the mentor intended to assist the farmers with acquiring commercial business skills. The DRDLR has the least role to play in offering support services other than funding and protection of the land rights of Mpakameni Trust Farm.

For the Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative there is no least important stakeholder. All stakeholders are deemed to be important. The co-operative has mentor is from neighbouring farm which was negotiated by farmers to provide mentorship in crop production. The mentor is providing technical advices on land preparation to harvesting and marketing of crops (maize and dry beans). Participants see this as an important role played by mentor and the farmers are in a good relationship with the mentor.

Another important stakeholder is the DoA who offers an agricultural advisor and facilitates CASP. According to the participants the relationship between farmers and both the DoA and advisor is very poor. The DoA is very poor in facilitating CASP and participants reported that production inputs like fertilizers and seeds are delivered after the planting season has passed.

*The DoA is always delaying and lacks punctuality. The production inputs which they offer us as the farmers are delivered after the planting season has passed (Farmer 19).*

The final stakeholder identified and playing role in Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative is Illovo. The farm has about 10 hectares planted with sugarcane. Illovo was providing training through SASRI and guaranteed a market after harvesting sugarcane. However, the Mpakameni land is subject to severe frost, especially in July. The sugarcane variety planted on the farm reaches maturity in about one and half to two years. The sugarcane was planted in December 2014 and by July 2015, the frost had already damaged the cane severely. The farmers are thus considering replacing sugarcane with maize. This will bring an end their relationship with Illovo, since Illovo's interest is in sugarcane production specifically.

#### 5.4.5.3 Influence of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support

##### Business and land use planning

The current land use planning showed high levels of absenteeism and less influence of public (LDA) extension agents. The business plan for egg production in Mpakameni Trading enterprise was developed by the mentor in conjunction with the local municipality in order to apply for RADP financial support. Participants mentioned that they played a passive role during the development of the business plan process.

*The mentor developed the business plan on his own, we were playing a passive role during the process and some plans were not implemented successfully as it was stipulated (Farmer 18).*

The current land use of the Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operatives reflected the guidance from the neighbouring mentor and less involvement from the public extension services. However, participants reported that there is no current formal plan existing for the Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operatives. The farmers are in the process of joining hands with the extension agents from HGDA to assist in developing a formal business plan in order to assess support services.

##### Current farm produce

Both Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operatives and Mpakameni Trading enterprise are replicating the pre-existing land use except the production of sugarcane. The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operatives is producing maize, dry beans, sugarcane, and *Eucalyptus*. The maize and dry beans were produced by the former land owner and *Eucalyptus* trees were left by the previous land owner back in 2008 when the land was transferred. The maize was planted on about 30 hectares, dry beans are planted on about less than two hectares, sugarcane was planted on about 10 hectares as well and *Eucalyptus* is planted along the farm boundary. The planting of sugarcane was influenced by the farmers interested in sugarcane production and capacity development which Illovo invested in through SASRI.

The production of eggs in under one hectare of land was influenced by the resources available. Two big laying hen houses that can accommodate up to 14 000 laying hens were inherited from the previous owner. The farmers thus decided to continue with egg production instead of

investing in a new enterprise. The rest of Mpakameni land (about 140 hectares) was under no production at the time of data collection because of lack of capital investment.

#### *5.4.5.4 Role of extension services in pre- and post-settlement support*

All five respondents interviewed identified the extension agents of LDA, extension agents from HGDA (who were about to start working with farmers in developing business plan), representatives from SASRI/Illovo who were training farmers on sugarcane production and one mentor for each enterprise Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operatives and Mpakameni Trading Enterprise. The roles of extension agents and mentors drawn from participants are presented in Table 5.6.

The analysis shows roles played by extension agents and mentors in sustainable land utilization and production. However, the extension agents from HGDA were still have not done anything yet by the time the researcher collected data in July 2015. The participants perceive extension agents from SASRI/Illovo as influential in developing understanding and building skills in sugarcane production from planting to harvesting. Out of five participants interviewed, four who had access to services from SASRI/Illovo agreed that their services had great on their sugarcane farming skills which will allow sustainability in production of sugarcane.

Table 5.6: Perceptions of supportive roles drawn from participants' responses (n=5)

Theme	Extension: Role factors identified	Mentors: Role factors identified
Extension agents role in sustainable land utilization and production/ stakeholders' co-ordination	<p>Assist farmers in drafting business plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer extension services such as training, demonstration and facilitate skill development programme</li> <li>• Transfer technical skills</li> <li>• Facilitate DoA programmes such as CASP and the National Mechanisation Programme</li> <li>• Provide continuous advice for quality produce</li> <li>• Link farmers to the market</li> <li>• Provide a support system for stakeholders' co-ordination (although not in place)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach emerging commercial farmers farming skills</li> <li>• Teach farmers to manage the farm</li> <li>• Groom farmers for commercial business</li> <li>• Provide guidance from plantation until harvest</li> <li>• Help farmers to partner with various role players</li> </ul>
Scarcity of extension agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extension agents from LDA are not always available</li> <li>• Nobody is assigned to assist beneficiaries with extension services or related services especially in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise</li> <li>• Farmers are less involved in decision making and there is poor communication between farmers and extension agents more especially of LDA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mentor for Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative was not officially appointed by DRDLR nor paid and may withdraw anytime from offering technical support</li> <li>• The mentor for Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative is only advising one farmer who was appointed as the manager in Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative, who in turn share the information with the rest of the farmers</li> <li>• The mentor for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise is no longer working with the farmers</li> </ul>

There are different extension agents from the LDA who had worked and are continuing to work with the farmers in Mpakameni Trust. The participants, however, disagreed over whether the extension agents have influenced sustainable land utilization and production. They mentioned that they are effective in terms of ensuring the quality of the produce produced. The reason given for this view is that if they have a problem in production the extension officer rectifies the problem without communicating with the farmers. The farmers themselves are less involved in decision making and receive directives regarding what needed to be done.

The five participants could not reach consensus regarding whether the mentor (egg production) was influential in transferring skills for sustainable land utilization and production. However, the mentor was seen as important in keeping the Mpakameni Trading Enterprise producing eggs. Again, the reason given was that the mentor was managing the enterprise for farmers and not transferring skills needed by beneficiaries. The neighbouring mentor was identified as unreliable because there was no formal deal involved. However, one respondent who have direct access and worked with the mentor agreed that the mentor has enabled her and other farmers to further develop their farming skills.

*The mentor is very good and has enabled us to acquire more technical skills, ability and knowledge because the mentor allows us to implement what we have planned and he plays a role in guiding us and providing technical advices during the process (Farmer 17).*

By common consent, participants mentioned that there is great improvement on the way they produce maize and dry beans since the farm manager of Mpakameni Multi-purpose receiving mentorship from neighbouring mentor. Furthermore, the farm manager is able to transfer knowledge to other farmers to ensure that there are minimal mistakes involved in production.

#### **5.4.6 Human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production**

##### *5.4.6.1 Human capacity development programmes*

Participants were asked about how they develop their farming abilities both individually and/or collectively and what has changed toward applying their skills in farm production. It was discovered that farmers had attended various skill development trainings from SASRI/Ilovo. Some of these trainings were held on the beneficiaries' farm. Although the trainings were open

to all farmers of Mpakameni Trust, only about ten farmers attended different skill development trainings about sugar cane production.

The total of participants interviewed had attended skill development training for Cane Husbandry (n=5), Soil Sampling (n=5), Business Orientation (n=2), Occupation Health and Safety (n=3), and Knapsack Operator (n=5). The training for sugarcane has limited long term benefits for production since the farmers have decided to stop growing sugarcane. However, some of the knowledge taught and skills transferred still apply to enterprises other than sugarcane. For example Soil Sampling. Participants mentioned that they used skills taught by SASRI/Illovo to carry out soil samples before the plantation of maize and dry beans.

There is no evidence of any other training offered to equip them with skills and knowledge in land utilization and production other than those mentioned above. The above skill development trainings had enabled the farmers to build an understanding and competency in many aspects of sustainable land utilization and production.

*I am now able to take a directive role in sugarcane production and marketing even in maize and dry the knowledge and skills taught by SASRI/Illovo (Farmer 17).*

*I am able to do land preparation, soil sampling, identify soil properties and operate the knapsack sprayer when using chemicals (Farmer 21).*

#### *5.4.6.2 Challenges in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production*

During the individual interviews participants were asked to list all the challenges that they perceive as affecting them in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production. The challenges captured during interviews were grouped according to similarity (see *Appendix 6* an example of emergent issues and problems grouping) and further brought in a group discussion for conducting priority ranking. The *Appendix 9C* contains the original priority ranking conducted with the participants during focus group discussion. Figure 5.4 is an analysis drawn from individual interviews, the priority ranking exercise and the focus group discussion.

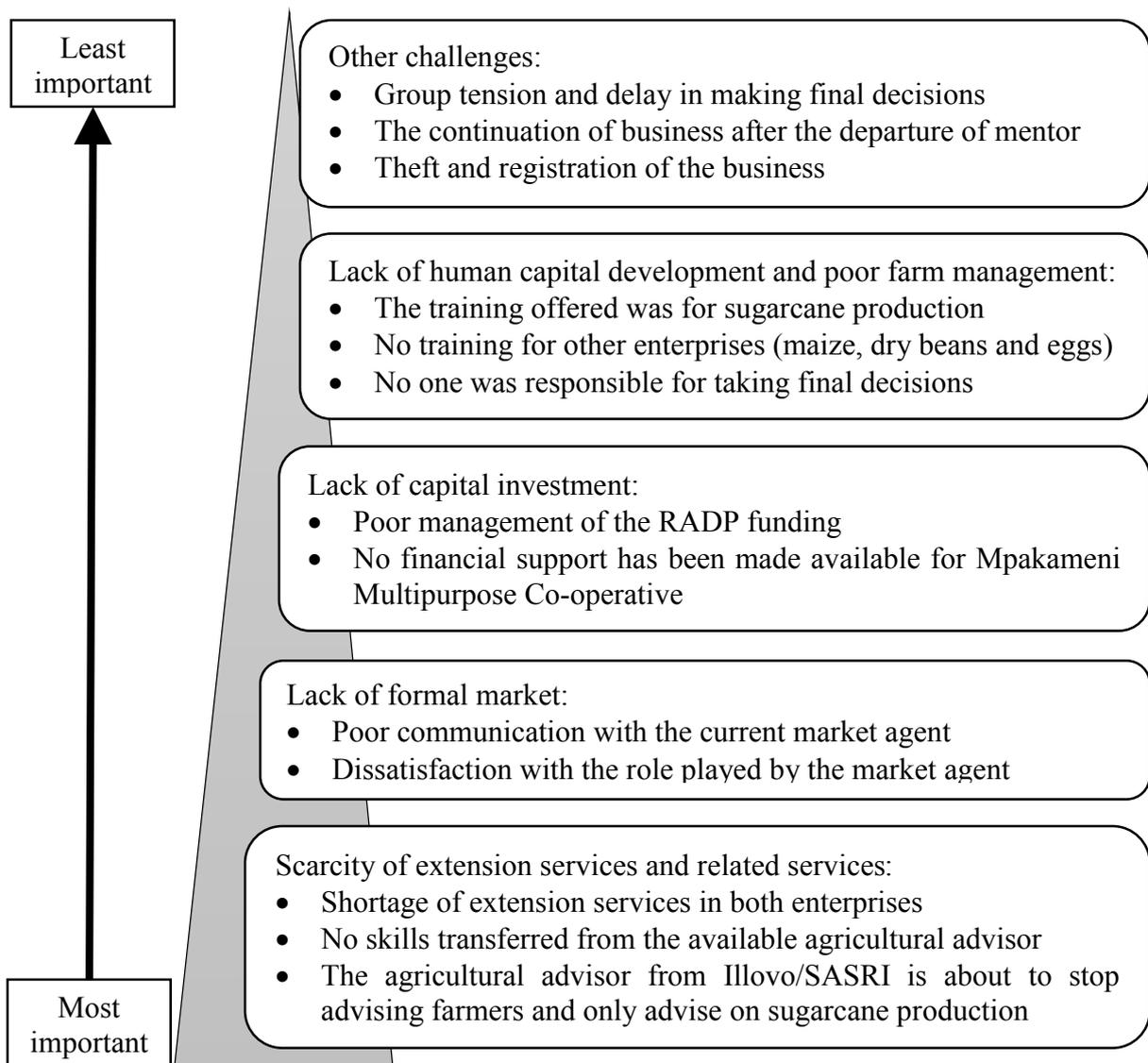


Figure 5.4: Perceptions of challenges drawn from priority ranking as ranked by participants in Mpakameni Trust

The participants placed the scarcity of extension services as a main hindering factor to human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production. The Mpakameni Trading Enterprise never had an extension agent offering services except the mentor provided by DRDLR who had already departed. Participants reported that were gaining no knowledge or new skill from the agricultural advisor from LDA. Instead of ensuring knowledge and skills transfer take place, the agricultural advisors make decisions for the farmers instead and does not communicate with them. The following responses are exact replies from farmers and were also discussed the priority ranking exercise:

*Our dry beans were severely attacked by pests early in 2015 and we consulted the extension officer from LDA to come and assist us. The extension officer came to explore the problem and brought the LDA pesticides to spray the dry beans without communicating to us about the name of pests attacking our dry beans and suitable pesticides to control those pests (Farmer 17).*

*Early this year (2015) we were about to plant dry beans under two hectares. Since we did not have a planter we decided to borrow one from LDA through extension officer. When the extension officer came with the planter, they adjusted it and started planting without teaching us how to operate the planter (Farmer 19).*

Another challenge is a poor market for the products of Mpakameni Trading Enterprise. The participants reported that the market agent does not communicate with them and it was better when the mentor was still around. However, the farmers have no other reliable market where they can market their eggs.

Another most important challenge was the availability of capital investment in both Mpakameni Trading Enterprise and Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative. The participants volunteered the information that the DRDLR made an investment in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise estimated at R7 million back in 2013. This money did not last even one year. The reason for this they said was that the elected committee had poor skills in financial management and did not follow the plans. The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative was since supported by the income made from Mpakameni Trading enterprise, but there is not enough to allow full utilization for commercial production in the entire farm.

The participants mentioned that they have a problem accessing human capacity development programmes in maize, dry beans and egg production. The only training provided was for sugarcane production. The other challenges mentioned by participants, but not stressed as important are tensions working in groups, poor production management in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise after the departure of mentor, theft of agronomic crops (maize and dry beans) and the Mpakameni farm business not yet having registered nor possession of a VAT number due to a good of good advice.

#### ***5.4.7 Planned versus current land utilization and production***

During individual interviews, farmers were asked about how they planned their land utilization and production, and were also asked to reflect on the current land utilization. Ten elements of sustainable land utilization and production were used in order to break down the question.

These elements were land and farm management, produce produced, input supply, infrastructure development, technical support, technology and development, market orientation, capital intensity and labour intensity. During the individual interviews, it emerged that there was one business plan developed for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise to access financial support from DRDLR, but it was not properly followed. It came to light that Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative was about to develop their business plan assisted by extension agents from HGDA to apply for financial support. The responses on sustainable land utilization and production are presented as follows.

##### *5.4.7.1 Land and farm management*

The participants mentioned that they planned to replicate the land use and management that their predecessor used and there are no changes in this. The former land owner left good facilities to ease management like infrastructure. The farmers were also referred to the South African Weather Services by LDA to learn about how to access weather information to reduce farming risks. This is part of management which helps farmers to plant at the right time and become aware of unfavourable bad weather conditions.

##### *5.4.7.2 Input supply*

The Mpakameni Trading Enterprise planned to buy inputs from the nearest markets around Ixopo, Highflats or Richmond. The laying hens' feed is bought from Meadow Feeds while the laying hens' vaccines are bought from the nearest vaccines market. In terms of durable inputs like the mini-truck and laying hens plans were not implemented properly because farmers ran out of RADP funding before the completion of the implementation of planned activities.

The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative has no formal plan on how to secure inputs, but the participants reported that sometimes the LDA provides inputs like fertilizers and seeds for maize and dry beans through CASP or alternatively farmers purchase it from local inputs companies in Ixopo or Pietermaritzburg. The farm is in possession of two tractors that are in a stable condition. Other machinery that is needed is borrowed from the LDA.

#### *5.4.7.3 Infrastructure development*

The business plan developed by the departed mentor for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise focussed on infrastructure development. The participants shared their plans as farmers planned to renovate the two laying hen houses for egg production; to build two house where laying chicks would be grown for the replacement of old laying hens; to build a staff house and re-erect the fence around the farm. None of these plans were implemented successfully and farmers reported that they ran out of credit before the completion of the objectives. Work on renovation of the two laying houses, building of the staff house and re-erection of fence around the farm never started; while the two houses for laying chick were built but not completed.

The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative is currently using the residence facilities of the previous land owner as headquarters of the whole farm. However, the beneficiaries have realized the potential of providing tourist lodging. They are in the process of discussing a plan for converting the house used by their predecessor into a Bed and Breakfast (B&B). The beneficiaries still have not made a final proposal for their new business plan.

#### *5.4.7.4 Technical support*

At the transfer of the farm to beneficiaries, the DRDLR linked farmers with the DoA as the main stakeholder responsible for post-transfer support, but farmers are not reassured by the services offered by extension officers from DoA. Furthermore, when the DRDLR funded the beneficiaries through RADP, a mentor was provided to offer technical support. He no longer working with farmers, and participants indicated that farmers are not happy with his mentorship role. Currently, the farmers with Mpakameni Trading Enterprise are without technical support and Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative have neighbouring mentor and agricultural advisor from LDA.

#### *5.4.7.5 Technology and development, and labour intensity*

Since the farm lacks the necessary equipment, a large number of labour is used. There are about 25 farmers working the whole Mpakameni Trust Farm. Motivated by mechanisation, the farmers planned to use fertilization and chemicals because of the nature of their enterprises. They progress on their plans, but cannot farm the whole due to aforementioned reason, lack of financial support and appropriate advices. In terms of accessing new technology, the farmers

did not have adequate plans, but participants expressed that they had enjoyed the short spell with Illovo capacitating with various skill development.

#### *5.4.7.6 Market orientation*

The farmers planned to produce commercially, sell their produce and get money in return. The Mpakameni Trading Enterprise is currently providing eggs to the market agent. The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative is currently marketing maize and dry beans to the local market in Highflats or Ixopo and sugarcane will be marketed to Illovo Sugar.

#### *5.4.7.7 Capital intensity*

The Mpakameni Trust Farm required a large capital investment. However, at the transfer of the land the beneficiaries did not know how to access the capital. The DRDLR mentor for Mpakameni Trading Enterprise applied for funding for the beneficiaries and was successful. However, Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative assisted by extension officers from HGDA, are yet to make an application for funding.

#### *5.4.7.8 Income*

The farmers had planned to re-invest some income and share excess with the rest of beneficiaries. However, the farm is not making sufficient income to be shared amongst all beneficiaries. The available income is for people who are working on the land and to re-invest to continue with farming operations.

#### **5.4.8 *The position of post-settlement support in Mpakameni Trust Farm***

There is no system which encourages the co-ordination of stakeholders offering support services. The way extension services operate, they have less to do with fostering human capacity development and farmers are less involved in decision making. However farmers are showing an appetite for wanting to make decisions by requesting the neighbouring commercial farmers to assist with technical support. The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative has shown little planning in terms of sustainable land utilization and production.

## **5.5 Extension agents' and mentors' responses (n=8)**

### ***5.5.1 Importance of post-settlement support***

The extension agents and mentors believe that post-settlement support is very important be it is financial or non-financial or technical support which will enable farmers to utilize the land. These professionals highlighted the importance of bringing productivity to the farm, improving community through skills development for better rural development, improving the economy of the district, improving access to scientific knowledge about farming, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Below are some responses from extension agents and mentors interviewed:

*The post-settlement support is very important because you will find that farmers are coming from a farming background but do not possess the necessary skills and resources to be commercial farmers. Any support that will enable them to bridge the gap between subsistence and commercial farming is very important (EXTN/Mentor 04)*

*Land reform is part of rural development and if the follow-up support is not made available, the farm will not develop technically and economically. Furthermore, the economy of Harry Gwala District Municipality will not increase if rural farmers are not producing on the land acquired from DLA (EXTN/Mentor 02).*

*The post-settlement support is important because you will find that the farmers have limited understanding of agriculture and no marketing. Availing post-transfer support helps farmers to develop farming and produce quality produce that will be competitive in the market place (EXTN/Mentor 01)*

### ***5.5.2 The contribution of extension in pre-and post-settlement support***

#### ***5.5.2.1 Role of extension agents in sustainable land utilization and production planning***

The perception from extension agents and mentors are that land use and production planning is normally developed prior to the utilization of land and production it, but the LDA manager made it clear that the public extension officers has less role to play on land use and production planning. The sustainable land utilization and production planning or business plan is compiled either by the local municipality or DRDLR.

The perception of extension officers from Illovo and HGDA are that they only develop business plans if the farmer wants to access financial support from Illovo/HGDA or farmer's own sources. However, this does not necessary mean that they have no role in sustainable land utilization planning for commercial production purposes.

*We do not develop land use and production planning in the form of business except when the farmers are about to apply for funding from Illovo or farmers' own source. We play role in conducting land assessment to study crop suitability before the plantation (EXTN/Mentor 08).*

*We develop business plans if the farmer wants to access the financial support from HGDA or elsewhere. If the farmer has enough investment we normally continue with extension services (EXTN/Mentor 02).*

#### 5.5.2.2 Role of extension agents in sustainable land utilization and production

Extension agents were asked about their role in sustainable land utilization and production on land reform farms. The extension agents and mentors did not come up with a clear role in stakeholders' co-ordination and some mentioned that they have no role in stakeholders' co-ordination. All the responses from seven extension officers from LDA, Illovo and HGDA were thematically analysed below:

Table 5.7: Perceptions of the role played by extension agents drawn from participants' responses (n=7)

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Extension professionals views of their role</b>
Role of extension agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer extension services, transfer scientific knowledge, give regular guidance</li> <li>• Develop production plan or help farmers in detailed planning and monitor business progress</li> <li>• Advise farmers about financial management</li> </ul>
Human capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer skills development training otherwise the production will not be sustainable</li> <li>• Ensure farmers attend workshops and training for exposure on new skills development</li> <li>• Ensure farmers apply their skills in their farming practise.</li> </ul>
Linking farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link farmers to market</li> <li>• link farmers with stakeholders interested in agriculture and related activities</li> </ul>
Administrative functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop business plan and register farms</li> <li>• Facilitate CASP or deliver production inputs and facilitate National Mechanisation.</li> </ul>

### **5.5.3 The contribution of mentors in pre-and post-settlement support**

#### *5.5.3.1 Role of mentor in sustainable land utilization and production planning*

Only one mentor was interviewed from Sappi Forests. The mentor mentioned that a business plan is written when the farmers want to access financial support. The mentor highlighted the importance of planning to avoid mistakes.

*Many farmers do not have production and management skills. So, as a mentor I have to be around during the planning to ensure that plans are feasible and during the implementation I have to be available as well to minimise unnecessary faults and provide technical support. I am also accountable for the decisions taken by farmers as a result of my technical support and to ensure that farmers are not misled by my advice (EXTN/Mentor 01).*

#### *5.5.3.2 Role of mentor in sustainable land utilization and production*

The role of the mentor highlighted during individual interviews includes to ensure good relationship between of stakeholders involved in the production of timber, offer continuous technical support from plantation till market, deliver free seedlings from Sappi Forest to Project Grow beneficiaries, to conduct land use planning, and to ensure farmers do not make mistakes during planting. The role of a mentor is critical when planting forestry as mistakes made by farmers can only be rectified after nine years as rotation of timber production occurs once every nine year cycles.

### **5.5.4 Challenges affecting farmers in post-settlement support and solutions**

All eight extension agents and mentors were asked about challenges affecting farmers. They were also asked about their understandings of best practice or solutions to mitigate those challenges for land utilization and production to be sustainable. The public extension manager went on to highlight the challenges that the public extension services are facing such as a delay of public services and low contingent of extension agents simultaneously with a high number of farmers requiring extension services. Delay of public services was perceived as caused by too many officials in the process for authorization of services. All responses were analysed and are presented in Table 5.10.

Table 5.8: Perception of identified challenges and potential solutions in sustainable land utilization and production (n=8)

<b>Content of the challenge</b>	<b>Description of the challenge</b>	<b>Solutions of the challenges</b>
Human capacity development and challenge of literacy	Lack of relevant skills and knowledge in agriculture, commercial business management, book keeping and financial management; low literacy level due to oppression, inability to learn new skills	Hire the farm manager or someone who had accessed the formal education and training (University); offer training to farmers; invest in formal education for someone who comes from beneficiaries to manage the farm; and consistent follow-up support for a period of five years
Internal affairs and group behaviour	Theft amongst beneficiaries; lack of co-operation amongst the farmers; group conflicts especially restitution farmers, pressure to progress quickly; all farmers wanting to play leading role, no extra-commitment	Facilitate conflict resolution and co-operation of farmers in a group
Land ownership	Disputes with traditional leadership over land ownership	The DRDLR should assist with providing solutions

### **5.5.5 Overall responses on position of post-settlement support**

Extension agents and mentors were asked if suitable post-settlement support is provided by responsible stakeholders to foster sustainable land utilization. The extension agents and mentors mentioned that the current stakeholders are well structured to provide post-transfer support, but lack capacity (more especially in public extension services) in terms of the number of extension personnel available to render efficient support to farmers. They also highlighted the shortage of skills and basic infrastructure which affects the farmers' ability to utilize the land for commercial production.

### **5.6 Discussion of participants' responses (n=29)**

This discussion is drawn from farmers', extension agents' and mentors' responses as they participated in individual interviews and group discussions. Both farmers', and extension agents' and mentors' responses were discussed separately and the discussions were merged to draw relationships from all responses.

### **5.6.1 Discussion of farmers' responses**

#### *5.6.1.1 Stakeholders' co-ordination and extension services*

The analysis of perceptions from all three land reform farms, namely Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust have shown poor co-ordination, lack of communication, isolation and dominance of single role players, and absenteeism of stakeholders responsible for post-transfer support.

In terms of co-ordination, Platt Estate is an example of where stakeholders (DOA, DLA and WfW) have each put forward their own agendas and have made little to no follow up communication either between their own priorities or activity for development of the farmers themselves (see discussion in 5.2.6.1). Another example is in Mpakameni Trust where participants made it clear that there is no current system which encourages the co-ordination of stakeholders responsible for post-settlement support.

In all three land reform farms there is a lack of communication between stakeholders themselves and between farmers and stakeholders responsible for post-transfer support. For example, in Platt Estate, the DoA has not communicated with farmers about the extension agent who left the position. The DWAF has not communicated with farmers about the change of department managing WfW. The participants still believe that WfW continues to be managed by DWAF. On Vukani Trust Farm there has been no support made available as yet and participants are uncertain about the responsibilities of role players in post-transfer commercial farming.

The absence of stakeholders responsible for after-care support, namely DoA and DRDLR was particularly observed. The DoA provides its service through extension agents but in two farms Platt Estate Farm and Vukani Trust Farm there were no extension agents available for a duration of about a year and a half. In Mpakameni Trust Farm extension agents are scarce and when they are available, they make decisions for the farmers. The DRDLR in Platt Estate Farm and Vukani Trust Farm is not available to solve disputes over land ownership and poor services are offered in terms of assisting farmers to draft business plans.

#### *5.6.1.2 Human capacity development and extension services*

The dominant human capacity development programme that the participants had access to is skill development training. The other human capacity available are extension services and

mentorship, but in some cases the services are not reliable or consistent. Those participants who had accessed skill development training believe they have a demonstrable improvement in their understanding of farming and are applying the taught skills in land utilization and production. For example, some participants in Platt Estate Farm, one had planted more than five hectares and another one had planted 169 hectares of *Eucalyptus*. The Mpakameni Trust farmers are positive about applying taught skills on the whole farm and have seen the value of transferring skills taught for sugarcane into their other productions.

However, skill development training (e.g. on Platt Estate Farm), was only accessible to people who are on the farm committees. Many of the beneficiaries are unable to access training and are not pleased with this system. Platt Estate farmers had tried to access extension services to assist with these kinds of challenges, but the extension worker was not available because the position is vacant.

In Mpakameni the skills development training was open to all beneficiaries and there was less dissatisfaction shown by respondents. The Vukani Trust farmers never had access to any human capacity development programme, nor training or extension services for commercial production.

Human capacity development is a noticeable problem in Platt Estate. The participants perceive that this had led to a situation of land invasion and illegal harvesting of the forest. Even Mpakameni Trust participants expressed that human capacity development is a stumbling block to land utilization and production. Both participants in Mpakameni Trust and Platt Estate further expressed that scarcity of extension agents was a problem. Mpakameni Trust participants ranked this as the most important problem. The Vukani Trust participants ranked extension services as not that important compared to infrastructure and capital investment. It could be possible that the participants are not even aware of the importance and need of extension or technical services since they had only accessed extension services for subsistence production.

The Mpakameni Trust participants did not just mention that they need extension services but demonstrated that through using their own initiative in requesting technical advice from the neighbouring white commercial farmer. The participants also showed positivity toward technical advice because it allowed them to implement what they have planned and it changed the way they produce maize and dry beans on land. The participants' responses shown that

when the farmers have access to valuable advice they are willing to demonstrate their understanding and learning. Farmers can produce on land while developing more skills in sustainable land utilization and production from their practice.

However, the Mpakameni Trust farmers reported that the beneficiaries mis-used the RADP funding that was meant for investment in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise. The participants further attributed this to poor financial management skills and not following the plans by the committee responsible for whole farm management. However, this could also be attributed to inadequate access to advice that would have allowed the farmers to implement their plans and build financial management skills. It is because these were similar farmers who requested the advices from the neighbouring mentor about maize and dry beans production, and they implemented their plans perfectly. This shows that the farmers are capable of acquiring new skills when the good advice is offered.

#### *5.6.1.3 Planned versus current land utilization and extension services*

These three farms, Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust have shown inadequate planning, unplanned land uses and poor communication on land utilization and production. The current system of land utilization and production reflected the patterns of the former land owners and is driven by the support available to farmers. Whenever farmers planned a way forward, achievement was challenging and sometimes impossible because of the limitation of technical advices and materials for production.

The Platt Estate farmers have shown good planning, but the current land use is driven by Project Grow support which was secured back in 2005. The participants expressed that without the Project Grow support there would not be any commercial production on the land and the enterprise is largely depended on support available. Consequently, this does not allow them to be entrepreneurs and self-reliant in timber production. Furthermore, participants believe that there is poor communication between the beneficiaries about commercial and subsistence system of planting timber after the land was transferred.

The current land utilization and production in Vukani Trust Farm showed unplanned land uses where farmers are producing livestock for subsistence. Actually, there were representative from DRDLR to assist the farmers with business planning or land use planning, but participants reported that they were unavailable and resorted to leaving the business plan templates at the farm headquarters to be completed by farmers. The farmers are not familiar with the

terminology used in the business plan and did not complete the business plan template. This can be seen as poor communication between the DRDLR representative and farmers.

The Mpakameni Trust Farm with Mpakameni Trading Enterprise and Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative showed that farmers had partially planned land utilization and production. However, the farmers in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise had failed to transform the plans into reality with the designated RADP funding. The Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative have partial plans where the farmers rely on the neighbouring farmer as a mentor to provide advice on production.

### ***5.6.2 Discussion of extension agents' and mentors' responses***

The participating extension agents and mentors highlighted the importance of post-transfer support. The participants mentioned that it is important to cater to post-transfer support because in many instances farmers do need skills and knowledge to run a commercial farming and to ensure that the land which was transferred to previously disadvantaged groups contributes in the economy of the districts. The participants further highlighted challenges which hinder them in offering post-settlement support.

The common challenge was the human capacity development. The extension agents and mentors mentioned that farmers lack relevant skills for running a commercial operation and farmers have poor levels of literacy. About four extension agents and mentors interviewed suggested that farmers should hire a qualified farm manager or apply for the Mentorship Programme or educate someone from within the beneficiaries about farm management to manage the farm for them. About two extension agents and mentors suggested that farmers should be trained in order to face the challenge of being commercial farmers and one extension agent or mentor suggested that beneficiaries should have access to consistent extension support for a period of five years.

Challenges they faced as advisors were: an inadequate number of extension workers in relation to the farmers needing advice and inter-group tensions hindering land utilization and production. For a solution to this, they suggested that beneficiaries should not manage the farm for themselves, instead a mentor or professional farm manager who had access to formal education and training should be used and beneficiaries should wait for their share of the farm profit.

In terms of land utilization and production planning the public extension services are playing little role in helping the farmers with planning. According to mentors, the presence of technical advice in the land use planning is crucial because farmers do not have adequate experience in farm management. The mentors also mentioned that they are also accountable for any decision taken by farmers. It is evidence that public extension services as the main stakeholder responsible for after-care support sometimes lack accountability on decisions taken by farmers in the production system.

The extension agents and mentors mentioned their role in sustainable land utilization and production, and stakeholders' co-ordination. It emerged that extension agents and mentors play individual roles and do not co-ordinate with other stakeholders other than providing services for the organisations they work for. They further mentioned that their role is to provide continuous extension services, transfer new scientific knowledge to farmers and provide training to farmers, advance farmers with financial management skills and link farmers with stakeholders interested in farming.

### ***5.6.3 Discussion of farmers' responses in relation to extension agents' and mentors' responses***

The participant farmers mentioned the poor co-ordination, poor communication and isolation from stakeholders responsible for follow-up support. The extension agents and mentors responses showed that they do not cater for an integrated support in land utilization and production. The participant farmers agree with this attributing poor communication between stakeholders to a lack of system which supports stakeholders' co-ordination.

The isolation from stakeholders was observed more particularly in Platt Estate. The Sappi Forests is the dominant stakeholder through Project Grow together with its Mentorship Programme. It could be assumed that since Project Grow is somehow sponsored by DAFF, the LDA has let Sappi Forests to cater post-settlement support in Platt Estate. The LDA manager discussed the shortage of extension agents in the local office. It could be assumed that since Platt Estate farmers have access to mentorship, the LDA has provided extension agents to other farmers who do not have access to any extension or technical services.

Extension agents and mentors believe that the lack of farming knowledge and skills to farmers can be addressed by farmers hiring a manager or by applying for the Mentorship Programme

or to educate<sup>14</sup> someone from the beneficiaries to manage the farm for them. However, the skill development training offered to Platt Estate farmers demonstrated that it is possible to manage the farm without accessing formal education training. Furthermore, at Mpakameni Trust farm, the participants demonstrated that it is possible to manage their farm when good technical advice was made available. The Mpakameni Trust farmers who requested the technical advice from their neighbour (mentor) for crop production used that knowledge to produce maize and dry beans. On the other hand The Mpakameni Trust farmers mentioned that they are learning nothing from their official extension workers and mentor for egg production. What we see here is that with legitimised advice farmers can achieve their own agendas. Where role players are taking decisions for beneficiary farmers it results in poor skills and knowledge transfer. It could be assumed that extension agents and mentors do not trust that the beneficiaries are capable of managing commercial farms.

The participant extension agents and mentors discussed the land use planning and business planning. It emerged that the public extension services are playing a passive role in land use and production planning for commercial farming. For example, Vukani Trust farmers had access to extension services for almost a whole year but there were no formal plans made, instead the farmers turned into unplanned land uses. The land utilization and production planning of the other two land reform farms, Platt Estate and Mpakameni Trust were developed by different mentors. The participant mentor described absenteeism of extension or technical advice to land uses and production planning as lack of accountability on decisions taken by farmers in the production system.

## **5.7 Discussion of primary results in relation to the literature**

### ***5.7.1 Political agenda on post-transfer support***

An evaluation of land reform farms conducted by Business Enterprise (2013) discovered that there were some farms that were partially utilized and other had never been utilized for commercial production. The DRDLR employed the RADP programme in 2013 to re-invest financially and technically in all dormant land reform farms. The evaluation carried out by Business Enterprise (2013) showed that every third farm put under RADP has no production in it. The evaluation also further mentioned that regardless of mentorship farmers showed a need for extension services. Government acknowledges this, as according to the *Strategic Plan*

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<sup>14</sup> Educate meaning to send someone for tertiary education such as business and farming training.

2015-2020 the land reform policies are stated as having paid major attention to redistributing land to previously disadvantaged groups and less attention to post-transfer support (DRDLR, 2015b).

In this study it was also discovered that Vukani Trust Farm have partially utilized for commercial production since it was transferred to beneficiaries back in 2004. One farm (Mpakameni Trust Farm) which was part of this study was put under RADP. Within the period of one year farmers had parted ways with the mentor mentioning that the mentor was managing the farm for them and the farmers were learning nothing from the mentor. Furthermore, on the priority ranking (see Figure 5.4) the farmers of Mpakameni Trust ranked the scarcity of extension services as the most important challenge in sustainable production.

CASP is investing in developing farm management capabilities and subsidizing farmers with production input. Delays were observed in Mpakameni Trust where production inputs are delivered late. Departmental delays were perceived by participant extension agents as the result of an unwieldy bureaucracy. The experiences of the Ixopo farmers mirrors the situation described in literature as a dysfunctional and unproductive effort in post-settlement.

The inherent weakness of post-settlement support continues in land reform. Looking at the *Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land* policy elaborated on how the 50/50 principle will be attained, but is too brief on details of how the post-settlement support will be delivered. The policy only stated that the DRDLR will ensure minimum disturbance of food security at household and national level.

### **5.7.2 Stakeholders responsible for post-transfer support**

According to Cousins (2015) the DRDLR is undertaking land reform, DoA is responsible for post-transfer support and Department of Water is responsible for water supply, but these three departments are finding it difficult to co-ordinate their support services. This study found a lack of presence and poor co-ordination of these stakeholders was also found. In Platt Estate, the private company (Sappi Forests through Project Grow) is a dominant stakeholder, both Platt Estate and Vukani Trust experience no extension services from the DoA through extension services, while Mpakameni Trust receives poor support from DoA and extension agents.

The DoA provide post-settlement support through extension agents (NDA, 2005). According to Davis *et al.* (2006) and Worth (2006) agricultural extension is also responsible for linking

farmers with relevant stakeholders interested in agriculture and stakeholder analysis is one of the key competencies needed by extension agents in rural development. The Mpakameni Trust participants made it clear that there is lack of platform to co-ordinate stakeholders catering for post-transfer support. According to Davis *et al.* (2006) and Worth (2006) extension agents are capable of ensuring co-ordination of stakeholder involved in rural development.

Another issue discovered about stakeholders responsible for post-transfer support which contributed to poor co-ordination of service providers is communication. The poor communication was discovered between the stakeholders and between the stakeholders and farmers. For example, there was poor communication between the mentor and Mpakameni Trust farmers, and between extension agents and Mpakameni Trust farmers as well. According to Worth (2006) communication between farmers and extension is very important, and is another competency needed in extension services.

### **5.7.3 Human capacity development**

According to Cousins (2015) training is important to supplement farmers' skills lost during the apartheid era. According to Zwane (2012), extension agents should be well-trained to strengthen human capacity. Once the land is transferred it is a role of extension to capacitate farmers with farm management skills.

Two of the three farms had received training from various stakeholders in various areas of production and management. In Platt Estate Farm the training was limited to committee members which led to conflicts amongst the beneficiaries. In Mpakameni Trust Farm the training was open to all beneficiary farmers. The participant extension agents believed that the land utilization and production would not be sustainable if only a few were efficiently trained. This affirms that training is important, and should be available equitable to all beneficiaries and especially to those who make decisions about or are directly involved in the farming activities. This study found that when good training or technical services are offered the farmers believe they are able to manage their farms.

The origin of extension was to meet the educational needs of people who never had access to formal education. When it was adopted into agriculture it sought to not encourage development of agriculture but also to cultivate new knowledge and skills for the rural poor (Birmingham, 1999; Jones & Garforth in Swanson *et al.*, 1997). The perceptions presented by the extension

and mentors in this study, suggest that extension needs to be reminded that their role is also to encourage the development of farmers who have not had access to formal education processes.

The participant farmers have shown that they lack capacity but have a desire for improving their ability to manage and produce in their farming. When extension agents make decisions for them, the farmers learn nothing. On the surface it appears that extension officers may not trust that the beneficiaries can manage farms. They mentioned several factors as limiting challenges such as low literacy levels (see Table 5.1), lack of commercial farming experience and inability to learn new skills (see Table 5.8). However, no investigations have been done on how extension agents actually transfer skills to farmers when they do so.

According to Živković *et al.* (2009) and Zwane (2012) when the farmers have low literacy levels, compulsory extension services should be offered where farmers are groomed to handle the new challenge of being commercial farmers. Zwane (2012) asserts that commercial farming experience is not necessary when the farmers have access to extension services. Educational extension services should be employed where farmers are trained through various extension methods such as demonstration, study trips, field trial and skill development trainings. When extension emphasises human capacity development this enables farmers to make their own decisions and learn to manage from services on offer.

The participants in both Platt Estate and Mpakameni Trust perceive that it is possible to manage the farm when the good services are available and accessible. In Platt Estate, the proof for them lay in the successful planting of *Eucalyptus* in the absence of a mentor. The *Eucalyptus* trees were in a healthy condition. In Mpakameni Trust, they have also planted maize and dry beans with the technical advice from neighbouring white commercial farmers.

Most of the participant farmers grew up in a commercial farming setting and have experience with commercial farming as farm workers. Even in the role of manager the participants showed that their ability to learn new skills. Platt Estate and Mpakameni Trust are typical examples of this. However, in Mpakameni Trust the beneficiaries have mis-used the RADP funding. According to their own stories which are similar to Zwane (2012) and Živković *et al.* (2009) this lies in the shortage of economic extension services where financial management and bookkeeping skills are transferred to emerging commercial farmers.

However, there was a mentor provided through the RADP programme. According to Business Enterprise (2013), mentors are very good in improving production on land reform farms, but not necessarily in closing the gap for training needs that could be supplied through appropriate

extension. The Mpakameni Trust scenario is evidence of this statement. The participants reported that the production of eggs was of high standard but the transferring of skills and communication with farmers was very poor. After the departure of the mentor, farmers experienced problems in egg production (see Figure 5.4).

In Platt Estate, the participants mentioned their dependence on Sappi Forests through Project Grow support. Without the Project Grow support, the participants indicated that there would not be any commercial production on land. The participants also mentioned their desire to be self-reliant, but see their challenges as hindering factors. In Mpakameni Trust, the farmers ran out of RADP funding and farmers are in need of investment. Both Platt Estate and Mpakameni Trust had identified human capacity and shortage of extension services as the leading factors to these challenges (see Figure 5.2 and 5.4).

There is a strong need for extension professionals to be equipped and able to encourage human capacity development. This issue, expressed by both the respondents and literature, establishes the need for what Korten (1990) identifies as the second generation of development theory (community development). In this phase of development, the clients of the service are capacitated with an intention to be self-reliant. The purpose of the community development is to create sustainability within community and ensure that farmers do not rely from outsiders. Once the human capacity is developed, the organisation can proceed (to third generation: sustainability system development) with sustaining an enabling environment for farmers to be sustainable with the improvement of structures and stakeholder co-operation in local, national and international levels (Korten, 1990).

According to participant extension agents and mentors, there is a great deal of tension in the group of beneficiaries who had acquired land through land reform programmes. This was particularly observed on the restitution farm that lost land ownership before 1994 and after the establishment of *Native Land Act No. 27 of 1913* (Nefolovhodwe, 2013). According to Terblanché (2008) extension agents facilitating post-acquisition support has to possess skills in group or group dynamic facilitation and communication.

Furthermore Terblanché *et al.* (2014) mention that whenever the extension agent is not available, mentors should be used instead. However, according to Binswinger-Mkhize (2014) and van Niekerk *et al.* (2014), mentors are good for making farms operational, but the need for extension services still prevails. Using the example from Mpakameni Trust where they had a mentor but parted ways because the mentor was managing the farm for beneficiaries and

beneficiaries were learning nothing in a process, a possible reason for this is that the Mentorship Programme uses retired commercial farm managers or farm managers with experience in farming (DRDLR, 2015d). The meaning of farm management lies in execution of farm activities using the available resources to bring out production (Dillon & McConnell, 1997). According to Worth (2012), extension agents have to have an understanding of farm management. They also require the ability (knowledge and skills) to offer human capability learning needed by farmers to manage their farms. Building capacity ensures that farmers are able to take command in all farm activities. It could be assumed that mentors are limited to production, and not prepared for the capacity building needed by farmers to manage their own decision making.

#### **5.7.4 Sustainable land utilization and production**

The land use and production of three farms, namely Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust lay in large groups farming under a commercial production model. Farms which settle their claims through restitution and beneficiaries often replicate the land uses and production of the previous land owner and no planning is required (Hall, 2010). Indeed these three farms have replicated the land use and production of the former land owners. But the effort required to access financial support, change of management and to adapt farm enterprises involved planning that had to be processed through the official Land Reform Processes (RECAP and Project Grow). These channels are problematic in terms of communication, time frames and flexibility to adapt for changing markets and environmental conditions.

The analysis of results has shown inadequate planning, poor communication and co-ordination of farmers in planning, and a lack of appropriate extension. The inadequate planning was found mostly in Vukani Trust Farm where the farmers have turned to unplanned land use by producing livestock for subsistence use, while simultaneously expressing keen interest to farm commercially. The findings also showed there is no application made for formal support and like others identified by Hall (2010) land reform beneficiaries resort to unplanned land uses when the support is delayed.

Poor communication was observed in all three land reform farms. In Platt Estate there is a conflict of interest. Some beneficiaries want to plant *Acacia mearnsii* for household or subsistence use and some beneficiaries want to plant *Eucalyptus* for commercial purposes, as advised by the mentor after the land assessment. The focus of land reform is on commercial

production and subsistence production is seen as a waste of useful resources since does not contribute to the country's economy (Terblanché, 2008; Hall *et al.*, 2003). It could be assumed that beneficiaries lack knowledge about the focus of land reform or it could be that the system is not set up to meet its own goals.

In Mpakameni, there was poor communication and co-ordination around drafting business plans. The farmers believed they were playing a passive role and their ideas were not core to developing the business plan. According to Terblanché (2011), mentors are referred to as “*life teachers*” – teaching the less skilled with new and complementary skills. When communication focussed on production issues rather than learning issues between farmers and mentors this reduced self-reliance in decision making. The perception of participant farmers showed that the mentor misunderstood his role in farm management and was poor in developing human capacity needed by farmers. The study demonstrates poor judgement in matching RADP resources with the learning, mentoring and support needs of beneficiary farmers.

There is tension between stakeholders about their roles. The LDA manager mentioned that extension agents do not have a role to play in land utilization and production planning whilst the mentor highlighted the importance of technical advices in production planning to ensure that farmers make wise decisions. Literature suggests that integration of extension services in planning of land utilization and production is crucial and Gauteng is the only province where extension played active role planning (Jacobs, 2003). Furthermore, extension workers should be capable of fostering agricultural development while imparting new skills to farmers (Cristóvão *et al.*, 1997 in Swanson *et al.*, 1998).

## **5.8 Conclusion**

This chapter presented and discussed the findings of the research – both findings analysed from primary data and literature review. The chapter also further discussed the results of analysed findings, and discussed the relation between analysed findings and literature. Chapter 6, which follows concludes about the entire report and includes recommendation based on the findings.

## Chapter 6

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Introduction

This chapter draws conclusions from findings and puts forward recommendations based on the knowledge discovered throughout the investigation. The chapter logic is guided by the main- and sub-objectives of the study which took place in the Ixopo region in three land reform farms namely Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust. The main topic in the study was to investigate how South African agricultural extension can improve sustainable land utilization and production in land reform farms in the context of post-settlement support. In particular, the objective was to explore and describe the experiences of the three land reform farms in the Ixopo region.

Firstly, the chapter summarises the key findings from three sub-objectives which form a fundamental basis for drawing conclusions and recommendations.

#### 6.2 Summary of the key findings

##### *6.2.1 Sub-objective 1: To investigate the importance, relationship and influence of stakeholders and extension support involved in post-settlement support*

The stakeholder analyses have shown that there has been poor co-ordination of stakeholders involved in the post-transfer support in three land reform farms which participated in this study. The participants mentioned that the responsible stakeholders promoted different programmes which were not compatible and served only to cause distraction. The participants also mentioned the lack of support system which guides the stakeholders' co-ordination involved in the post-settlement support process.

The review of literature made it explicit that lack of stakeholders' co-ordination is the weakness that the South African post-settlement support programme carries (Cousins, 2015). This poor co-ordination of stakeholders was also attributed to poor communication between the stakeholders, and between stakeholders and farmers. The poor communication between stakeholders involved in post-settlement support also contributed to the isolation of stakeholders where single stakeholders became dominant in sustainable land utilization and production; an example of this being the Sappi Forests through Project Grow and the Mentorship Programme.

However, literature expresses the role of extension agents in bringing about a culture of stakeholders' co-ordination and communication. According to Terblanché (2008), Davis *et al.* (2006) and Worth (2006), extension agents should possess communication, stakeholder analysis and facilitation skills which can facilitate the co-ordination of stakeholders and post-settlement support in land reform. Literature has also shown that extension agents with stakeholder analysis skills can go beyond merely ensuring stakeholders' co-ordination to create an enabling environment for stakeholders to sustain development and allow for the next phase of development (Worth, 2006; Korten, 1990).

### ***6.2.2 Sub-objective 2: To investigate the support in human capacity development, and sustainable land utilization and production, and challenges.***

The dominant support in human capacity development was skill development training, extension services and mentorship. The participants who attended the skill development training showed an understanding of farm management and applied learned skills in sustainable land utilization and production. The literature findings have shown that skills development training is highly necessary, especially for land reform beneficiaries to re-cultivate the skills lost during the apartheid era (Cousins, 2015).

The extension services which farmers had access to, had little to do with capacity development since extension agents had been making decisions for beneficiaries. However, this does not change the need for extension services to farmers for human capacity development. The participants showed that when they accessed good technical services, they can manage the farm. The review of literature also agreed that extension services are needed to capacitate farmers with management capabilities (Zwane, 2012; Terblanché, 2008; Živković *et al.*, 2009).

Both the literature review and analysis of results have shown that the mentors sometimes lacked skills to facilitate human capacity development, but mentors are also helpful in improving land utilization and production (see Chapter 5 section 5.7.3). The role of mentorship is to transfer the farm management skills to less skilled emerging commercial farmers. The participants who accessed the Mentorship Programme mentioned that there were few skills transferred by mentors to them; instead the mentor was managing the farm on their behalf.

### ***6.2.3 Sub-objective 3: To investigate the current land utilization and production against the planned sustainable land utilization and production***

Both primary findings and literature emphasized the integration of extension or technical services in the planning of sustainable land utilization and production to help inexperienced farmers to transform their plans into reality. The farmers' experience is one of poor communication, lack of accountability, and absenteeism of agricultural extension in land utilization and production. The current land utilization and production showed that it was driven by the support available to farmers and in the absence of support, the farmers turn to unplanned land uses. Platt Estate and Vukani Trust are typical examples of this. The literature review showed that continuous support deals less with improving human development, but focuses rather on relieving visible symptoms of the problem (Korten, 1990).

### **6.3 Drawing conclusions and presenting recommendations**

This research was guided by the theoretical question of how South African agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization and production for land reform farmers in the context of post settlement support. The objective of the study was to describe the experiences of farmers and their service providers in three post land reform farming examples. Sub-objectives explored the influence and roles of stakeholders within the post-settlement support emphasizing human capacity development, and the co-ordination between stakeholders where agricultural extension should play pro-active roles in fostering sustainable land utilization and production.

The participants who were part of skills training have shown development and great positivity toward applying these skills in land utilization and production. Where services and mentorship were provided but extension agents and mentors made decisions for farmers, skill development was not encouraged and farmers did not learn from the process. Furthermore, there is a prevailing need for extension services and inclusion of the farmers in the planning of land utilization and production in order for farmers to transform their agendas into reality successfully.

The study found that land reform farmers require availability and access to post settlement support that facilitates building farmer management and production capacity. The findings have shown poor synergistic co-ordination and communication of stakeholders responsible for goods and services in post-transfer, while agricultural extension has shown absenteeism. What

this means is that the objectives of post land reform support are not being met because the role of extension is not fully understood or implemented.

Platforms for communication and networking need to be put in place to maintain an integrated and co-ordinated involvement of programme stakeholders (including farmers). The extension officer is the link between the farmer and access to the Mentorship Programme, CASP and technical farming advice. Extension is in a unique position to listen and engage with farmers on how to take command of their visions and management for land utilization and production. The recommendations are focussed on the role of extension in a stakeholders' co-ordination model is presented as a system for synergising the co-ordination and communication for sustainable land utilization and production.

### ***6.3.1 Recommendation for practice***

Agricultural extension needs to play a pro-active role in bringing synergy, co-ordination, and ensuring communication between various role players relevant to sustainable land utilization and production. The extension agent with stakeholder analysis skills and communication skills should be employed in putting this recommendation into practice. The communication between stakeholders should not be limited to communication promoted by the extension agent. It should occur even in the broader perspective when the extension agent is not available. The model in Figure 6.1 presents a recommendation for co-ordination of stakeholders with agricultural extension playing an active role.

Extension agents should offer extension or technical services that take advantage of the farmers' openness, capability and desire to learn new skills while encouraging the learning of the farmers from their farming practice. Learning should enable farmers to take initiatives in decision making on land utilization and production which will increase capacity development.

For commercial agriculture, the function of extension should engage with the planning of land utilization through to production to ensure that farmers can learn from the implementation of planned land uses. Access to extension services and advice will also encourage skill development and personal growth, allowing farmers to produce sustainably even in the absence of an extension agent. Extension agents or alternatively mentors with good communication skills are needed to carry-out this recommendation.

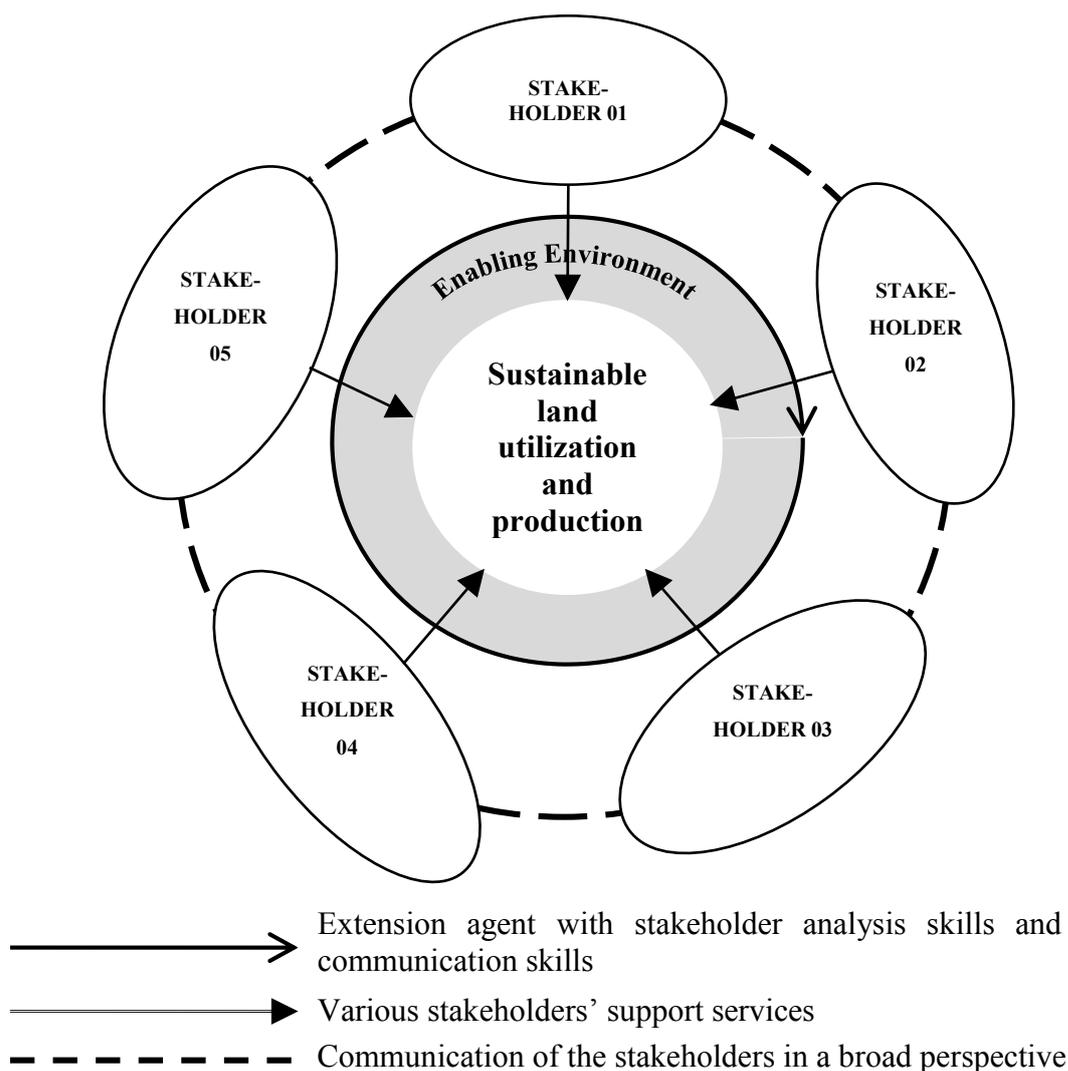


Figure 6.1: Model for stakeholders' co-ordination in offering support services

### 6.3.2 Recommendation for further researches

Further research could address the questions which have emerged from this report, these being:

How do beneficiaries maintain the stakeholders' co-ordination in the absence of extension agent, based on the stakeholders' co-ordination model?

Post-settlement support should lead to the productive use of agricultural land. The model for stakeholders' coordination requires further reflection within the concept and dimensions of sustainability. The suggestion is to reflect on this for a peer reviewed publication.

How does lack of human capacity development affect development of beneficiaries?

How can the Mentorship Programme be strengthened to ensure human resource development?

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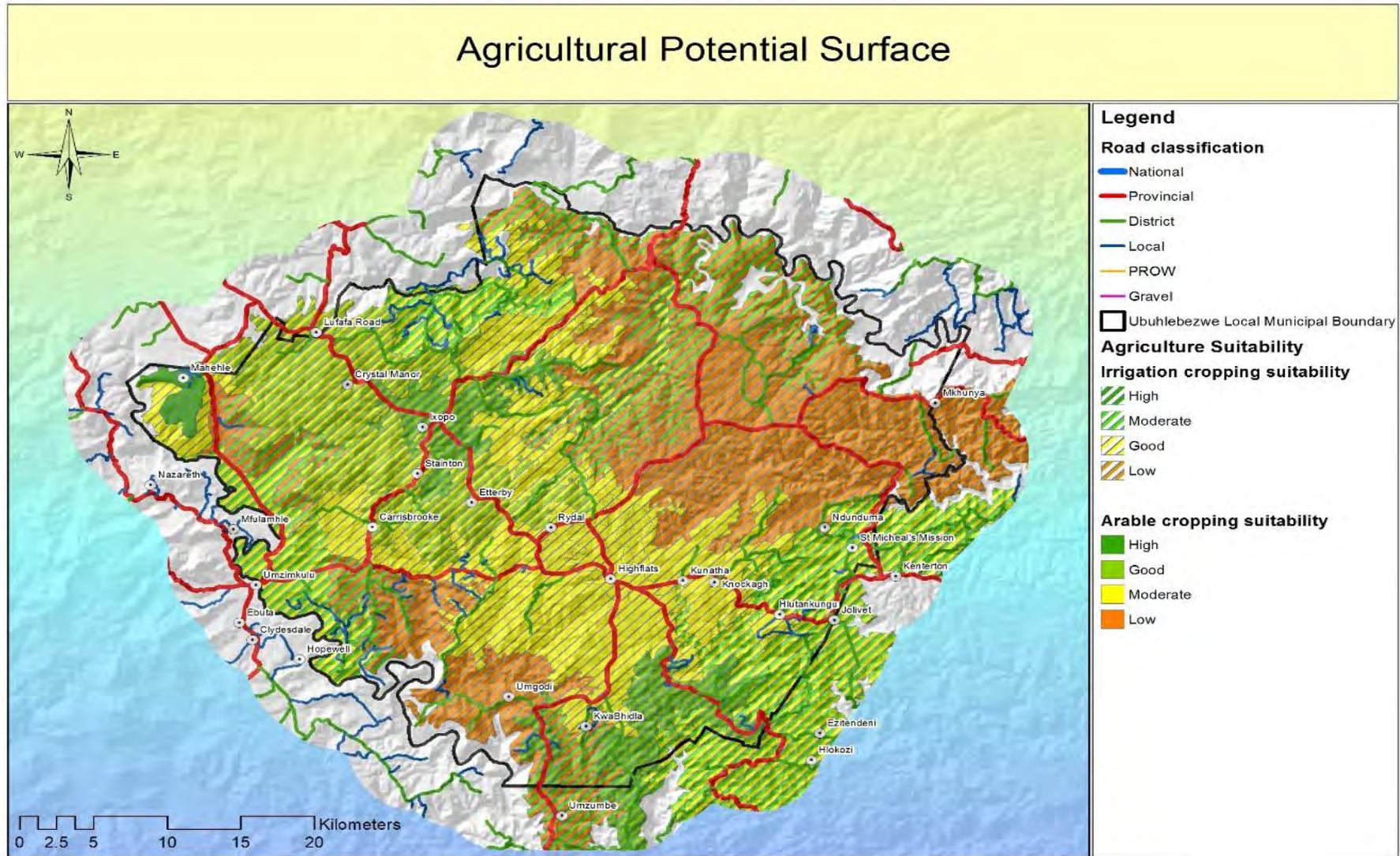
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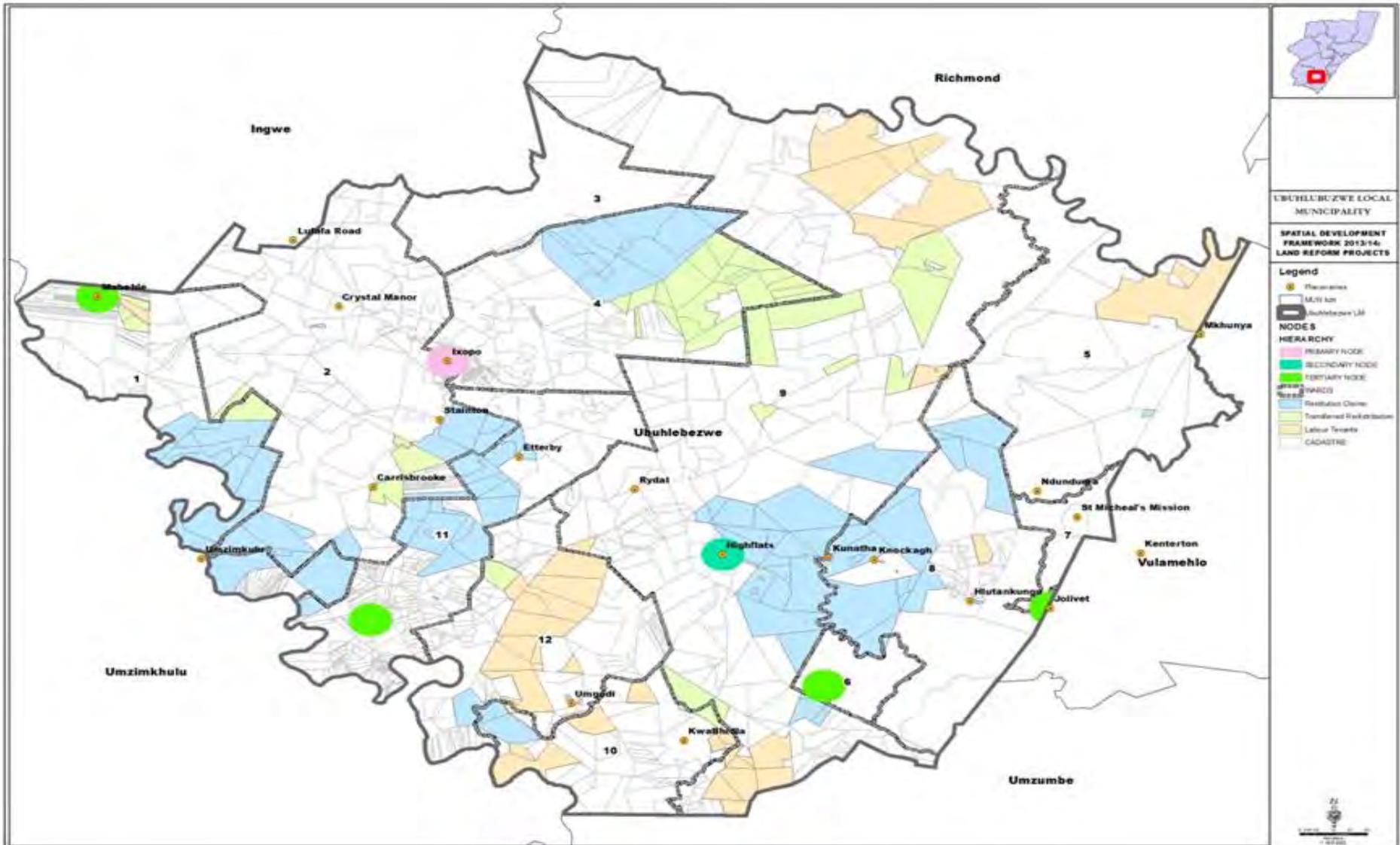
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## APPENDICES

# Appendix 1: Agricultural potential surface map of Ubuhlebezwe Municipality



## Appendix 2: Land reform projects in Ubhulebezwe Municipality



### Appendix 3: Interview questionnaire for farmers

#### Request for Consent

##### **RE: Participation in Research Experience: Interview/Discussions with Individual**

My name is Nhlanganiso Bhekisenzo Sibisi and I am a post-graduate student at the Pietermaritzburg Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I am conducting an investigation as part of my learning process and to partially fulfil the minimum requirement of Masters of Agricultural Extension and Rural Resources Management. The purpose of this investigation is to master the research process, improve communication and group facilitation skills needed to be a competent extension practitioner in South Africa.

You are kindly requested to participate in this investigation that will take place in June/July. This investigation is called research, which seeks to investigate how agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization and production of land reform beneficiaries in the context of post-settlement support. If I could briefly describe research; research is designed to get to an actual cause of an issue. Research is conducted by asking questions using appropriate data collecting tools (Interviews/discussion). Research is mutual learning, it also helps the participants to learn from their situation.

I know some questions may make you feel less comfortable, in case of that situation happening you are free to opt not to answer the question or opt out from any further participation. Your response in the interviews/discussions will be anonymous. Your names will be not displayed in any report or publication as a matter of confidentiality. Instead code names/numbers will be assigned for each participant that will be used in all research notes and documents.

Participating in this research is voluntary and there will be no costs to you as a result of your participation. At the end of your research, it is mandatory for me to produce a formal report called a dissertation that will be submitted to the University for Examination Purposes and stored by my supervisor (Dr. Karen Caister). Anyone who wishes to know results which will be included in the final report is entitled to contact me on 079 651 2527 or my supervisor 033 260 5121 (work days) or email [caister@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:caister@ukzn.ac.za).

Thank you for your consideration and your participation will be highly appreciated. If you agree to participate, please sign below and Interviews/discussions will follow.

I hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project, and I consent to participating in the research project. I understand that I am at liberty to withdraw from the project at any time, should I so desire.

Name of participant: .....Signature: .....Date: .....

## Farmers' questionnaire for individual interviews

Farm Number: ..... Date: ..... / ..... / 2015...

### 1. Profile of the farmer

1.1. Gender: Male

Female

1.2. Age: 0-39 years

40-60 years

>60 years

1.3. Academic Level

Never Schooled	
Primary	
Secondary	
Tertiary	
If tertiary, name of qualification:	

### 2. Which land reform programme did you get land from?

2.1.

Redistribution	
Restitution	
State or leased land	

2.2. How did you access the 2.1 land?

.....  
 .....

### 3. Land reform Category

3.1.

Large groups for commercial production	
Large groups in small groups	
Individuals or family or small groups	
Strategic Partnership/joint venture	

3.2. How did you get involved in the category selected in 3.1?

.....  
 .....

3.3. Who is holding land tenure rights?

.....  
 .....

### 4. Farm information

4.1. Farm land size: .....(ha)

- 4.2. Current land under production.....(ha)  
 4.3. Land under no production.....(ha)  
 4.4. Why do you have land under production (4.2) and/or land under no production (4.3)?

.....  
 .....

- 4.5. Based on the original plan, how did you plan to manage land; what is the current land management; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....  
 .....

5. Farming purpose

5.1.

Commercial Production	
Subsistence production	

5.2. Why did you opt to be 5.1?

.....  
 .....

5.3. Did you plan to produce for market; which market outlet did you plan to use?

.....  
 .....

6. Farming experience

6.1. Do you have commercial farming experience? Yes  No

6.2. If yes, in which sector?

Sector:		Sector:		Sector:	
1-5 years		1-5 years		1-5 years	
6-10 years		6-10 years		6-10 years	
>10 years		>10 years		>10 years	

6.3. How did you acquire farming experience in 6.1?

.....  
 .....

6.4. Do you have any other farming experience other than commercial farming? Tell us more about your experience

.....  
 .....

7. What is/are your current main farming enterprise (s)?

7.1.

Enterprise Name	(X)	Name them
Livestock		
Crop production (Incl. Fruits trees, Timber)		
Mixed farming		

7.2. What/who influenced your choices of 7.1 enterprise?

.....  
 .....

7.3. Based on the original plan, which enterprise did you plan to produce; if it is varied or similar, what caused the variation or similarities?

.....  
 .....

7.4. What are your future plans for 7.1 enterprise?

.....  
 .....

8. Who is assigned to you to offer extension services/technical advices on land utilization and production?

8.1.

Extension agent	
Mentor	
Strategic partner	
Other	
If other, please specify:	

8.2. What is their role in sustainable land utilization and production and/or stakeholders' co-ordination?

.....  
 .....

8.3. Have these extension services/technical advices changed the way you utilize land and produce?

Strongly agree	
Agree	
Neutral	

Disagree	
Strongly disagree	

8.4. Explain your 8.3 answer (provide practical example if applicable).

.....  
 .....

8.5. If more than one selected in 8.1, how do these services complement in supporting land utilization and production?

.....  
 .....

9. Initially, who helped you to draft the farm business plan? How did they help you?

.....  
 .....

10. Post-settlement support services

10.1. Which post-settlement support services (e.g. RADP and CASP) do you have access to?

Government support	
Strategic Partner Support	
Self-Support	
Other:	

10.2. If one selected in 10.1, name the support specifically and their role in sustainable land utilization and production.

.....  
 .....

10.3. How did you access these post-settlement services?

.....  
 .....

11. Human capacity development

11.1. How do you enhance your farming skills, knowledge and technology?

Through participating in short courses	
Through participating in training	
Through participating in workshops and demonstration	
Extension/mentor during visits	
Farmers nearby	

Other:

11.2. Explain explicitly each service selected in 11.1 and explain how do they were done.

.....  
.....

11.3. To what extent have these 11.1 services changed your attitude and behaviour toward sustainable land utilization and production?

.....  
.....

12. What are the challenges you are facing regarding land utilization and production?

12.1. Challenge 1: .....  
Description: .....

12.2. Challenge 2: .....  
Description: .....

12.3. Challenge 3: .....  
Description: .....

12.4. Challenge 4: .....  
Description: .....

12.5. Other (s): .....  
Description: .....

13. In terms of the following:

13.1. Based on the original plan, which farming inputs did you plan to use for production; what are the current inputs that you are using; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.2. Based on the original plan, how did you plan to access technical support; how are you accessing technical support; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.3. Based on the original plan, which technology did you plan to use: modern technology (machinery, pesticides, fertilizers and less labour) or semi-modern technology (high labour intensity and less machinery, pesticides, and fertilizers);

what is the current technology that you are using; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.4. Based on the original plan, which infrastructure did you plan to put in place to ease daily activities; which infrastructure did you manage to put in place; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.5. Based on the original plan on capital investment, how did you plan to acquire starting capital; how did you acquire capital investment; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.6. Based on the original plan on labour intensity, what was your plan for labour intensity; what is the current labour intensity; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

13.7. Based on the original plan on income acquired, what did you plan about your income; what are currently using for, your income; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

.....

14. In the concluding remarks, do you think the post-settlement support is catered properly by responsible stakeholders to foster sustainable land utilization? Explain your answer.

.....

---

*Siyabonga Ukuzibandanya Kwakho Kulolucwaningo  
Sikufisela Inhlankhla Kukho Konke Okwenzayo  
Egameni leNkosi uJesu Christu!*

## **Appendix 4: Interview questionnaire for extension agents and managers, and mentors**

### **Request for Consent**

#### **RE: Participation in Research Experience: Interview/Discussions with Individual**

My name is Nhlanganiso Bhekisenzo Sibisi and I am a post-graduate student at the Pietermaritzburg Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I am conducting an investigation as part of my learning process and to partially fulfil the minimum requirement of Masters of Agricultural Extension and Rural Resources Management. The purpose of this investigation is to master the research process, improve communication and group facilitation skills needed to be a competent extension practitioner in South Africa.

You are kindly requested to participate in this investigation that will take place in June/July. This investigation is called research, which seeks to investigate how agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization and production of land reform beneficiaries in the context of post-settlement support. If I could briefly describe research; research is designed to get to an actual cause of an issue. Research is conducted by asking questions using appropriate data collecting tools (Interviews/discussion). Research is mutual learning, it also helps the participants to learn from their situation.

I know some questions may make you feel less comfortable, in case of that situation happening you are free to opt not to answer the question or opt out from any further participation. Your response in the interviews/discussions will be anonymous. Your names will be not displayed in any report or publication as a matter of confidentiality. Instead code names/numbers will be assigned for each participant that will be used in all research notes and documents.

Participating in this research is voluntary and there will be no costs to you as a result of your participation. At the end of your research, it is mandatory for me to produce a formal report called a dissertation that will be submitted to the University for Examination Purposes and stored by my supervisor (Dr. Karen Caister). Anyone who wishes to know results which will be included in the final report is entitled to contact me on 079 651 2527 or my supervisor 033 260 5121 (work days) or email [caister@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:caister@ukzn.ac.za).

Thank you for your consideration and your participation will be highly appreciated. If you agree to participate, please sign below and Interviews/discussions will follow.

I hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project, and I consent to participating in the research project. I understand that I am at liberty to withdraw from the project at any time, should I so desire.

Name of participant: .....Signature: .....Date: .....

**Extension agents' and managers', and mentors' questionnaire for individual interviews**

1. Do you think post-settlement is important? Why is it important/not?

.....  
.....

2. What is your role and responsibility in land utilization and production and/or stakeholders' co-ordination?

.....  
.....

3. Land reform beneficiary farmers are heavily characterised by lack of capacity to use land and produce in it, what do you think is the cause of this?

.....  
.....

4. South African land reform programme and post-settlement is facing enormous challenges to progress such under/non utilization of land and not producing on land that is supposed to be producing; what do you think are the biggest challenges? Please explain each challenge provided.

.....  
.....

5. What do you think should be done to mitigate the challenges mentioned in number (4)?

.....  
.....

6. In the development of the farming business plan, what was your contribution and how did farmers contribute during the process?

.....  
.....

7. In the concluding remarks, do you think the post-settlement support is catered properly by responsible stakeholders to foster sustainable land utilization; explain your answer?

.....

---

*Thank you for participating in this study  
Wish you all the best in your activities  
In Jesus Mighty Name!!!*

## Appendix 5: Ethical approval by UKZN HSSREC



12 October 2015

Mr NB Sibisi 211539800  
School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Science  
Pietermaritzburg Campus

Dear Mr Sibisi

Protocol reference number: HSS/0961/015M

Project title: Agricultural extension and post-settlement of land reform beneficiaries in South Africa: The case of Ikopo in the province of KwaZulu-Natal

**Full Approval – Expedited Application**

In response to your application received on 14 July 2015, the Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee has considered the abovementioned application and the protocol have been granted **FULL APPROVAL**.

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

The ethical clearance certificate is only valid for a period of 3 years from the date of issue. Thereafter Recertification must be applied for on an annual basis.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours faithfully

Dr Shenaka Singh (Chair)  
Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee

/pm

cc Supervisor: Dr Karen Caister  
cc Academic Leader: Professor Onisimo Mutanga  
cc School Administrator: Ms Mersha Manjoo

Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee

Dr Shenaka Singh (Chair)

Westville Campus, Govan Mbeki Building

Postal Address: Private Bag X54001 Durban 4000

Telephone: +27 (0) 31 260 3547/3546/4457 Facsimile: +27 (0) 31 260 4800 Email: [ethics@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ethics@ukzn.ac.za) / [ethics@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ethics@ukzn.ac.za) / [ethics@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ethics@ukzn.ac.za)

Website: [www.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.ukzn.ac.za)

1910 - 2010  
10 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Five (5) Campuses: Edgewood Howard College Medical School Pietermaritzburg Westville

Appendix 6: Example of emergent issue and problem grouping

Plaat Estate - Challenges - Priority Ranking

**Title deed (Itayitela)**

- Amalungelo omhlaba
- Ukwephulwa kwamalungelo
- Ukungabi kwezisikelo sokugondisa Izigwegwe ~~ezibizwa~~ kakhulu abaphule amalungelo -

Ukwakha Ngenkani emhlabeni (Land Invaders)

- kanciphisa indawo yokulima nengasentshenziswa ekukhiqizweni kwamahlathi
- Ukwamemana kwezihlobo zakhe endaweni

**Ukukhuliswa Ngokomgondo (Human Capacity Development)**

- Ukungakwazi ukulima nokubaluleka kokulima
- Ukushintsha indlela ababiza ngayo mayelana nezokulima izindlela
- Ukukhuliswa kwemibono mayelana nezithatho ezetshalwayo

**Ukungabi bikho kukamaluleki**

- Ukufunwa kwe-tuyitela
- Ukwethembisa ekuthi bazozq bengezi
- Ukungaphenduli Ezighinambeni ababhelcerre nazo.

**Ukuxhumana phakathi kwabantu bepulazi, abeluleki, amqeqeshi, umuntu abasebenzisana naye**

- Imali ekwethwayo
- Ukwethulana kwemibono mayelana nezithatho ezetshalwayo
- Ezidla Amanzi kakhulu (Wattlaga Guntreeri)
- Uthando

**Ukukhulungela ezintweni zoxeko**

- Ukuvuna kungashayi isikhathi
- Ukungakhulungela imali.

- Amanzi Okuchelela

→ - Idamu, ukudliwa kwamanzi

- ENye / cizinge

- Ukudonga Izinyawo abakwa - DRDLR & DARD

- Uku Ungandaganda neziga zasizinda / inputs

- Amahoto abantu abasek-gayo

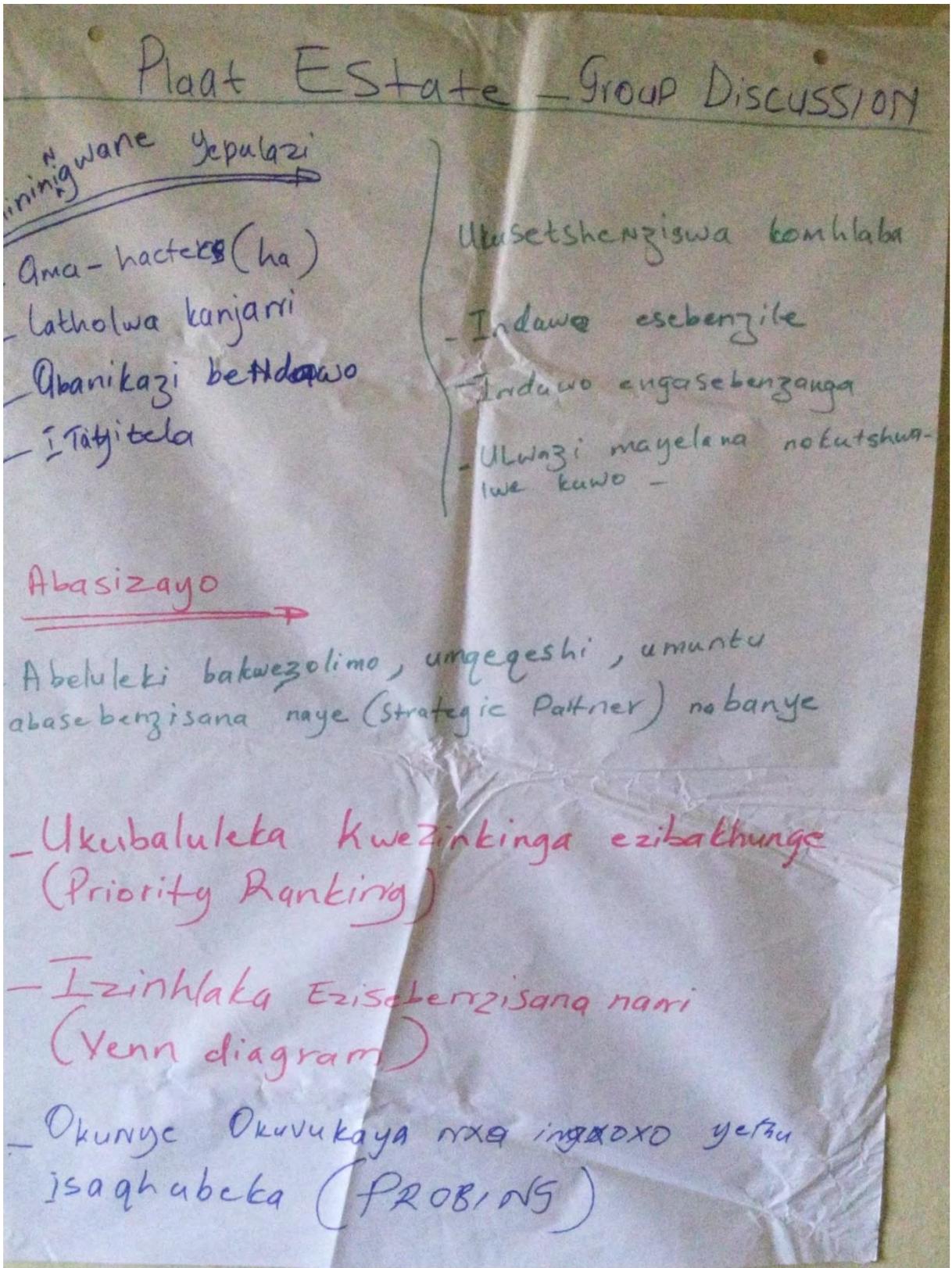
---

Not Identified by farmers ▽

- Not knowing about their farm  
(ukungazi nje ngempulazi)

Appendix 7: Example of methodology followed

Appendix 7A: Example of focus group discussion guide



***Appendix 7B: Example of focus group discussion question guide***

1. During the individual interviews it emerged that the Platt Estate Farm is not in possession of the title deed which has led to challenges like land invasion and diversity of ideas. Can you clarify the discussion around the title deed, and how it affects land utilization and production?
2. The individual interviews showed there is a need for an agricultural advisor, but he was unavailable for no given reason. Can you make it clear how you reacted against this, and how the absenteeism of extension officers affects the production of timber?
3. There are conflicts about accessing skill training development programmes offered by Sappi Forests or DoA. How do you decide about who shall receive training, and how do those who did not access training improve their skills on production?
4. The land utilization and production of Platt Estate Farm is hugely dependent on the support available. Can you reflect on your planned and current land utilization and production? Ten elements of sustainable land utilization and production will be used. The discussion will include all elements respectively. These elements are land and management, produce produced, input supply, infrastructure development, technical support, technology and development, market orientation, capital intensity and labour intensity.
5. There are numerous challenges that you, as farmers are facing in your land utilization and production and with role players offering post-settlement support. Can we create the Venn diagram and complete the priority ranking exercise which will properly shape our discussion around challenges that you are facing and role players involved in offering support services?

*Appendix 7C: Example of participants doing Venn diagram*

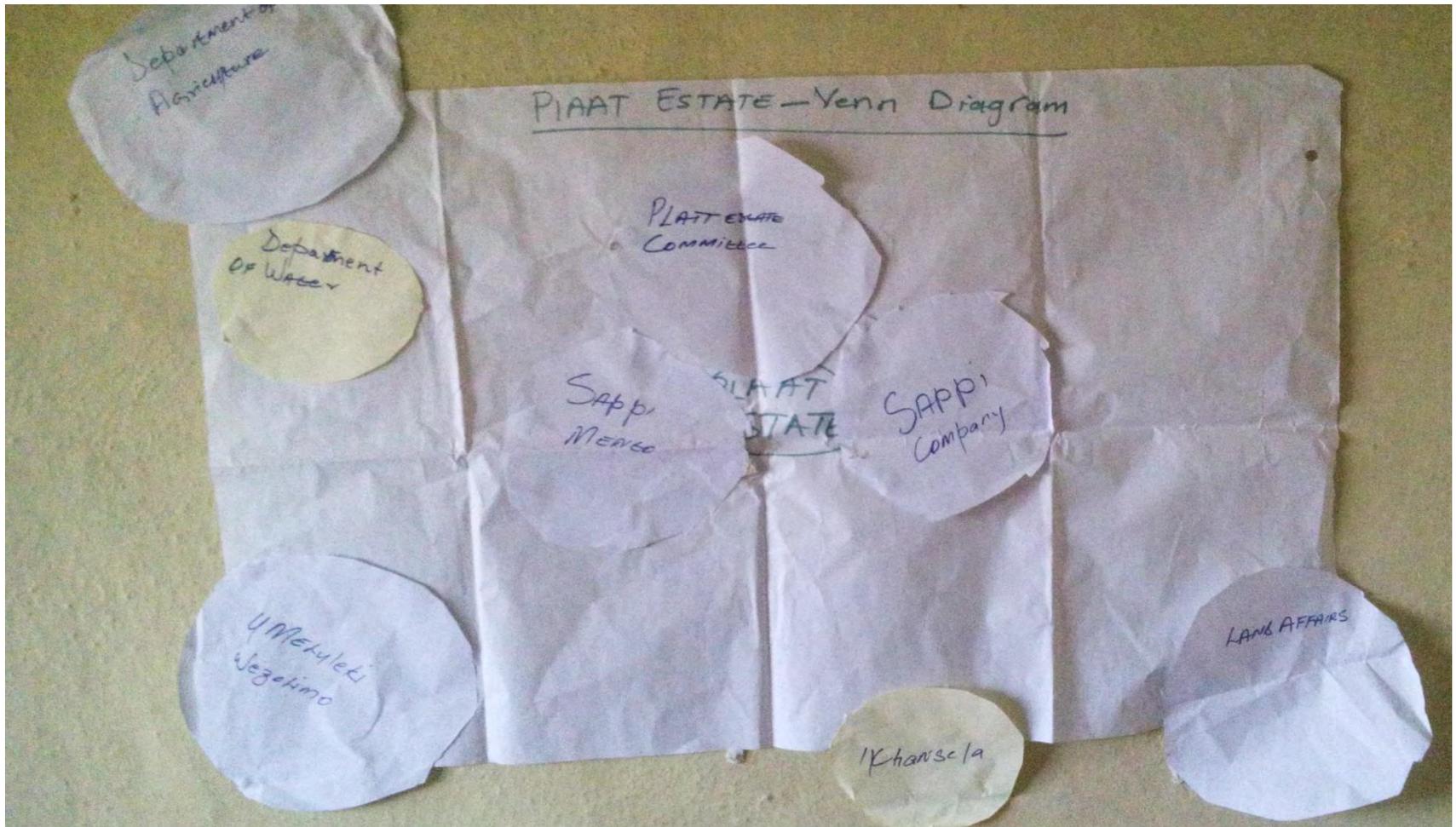


*Appendix 7D: Example of participants doing priority ranking*



**Appendix 8: Venn diagrams and stakeholder analyses**

***Appendix 8A: Platt Estate Farm Venn diagram and stakeholder analysis***



## Stakeholder analysis of Platt Estate Farm

Stakeholder	Problem/ constraint	Importance/ influence	Role/ interest	Relationship with beneficiaries/other Stakeholders
Platt Estate Committee	Not sharing information with the rest of beneficiaries Lack of balance in temporal jobs in the farm	Knowledge of the local situation and farm	Liaise with various stakeholder and community leadership Manage land Direct the activities on farm Ensure that farm constitution is followed	All the stakeholders communicate with a committee before anything takes place on the farm.
Sappi Forests	Lack of transparency in financial details Delay payment Limit training to people who are in committees only Offering mis-leading details about the farm.	Supporting farmers technically, financially and providing production inputs	Providing mentors for technical assistance to the famers, production subsidy, financial contribution and provide secured market for timber after maturity Ensure compliance with environmental policy	Sappi Forests has its own programme of improving small scale forest growers including land reform beneficiaries, called <i>Project Grow</i> . This has nothing to do with other stakeholders
Sappi Mentor	Lack of communication sometimes with farmers Poor transfer of skills and knowledge to farmers	Offering technical support about production and land utilisation	Facilitate <i>Project Grow</i> Offer technical support to farmers from land preparation to marketing	No connection with other stakeholders and the mentor is only working to facilitate <i>Project Grow</i>
Department of Water Affairs and Forests, and Working for Water	Not circulating beneficiaries in weed removal programme	Offering trainings in conjunction with DoA and removal of unwanted alien species such as lantana.	Offer trainings in conjunction with DoA	Offering trainings to Platt Estate Committee Members in conjunction with DoA
Land Affairs	Not resolving issues over land ownership disputes Unavailability of the title deed to farmers Dividing land without consulting beneficiaries	Dealing with land ownership and invasion	Link new farmers with relevant stakeholders providing post-settlement support such as DoA and Sappi Forests	Land Affairs bought land for the benefit of people that were living and working on Platt Estate Farm.

	Unavailability to control unplanned human settlement		Assist in Drafting Community Property Association constitution	
Community counsellor	Lack of community development such as roads, electricity and water	Not directly important in sustainable land utilization and production of the Platt Estate, but mostly needed for community development	Facilitate SPLUMA and other community development	Representing the local municipality and ensuring compliance with SPLUMA on land development
Agricultural advisor	Not available to work with beneficiaries and farmers do not know the reason for this	The farmer mentioned this was not important nor influential because the advisor was playing a passive role in offering extension services	Facilitate post-settlement support. Increase possession of skills to farmers on daily basis Facilitate post-settlement programmes of the local DoA Ensure liaison with different stakeholders Help farmers with land-use planning and production	At the moment there is no available agricultural advisor. The position is vacant, but farmers are not aware of this.
Department of Agriculture	Making huge promises and fulfilling nothing Not offering agricultural advisor Not playing the role they should be playing together with DLA	Making post-settlement support available Ensuring sustainable utilization and production in land Ensuring commercial production in land	Offer post-settlement support such as agricultural advisor and subsidize farmers with production inputs	Offering trainings to Platt Estate Committee in conjunction with Department of Water

Appendix 8B: Vukani Trust Farm Venn diagram and stakeholder analysis

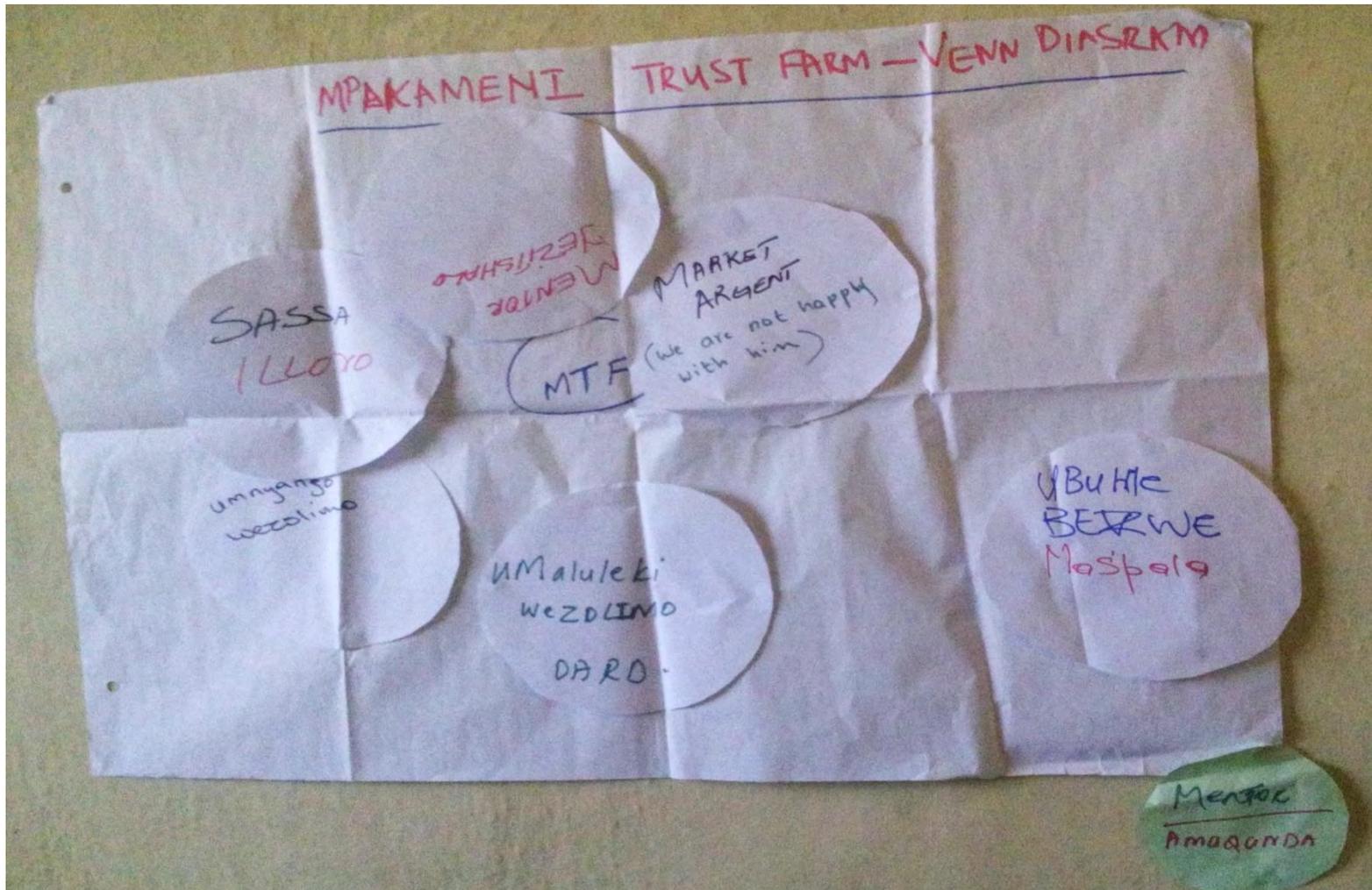


## Stakeholder analysis of Vukani Trust Farm

Stakeholder	Problem/ constraint	Importance/ influence	Role/ interest	Relationship with beneficiaries/other stakeholders
Vukani Trust Committee	Not working since it was appointed Some members are not available/residing on farm Too many activities that committee members engage with other than farming	Directing the farm and making wise decisions However the committee has not done anything since it was appointed	Communicating with various stakeholders Coaching daily activities Organising important work in a farm Managing other beneficiaries working on land	The committee members are also part of beneficiaries and all the stakeholders communicate with the committee before anything takes place on the farm.
Municipality	Focus on many spheres of development, other agricultural support services	Not very influential or important because it focuses on many areas of community development	Offering some agricultural support and some on/off farm infrastructure	All the stakeholders working with Vukani Trust Farm operate under Ubuhlebezwe Local municipality
Community counsellor	Too many commitments and delay in responding to requests	Influential in accessing agricultural support services that the local municipality has	Serving community Governing municipal development programmes in the ward level Keeping the community up to date with latest development programmes that the municipality has	The farmers did not know whether the community counsellor has a relationship with other stakeholders other than representing them to the municipality or vice versa
Department of Land Affairs	Not being useful in the post-settlement support Left farmers without appropriate support such as funding	The Department of Land Reform is important in protecting land rights for farmers and ensuring that the land is not invaded	Linking farmers with relevant stakeholders Assist farmers in making applications for funding	Department of Land Affairs settled claim for farmers and ensures that farmers are connected with relevant stakeholder interested in field of agriculture.
Agricultural advisor	The advisor left the position, currently there is no advisor	Influential in the management of livestock only	Providing technical support Ensuring sustainability in production of livestock	The advisor was representing the DoA and farmers did not know whether there was a

	The advisor who left the position was specialised in animal production only. On the crop side, there has been no advisor since the claim was settled		Keeping up to date with the latest department's latest developmental programmes	relationship with other stakeholders besides DoA
Department of Agriculture	Not providing advisor Unclear with their role in the provision of post-settlement support	The DoA has not showed up yet, but is influential in accessing livestock vaccinations and dip for the beneficiaries' livestock	Ensure that farmers have access to support services Offering agricultural advisor Ensuring sustainable land utilization and commercial production on land	The farmers did not know whether there was a relationship with other stakeholders besides DoA

Appendix 8C: Mpakameni Trust Farm Venn diagram and stakeholder analysis



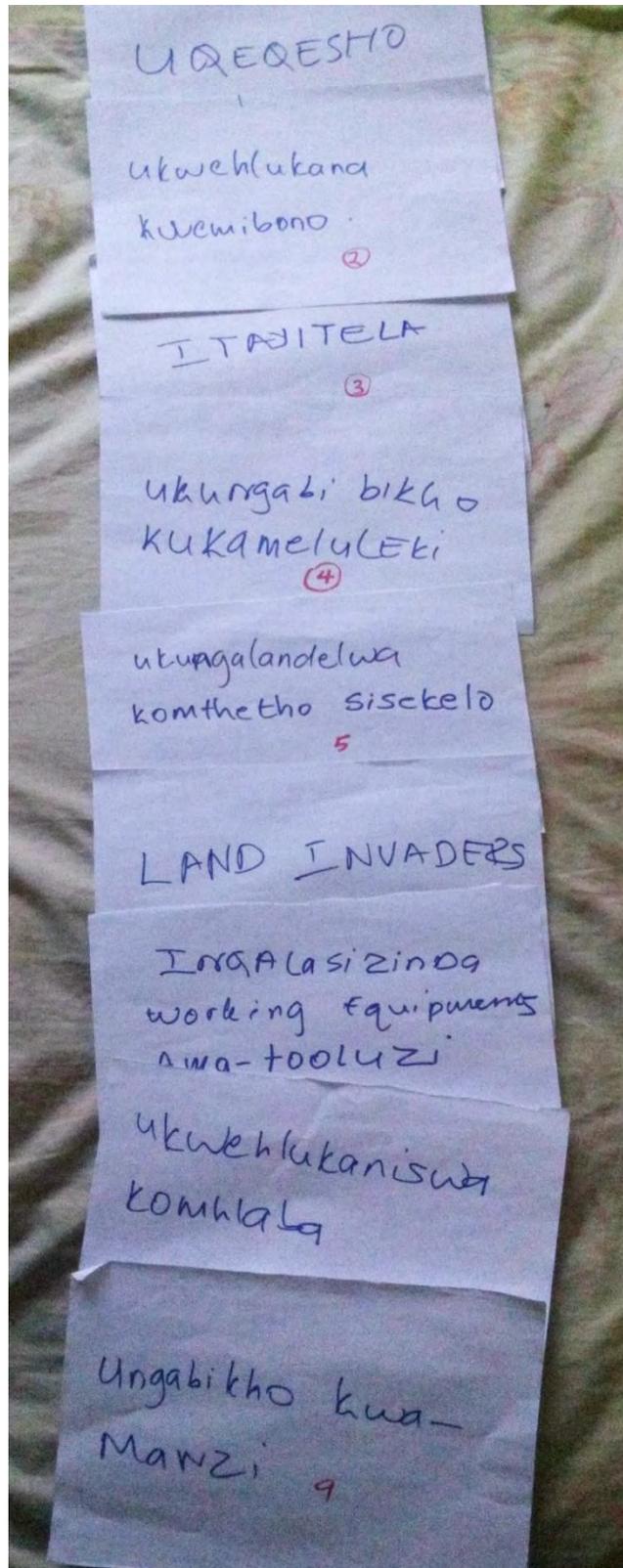
## Stakeholder analysis of Mpakameni Trust Farm

Stakeholder	Problem/ constrain	Importance/ influence	Role/ interest	Relationship with beneficiaries/other stakeholders
Mpakameni Trust Farm Committee	Poor financial management Poor communication with the rest of beneficiaries Lack of knowledge and skills in farm management	Oversee the farm and direct the farm activities	Educate other beneficiaries about the farm Reduce the burden from mentors Communicate with various stakeholders and farm beneficiaries Suggest various areas to be developed in the farm	Representative of the Mpakameni farm and communicates with various stakeholders
Mentor (Mpakameni Trading Enterprise – Egg production)	Poor financial management Farmers are less involved in decision making Lack of communication with the committee and beneficiaries Beneficiaries are not learning from mentor	No longer important, but was important in production of eggs and marketing	Transfer skills to farmers on daily basis Improving sustainable production Give guidance to farmers and teach farmers to run a business Introduce farmers to agriculture value chain	Mentors the farmers and ensures co-ordination in offering support services to farmers
Mentor (Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative – Crop production)	The mentor is not officially employed by DRDLR and has the farm also to manage. Sometimes the mentor is not available	Influential in taking wise decision while planning for production and ensuring high standard in production for commercial purposes	Capacitate farmers to optimum utilise land Ensure minimum faults during production Make suggestion on various areas to be improved	No connection with other stakeholders beside the market agent for eggs
Land Affairs	Delays in funding and the mentor provided by the Department is not influential in skill development and grooming emerging farmers into commercial business	Influential in partnering farmers with relevant stakeholders and protecting land rights for beneficiaries	Protect tenure rights of beneficiaries Offer mentors Offer funding to farmers such as RADP and link farmers with other stakeholders that are interested in the field of agriculture	Department of Land Affairs settled claim for farmers and ensures that farmers are connected with relevant stakeholders interested in field of agriculture

Agricultural advisor	The available agricultural advisor is only specialised in crop production and providing extension services to Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative only There is no agricultural advisor on poultry production Limited skill and knowledge development Little/no communication with farmers	Representative from DoA and has great influence for human capacity development on people working on land	Facilitate the DoA support programmes such CASP Help farmers to transform business ideas into reality Render extension and advisory services Ensure co-ordination of various stakeholder involved in after-care support Ensure sustainability of natural resources.	Representative from DoA and ensures that farmers engage with relevant stakeholders, but the advisors are lacking
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DoA)	Not providing extension agents Late delivery of production inputs, especially for CASP Delay in offering support services when requested Unclear regarding their role in the post-settlement support	Main stakeholder responsible for support services once the land is officially transferred to beneficiaries by Department of Land Reform	Manage and implement CASP programme Provide agricultural advisors to farmers Offer training and facilitate skills development programmes Ensure co-ordination with various role players involved in support services	Main stakeholder responsible for co-ordinating support services.
Market agent	Not communicating with farmers Take decisions without consulting farmers VAT Number and other miscellaneous issues	Marketing and buying of production inputs	Market the eggs produced by Mpakameni Trading Enterprise Buy feed and vaccinations for laying hen Pay-out wages for farmers	No connection with other stakeholders
SASRI/Ilovo	Very good support programmes and training offered, but farmers will soon replace sugarcane because it is suffering severely from frost. This will result huge loss	Investing in human capacity and securing the market	Train farmers in various aspects of sugarcane production such as cane husbandry and soil sampling Transfer business skills Offer extension services in cane production Ensure high quality of cane	No connection with other stakeholders

**Appendix 9: Priority rankings**

**Appendix 9A: Platt Estate Farm priority ranking**



*Appendix 9B: Vukani Trust Farm priority ranking*

Ukungabi bikho  
kwenqalasizinda  
(ucingo, amapagipi,  
sprinklers, Amps.)

Ama-campu  
ezintomo.

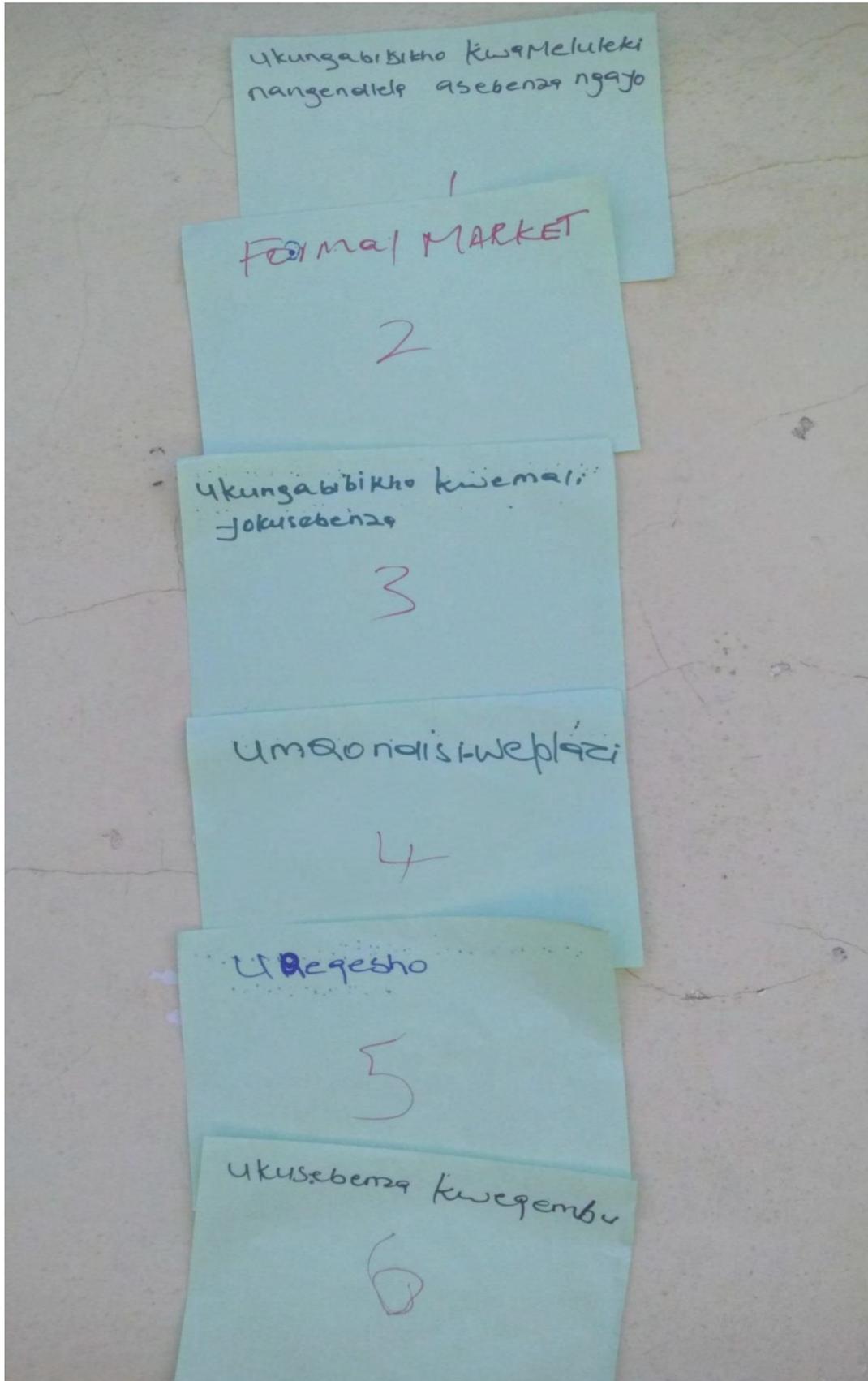
Imali yokusebenza

Ukungabibikho  
kukamaluleki  
wezolimo.

Transport.

utwebiwa kwezinyama-  
mazane.

*Appendix 9C: Mpakameni Trust Farm priority ranking*



## **Appendix 10: Example of field notes for farmers' individual interviews**

### **Request for Consent**

#### **RE: Participation in Research Experience: Interview/Discussions with Individual**

My name is Nhlanganiso Bhekisenzo Sibisi and I am a post-graduate student at the Pietermaritzburg Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I am conducting an investigation as part of my learning process and to partially fulfil the minimum requirement of Masters of Agricultural Extension and Rural Resources Management. The purpose of this investigation is to master the research process, improve communication and group facilitation skills needed to be a competent extension practitioner in South Africa.

You are kindly requested to participate in this investigation that will take place in June/July. This investigation is called research, which seeks to investigate how agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization and production of land reform beneficiaries in the context of post-settlement support. If I could briefly describe research; research is designed to get to an actual cause of an issue. Research is conducted by asking questions using appropriate data collecting tools (Interviews/discussion). Research is mutual learning, it also helps the participants to learn from their situation.

I know some questions may make you feel less comfortable, in case of that situation happening you are free to opt not to answer the question or opt out from any further participation. Your response in the interviews/discussions will be anonymous. Your names will be not displayed in any report or publication as a matter of confidentiality. Instead code names/numbers will be assigned for each participant that will be used in all research notes and documents.

Participating in this research is voluntary and there will be no costs to you as a result of your participation. At the end of your research, it is mandatory for me to produce a formal report called a dissertation that will be submitted to the University for Examination Purposes and stored by my supervisor (Dr. Karen Caister). Anyone who wishes to know results which will be included in the final report is entitled to contact me on 079 651 2527 or my supervisor 033 260 5121 (work days) or email [caister@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:caister@ukzn.ac.za).

Thank you for your consideration and your participation will be highly appreciated. If you agree to participate, please sign below and Interviews/discussions will follow.

**The participant fully understood the consent and agreed to participate in the study.**

## **Field data collected from farmers' individual interviews**

**Researcher:** Which land reform programme did you get land from and how did you get it?

**Farmer:** I am not familiar with redistribution or restitution, but if I can explain our forefathers were working in this land and we were also born here. Due to past discriminatory laws we lost the ownership of the land to white commercial owners. At the advent of democracy in 1994 we lodged the land claim through Department of Land Affairs and our claim was settled in 1999.

**Researcher:** Into which category does your claim fall and how did you get involved in that category?

**Farmer:** We are a large group producing commercially because there were lots of people who were residing on the land before colonial government domination. All the people who were evicted and residing on the farm in the days of lodging the claim were not excluded from the claim.

**Researcher:** Who is holding land tenure rights?

**Farmer:** At the moment the land is under Platt Estate Farm and managed by the committee. However, we do not have a title deed which authorises the full ownership of the land. We have tried several times to get hold of it, but the DLA is always saying that our request is being processed.

**Researcher:** What is your farm size, current land under/not under production? Why do you have land under production (4.2) and/or land under no production (4.3)?

**Farmer:** Our farm is very big, but in terms of the hectares size I have no idea. There is a lot of land that is under/not under production but I do not know how big it is. Maybe Sappi Forests has better details on that. The reason for the land that is not under production is that we lack capital investment. There are also high conflicts around what to produce on the land and there are illegitimate settlers invading the productive land.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, how did you plan to manage land; what is the current land management; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We plan to divide that into five sections so that the land use and production will be easy to manage and ensure that all beneficiaries benefit equally with the optimum use of land resources. Indeed, the plans functioned as we planned, but they lack efficiency and effectiveness due to lack of support in our local system for managing land and lack of control of beneficiaries.

**Researcher:** Are you producing commercially or subsistence? Why did you opt to be 5.1?

**Farmer:** We received an instruction from DLA that if we claim the land it is to be used commercially for production purposes. We are producing commercially with the aid of Sappi Forests, but some beneficiaries harvest the forest individually and retail the wood before the committee takes decisions.

**Researcher:** Did you plan to produce for market; which market outlet did you plan to use?

**Farmer:** Yes, we planned to produce for market and DLA helped us to partner with Sappi Forests and we are using their market called Umkomaas Sappi Saiccor. However, the way we plant forests is a little bit informal because we do not have full ownership and cannot take decisions about the land without consulting relevant stakeholders.

**Researcher:** Do you have commercial farming experience? If yes, in which sector? How did you acquired farming experience in 6.1?

**Farmer:** Yes, I have commercial farming experience in forests. I started working in the forest since 1998 when the Department of Land Affairs updated us that the land will be transferred to people who lodge claims for restitution redress. In those days I was working as a farm worker in the forest.

**Researcher:** Do you have any other farming experience other than commercial farming? Tell us more about your experience.

**Farmer:** Yes, I have experience in vegetable and maize production. Before I worked in the forest, I was working as Community Care Giver and sometimes planted vegetables for people recommended by the clinic to access healthy food. I was also planting vegetables for my family's consumption as well as maize since I am responsible for food security in my household.

**Researcher:** What is your current main farming enterprise(s)? What/who influenced your choices of 7.1 enterprise(s)?

**Farmer:** At the moment we planted gumtree and wattle. The wattle was mainly planted by the previous land owner and we decided to carry on with that. But due to late maturity we sought the tree that reaches maturity early. On the mentors advice we decided to plant gumtree because of its earlier maturity than wattle, high demand and economic viability.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, which enterprise did you plan to produce; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** Since the previous land owner left some trees on the farm, we planned to carry on with wattle tree. Due to the fact it takes seven to ten years to get matured we decided to replace these with a tree that can reach maturity early. After the land use test performed by SAPPI and the mentor they recommended a gumtree breed which takes up to seven years to get matured. At the moment we are no longer planting wattle trees and we are considering replacing areas that with wattle.

**Researcher:** What are your future plans for 7.1 enterprise(s)?

**Farmer:** Regardless of numerous challenges, I planned to continue with forests because it is really improving our lives since the land was transferred to us. What we need is advice which can help us to establish our plans into reality.

**Researcher:** Who is assigned to you to offer extension services/technical advices on land utilization and production? What is their role in sustainable land utilization and production and/or stakeholders' co-ordination?

**Farmer:** We have a mentor from Sappi Forests and an agricultural advisor from Ixopo Department of Agriculture. I am not sure if we still have an agricultural advisor because they do not visit us and when we ask for advices, they always say that they are coming, but do not in the end. The role of the mentor is to deliver seedlings for us; teach us land preparation, planting, growing forest until maturity; ensure high quality of trees planted; ensure compliance with environmental policy and nature conservation; and recommend training for us.

**Researcher:** Have these extension services/technical advices changed the way you utilize land and produce? Explain your 8.3 answer (provide practical example if applicable).

**Farmer:** For Sappi Forests and mentor, the technical advices and support has changed the way we utilize land and produce in it drastically. Previously we were farm workers and were not managing the farm, but they have bridged that gap through trainings and skill development programmes that they offered and mentor's technical advices. For agricultural advisor, I have not seen his impact and worse, he is not available to work with us.

**Researcher:** If more than one selected in 8.1, how do these services complement in supporting land utilization and production?

**Farmer:** The Sappi Forests and mentor is working alone and I have not seen how the mentor and agricultural combine their service in land utilization and production of forest.

**Researcher:** Initially, who helped you to draft the farm business plan? How did they help you?

**Farmer:** No business plan was required since we decided to emulate the previous owner's land utilization and production of timber. However, the mentor had written a document stating how we are going to farm timber to access support like financial support that Sappi Forests was prepared to offer us.

**Researcher:** Which post-settlement support services (e.g. RADP and CASP) do you have access to? If one selected in 10.1, name the support specifically and their role in sustainable land utilization and production?

**Farmer:** We have a Strategic Partner Support (Sappi Forests) and self-support. Sappi Forests is playing a role in giving us free seedlings, ensuring the provision of a mentor and they lend us their forest equipment e.g. fire beaters and truck with water sprayers, ensure compliance with the environmental policy and have given us a loan with zero interest. Sappi Forests cannot help us with everything and we had to contribute since we are the main beneficiaries of the forest. We make contributions to firebreaks, pruning of young trees and other miscellaneous activities with our own cost and knowledge taught by Sappi Forests.

**Researcher:** How did you access these post-settlement services?

**Farmer:** I am not sure how did we access the support from Sappi Forests, but what I heard is that DLA brought Sappi Forests to work with us in the post-settlement support.

**Researcher:** How do you enhance your farming skills, knowledge and technology? Explain explicitly each service selected in 11.1 and explain how do they were done.

**Farmer:** We develop our skills and knowledge through participating in short courses and training offered by Sappi Forests and some offered by DoA and Department of Water or in conjunction of the two. Our skills and knowledge are also developed through technical advices offered by the mentor during regular visits or when requested. In most instances the mentor is the one who recommends training for us and make necessary arrangements. Till to-date I have seven short courses and training certificates offered by Sappi Forests and DoA. These are First Aid, Limited Pest Control, Land Care and Herbicides Application Training all offered by DoA; and Agri-Planner, Emerging Timber Growers Technical Toolkit all offered by Sappi Forests.

**Researcher:** To what extent have these *11.1* services changed your attitude and behaviour toward sustainable land utilization and production?

**Farmer:** Firstly it made me understand that the role changes when you are the manager and farmer. If you are the manager you command or task out the farm activities and if you are a farm worker you are just doing the task without a full understanding of what you are doing. These trainings have drastically changed my perception about the forest and made me see that it can improve our lives steadily.

**Researcher:** What are the challenges you are facing regarding land utilization and production?

**Farmer:** There are so many challenges affecting the way we use land and produce in it. These are:

#### **Challenge 1: Harvesting the forest before the proclamation of the harvest date**

There are over one hundred beneficiaries of the forest. In most cases people cut the forest and mess it up in such a way the committee cannot proceed with the harvesting for retailing in a formal market. As a result the income from sales is not shared amongst the group, but adds additional costs to clear-up the forest for replanting.

#### **Challenge 2: No response from LDA and agricultural advisors**

The local DoA is always coming up with ambitious proposals and ideas of what should happen in the forest, but fulfil nothing. When we follow-up they keep on postponing the day of visit.

#### **Challenge 3: Have no title deed and land invasion**

I think having no title deed has led to a myriad challenges in the land. There is lot of productive land that could be used for growing forest, but it is invaded by illegal human settlers. According to the CPA constitution, it is a criminal act to build house on land if you are not a beneficiary of the Platt Estate Farm, but people keep on coming.

#### **Challenge 4: Beneficiary process**

Since Platt Estate Farm has over 100 beneficiaries when it comes to sharing the income, people want to receive a pile of money. It is very difficult to convince them because sometimes they are violent.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, which farming inputs did you plan to use for production; what are the current inputs that you are using; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We planned to have our own durable inputs such as fire fighters and beaters, tractors and forest equipment. In terms of seedlings we did not have a plan, but Sappi Forests' Project Grow programmes is providing us with free seedlings for gumtree. In terms of the durable inputs we lacked capital investment, as a result Sappi Forests is lending us their inputs. In terms of consumable inputs such as fertilizers, lime and agro-chemicals we thought the DoA will help us, but they have not. Fortunately we have managed to secure a loan from Sappi Forests and we are using it to buy these consumable inputs with the aid of the mentor.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, how did you plan to access technical support; how are you accessing technical support; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We planned to use the agricultural advisor from local DoA, but due to the problem that I mentioned early on that I do not even know if we still have an advisor from DoA. After the land was transferred the DLA linked us with Sappi Forests and Sappi Forests has provided us with a mentor which is very helpful to us. That does not mean we no longer need agricultural advisor which can be a solution to problems like poor co-ordination of the committee elected, human capacity development, conflicts and poor arrangement of support systems within the whole group of beneficiaries.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, which technology did you plan to use: modern technology (machinery, pesticides, fertilizers and less labour) or semi-modern technology (high labour intensity and less machinery, pesticides, and fertilizers); what is the current technology that you are using; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We planned to use semi-modern technology, but that does not totally exclude machinery, pesticides and fertilizers. In terms of labour we planned to use high labour intensity (I do not know how many people were assigned per hectare) because there are so many beneficiaries and the income won't be adequate enough to be shared amongst all of us. Yes, things are still going according to the plans because of the support given by Sappi Forests and mentor.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan, which infrastructure did you plan to put in place to ease daily activities; which infrastructure did you manage to put in place; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** There is a lot of infrastructure that the previous owner land owner left on the farm. Our plan was to improve the available infrastructure such as farm roads, farm headquarters, fence, and farm roads. However, due to high theft rates the removable infrastructure such as fences and roofing of farm' headquarters were stolen immediately after the white owner left the farm. At the moment we are still discussing how are going to erect the headquarters and fencing is not in the plan because there is great possibility that it might be stolen again. In terms

of the farm road we are in the process of requesting Sappi Forests to rebuild the roads that were left by the previous owner, but due to technical issues it will not happen anytime soon.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan on capital investment, how did you plan to acquire starting capital; how did you acquire capital investment; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We thought either DoA or DLA will give us capital investment, but the DLA linked us with Sappi Forests where we managed to secure the loan through Project Grow programme for emerging forest growers as well as land reform beneficiaries.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan on labour intensity, what was your plans about labour intensity; what is the current labour intensity; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** It was discussed, but I was not part of the discussion and I do not know how many people were to be assigned per hectare. What I know is that usually labour is paid R60 per day or depending on the money available to finish that piece of job.

**Researcher:** Based on the original plan on income acquired, what did you plan about your income; what are currently using for, your income; if it is varied or similar, what causes the variation or similarities?

**Farmer:** We planned to save the money made from the wood market so that we will not depend on Sappi Forests because right now we cannot do anything without Sappi Forests. Due to the internal technical challenges it is difficult to pursue our plan and other beneficiaries are putting more pressure on the committee. It is really difficult!

**Researcher:** In the concluding remarks, do you think the post-settlement support is catered properly by responsible stakeholders to foster sustainable land utilization? Explain your answer.

**Farmer:** No, if you would have a look of the mentor's role it is clear that the mentor is responsible for production and marketing of timber or facilitating Project Grow. Other internal issues such as group dynamics, conflict resolution and offering training needed by the rest of beneficiaries has less of a role to play in that. The DoA is the main stakeholder responsible for post-settlement support but is making huge promises every time their representative come on the farm and DoA does not provide us with agricultural advisor. In the post-settlement support there are many stakeholders offering support services and each has a plan for what should happen in the forest. For example, there are three hundred and sixty hectares with some over matured wattle and unwanted species. The DoA proposed that that land should be cleared and the wood used to burn the charcoal but till to-date no progress has been made on that proposal. The DWAF through WfW proposed that that land should be cleared and all unwanted species burned, but very little progress has been made on that.

## **Appendix 11: Field notes for focus group discussions with farmers**

### ***Appendix 11A: Platt Estate Farm field notes for focus group discussion***

The group discussion was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at Platt Estate Farm, in the section of Myanyabuzi. During the discussion notes were taken and simultaneously recorded as follows:

There were five participants available for group discussion and some form part of the Platt Estate Farm committee and some are just beneficiaries.

The issue of not having a title deed emerged from farmers individual interviews and was further brought forth on group discussion. One of the beneficiaries during discussion mentioned that she attended the National Land Tenure Summit that was held in Boksburg from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and the issue of unavailability of title deeds was discussed on the summit. It was mentioned that there are lots of land reform farms that have similar problems, but it is an issue that the Department of Land Reform is going to rectify very soon.

Participants believe that not having a title deed has led the Platt Estate Farm to a plethora of challenges such as land invasion or illegitimate human settlement, division of ideas and conflict in transforming business ideas into reality and not following the farm constitution, as drafted on Ezitendeni CPA Constitution. However, participants attributed these challenges to unavailability of human capacity development programmes to all people. Participants believe that human capacity development would uplift beneficiaries' mind-sets and change their attitudes and behaviours toward owning a productive land.

The discussion continued, the researcher and farmers discussed some of the key issues that they have with role players involved in the post-settlement but that discussion was further captured in the Venn diagram. The key issue was unavailability of agricultural advisors to help the committee to resolve problems like communication, the need of training and skill development, conflicts resolution, and building strong structures for development. Participants did not know the reason of absenteeism of the extension officers.

Toward the end of discussion, the plan versus current sustainable land utilization and production was brought to the table together with other two participatory method tools namely, Venn diagram and priority ranking.

### ***Appendix 11B: Vukani Trust Farm field notes for focus group discussion***

The group discussion was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at Vukani Trust Farm. During the discussion notes were taken and simultaneously recorded as follows:

There were five participants available for group discussion and participants were just beneficiaries without any special tasks assigned to them, such as being part of the committee.

The first issue that was discussed is the committee that was elected in 2010. Since the committee was appointed, they have not done anything to put forward the production in the land. However, the participants reported that forming a committee was according to DoA ordinance to form a committee that could work closely with the department and with other stakeholders. The beneficiaries did exactly as directed, but there had been no instruction/training given to the committee which would help to deal with chores and activities to be assigned to them. In addition to these challenge there are plenty of non-agricultural activities that the people on the committee are engaged with and committee members are not residing on the farm full-time.

Another issue discussed in the group discussion was the absenteeism of an agricultural advisor. Actually, there was an agricultural advisor assigned to the farmers, but he was only limited to animal production as his area of specialisation. Unfortunately, that advisor left his position in 2014 and communicated this to the farmers. As of July 2015 the position was still vacant.

Another issue that came through in the individual interviews is the drafting of the business plan to access funding. This issue was brought to the researcher's attention during discussion and it was discovered that the representative from Department of Land Reform came with bundles of papers and requested farmers to put their business ideas into these papers. The saddest part is that most farmers are illiterate (they cannot read and write) and were not familiar with terminology used in the business plan template provided. The representative from DRDLR never came back and as a result the template was left on the farm.

Towards the end of group discussion, the researcher and farmers discussed the plan versus current sustainable land utilization and production. It was challenging for the participants to state exactly what they planned to do; rather they expressed their perceptions of how they thought things would happen. A Venn diagram was created during the debate and priority ranking was also carried out.

### *Appendix 11C: Mpakameni Trust Farm field notes for focus group discussion*

The group discussion was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at Mpakameni Trust Farm. During the discussion notes were taken and simultaneously recorded as follows:

There were six participants available for group discussion and participants were just beneficiaries without special tasks assigned to them, such as being part of the committee.

There were a lot of emergent issues that came from individual interviews that were brought up and discussed in this group discussion. The first issue was about the committee that was appointed five years ago to direct the activities on the farm. The committee constituted 11 people and beneficiaries did not realize that they had added too many people. There has been a lot of contestation about ideas and storming on how the farm should operate. Another issue is that beneficiaries never assigned specific tasks to the committee members. There were unclear roles of the farm committee members in production and as a result there was a stir in the performance of the committee.

However, the committee of 11 people was not elected for second term. A new committee has been elected which was expected to start performing in the middle of September. The committee has a term of five years. Still on the subject of the committee, another issue discussed is the financial management by the committee, together with the mentor. It is reported that Mpakameni Trading Enterprise received a RADP fund from DRDLR, but the money was not spent wisely on things that the farmers proposed to maintain, repairs and invest in.

Another issue was about stakeholders rendering extension services and other related functions. The extension officer assigned to Mpakameni Trust Farm by the LDA is only available to Mpakameni Multipurpose Co-operative. However, the Department of Land Reform assigned a mentor to assist in the production of eggs in Mpakameni Trading Enterprise, but it was reported that farmers were not learning or getting any skills from the mentor because the mentor was managing instead of mentoring the farmers. Furthermore, the extension officers come rarely to visit farmers and on their visit they rectify the problem reported without communicating the solutions to the farmers. As a result, farmers gain nothing.

In the group discussion, two other data collecting tools were used, namely Venn diagram and priority ranking.

## **Appendix 12: Example of field notes for extension officers' individual interviews**

### **Request for Consent**

#### **RE: Participation in Research Experience: Interview/Discussions with Individual**

My name is Nhlanganiso Bhekisenzo Sibisi and I am a post-graduate student at the Pietermaritzburg Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I am conducting an investigation as part of my learning process and to partially fulfil the minimum requirement of Masters of Agricultural Extension and Rural Resources Management. The purpose of this investigation is to master the research process, improve communication and group facilitation skills needed to be a competent extension practitioner in South Africa.

You are kindly requested to participate in this investigation that will take place in June/July. This investigation is called research, which seeks to investigate how agricultural extension could improve sustainable land utilization and production of land reform beneficiaries in the context of post-settlement support. If I could briefly describe research; research is designed to get to an actual cause of an issue. Research is conducted by asking questions using appropriate data collecting tools (Interviews/discussion). Research is mutual learning, it also helps the participants to learn from their situation.

I know some questions may make you feel less comfortable, in case of that situation happening you are free to opt not to answer the question or opt out from any further participation. Your response in the interviews/discussions will be anonymous. Your names will be not displayed in any report or publication as a matter of confidentiality. Instead code names/numbers will be assigned for each participant that will be used in all research notes and documents.

Participating in this research is voluntary and there will be no costs to you as a result of your participation. At the end of your research, it is mandatory for me to produce a formal report called a dissertation that will be submitted to the University for Examination Purposes and stored by my supervisor (Dr. Karen Caister). Anyone who wishes to know results which will be included in the final report is entitled to contact me on 079 651 2527 or my supervisor 033 260 5121 (work days) or email [caister@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:caister@ukzn.ac.za).

Thank you for your consideration and your participation will be highly appreciated. If you agree to participate, please sign below and Interviews/discussions will follow.

**The participant fully understood the consent and agreed to participate in the study.**

### **Example of field data collected from extension agents or mentor individual interviews**

**Researcher:** Do you think post-settlement support of land reform beneficiaries is important? Why is it important/not?

**Extension officer:** Yes, the post-settlement support is very important whether financial or non-financial support because in most cases you will find that the farmer does not have sufficient resources to run a farm commercially. When I talk about resources; capacity, working tools and infrastructure, and management capability are included. Even if the beneficiaries have commercial farming experience that does not necessarily mean that they can jump into management easily. The farmer needs support to ease into farm management otherwise they will experience some problems. Some farmers that acquired land through land restitution programme do not have a farming background, so post-settlement is very crucial to ensure that land is utilized and there is production on it.

**Researcher:** What is your role and responsibility in land utilization and production and/or stakeholders' co-ordination?

**Extension officer:** Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is the official department responsible for the post-settlement support. My role is to facilitate the programmes that the local department has in supporting land reform beneficiaries such as CASP, where farmers are supported with finance, infrastructure and capacity development; and other miscellaneous programmes (National Mechanisation). Once the land claim is settled, there has to be some sort of plan on how they utilize and produce on new land. My role is to assess their plans – whether they are doable, achievable, possible, practical, workable or feasible. If the farmers' plan is not feasible, we then advise farmers on how they can make changes to their plans. Another role that I play is technology transfer and training where farmers are capacitated with new skills of the latest technology and other advice offered on regular visits.

**Researcher:** Land reform farmers are heavily characterised by lack of capacity to use land and produce in it, what do you think is the cause of this?

**Extension officer:** Many farmers receiving land are not coming from farming backgrounds where they are exposed to agriculture. What intensifies the situation is that the DoA cannot train all farmers at once because there are so many farmers who need extension and advisory services.

**Researcher:** The South African land reform programme and post-settlement is facing enormous challenges to progress such under/non utilization of land and not producing on land that is supposed to be producing; what do you think are the biggest challenges? Please explain each challenge provided.

**Extension officer:** The land reform beneficiaries are facing numerous challenges. Counting their challenges, firstly they lack social cohesion and are unable to work in a group. In many instances you will find that people are struggling within the group and there is no connection between beneficiaries themselves which can make a way toward success. The second challenge is capital investment for land development. Once the land has been fully transferred to

claimants, in most cases they find it difficult to invest in the land and develop it. This requires us as LDA to make the necessary arrangement for capital investment. Another challenge is the intent about the land or conflicts of interest, especially for restitution claimants. Many claimants do not know what to do on the land. Some are interested in farming and some are interested in human settlement on the land even though it is suitable for farming

**Researcher:** What do you think should be done to mitigate the challenges mentioned in number 4?

**Extension officer:** The solution to the above mentioned challenges and other challenges is to let it be known to the beneficiaries that land is zoned on high potential areas for agricultural purposes. Therefore it cannot be used for other purposes other than agricultural purposes. The second solution is to ensure that when the land is transferred to people, settlers have to be given the marginal land to allow enough space for agricultural production on high potential land. Then the high potential land can be an economic hub for beneficiaries to improve their lives. Another solution is that farmers need to appoint a manager or mentor that can manage the farm on their behalf because beneficiaries do not have adequate skills and knowledge in farm management. Then the farm committees can work to support the mentor or manager in regular activities.

**Researcher:** In the development of a farming business plan, what was your contribution and how did farmers contribute during the process?

**Extension officer:** In these three farms Platt Estate, Vukani Trust and Mpakameni Trust farm I was not part of development of business plans. Normally, we do not develop business plans for farmers. Usually the Municipality or Department of Land Reform help beneficiaries to develop formal business plans since we do not play any role in the pre-settlement. Once the farmers have drafted a business plan, as the Extension officer I check it properly if there are any unnecessary mistakes in it and apply for the support.

**Researcher:** In the concluding remarks, do you think the post-settlement support is catered properly by responsible stakeholders to foster sustainable land utilization? Explain your answer.

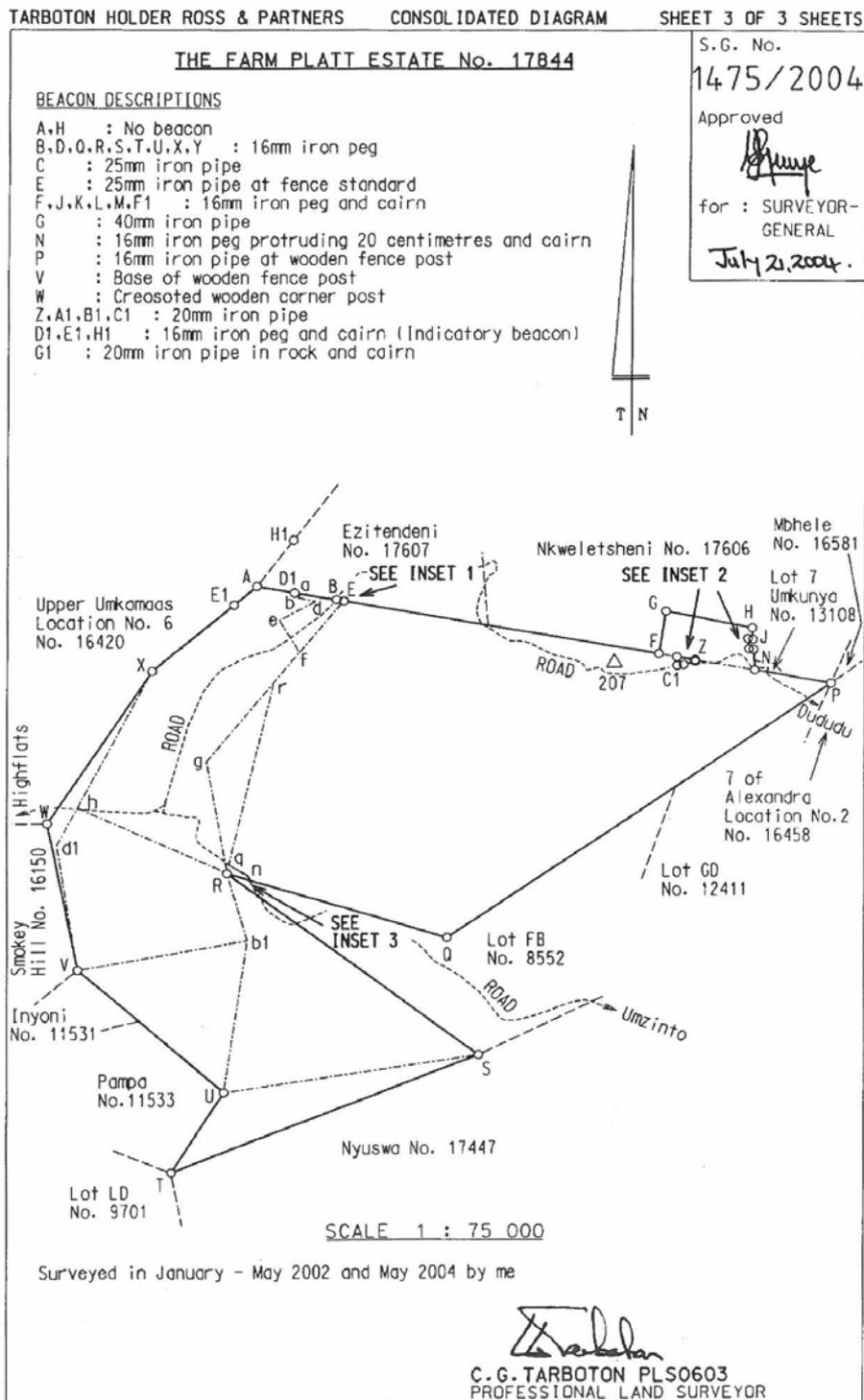
**Extension officer:** No, in the post-settlement farmers require capital investment to start their farming business. Unfortunately the government has a limited budget and the amount of money given to farmers usually is not enough for farmers to use land and produce in it. Sometimes you will find that farmers can produce more than one enterprise, but due to a limited budget and related support they focus on a single enterprise. Another issue is the availability of extension support. The DoA has allocated a maximum of two extension workers per ward with thousands of farmers needing extension support in their production.

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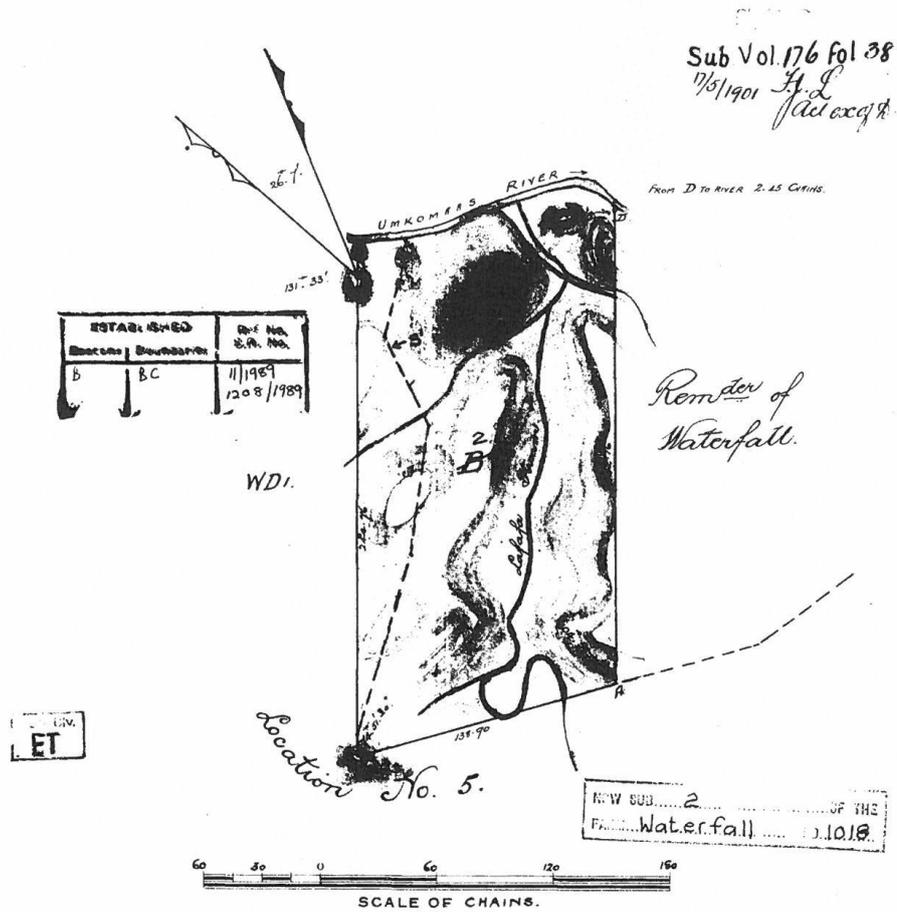
*Thank you for participating in this study  
Wish you all the best in your activities  
In Jesus Mighty Name!*

**Appendix 13: Layout of beneficiary's farms**

**Appendix 13A: Layout of Platt Estate Farm**



Appendix 13B: Layout of Vukani Trust Farm



The above diagram represents the figure and extent of  
3447 Acres 1. Roods 9.40 Perches of land known as  
~~Sub~~ <sup>Sub</sup> ~~A~~ B of the Farm "Waterfall," N<sup>o</sup> 1018

situated in the County of Pietermaritzburg Colony of Natal  
Bounded:- Northerly by the Umkommas River.  
Easterly by Remains of "Waterfall."  
Southerly by Location No. 5.  
Westerly by WDI. and Location No. 5.

April. 1901.

Surveyed by me.

W. Elton Galliers.

Government Surveyor.  
15395 CO ETNA  
St 728 1A

Appendix 13C: Layout of Mpakameni Trust Farm

