

THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

IN FARM MANAGEMENT

BY

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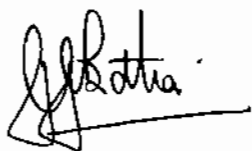
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I hereby certify that, unless specifically indicated to the contrary in the text, this dissertation is the result of my own original work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.J. Botha', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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ABSTRACT

Despite the fact that the farming profession is largely dominated by men, the farmer's wife contributes significantly to the farm business.

The contribution of the farmer's wife can vary from "holding the fort" on one hand to meaningfully influencing long-term decisions on the other.

On average, farmers spend 56,4 hours per month away from the farm and 7,9 hours per day outside on the farm and not in the vicinity of the homestead. The office or his house forms the only contact point with the outside world and is the place where most of the farm activities are arranged and co-ordinated. During the farmer's absence, his wife has to take important decisions and often has to see to the running of farming activities.

On average the farmer's wife spends 2,2 hours per day on farm activities. She is mainly involved in answering the telephone, running errands and first aid to farm labourers.

With regard to decision-making on the farm, the farmer's wife is the sole decision-maker in the household and in the purchasing of small items. She makes decisions jointly with her husband on family matters and long- and short-term issues. Many aspects cause unhappiness on the farm, of which farm labour, drought and finance are listed as the most important reasons. The children are also active in some activities on the farm such as answering the telephone, running errands and caring for animals.

The farmers' wives in KaNgwane are highly involved in farm activities and in decision-making. Although they do not distinguish between "hard" and "soft" jobs, the farmers' wives have a preference for cropping aspects. These women spend an average of 7,9 hours per day on farming activities.

Transport facilities and the poor quality of water cause a great deal of unhappiness on the farms. These and other problems hamper the expansion of the role of the farmer's wife on the farm and her future development.

Both groups of farmers' wives feel a need for a special course geared to equip them better for their role in farm management.

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INTRODUCTION

Despite the fact that the farming profession is largely dominated by men, the wife of the farmer makes an important contribution to the farming business. This fact is confirmed by and is strongly emphasised in studies and research undertaken the world over. This contribution by the farmer's wife can be one of "keeping the fort" at one extreme to a significant influence in long-term decisions at the other extreme.

One of the major problems with which the farmer's wife must contend, is the multiple roles she must play. According to First-Dilić (1978, p.125) the farmer's wife has three distinct roles, viz. running the household, being a producer/manager and being a socialiser. These conflicting roles could subject her to considerable tension and create a state of uncertainty.

The farmer's wife should at least be interested in the activities on the farm. Her husband may pass away before her, leaving her to run the farm (Hurley, 1983, pp.19-20). There are of course many other reasons why she should take an interest, all of which will be studied later in greater detail.

The modern farmer's wife finds herself in a situation completely different to that of the farmer's wife some years ago. With mechanisation, certain tasks on the farm can now be more easily undertaken by the woman - physical abilities are not as important as they used to be (Scholl, 1982, pp.3-9). Also with modern technology the household is easier to handle and duties in the house are no longer so time-consuming (Hoffman and Nye, 1975, p.61).

The fact that the farmer's wife may not be remunerated for her work on the farm, does not mean that such duties are not of any economic importance - in fact, such duties make both an indirect and direct economic contribution. According to Maret and Copp (1982, pp.112-115) the value of farm produce may even be considerably higher due to her involvement. It is therefore not always necessary for her to hold a position elsewhere since her contribution to farming activities may indirectly be significant in financial terms.

The situation of the farmer's wife cannot be fully understood without referring to the larger social system in which she finds herself. The family household is an inseparable part of the farm (Kohl, 1976, p.4). The family system and the farm system are integrated (Elbert, 1981, p.388). As the farmer lives and works in one place, the entire family is part of the farm and its activities (Buchanan et al., 1982, p.5). This state of affairs places the farmer's wife in a unique situation, certainly very much different to most other non-farming professions.

Various events and observations over the past number of years have, however, shown very clearly that the role of the farmer's wife on the farm is worthy of a thorough study.

- a. In a study undertaken for a master's degree (Botha, 1983) it was clear that over the years the farmer's wife in South Africa has played a significant role on the farm. This role, however, was never quantified.

- b. Over the past number of years appeals have been made all over the world and also in South Africa for the emancipation of women (Ackerman, 1985, p.34).

The farm is traditionally the sphere of men, despite the fact that farmers' wives have been making a significant contribution over the years. Discrimination against women is certainly no new phenomenon - throughout the centuries women have been playing a secondary role to men. In many professions today women are still the target of discrimination, usually in respect of salary, fringe benefits, promotion and training opportunities (Fidell and Delamater, 1971, p.65; Wallace, 1982, pp.4-15; Prekel, 1983, p.1).

It also seems that, despite all the appeals to do away with discrimination, little has been done yet to eliminate it. Britain promulgated the Equal Pay Act in 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act in 1975, yet most women still hold secondary positions where they receive little training and a low salary, and where there are less promotion opportunities (Gasson, 1981a, pp.241-242).

- c. Many farmers' wives have educational qualifications which place them in a favourable position to make a significant contribution to the farming business. A qualification in agriculture will naturally be of much value, but so will many other qualifications not related to agriculture as such. If these women are not given the opportunity to play

an active role on the farm, such knowledge or skills are simply wasted.

- d. Farmers in South Africa are frequently called up for military training and must of necessity leave the farm for a certain period. This can even be for as long as two years, and the farmer's wife is left to attend to the farming activities. If she is unable to do this and/or is not properly equipped for the task, it could lead to considerable problems.
- e. When the farmer passes away, his wife must in many cases continue to manage the farm. There is always the possibility that the husband will pass away before his wife, implying that the farmer's wife must prepare for such an event. If she takes active part in farming activities while her husband is still alive, she will find it much easier to carry on farming when he is no longer there (Rattin, 1985, pp.33-45).
- f. The farmer is frequently away from the farm to attend certain meetings, and during his absence his wife must ensure that everything runs smoothly on the farm. Examples of such events are meetings of farmers' associations, study groups, the agricultural co-operative, soil conservation committees and many others.
- g. The nature of farming is such that the farmer is not in his office (at home) for many hours of the day and is elsewhere on the farm. The office or his home is the only contact

with the outside and the place where most of the farming activities are arranged and co-ordinated. It is during such times that his wife is an important contact - she must take messages and frequently make decisions.

- h. Women have certain abilities as well as limitations. Such abilities can be utilised on the farm to supplement the weak points of her husband. When the farmer and his wife attempt something together, their weak points can be eliminated (one by the other) and strong points can be emphasized (Van Rooyen, 1986, p.11).
- i. It is in the nature of every woman to strive to give her family the best home she can. One way to achieve this, is to contribute towards farming activities (De Waal, 1966, p.2).
- j. The fact that the farmer's wife often performs tasks on the farm for which she is not remunerated, does not mean that the tasks are not of any economic value (Maret and Copp, 1982, p.113). In the USA the farmer's wife contributes at least \$3 400 per year to the farm (Lundeen, 1983, pp.1-2). An increase in the farm income or reduction of costs, will mean a better standard of living for the entire family. Women who contribute towards farming activities help to increase farming income.
- k. The unpredictability and variability of the farm environment need no elaboration. The farmer may be compelled to work elsewhere owing to drought or other factors. During such

times activities on the farm must continue and here the services of the farmer's wife are invaluable. This is a fairly common phenomenon in many countries in the world such as Yugoslavia (First-Dilić, 1978, p.125), Finland (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.6), Australia (Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40) and Poland (Tryfan, 1983, pp.76-85).

1. The services of the farmer's wife are frequently required during peak periods (e.g. harvesting, milking, planting time), owing to either a shortage of hired labour or a financial crisis.

- m. It is clear from the available literature that little research has so far been conducted on the role played by the farmer's wife on the farm - even less on her management role. Various researchers have already suggested that further research should be undertaken (Spencer, 1976; Boulding, 1980, pp.261-290; DeLamont, 1980; Elbert, 1981; Flora, 1981, p.386; Hill, 1981a, p.377; Murray, 1981; Maret and Copp, 1982, pp.112-115; Ross, 1985, p.28).

The main objective of this dissertation is to establish which role the farmer's wife in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and in KaNgwane (a self-governing national state) plays on the farm with specific reference to farm management. It is also important to determine whether her role measures up sufficiently to that of her counterpart in some other countries. It is an open question whether the services of the farmer's wife, who often has some formal qualification, are correctly utilised and whether she, as farmer's wife, is satisfactorily equipped for her task on the

farm. These matters will be investigated and analysed and proposals to facilitate the task of the farmer's wife will be made.

The study areas are the farmer's wife in the RSA, which represents the white commercial farming sector, and the farmer's wife in KaNgwane, the traditional sector. Because of the wide differences in culture and habits of the white and black populations, it was considered worthwhile to conduct a survey among black farmers' wives as well, as this would provide a good basis for comparisons between the two groups. KaNgwane was chosen as the area of study mainly because it was known to the author. The survey in the RSA was conducted by means of a postal questionnaire sent out to a sample of farmers' wives, while in KaNgwane it was undertaken by means of a questionnaire, with the respondents being interviewed personally.

The outline of the dissertation is as follows:

Chapter 1 provides a background on the definition of farm management and the farmer's wife, including her role on the farm. A brief literature review is given in Chapter 2 on the role played by the farmer's wife in some other countries. This is followed by an outline of the necessity that the farm manager should be properly equipped for his/her task. The methodology of the study is outlined in Chapter 3. This is followed by the results of the study in Chapters 4 - 8. In Chapter 9 a comparison is made between the two groups.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND TO FARM MANAGEMENT

For the purposes of this study it is essential that the concept of farm management be clearly defined. There is generally not a distinct difference between ordinary farm duties and management duties on the farm, and a clear definition will help in compiling the questionnaire and in interpreting the final results.

1.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO FARMING IN THE RSA

Many of the causes of problems with which the modern agricultural industry in the RSA must contend (for example soil erosion) emanate from events and circumstances in agriculture in the past. It is important that the researcher be familiar with the factors that gave rise to certain conditions as this leads to a better understanding of the problems as well as possible solutions to those problems.

The initial objective with the forming of a settlement at the Cape of Good Hope by the Dutch-East India Company in 1652 was not only to form a permanent colony. The primary objective was to provide fresh vegetables, fruit, grain and meat to the ships of the Company on their long sea journeys to and from the East (Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1970, p.2).

In 1657 a number of farmers (then still employees of the Company) succeeded in freeing themselves from service to the Company and were allocated farms in the vicinity. They were followed by other farmers who moved to the interior and established a system of trek-farming. Such trek-farming was also the beginning of a

system of a self-maintaining subsistence economy. This continued until the discovery of diamonds and gold in 1886 which brought with it the development of marketing areas in the interior, thereby laying the foundation for commercial farming. These events heralded the period of industrial development in South Africa, with far-reaching consequences for the farming industry (op. cit., pp.2-3).

The agricultural industry experienced various setbacks during this period of adjustment, events which left extensive scars on the industry. Among these setbacks was the rinderpest epidemic, which killed approximately 90% of the national cattle herd in 1896. The farming industry also came to a near standstill during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. In the disaster drought years of 1918/19 and 1927/28 approximately 4,68 million small stock (mainly sheep) and 608 000 large stock (mainly cattle) died in each of the years. This state of affairs was aggravated by the Great Depression as well as the major drought of 1933 (op. cit., p.4).

The First World War gave the agricultural industry in South Africa its first large economic injection. Substantially higher prices led to higher production in practically every field. This was also the experience during the Second World War (op. cit., p.4).

1.2 HIGHER DEMANDS ON AGRICULTURE

Farming in South Africa has grown and developed from a period of survival farming to that of a market economy. This has brought with it increasing demands on farming and therefore on the farmer or farm manager.

In 1860 one farmer in the USA could feed five other people. By 1940 this had increased to ten people and in 1960 it was estimated at 23 (Mortenson and Hall, 1961, p.1). This figure was 47 in 1970 and by 1982 had increased to 80 (Casavant and Infanger, 1984, p.7). Agriculture is now highly mechanised, uses many technological innovations and large sums of money are borrowed. Management is now more important than ever before (Kay, 1981, p.1). Farm management today is nothing else but financial management - the farmer is in the business to make money (Chard, 1979, p.7).

1.3 DEFINITION OF FARM MANAGEMENT

A discussion of the role of farm management in a changing and complex environment needs to begin within a definition of farm management. Management is a widely used term but one which is subject to many individual definitions. Textbooks contain a number of definitions, and there is little evidence that the authors agree on a common definition. Although there are some differences in the management of a farm and a non-farming business, these are not readily apparent when definitions are being compared (Kay, 1981, p.5).

According to Upton (1973, p.2), management is the allocation of scarce resources to achieve human objectives in a world characterised by risks and uncertainty. This is confirmed by Harsch et al. (1981) and Kay (1981, p.6). The definition of Johnson (1982, p.2), namely that management is an active process of decision-making to plan and control the utilisation of human and material resources available to the organisation so that the

specific objectives can be reached in the most effective manner, comes close to this.

It seems that the term "resources" is an important component of the definitions of management. In the definition of Nix (1979, p.282), "resources" are emphasised as well: "Farm management is the science of organising and controlling the resources of a particular farm or holding so that they yield for the enterprise as a whole either the greatest continuous profit or that profit which the farmer desires." According to Dillon (1980, p.258) farm management is the process by which resources and situations are manipulated by the farm manager in trying, with less than full information, to achieve his goals. Farm management is thus a continual process because of the continual changes taking place in the economy and in an individual business. The decisions are concerned with allocating the limited resources of land, labour and capital among alternative uses. This allocation process forces the manager to identify goals and objectives to guide and direct the decision-making. Again, the matter of resources is stressed. Van Reenen and Davel (1986, p.7) add the aspect of planning and say that management involves the taking of rational decisions as well as planning, organisation, implementation and control of human and material resources to achieve the objectives of the organisation.

Decision-making is another important component of the definitions of management and special attention is given to it in this study. "The essential role of management is to take decisions, for it is clear that if there were no decisions to be made, there would be no need for managers" (Barnard and Nix, 1986, p.17).

1.4 THE FARM MANAGER

Although the principles of the management of a non-farming business and a farm remain the same, the farmer finds himself in a management situation that is peculiar to farming. Most farming concerns in South Africa are one-man concerns and the farmer is therefore manager, employer and also employee (Van Reenen and Davel, 1986, p.7).

Farming is a special industry in the sense that the function of labour and management is combined in one entity and one person (Casavant and Infanger, 1984, p.6). In the USA the farmer as manager frequently has less time for pure management alone than many other types of managers, as he has many more duties than merely those of management. Except for his wife who may and could lend a hand, he is frequently the only person who must deal with all issues on the farm together with his workers. There are few tasks that he can delegate. The time which he devotes to management must therefore be optimally utilised (Ansell and Giles, 1969, pp.1-2). Table 1.1 gives an indication of how the average American farmer allocates his tasks on the farm.

It is clear from Table 1.1 that the farmer, as manager of a business, is engaged in a wide variety of tasks. The farm manager must therefore possess many capabilities if he is to carry out all his duties well. This is one field where his wife could play an important role.

Table 1.1: Tasks of the farmer on the farm in the USA.

<u>Task</u>	<u>% time required</u>
Ordinary farm duties	39
Trading	5
Instructions	5
Clerical	14
Inspection	13
Supervision	9
Obtaining of information	7
<u>Planning</u>	<u>8</u>

Source: Ansell and Giles, 1969, pp.9-15.

1.5 THE WOMAN AS MANAGER

A high percentage of working women still find themselves in jobs traditionally regarded as women's jobs, compared to a small percentage of women in the administrative and management categories.

Men and women differ in terms of their leadership characteristics. Men are more task-orientated while women tend to be more human-orientated (Van der Walt, 1986, p.59). Positive aspects could come to the fore when men and women work together as a team and the differences in management style between them are effectively utilised. Adequate preparation and development for a career, both at school and later, could mean that women will enter management positions as managers, thereby contributing to economic growth in the RSA (op. cit., p.59).

It is clear from Table 1.2 that there are many female managers in the RSA, but in relation to men these figures are still relatively low.

Table 1.2: Managers in the RSA.

Year	Number of men	Number of women	Women %
1969	72 891	5 277	6,8
1975	114 461	10 389	8,3
1977	122 853	15 535	11,2
1979	139 994	21 606	13,4

Source: Prekel, undated, p.19.

It is also evident that these numbers as well as the percentage of women managers have increased rapidly over time. The shortage of management talent in the RSA is a cause for concern. The relationship of managers to other workers in the RSA is 1:52 compared to 1:10 in the USA, while the accepted ratio in developed countries is 1:5 (Mickleburgh, 1983, p.2).

One of the problems with which the woman must contend is the rearing of children, which frequently coincides with the age period when her husband is climbing up the promotion ladder. This occurs in the 25 to 35 age group and the woman misses out on promotions, either because she is unable to work or because she is unable to devote all her attention to her work (Hodgkinson, 1985, p.67). Many posts are still regarded either as suitable for a male or female, and this

situation has not changed significantly in the 1980's (Cooper and Davidson, 1984, p.8).

1.6 CONCLUSIONS

Successful farming is determined by the farmer's managerial ability. Used in this sense, farm management is concerned with the decisions that affect the profitability of the farm business.

As new changes come about, farm managers must be prepared to identify them and make correct decisions in response. Present and future managers will need to improve and update their management skills continually in order to make correct decisions when faced with new and changing circumstances.

A country needs women to fulfil their roles not only at home as mothers, but also in the economy as responsible and productive workers and managers.

CHAPTER 2

ROLES PLAYED BY THE FARMER'S WIFE ON THE FARM -

A LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

It is important to consider all the roles played by the farmer's wife on the farm. Her role as mother and housewife and her involvement in farm activities are so closely integrated that they can hardly be separated. Various factors will give rise to her involvement on the farm and all these factors must be studied. It is also difficult to assess the quality of activities. More emphasis will subsequently be placed on quantification.

Hired labour is becoming more scarce and expensive and many women enter into a partnership with their husbands on the farm. With increasing mechanisation, smaller families and technology in the home, farmers' wives are becoming increasingly involved on the farm in the United Kingdom (Gasson, 1981b, p.14). Pevetz (1983, pp.633-639) nevertheless found that in Austria the involvement of the farmer's wife in farm activities declines with increasing mechanisation. This is also confirmed by Staroverova (1982, pp.71-74).

The number of men employed in agriculture in Australia declined by 26% in the period 1964-1978; the number of women, on the other hand, increased by 49%. It would therefore appear as if women in Australia are increasingly involved in agriculture. As the

financial position of the farm deteriorates, so the farmer's wife becomes more involved in farm activities. This same trend is visible when hired labour on the farm declines. In cases where the husband works outside the farm boundaries, his wife is also more involved in farm activities, even in decision-making (Craig, 1979b, p.11). The mere fact that the farmhouse forms the centre of the farmer's activities, involves the wife in such activities - whether she wants to be involved or not (Buchanan et al., 1982, p.5).

In the popular view of years ago, women had little or no place in agriculture. It was supposed to be a field for men - who were physically tough enough for the strains of outdoor work and the long hours required. However, things have changed. Today, women are involved in many areas and share in the changes that are taking place in the field of agriculture.

This literature survey consists virtually only of overseas articles as little has been written about the role of the farmer's wife in the RSA. There is obviously a great need for more research into this aspect of farm life.

2.2 THE WOMAN, HER SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS, ABILITIES, LIMITATIONS AND SHORTCOMINGS

Both men and women have exceptional characteristics and abilities - and also limitations and shortcomings. When husband and wife attempt something together, the husband may complement a certain limitation of the wife and vice versa. It is therefore important

to know what the unique characteristics of a woman are. Exceptionally strong characteristics should be utilised while unique shortcomings should be eliminated. Where the average woman lags as far as muscular strength is concerned, she more than compensates for this with her skill, patience and resourcefulness (Gasson, 1981b, p.13).

According to Wolfe (1969, pp. 48-49) a woman is generally not interested in a job where she must supervise others, whether they are women or men. Neither is she interested in science, machinery or technology (Hodgkinson, 1985, p.27). The assumption that women are less productive than men is rejected - this is merely an ideology. In certain respects women possess many more skills than do men (Dahlström, 1967, p.200).

The family-role instinct of women is exceptionally strong, both in married and unmarried women, and with or without children. Women easily show signs of stress (Cooper and Davidson, 1984, p.14). This causes conflict and a feeling of guilt as far as her double role as worker and mother is concerned. Women who succeed in obtaining management jobs are frequently single women and are regarded by other women as well as men as being "different" (op. cit., p.14).

The woman plays an important role as a "wailing wall" for her husband. She has the ability to listen and sympathise in difficult times and to stimulate her husband psychologically (Moor, 1985, pp.290-293). She is better able to work together with others than men usually are (Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific, 1981, p.20). Women are more precise than men and have more "skilful" fingers for finer duties by hand. She is also more willing to learn and has a greater sense of duty than a man. Routine tasks are not such a source of frustration to her as they are to a man (Gasson, 1980, p.13).

2.3 TYPES OF ROLES PLAYED BY THE FARMER'S WIFE

According to James (1982, pp.313-314), the role that could be played by the farmer's wife on the farm can be divided into the following categories:

- a. she mostly takes messages and cares for the household, and she makes little or no contribution to activities on the farm and to the decision-making process;
- b. she makes decisions, but performs no farm duties and is not a partner;
- c. she works on the farm and participates in decision-making, but is not a partner;
- d. she lends a hand during peak periods on the farm, but is not involved in decision-making;
- e. she is a partner for tax purposes only, performs no farm duties and does not participate in decision-making;
- f. she does not work on the farm and takes no decisions; she usually has various extra-mural activities such as being a member of clubs, etc.;
- g. she participates actively in decision-making and possesses certain capabilities;
- h. she takes part in almost all activities on the farm.

The role of the farmer's wife on the farm can be classified yet further according to First-Dilić (1978, pp.128-129) and Barberis (1972, p.28):

- a. substitution - when the husband is replaced on the farm by his wife;
- b. integration - when the duties performed by her on the farm are those traditionally regarded as woman's duty;
- c. competition - when the husband and wife compete for a task under the same circumstances.

To this Scholl (1982, pp.3-9) adds the aspect of complementarity - where husband and wife complement one another, while Gasson (1981c, p.13) suggests three ideal role types for the farmer's wife, namely "farm housewife", "working farmwife" and "woman farmer".

Although the major responsibility of the woman is caring for the home and children, her contribution to the farm is supportive of the farm unit.

2.4 ROLE SPECIALISATION OF THE FARMER AND HIS WIFE

The different roles of the farmer and his wife are not always clearly defined. It is simply accepted that each has a role to play. Role specialisation of the farmer and his wife in Wisconsin occurs more frequently in successful farming concerns than in others (Wilkening, 1981, pp.27-37).

In Finland the allocation of duties between husband and wife is clearly defined. The household, rearing of children and garden

work are solely the duties of the wife (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.7). The various duties of the farmer and his wife are also clearly defined in the tropical countries, especially in the case of livestock production (Oxby, 1983, p.2).

On the other hand, the decision-making process on the farm is increasingly shared by the farmer and his wife, in stead of the traditional authoritarian system of years ago (Hannan and Katsiaouni, 1977, pp.179-192).

The pattern of labour allocation between farmer and wife varies from region to region, depending on social habits (Sisodia, 1985, p.224). Like most working wives today, the farmer's wife is faced with dual role expectations. Although changing values of society may have implications for the farm woman's role, the farm housewife is still a home-centred person.

2.5 THE INFLUENCE OF THE FARM FAMILY

The structure and functions of the farm family differ largely from families in other occupations. These differences are caused by environmental conditions as well as seasonal and technological aspects peculiar to farm life. The farm family is an inseparable part of nature. Farming also involves the entire family - one of very few male occupations that does. Farm, home and family form a dynamic unit, wife and child likewise form a close-knit unit and are part of the occupation of "farmer". In most other occupations the husband leaves the house early in the morning and returns late in the afternoon. His work and working conditions are an abstract

concept to his children. Farm children, because they are so involved in the farm, already learn certain skills at an early age as well as certain decision-making abilities. Responsibility is in many cases shared by the family (Capener and Berkowitz, 1976, pp.8-11).

Changes in Finland during the past number of years, such as fewer children in the family, have brought about shifts in emphasis. As there are fewer children, there are fewer persons to lend a hand (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.20). Fewer children, however, does not necessarily mean that less time is devoted to the care of children. In many cases the child of today requires more attention than his earlier counterpart because school and other aspects make greater demands on him than earlier (Barberis, 1972, p.21).

The involvement of the woman on the farm is largely influenced by the family cycle (Hammond and Jablow, 1975, p.6; Gerard, 1983, pp.5-7). She is least involved when her children are younger than six years (Wilkening, 1981, pp.27-37; Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p.75). When her children are over 12 years old, her involvement once again declines, probably because children at that age also start to make significant contributions to farm activities (Wilkening, 1981, pp.27-39). Sons on the farm can provide almost just as much labour as the farmer's wife, while the contributions of daughters equal approximately one-third of the mother's contribution (Wilkening, 1979, p.2).

On the farm there is a strong emphasis on the relationship between parent and child. The household and the farm consist of the same

individuals, but who have different objectives. Members of farm families must be able to work well together because of the close integration of the family with the farm and with one another (Kohl, 1976, p.4).

Sons and daughters in the family make an important contribution to farm activities (Wilkening and Bharadwaj, 1966, pp.8-9). The role of the children even determines to some extent what roles the parents will play on the farm (Buttel and Gillespie, 1984, p.207). Farming is probably the only occupation where the husband and wife can transfer their abilities and ownership of their work to their children (Elbert, 1981, p.390).

The situation of women cannot be understood without relating it to the larger social system in which they are embedded (Kohl, 1976, p.1). It is therefore necessary to study the role of the entire farm family to understand the role of the farmer's wife on the farm.

2.6 INFLUENCE OF BACKGROUND OF THE FARMER AND HIS WIFE

The background of both the farmer and his wife has an influence on the role played by her on the farm. When the woman and her husband start farming together from scratch, she tends to be more involved in farm activities. When she marries (as an "outsider") a man who inherited a farm, she tends to be less involved in the farm (James, 1982, pp.315-316). Under these circumstances she may have a fear for her husband's father and/or mother because her involvement could break down traditions of long standing (Kohl,

1976, ch.VI; Gasson, 1981a, p.252; Hill, 1981a, p.372; Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40).

2.7 THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE QUANTIFIED

In most cases the household and the raising of children are solely the tasks of the woman, and many hours are devoted to such duties. In Finland the average farmer's wife spends 4,3 hours per day on the household, 4,2 hours per day on farm duties and another 1,8 hours per day on other things - a total of 10,3 hours per day (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.11). Boulding (1980, p.268) found that the farmer's wife in the USA spends on average six hours per day on farm activities. In the Netherlands the figure is 3,1 hours per day (Tober-Doorn, 1985, pp.316-319).

Running the household in Wisconsin has become much easier with modern technological resources. The traditional farm garden, which is the responsibility of the farmer's wife, is also being phased out and with this, also the preserving and processing of vegetables and fruit (Wilkening, 1979, p.10). Despite this, the farmer's wife in the USA still spends an average of 58 hours per week on the household (Boulding, 1980, p.268).

2.8 FARM DUTIES SPECIFIED

Most farmers' wives assist with bookkeeping, handling messages, the house garden and the care of animals for domestic purposes (Ericksen and Klein, 1981, pp.293-295; Gasson, 1981b, p.8; National Opinion Research Center, 1982, pp.10-11; Scholl, 1982, pp.3-9; Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, p.27). Women in the USA

also enjoy working with animals, which is probably the reason why they are much involved in this farming aspect (Kalbacher, 1983, p.19).

2.9 QUANTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT AFFAIRS

The indications are that the farmer's wife is becoming increasingly involved in management affairs on the farm - for example in Australia approximately one-third of farmers' wives take part in the management process (Craig, 1979b, p.17).

The keeping of financial records is an important task of the farmer's wife. In the USA 78% of farmers' wives keep records (National Opinion Research Center, 1982, pp.10-11), while Wilkening and Bharadwaj (1966, p.10) estimated 50%. In Finland 40% of the farmers' wives assist with the keeping of farm records (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.9) and in Germany more than half of the farmers' wives assist in this activity (Felfe, 1982, pp.210-213). In another study in Germany it was found that 66% of farmers' wives keep farm records (Wilkening and Lupri, 1965, p.374).

This tendency is increasing. In 1962, 32% of farmers' wives in Wisconsin were involved in record keeping, and this increased to 44% in 1979. Farmers' wives who assist with record keeping also tend to be more involved in management decisions on the farm (Wilkening, 1979, p.5).

As far as decision-making is concerned, the farmer still makes most of the farming decisions, but when the decision is of much importance, such as borrowing of money and buying of land, this

is taken by husband and wife together. The husband's influence on the acceptance of new practices is more important in the awareness and interest phases, but the wife now plays an increasing role in the evaluation and acceptance phases. As the wife learns more about the farm and becomes more familiar with the activities, she has a greater say in decision-making. As the socio-economic level of the family increases, decision-making becomes more specialised - the husband is less involved in decisions concerning the household and the wife less involved in decisions concerning the farm (Sawer, 1973, pp.419-420). The involvement of the farmer's wife in the decision-making process is largely determined by her involvement in farm duties (Wilkening, 1979, p.6; Soulding, 1980, p.275; Fassinger and Schwarzweller, 1982, p.43).

Decisions on farm implements are the responsibility of the farmer, but decisions on land, credit, buying and selling are taken by farmer and wife together (Wilkening and Lupri, 1969, p.381; Wilkening and Bharadwaj, 1966, pp.17-18; Wilkening, 1979, p.6; Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p.iii).

According to Gasson (1980, p.32) the farmer's wife in the United Kingdom is more involved in medium-term decisions than in short- and long-term decisions. Women play an important role in financial management on rice farms in the Philippines (Res, 1985, pp.91-117). On labour-intensive farms the women are more involved in farm work, but not so much in farm management (Tryfan, 1985, pp.135-144). Additionally, it was found that women in Cirebon, Indonesia, play an important role in the decision-making process.

surrounding small ruminant production (Wahyuni et al., 1987, p.91). On more modern farms decision-making is shared by the whole family - even the children are more involved (Nowak, 1985, pp.132-137).

The farmer's wife in Wisconsin also plays an important role in obtaining information on farming issues by way of magazines, radio and television. Radio and television broadcasts especially are often at times that are inconvenient to the farmer, but his wife is able to listen or watch (Wilkening, 1979, p.6). There is also a positive correlation between the farmer's wife's search for knowledge and her involvement in decision-making on the farm (Boulding, 1980, p.275).

2.10 THE FARMER'S WIFE AND OFF-FARM WORK

The situation of the farmer's wife is different to that of the woman in a town or city. When she works away from the farm, she must still take her role on the farm into account. There are two main reasons why a farmer's wife works outside the farm boundaries, namely to supplement farm income and the yearning to achieve something as an individual. Farmers' wives who regard their primary task as that of a true farmer's wife, will only work outside if this does not go against their normal farm activities - usually a temporary or part-time job (Hill, 1981b, p.73).

If the farmer's wife has off-farm work, this will have a certain effect on the farm besides being a source of additional income for the family. If a family member works elsewhere, his/her labour is

lost to the farm and could lead to a reduction in farm income. A woman also earns less than her male colleague and it could therefore be more beneficial if she worked on the farm (Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, pp.24-25).

Table 2.1 indicates how product sales on small farms in Kentucky in the USA are affected by an outside job. Median product sales are highest where both husband and wife work on the farm.

Table 2.1: Product sales under various work situations on small farms in Kentucky, USA.

Case	Median farm sales
	\$
Husband and wife full-time on farm	16 071
Husband on farm/wife works elsewhere	14 166
Husband works elsewhere/wife on farm	6 400
Husband and wife work elsewhere	5 446

Source: Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, p.30.

Farmers' wives tend to be involved less with part-time employment than housewives in town, mainly because of long distances and her involvement on the farm (Symes and Marsden, 1983, p.233). In Michigan in the USA an increasing percentage of farmers' wives work away from the farm. This figure was 11% in 1940 and as high as 46% in 1980 (Fassinger and Schwarzweller, 1984, p.39).

It is, however, anticipated that in future more women will rather work on the farm than elsewhere. Possible reasons are the deteriorating financial position of the farmer (hired labour is replaced by the wife); the declining number and size of farm families; increasing problems to hire labour; increase in mechanisation, making the physical strength of the farmer less important (James, 1982, pp.308-309).

2.11 INFLUENCE OF FARM SIZE

The size of the farm has an influence on the extent to which the farmer's wife is involved on the farm. On smaller farms women tend to be more involved in farm duties than women on larger farms (First-Dilić, 1978, p.135; Gasson, 1981b, p.16; Kalbacher, 1982, p.1; Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, p.26; Pevetz, 1983, pp.633-639; Buttel and Gillespie, 1984, p.183). However, according to Gilles (1982, p.12) (USA) and Gasson (1980, p.23) (United Kingdom) the farmer's wife is most involved in farm activities on middle-sized farms and the least involved on very small and very large farms.

On small farms in Finland livestock are practically the sole responsibility of the farmer's wife, but this responsibility is shared by the farmer and wife on larger farms (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.11; Fassinger and Schwarzweller, 1982, p.15). However, the size of the farm has no influence on the contributions of the wife to the household (Fassinger and Schwarzweller, 1982, p.15).

2.12 AGE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE - ITS INFLUENCE

The age of the farmer's wife plays a definite role in the type and extent of her involvement in farm activities. Older women generally have a smaller burden on the farm, but not less authority in management decisions (National Opinion Research Center, 1982, pp.10-11). In eastern England she is most involved during the age 35 to 49 (Symes and Marsden, 1983, p.234) while in the United Kingdom the most active age group is 26 to 35 years (Gasson, 1980, p.22).

Table 2.2: Effect of age of the farmer's wife on regular involvement in farm duties in the USA.

Age	Percentage of women involved
18-30	29
31-45	33
46-65	28
66-88	22

Source: Jones and Rosenfeld 1981, p.23.

It is clear from Table 2.2 that in the USA farmers' wives in the age group 31 to 45 years are most involved in farm duties. This involvement declines substantially after the age of 66 years. Scholl (1982, p.5) attributes the involvement of the young wife in the USA in farm activities to the following main reasons:

both the farm and the family must still be established and
 the wife's labour may be cheaper than hired labour;
 the wife is young and physically able to make an important
 contribution;
 as the children grow, they take over many activities on
 the farm;
 the husband is not yet very experienced.

The age of the farmer's wife is thus a factor to be taken into consideration when her role on the farm is analysed.

2.13 INFLUENCE OF THE TYPE OF FARMING

The type of farming also determines the extent of involvement by the farmer's wife on the farm. In Australia she plays the largest role in smaller branches of farming such as dairy, pigs and vegetables, and the smallest role in extensive branches such as beef cattle and sheep (James, 1982, p.309).

The farmer's wife is least involved in very specialised farming (Gilles, 1982, pp.10-13). She would rather attend to farm animals than be involved in agronomic aspects (Gasson, 1980, p.23; Gasson, 1981b, p.18; Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p.ii; Wilkening, 1981, pp.27-37; Buchanan et al., 1982, p.9; Felfe, 1982, pp.210-213; Kalbacher, 1982, p.4; Scholl, 1982, p.7; Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.11; Oxby, 1983, p.2).

Oxby (1983, p.6) attributes the special involvement of the farmer's wife in livestock to the fact that livestock farming usually takes place near the farmhouse, and that with her lower

status, she tends to rather accept responsibility for the less important farming branches. This usually involves the care of pigs, dairy cattle and chickens and does not refer to a large and extensive livestock concern.

2.14 FINANCIAL CONDITIONS ON THE FARM

Conditions on the farm such as droughts and financial crises have a large influence on the role played by women. Under such circumstances she may be forced to contribute to certain farm activities, and she is subjected to considerable tension caused by her double role (Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40).

2.15 INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANISED AGRICULTURE

Approximately half of the farmers' wives in the USA are members of agricultural organisations. The degree to which the farmer is involved is an important factor that determines the involvement of his wife. Women who are owners or co-owners of the farm are also more involved (Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p.74).

Farmers' wives are usually unwilling to attend farmers' days as they regard this as the sphere of men. They nevertheless feel the need to attend such occasions (Gilles, 1982, p.13; Sparrow, 1983, pp. 27-40). One possible solution to this problem could be to increase the number of female extension officers who are able to present such programmes (Gilles, 1982, p.13).

2.16 FARM OWNERSHIP

The type of farm ownership has a significant effect on the role of the farmer's wife. Changes in ownership have also clearly taken place over the past number of years.

In Australia there is an increasing number of partnerships between farmer and wife, and such partnerships represented 57% of all types of farm ownership in 1977. In the past, capital and authority over land were largely in the hands of the male farmer. The change can be attributed largely to the tax system. The increase in the number of farmers' wives involved in farm partnerships has led to a substantial increase in her status. As partner she has a legal position in respect of farm capital. She therefore has greater power and more influence in farm management. It has been determined that approximately 4% of all farms in Australia are managed entirely by women (Craig, 1979b, p.8). The increase in the number of partnerships in the period 1954-55 to 1974-75 is illustrated in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Number of partnerships (mostly between husband and wife) on Australian farms.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of partnerships</u>
1954-55	61 125
1959-60	89 350
1964-65	117 966
1969-70	126 421
1974-75	148 102

Source: Craig, 1979b, p.8.

2.17 PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY THE FARMER'S WIFE

Many of the problems experienced by the farmer's wife are unique to farming. Maintenance of the farmhouse for example creates considerable problems. As the farm is frequently far from a town, the farmer is responsible for his own repairs, although he does not always have the time to effect repairs. His wife also has problems around the house. In Australia she is frequently called upon to prepare food for farm workers, especially short-term hired labour such as sheep shearers. She also devotes much time to her children as they frequently have to travel long distances to and from school. She is also called upon to collect spare parts in town and to run other small errands (Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40).

Owing to long distances, it is not easy for the farmer's wife to take part in activities of the community and she often has to give up pastimes such as the bioscope and theatre. Aspects such as drought also place greater tension on the family. Although the farmer's wife has a need for a holiday or other recreation, many farmers do not consider this to be important since they regard recreation to be provided by the farm (op. cit., pp.27-40).

According to Colman (1981, p.394) the contribution of the farmer's wife to the farm cannot be determined in terms of money. She frequently has no money of her own - an aspect that creates considerable problems. Further, in Finland medical costs are high and the farmer has no medical or pension fund. The farmer's wife cannot avail herself of maternity leave or an official pension scheme (Siiskonen et al., 1982, pp.633-639).

The farmer's wife is frequently expected to work like a man, but without losing her femininity. The farmer enjoys his meals at home and drinks his tea and coffee there, frequently at inconvenient times (Kohl, 1976, ch. VI). Other problems in the United Kingdom are the mud that is brought into the house, unpredictable weather and the fact that she is hardly ever able to get out of the house (Buchanan et al., 1982, p.11).

Farming takes its toll, especially among farmers' wives. It was found in studies in Italy and Germany that farmers' wives do not live as long as women in other occupations, which can be attributed to the demands made by farm life. Farmers' wives work harder and longer hours, and lose their beauty as woman earlier than their counterparts in other occupations. Many farmers' wives also have to manage without modern home appliances if no electricity is available (Barberis, 1972, p.20). Boulding (1980, pp.268-269) found that farmers' wives in the USA work on average 99 hours per week (farm tasks plus home tasks) compared to 86 hours by town women.

2.18 NECESSITY THAT THE FARM MANAGER BE EQUIPPED FOR HIS/HER TASK

2.18.1 Background

It is considered essential that the tradesman, accountant, doctor and so forth should acquire certain prescribed qualifications before they can be allowed to practise their profession, and it could be argued that it is equally essential that the prospective farmer and farm manager should receive formal training in his subject field before being allowed into the farming profession

(Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1970, p.186). Many farmers without any formal training are, however, excellent farm managers. These farmers have many years of experience, received thorough training from their father, have the ability and/or luck, or make use of the services of advisors and others. Persons with formal training in management, however, become good managers sooner and may eventually be better managers (Buckett, 1981, p.7).

In the past, training of the farmer's wife was of lesser importance, as she was largely involved in simple farm duties. Today, however, the farmer's wife is in many cases co-manager of the farm and specialised training has therefore become important (Barberis, 1972, p.18; Stuart, 1979, pp.603-613). The farm system consists of various sub-systems - social, biological, technical and managerial. Each system must be understood as each one has an influence on the other (Flora, 1983, p.226).

A woman does not know beforehand that she will eventually marry a farmer. She has in most cases no formal agricultural training (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.19). When a woman marries a man who is not a farmer, there is not much difference, as she is marrying the man and not his career. The farmer's wife, on the other hand, becomes involved at some stage in her husband's work - a task for which is she most probably not equipped. If she does have a qualification in agriculture, she will only apply this fully once her children reach a certain age. Her outdated knowledge will then have to be supplemented by further training.

The dynamic nature of agriculture and the processes that accompany it, the continuous expansion of knowledge in the agricultural

industry by way of research, and changing economic conditions place exceptionally high demands on the modern farmer - training is now more important than ever before.

2.18.2 The contents of training qualified

As far as the contents of training the farmer's wife is concerned, the existing programmes in Holland may be taken as an example. The first socio-economic training programme for farmers' wives in Holland was presented in the 1960s. This course is known as the EVAV course ("Economische Vorming Agrarische Vrouwen"), and is presented throughout the country and enjoys national recognition. The objectives of the course are that the farmer's wife should acquire insight into and knowledge of economic, social and legal aspects so that she is able to participate in decision-making in the case of operational issues that affect the family. All women who participate in this course must be at least 22 years old and already in the farming industry or intending to enter the industry. The course lasts two years and consists of the following:

- a. Financial and socio-economic aspects
- b. Introduction to and orientation on the position of husband and wife in the agricultural enterprise
 - record keeping
 - family finance
 - taxation
 - finance
 - insurance

- c. Legal and social aspects in agricultural politics
- introduction and orientation
 - agricultural policy
 - legal issues (estates, wills, land tenure, and so forth)
 - environmental legislation.

(Van Velzen, 1979, pp.1107-1109).

According to Scholl (1982, p.8) the training of farmers' wives should include general agriculture, as well as some specific aspects such as tractor maintenance, safety, farm management, household management and financial management. As women enjoy working with animals, this should also form part of the course. The idea of tractor maintenance is not to repair the tractor herself, but to give her more insight into the ordering and collection of spare parts, which is an important task of the farmer's wife. To this, Hill (1981b, p.87) adds training in farm record keeping, the technical aspects of farming and marketing - especially local marketing.

2.18.3 Some problems experienced in the training of the farmer's wife

The methodology of training by the farmer's wife will probably differ considerably from ordinary formal training in farm management and household management. It should be remembered that the woman is now married and has duties as a mother, in the household and in farming activities. Farms are distributed over the length and breadth of the RSA and full-time formal training is simply not possible. Besides this, there are still the personal

characteristics unique to women which must be taken into consideration.

Many farming couples have been married for a long time and the wives can hardly follow a full-time course at that stage with all her additional obligations on the farm. Provision will have to be made especially for such women, and in the presentation of a course the issue of accessibility must be taken into thorough consideration (Hill, 1981b, p.88).

Cooper and Davidson (1984, p.56) found that women in the United Kingdom are loath to attend a course that is attended by women only - this is seen as discrimination. Oxby (1983, p.48), on the other hand, recommends that farmers' wives be the only attendees of a course. Courses on farm record keeping have been presented successfully in the USA for farmers' wives and farmers for many years. Both men and women attend the course simultaneously (Gilles, 1982, pp.12-13), although it was found in Holland that 18,7% of attendees at courses and seminars on agriculture were farmers' wives (Bloem, 1987, pp.35-64). In the training of farmers' wives in tropical agriculture it was found that women do not feel at ease at courses intended for men, especially if that course is presented by a man. One possible solution in such a case is to make use of female trainers (Oxby, 1983, p.48).

Many women have to travel long distances to attend courses, an aspect which they do not enjoy. The solution here could be to arrange smaller gatherings on farms. In the construction and presentation of a course for the farmer's wife, it is essential to take the abovementioned factors into consideration.

2.18.4 Present facilities for training the farmer's wife in the RSA

At present there are no formal courses in farm management that are aimed at the farmer's wife in the RSA. Many full-time courses in farm management and related fields are presented by universities, technikons and colleges of agriculture. The problem for the farmer's wife is that she cannot easily attend such courses owing to the fact that they are presented on a full-time basis.

Short courses in farm management and related fields are presented from time to time by various state departments, commercial banks and other institutions. Some correspondence colleges also offer courses in farming. According to Hill (1981b, p.85) the farmer in the USA has more confidence in and accepts an educational institution more easily than other institutions.

2.19 SUMMARY

Increasing farm mechanisation, smaller families and more technological aids in the home, have allowed farmers' wives to become increasingly involved in farm activities.

This accords with the fact that the farm family is inseparably bound to the farm. Farming is a family issue, and as such activities are shared by the farmer and his wife in varying degrees. However, role specialisation between the farmer and his wife occurs more frequently in successful farming concerns than in others.

The indications are that the farmer's wife is becoming increasingly involved in management affairs on the farm, with the

keeping of financial records being an important task. The role of the farmer's wife in the decision-making process correlates to a large extent with her farm duties.

Aspects which influence the role of the farmer's wife on the farm include off-farm work, farm size, her age, type of farming, financial conditions on the farm and farm ownership. At the same time, the farmer's wife experiences problems which are unique to farming as an occupation.

Today many farmers' wives either co-manage the farm or become involved in her husband's work at some stage, a task for which she is most probably not equipped. The dynamic nature of agriculture and the processes that accompany it, place exceptionally high demands on the modern farmer as well as his wife and it would appear that specialised training is becoming an important aspect of being successful at farming.

The methodology of training for the farmer's wife will have to take cognisance of farm and household management tasks specifically of the farmers wife and the main objectives of a course should be to help the farmer's wife to gain insight into and knowledge of economic, social and legal aspects of farming so that she is able to participate in decision-making on the farm. At present no formal courses in farm management aimed at the farmer's wife are offered in the RSA.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In this chapter the methodology followed to study the role of the farmer's wife in the RSA will be discussed and analysed. In order to meet the objectives of this dissertation a study of four main stages was designed. Stage one comprises a literature study. Stage two consists of the drawing of the sample while stage three comprises a postal survey. This is followed by the resumé and findings as stage four.

3.1 LITERATURE STUDY

It became clear during the commencement of the study that an in-depth study of local and international literature would be the only way to determine guidelines for the research approach to be used. Phase one of the study was such a literature study on the topic and related aspects (Chapter 2). This brought forth clear guidelines and the problems experienced by other researchers were noted.

3.2 DRAWING THE SAMPLE

It is not known precisely how many farmers there are in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) but it is generally accepted that the number is between 50 000 and 60 000 (1988). This is based on data of Willemse (1988, p.24) who puts the number of farms in the RSA in 1983 at 59 960. As it would be physically and economically impossible to conduct a survey among all these farmers, a sample

of farmers was drawn and a questionnaire posted to them for the purpose of this study (see section 3.3).

Numerous enquiries brought to light that there is no complete postal address list of all farmers in South Africa. The closest is an address list of approximately 44 215 farmers, as on 1 June 1987, compiled by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) and which comprises all farmers who are members of farmers' associations. The sample was accordingly based on this list, which obviously relates to a select group. Therefore the author cannot claim that the findings reported in this dissertation apply to all farmers in general, although it can be argued that these findings do, for all practical purposes, cover most farms.

The definition of the term "farmer" needs clarification, for in the South African vernacular "boer" does not necessarily refer to someone who practises the profession of farmer. According to Odendaal et al. (1981, p.104) "boer" could refer to a farmer, stock farmer or rural inhabitant. Kritzinger and Labuschagne (1982, p.114) share this view. However, for purposes of this study a farmer will be regarded as a bona fide farmer, that is, a person who earns most of his income from farming.

The term "boervrou", too, has various interpretations. Kritzinger and Labuschagne (1982, p.115) for example state that "boervrou" could refer to either a woman from the farming class or a woman who farms. For the purposes of this study a farmer's wife is regarded as the legal wife of a bona fide farmer.

Owing to the nature of the available information, it was impossible to determine beforehand whether the farmers included in the sample do actually have a wife or not. As this survey is primarily concerned with the farmer's wife, this was compensated for to some extent in the sample. Statistically there would have been objections if the sample had simply been chosen at random from among the population of 44 215 farmers. Such a sample may not have been homogeneous and may have included the following possibilities:

- unequal geographic distribution
- disproportionate distribution regarding farm size
- disproportionate distribution regarding type of farming
- disproportionate distribution regarding farm income
- disproportionate distribution regarding cultures and language groups.

One solution to this problem was to divide the population into geographical groups, based on the postal code system of the Post Office, according to which the RSA is divided into 51 different regions. Thereafter a simple random sample was drawn within each stratum, which yielded a stratified random sample (proportionate). This strategy thus allowed for the division of the population into more homogeneous subgroups from which separate units were selected.

Unfortunately most of the addresses in the north-eastern Cape, a total of 5 407, were not on the computer address list of the SAAU. This group was classified as number 52 and a separate sample was drawn from it. The exact number of addresses per postal code group was determined by computer. A random sample was drawn with

the aid of the computer from each of these groups by means of a special program.

Before the sample could be drawn, the minimum size of the sample had to be determined statistically. For this purpose a classification of farm sizes in the RSA as well as the number of farms in each group, was used. This information was obtained from the latest available agricultural census, viz. 1976. (The sample was drawn in April 1987.) The fact that farm size was used as a factor in the survey, statistically justified the use of farm sizes as criterion. In addition, these figures are precise - an important aspect when determining the minimum sample size (see Table 3.2 for an exposition of groups of farm sizes and the number of farms in each group). Using a suitable statistical model, the minimum sample size was determined as 1 565 (3,5% of total).

While the indications were that under normal circumstances a response rate of not more than 20% could be expected, exceptional efforts were made to increase this percentage to above 50%. These methods are discussed fully in section 3.3.2. In view of this fact that the study depended on a response rate in excess of 50%, the sample size was almost doubled to compensate for those farmers who would not respond. From the total of 44 215 addresses a sample of 3 006 was thus drawn (see Table 3.1 for a complete exposition).

Many problems were experienced with the address list provided by the SAAU. In groups 37 and 42-46 (see Table 3.1) a total of 380 addresses were incomplete and could not be printed by the computer. To overcome this problem, 380 new addresses were drawn, once again on a random and stratified basis, while groups 37 and 42-46 were excluded from the population. Of the new addresses 19

Table 3.1: Drawing of the sample.

No. of regions	Postal code	Number of addresses	Region	Number to draw	Actually drawn	Additionally drawn	Total actually drawn
1	0001-0199	436	Pretoria & branch offices	30	30	5	35
2	0200-0399	834	Bushveld	57	57	10	67
3	0400-0999	2301	Northern Transvaal	156	156	28	184
4	1000-1399	1270	Eastern Transvaal	86	86	16	102
5	1400-1699	162	East Rand	11	11	2	13
6	1700-1799	84	West Rand	6	6	1	7
7	1800-1899	36	Southern Transvaal	2	2	0	2
8	1900-1999	143	Vaal Triangle	10	10	2	12
9	2000-2199	147	Johannesburg & branch offices	10	10	2	12
10	2200-2399	811	Highveld	55	55	10	65
11	2400-2499	841	South-Eastern Transvaal	57	57	10	67
12	2500-2699	1309	South-Western Transvaal	89	89	16	105
13	2700-2799	1165	Mid-Western Transvaal	79	79	14	93
14	2800-2899	492	North-Western Transvaal	33	33	6	39
15	2900-3199	1550	Natal 1	105	105	18	123
16	3200-3399	1570	Natal 2 & Pietermaritzburg	107	107	18	125
17	3400-3599	399	Umvoti	27	27	5	32
18	3600-3799	383	Natal 3	26	26	5	31
19	3800-3999	452	Zululand	31	31	6	37
20	4000-4099	144	Durban	8	8	1	9
21	4100-4299	230	South Coast	16	16	3	19
22	4300-4499	125	North Coast	8	8	2	10
23	4500-4699	506	Natal-Cape	34	34	5	39
24	4700-4899	388	Pondo	26	26	5	31
25	4900-5199	176	Tembu 1	12	12	1	13
26	5200-5299	169	East London & branch offices	11	11	1	12
27	5300-5699	1181	Tembu 2	80	80	13	93
28	5700-5799	175	Central Eastern Cape	12	12	2	14
29	5800-5999	745	Central Cape 2	51	51	9	60
30	6000-6099	86	Port Elizabeth & branch offices	6	6	1	7
31	6100-6199	552	Central Cape 1	37	37	5	42
32	6200-6299	349	Central Western Cape	24	24	4	28
33	6300-6499	587	Langkloof	40	40	7	47
34	6500-6699	702	Coast 2	48	48	8	56
35	6700-6799	1118	Coast 1	76	76	13	89
36	6800-6899	863	Karoo 1	59	59	9	68
37	6900-7099	1689	Karoo 2	115	33	omitted	33
38	7100-7299	702	WP 4	48	48	8	56
39	7300-7399	1010	WP 3	69	69	12	81
40	7400-7699	374	WP 2	25	25	5	30
41	7700-8099	24	Cape Town & branch offices	2	2	0	2
42	8100-8299	1697	Namaqua	115	94	omitted	94
43	8300-8499	1148	Kalahari & Kimberley & branch offices	78	16	omitted	16
44	8500-8699	1070	Vaalhartz	73	8	omitted	8
45	8700-8799	606	Herbert	41	9	omitted	9
46	8800-8999	1534	Gordonia	104	8	omitted	8
47	9300-9399	475	Bloemfontein & branch offices	32	32	4	36
48	9400-9499	718	Northern Free State	49	49	9	58
49	9700-9899	1790	Drakensberg	121	121	20	141
50	9900-9999	1323	Southern OFS	90	90	15	105
51	9500-9699	2197	Northern OFS 1 & 2	149	149	25	174
52	North Eastern Cape	5407	North Eastern Cape	367	367	omitted	367
Grand total	-	44215	-	3003	2645	361	3006

duplicated those of the previous draw so that 361 addresses were eventually added to the first draw. Although 3 006 addresses were drawn and printed in the final sample, 27 of these could not be used and the final sample therefore numbered 2 979.

Table 3.2: Subdivision of farm sizes in the RSA into size groups and the number of farms per group, 1976.

Size group (ha)	Number of farms
to 1,9	909
2-4,9	2 967
5-9,9	2 889
10-19,9	3 232.
20-49,9	6 735
50-99,9	5 351
100-199	6 699
200-299	5 501
300-499	9 456
500-999	12 335
1 000-1 999	9 417
2 000-4 999	7 500
5 000-9 999	2 553
10 000+	1 018
<u>Total</u>	<u>75 562</u>

Source: Department of Statistics, 1976, p.13.

3.3 CONDUCTING THE SURVEY

3.3.1 Background

As the sample would be distributed over the length and breadth of the RSA, it was decided to obtain the required information by way of a postal questionnaire. Spencer (1972, p.4) regards the postal questionnaire as an excellent method to obtain information on farm management.

A postal questionnaire has several advantages. According to Selltiz et al. (1959, pp.238-239) these advantages are as follows:

- questionnaires can be sent simultaneously to a large number of people;
- with a limited amount of funds a larger number of persons can be reached, compared to most other methods;
- respondents are assured of remaining anonymous (if their names are not provided on the questionnaire);
- the respondent can study the questionnaire over time without stating overhasty opinions.

Selltiz et al. (1959, pp.241-242) also point out the disadvantages and other aspects that must be taken into account:

- the questionnaire must be attractive and create the impression that it is easy to answer - if not, it easily ends up in the wastepaper basket;
- it must not be too long;
- it must be accompanied by an introductory letter explaining the purpose of the survey and describing how the form should be completed;

the instructions must be clear;
the form must be accompanied by an envelope with a stamp
to facilitate its return.

According to Smit (1983) the time the questionnaire is sent is also important. De Witt (1975) points out another disadvantage of the postal questionnaire namely that it is possible not to receive any feedback, for example when the forms are incorrectly completed. It is also possible that the questionnaire could be completed by the wrong person.

Various researchers made use of postal questionnaires in similar studies, for example, Lundeen (1982) and Buchanan et al. (1982).

3.3.2 Methodology used for the survey

A preliminary questionnaire was compiled according to information obtained from a comprehensive literature study. This was submitted to a specialist in the field of questionnaires (Mrs M. Fowler, formerly of the Human Sciences Research Council) for comment and discussion. After effecting improvements, the questionnaire was sent to the University of Natal where it was studied by the project leader and other specialists whose comments were also included in the final questionnaire. The assistance of a statistician (Mr P.H. Kloppers) was obtained for the encoding. This was followed by the compilation of the final questionnaire.

The questionnaire was subjected to a trial run before being posted to respondents. The main objective with this trial run was to rectify possible errors in the questionnaire before it was too

late. The questionnaire was sent to 20 farmers' wives who represented all four provinces and both official language groups (Afrikaans and English). Of these questionnaires, six were returned (30%) and minor corrections were made to the final questionnaire which was then duplicated. An example of the questionnaire is shown in the Appendix 1.

After many enquiries it was concluded that the feedback on postal questionnaires is generally very disappointing and that, on average, about 12% are returned. Owing to the large minimum sample of 1 565 and the accompanying costs and time concerned, it was decided to do everything possible to obtain at least a 50% feedback of the 2 979 cases considered. According to Selltiz et al. (1959, pp.241-242) much can be done to increase the percentage returned. This can be achieved by incorporating a personal element and through motivation. This was achieved as follows:

- a. All envelopes were stamped in stead of sending them through the cancelling machine.
- b. All envelopes were stamped as "confidential".
- c. All envelopes bore the name of the Technikon Pretoria to relate it to a well-known and recognised institution.
- d. The questionnaires were accompanied by a friendly letter.
- e. The accompanying letter was signed by "Kobus Botha" and not "Mr Botha".
- f. The addresses were printed by computer with the title "Mrs" in front of the initials and surname.
- g. All questionnaires were accompanied by a stamped and self-addressed envelope which was marked "confidential".

Thorough consideration was given to the best time to post the questionnaires. These were posted just after the winter school holidays when it was reasonably certain that the respondent was at home, viz. on 3 August 1987. This is a relatively quiet period on most farms and does not coincide with planting or harvesting. Respondents could, therefore, not say that the completion of the questionnaire interfered with their farm activities.

Exceptional efforts were made to motivate the respondents to complete the questionnaire. These included articles in appropriate magazines, talks over the radio and lectures. The following deserve to be mentioned:

a. Articles were sent to the following magazines:

"Die Landbouweekblad"

"Die Boer/The Farmer"

"The Farmer's Weekly"

"Effective Farming"

"Die Sarie Marais".

All the editors concerned were asked to place the articles at the beginning of August to coincide with the receipt of the questionnaires. These articles were published as follows:

"Die Landbouweekblad"	-	10 July 1987
"Die Boer/The Farmer"	-	August 1987
"The Farmer's Weekly"	-	not placed
"Effective Farming"	-	not placed
"Die Sarie Marais"	-	not placed
"Die Vaderland"	-	27 October 1987.

A successive article was published in "Die Boer/The Farmer" a month later (September 1987) in which respondents were asked to respond as soon as possible if they had not already done so.

- b. Discussion on "Vrouerubriek", in which respondents were motivated to co-operate, was broadcast on 18 August 1987.
- c. Following an invitation, a lecture was presented to farmers' wives at Standerton and vicinity on 13 August 1987.
- d. Three talks were presented on "Landbouradio" in October 1987 to coincide with the reminders.

To provide for the possibility of reminders, each questionnaire was numbered before being posted. This number corresponded with a number on a duplicate address list, making it easier to determine exactly who had not responded. After completion of the project this list was destroyed to retain the anonymity of the respondents.

In the follow-up action the stipulations as laid down by Smit (1983) were strictly adhered to. A reminder was placed in "Die Boer/The Farmer" one month after the questionnaires were posted. Here it should be noted that all respondents receive "Die Boer/The Farmer", being the official mouthpiece of the SAAU. Three weeks later another reminder was given in the form of a special covering letter accompanied by a questionnaire. This time the questionnaires were not numbered to provide for those respondents who could possibly object to the fact that this destroyed their confidentiality.

3.3.3 Response

The total response to the questionnaires sent out may be summed up as follows:

Number of useful questionnaires sent out - 2 979

Useful number of questionnaires received after first
dispatch - 864 (29,0% response)

Useful questionnaires received after second dispatch - 284
(9,5% response)

Total number of useful questionnaires - 1 148 (38,5%
response)

Total number of non-useful questionnaires - 184 (6,2%
response)

Total number of questionnaires returned - 1 332
(44,7% response).

The response of 38,5% useful questionnaires can be regarded as very satisfactory for a postal survey conducted on a country-wide basis. This response, which is much higher than the usual, may be attributed to the special methods described in section 3.3.2. Some of the questionnaires were returned uncompleted because the farms had been sold, or the respondents were too old or unmarried.

3.4 RESUMÉ AND FINDINGS

On receipt of the questionnaires, they were all coded and prepared for processing by computer.

3.4.1 Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis was undertaken by means of the computer package SAS. The following statistical techniques were used:

- Frequency distributions and descriptive statistics;
- Two-way contingency tables;
- The general linear models (GLM) procedure to estimate regression coefficients.

The statistical analysis was done with the help of the HSRC.

The in-depth literature study provided useful guidelines on what factors, which have an influence on the activities and decision-making of the wife on the farm abroad, to include in the regression analysis. In this particular study (typical of the social sciences) the researcher was more interested in studying relationships between a set of variables than in predicting a certain phenomenon. Relevant dependent variables were identified and simultaneously a fixed set of independent variables (consisting of background information, etc.) was also observed. These independent variables consist of categorical as well as ordinal variables (Draper and Smith, 1981, pp.241-257). The researcher was interested which of these variables would have a significant effect on a particular dependent variable. The dependent variable may also consist of categorical and ordinal variables. Ordinal variables are treated as measured while dummy variables scoring zero or one are employed in the case of categorical variables (op. cit., pp.246-250). Multiple linear regression analysis was employed in terms of a general linear model (GLM) to investigate relationships between the dependent and

independent variables. Chi-squared tests were not considered because many of the contingency tables had cells with too little information.

3.4.2 Reliability of the results

As already mentioned, the random sample was limited to members of farmers' associations. This could cause partiality in the results. The SAAU undertook a survey among farmers in the RSA in 1984 to determine the financial position of farmers. In both cases the same address list (then 43 122 addresses) was used. The opinion of the sub-committee who led the study was that the two groups of farmers (members and non-members) did not differ from one another to such an extent that this would give rise to significant partiality in the results (SALU, 1984, pp.7-8).

It is also essential that the researcher examine all the available evidence to establish whether any bias has arisen as a result of non-response. A type which may throw light on this question is one where the respondents may be compared with the population which has been surveyed in terms of those characteristics which are known for the whole population. If significant differences are found, these will serve to indicate the nature and direction of bias.

In making comparisons with the whole population, the only relevant information which was available pertained to the educational qualifications of farmers in the RSA. In Table 3.3 the distribution of the qualifications of farmers in the RSA in 1984 (findings from the SAAU) is compared with the findings of this study.

Table 3.3: Comparison of the educational qualifications of farmers in the RSA.

Qualifications	Findings from SAAU*	Findings from this study
	%	%
Lower than std 10	30,9	22,2
Std 10	35,6	39,4
Diploma	16,3	18,2
Degree	14,3	14,2
Others	2,9	6,0

*Source: SALU, 1984, p.17.

According to a statistician (Prof. C.A. van der Merwe) of Unisa it was decided that Table 3.3 shows no significant differences between the two groups, and thus there is no evidence of bias.

Arguments can be made on these grounds that one may, with reasonable certainty, accept that the findings of this study can also be generalised to the relevant population in the RSA.

3.5 CONCLUSIONS

The literature study supplied useful, and in many cases, essential information, which served as a guideline for this study and provided the basis for comparisons with studies abroad. The survey was conducted by means of a questionnaire sent out to a sample of farmers in the RSA by post. An effective sample of 1 148 farmers' wives was attained. The final processing of the information was done by means of a computer. The possibility of partiality and bias was investigated. No evidence was found and

it can be accepted that the findings are applicable to the relevant population in the RSA.

CHAPTER 4

BACKGROUND TO THE FARMER'S WIFE IN THE RSA

It should be borne in mind that while only farmers within the boundaries of the RSA were involved in this study, no account was taken of factors such as age, educational qualifications and type of farming when drawing the sample. Questionnaires were sent to the addresses drawn at random by computer.

Activities of the farm family are so closely integrated with farming activities that these aspects must of necessity be included in a study of this nature. Indeed, it would be impossible to determine the role of the farmer's wife, without also considering the role of her husband and children. According to Kohl (1976, p.4) the farm-family relationship is indissolubly linked to the farm. For these reasons the activities of the whole farm family were considered.

For the purposes of this study a farmer's wife is defined as a woman married to a bona fide farmer or a widow of a farmer or a divorcee who still lives on the farm (without her ex-husband). This excludes an unmarried woman farmer. Indeed, no such persons completed a questionnaire.

Because management and farming activities are so closely related and generally integrated on a farm, clearly distinguishing between them is a difficult task. For this reason the two aspects are analysed and discussed simultaneously.

Special note

- a. Exposition of the tables in this chapter needs the special attention of the reader. Although the total number of respondents was 1 148, the number who reacted to different questions in the questionnaire varies.
- b. The exceedence probability for a specific T value (statistic value with N-2 degrees of freedom) associated with a specific constant value in the regression equation is indicated by $PR > |T|$ or "significance level of probability".

4.1 THE FARMER'S WIFE AND HER FAMILY4.1.1 Age of the farmer's wife

Because disclosure of her age may be a matter of sensitivity to a lady, it was decided to use age groups of ten years. Only the group relevant at the time of completing the questionnaire, that is July to September 1987, had to be marked. The findings are summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Distribution of the age of surveyed farmers' wives in the RSA, 1987.

Age group (years)	Frequency (N=1142)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Under 30	147	12,9	12,9
30-39	320	28,0	40,9
40-49	340	29,8	70,7
50-59	213	18,7	89,3
Above 60	122	10,7	100

Table 4.1 shows that the majority of farmers' wives fall in the 30 to 49 age group (57,8%). A total of 70,7% of the wives are younger than 50 years. This is considered to be the age up to which women may be expected to be highly involved in farming activities. However, age is no longer as important as it had been in the past. Modern equipment and mechanisation generally have caused a shift in emphasis, with a strong physique no longer being important. Indeed, wives over the age of 50 are still able to contribute their fair share on the farm (Scholl, 1982, p.3).

4.1.2 Qualifications of the wife

Table 4.2 gives an indication of the highest educational qualifications of the farmer's wife in the survey.

Table 4.2: Educational qualifications of the surveyed farmer's wife in the RSA, 1987.

Qualification	Frequency (N=1140)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Std 8 or lower	203	17,8	17,8
Std 10 (matric)	328	28,8	46,6
Certificate (any)	58	5,1	51,7
Diploma	383	33,6	85,3
Bachelors degree	131	11,5	96,8
Honours degree	12	1,1	97,8
Masters degree	3	0,3	98,1
Doctors degree	3	0,3	98,3
Others	19	1,7	100
Tertiary (diploma or degree)	532	46,8	-

The highest percentage of wives, namely 33,6%, hold a diploma qualification. A significant aspect is the fact that 53,4% of the respondents, thus more than half, have a qualification higher than standard 10. Of the total women sampled 13,2% hold university degrees and 46,8% are equipped with tertiary qualifications. It is apparent that farmers' wives in the RSA are relatively well qualified. The question is whether it is possible for her to apply this knowledge and experience on the farm, especially in farm management?

The distribution of educational qualifications of farmers' wives surveyed in the four provinces of the RSA, is given in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Educational qualifications of surveyed farmers' wives in the four provinces of the RSA, 1987.

Qualification	Provinces of the RSA			
	Transvaal	Orange Free	Natal	Cape
		State		Province
	(N=304)	(N=165)	(N=156)	(N=500)
	%	%	%	%
Std 8 or lower	20,3	14,6	13,5	18,2
Std 10	30,6	28,5	27,6	28,0
Certificate	4,6	6,1	7,1	4,6
Diploma	30,9	34,6	40,4	33,0
Degree	11,5	15,8	9,0	14,4
Others	1,6	0,6	2,4	1,8
Tertiary (diploma or degree)	42,4	50,4	49,4	47,4

The highest percentage of sampled farmers' wives with tertiary qualifications live in the Orange Free State (50,4%) with Natal (49,4%) a close second, while the lowest percentage of respondents without std 10 live in Natal (13,5%).

The type of education is very important too, for this may give an indication of the extent to which the wife's knowledge is directly applicable to the farm, the household and care of her children. Table 4.4 shows the distribution of the different fields of education.

Table 4.4: The fields of education (post-matric qualification only) of the surveyed farmer's wife in the RSA, 1987.

Fields of education	Frequency (N=912)	Percentage of respondents
Education	311	33,5
Secretarial	224	24,2
Nursing	113	12,2
Home economics	64	6,9
Administration	56	6,0
Agriculture	22	2,4
Psychology	21	2,3
Management	7	0,8
Ethnology	1	0,1
Others	93	10,0

About one third (33,5%) of the farmers' wives with post-matric qualifications have a qualification in education. Secretarial qualifications are also well represented at 24,2%. Knowledge of this field could be valuable when it comes to record keeping and administrative aspects of a farm business. Together with those who have administrative qualifications, namely 6,0%, a total of 30,2% of the respondents have experience and knowledge in fields which are directly applicable to the farm business, as far as administration is concerned. According to Buchanan et al. (1982, p.4) many farmers' wives in the USA have secretarial, agricultural, nursing and accountancy qualifications.

According to the survey only 2,4% of South African farmers' wives are equipped with a qualification in agriculture, which compares poorly with farmers' wives in Finland where 10% have an agricultural qualification (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.18).

Despite the fact that 48,8% of the respondents have post-matric qualifications, 72,2% felt that a special course for the farmer's wife would be a good idea and 68,7% indicated that they would enrol for such a course. Obviously, the majority feels that they are not sufficiently equipped for their task as farmer's wife. In addition, the low percentage of wives who have a management qualification (0,8%) may explain why so many feel the need for a course designed especially for them.

Today, farming is a business enterprise. It is highly mechanised, uses numerous technological innovations and often operates with large amounts of borrowed capital. For this reason management takes on a new dimension and importance.

4.1.3 Qualifications of the farmer

Table 4.5 shows the distribution of educational qualifications held by the farmer in the RSA. This information was obtained from the wives in the sample.

Table 4.5: Educational qualifications of sampled farmers in the RSA, 1987.

Qualification	Frequency (N=1123)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Std 8 or lower	249	22,2	22,2
Std 10 (matric)	442	39,4	61,5
Certificate	44	3,9	65,4
Diploma	204	18,2	83,6
Bachelors degree	114	10,2	93,8
Honours degree	22	2,0	95,7
Masters degree	12	1,1	96,8
Doctors degree	10	0,9	97,7
Others	26	2,3	100
Tertiary (diploma or degree)	362	32,2	-

The highest percentage of sampled farmers, namely 39,4%, have a std 10 qualification, while about one third (32,2%) have a tertiary qualification. The corresponding percentage among their wives is 46,8%. This phenomenon is also found in Australia (Craig, 1979a, p.B4; James, 1982, p.311) but in Great Britain farmers are generally better qualified than their wives (Symes and Marsden, 1983, p.232). However, in contrast to their wives, 26,7%

of the farmers in the RSA have an agricultural qualification. While this is relatively high, it nevertheless means that 73,3% of the farmers in the RSA are not vocationally trained.

Table 4.6 shows the educational qualification distribution of sampled farmers in the four provinces.

Table 4.6: Educational qualifications of sampled farmers in the four provinces of the RSA, 1987.

Qualification	Provinces of the RSA			
	Transvaal	Orange Free	Natal	Cape
	State	State		Province
	(N=297)	(N=164)	(N=153)	(N=494)
	%	%	%	%
Std 8 or lower	20,9	18,3	22,2	24,5
Std 10	44,4	39,0	25,5	39,9
Post-matric	34,7	42,7	52,3	35,6
qualifications				
Total	100	100	100	100

Sampled farmers in Natal have the highest percentage of post-matric qualifications (52,3%) while the greatest proportion with the lowest qualifications (Std 8 or lower) is found in the Cape.

The type of farming in the RSA coupled with the farmer's qualifications (post-matric) is analysed in Table 4.7. Farmers who farm with pastures are the best qualified (55,6% with

post-matric qualifications), followed by dairy (49,1%) and sugar farmers (48,3%). Wine farmers comprise the group with the highest percentage (79,3%) holding Std 10 or lower qualifications.

Table 4.7: Post-matric qualifications of surveyed farmers in the RSA coupled to type of farming, 1987.

Type of farming	Percentage of farmers with post-matric qualifications
Pastures	55,6
Dairy cows	49,1
Sugar	48,3
Vegetables	42,1
Fruit	40,0
Beef cattle	38,6
Sheep/goats	38,3
Others	35,7
Agricultural crops	30,6
Mixed farming	30,0
Pigs	25,0
Poultry	25,0
Tobacco	22,2
Wine	20,7

When the degree to which farmers make use of the services of extension officers and other experts is coupled with the

qualifications of the farmer, it becomes obvious that the better qualified farmer makes greater use of these services (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Relationship between qualifications of the surveyed farmer and the percentage of farmers and wives who use expert services on a regular basis.

Qualification	Services				
	Local extension officer	Other extension officers	Analysis of farm records	Tax assessments	Other experts
	%	%	%	%	%
Std 8 or lower	36,9	39,8	10,1	41,4	4,4
Std 10	45,2	48,0	20,8	44,3	5,0
Post-matric	46,1	47,0	31,0	43,1	7,1

From Table 4.8 it appears that those farmers and wives who need expert advice the most make the least use of it. In all cases when farmers have std 8 or lower qualifications, they make less use of expert advice than those with higher qualifications. Interestingly enough, tax assessment services are used to more or less the same extent by all the groups.

The degree to which the farmer's qualifications affects his attendance of meetings and courses is analysed in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Effect of the surveyed farmers' qualifications on attendance of meetings and courses.

Qualification	Average hours per month		Total
	Meetings	Courses	
Std 8 or lower	7,5	7,9	15,4
Std 10	8,1	6,1	14,2
Post-matric	7,2	7,1	14,3

The group having std 8 or lower qualifications spends slightly more hours attending meetings and courses, but the differences between the various groups are not significant.

4.1.4 Profession of the farmer's wife before marriage

The profession of the farmer's wife before marriage may be a good indication of the type of experience she has and the extent to which it may be applicable on the farm in her role as farmer's wife. Table 4.10 shows the distribution of professions held by surveyed farmers' wives before marriage.

Table 4.10: Professions of surveyed farmers' wives before marriage, RSA.

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Education	308	27,4
Secretarial	252	22,4
Nursing	130	11,5
Administration	128	11,3
None	102	9,0
Agriculture	28	2,5
Computer	10	0,9
Others	170	15,0
Total	1 128	100

The highest percentage (27,4%) of the respondents held occupations in education. This type of experience may be applied fruitfully on the farm for community development among farm workers and their children. Secretarial occupations also occurred frequently (22,4%). If this is added to experience in an administrative occupation, the total percentage rises to 33,7. If the farmer's wife spends a relatively large part of her day on the administrative tasks of the farm, the knowledge and experience gained in this direction before her marriage will without doubt be an advantage.

Farmers' wives who have nursing experience (11,5%), would also be in a position to contribute a great deal to the farm with regard

to first aid. Table 4.11 shows what role the farmer's wife plays as far as the administration of first aid to farm workers on the farm is concerned.

Table 4.11: The role of the farmer's wife in administering first aid to farm workers, on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (much).

Administration of first aid	Frequency	Percentage
1	53	7,6
2	77	11,2
3	133	19,3
4	102	14,8
5	325	47,1
Total	690	100

From Table 4.11 it is apparent that almost half (47,1%) of the respondents are highly involved in administering first aid on the farm and there can be little doubt that occupational experience in this field (e.g. nursing) is useful for the farmer's wife.

Only 0,9% of the total respondents had experience with computers. Here, too, farmers' wives will probably come to realise to an increasing extent that they need further training in this field, particularly in view of the fact that the computer will gain importance as a farming aid in the future.

Only 2,5% of the respondents had any formal experience in agriculture before marriage and this must certainly be a problem if their agricultural role on the farm is borne in mind.

4.1.5 Widowhood

If a farmer's wife is widowed, she has to run the farm on her own in many cases. If she is not equipped for this task, she will obviously find it a difficult one. She may be in a position where she must continue farming because some of her children are heirs of the farm and would like to farm one day. According to Hurley (1983, pp.19-20), this is the case in many other countries as well. While only 1,8% of the respondents are widows, the absolute number is nevertheless high given that there is a total of some 60 000 farmers in the RSA. Of the farmers' wives surveyed 59,3% foresaw that some of their children would farm one day. In the case of widows however, this percentage rose to 80. It would thus appear that the majority of widows stay on the farm so as to secure it for their children. Table 4.12 shows the different age groups of the widows surveyed.

Of the widows surveyed 50% are 60 years and older, and 60% above 50 years of age. This is more or less the same as in the USA, where most of the women who farm alone are widows with an average age of 59,0 years (Kalbacher, 1985, p.V). The relatively high age of widows is in part due to the number of women who inherit farms upon their husbands' deaths.

Table 4.12: Age groups of farming widows in the RSA, 1987.

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
Under 30	0	0
30-39	2	10
40-49	6	30
50-59	2	10
60 and older	10	50
Total	20	100

As far as typing, record keeping and analyses of farm records are concerned, the widows play an active role, as the following data indicate:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percentage of widows</u>
	<u>highly involved</u>
Typing	27,3
Keeping farm records	53,9
Analysing farm records	54,6

The percentage of widows who are highly involved in the keeping and analysis of farm records is much higher than the average of the respondents generally, namely 32,4% and 24,7%, respectively.

Widows feel a need to take a course designed specifically for the farmer's wife - 72,2% indicated that they would enrol for such a course. This is again higher than the percentage for the total group of respondents (widows included) namely 62,7%.

seem that the widows have a greater need to be better equipped for their role on the farm. This may be because they are full owners of the land they farm with sole responsibility for decisions taken.

4.1.6 Children on the farm

Table 4.13 shows the distribution of the number of children per family on farms in the RSA.

Table 4.13: Number of children per family on surveyed farms in the RSA, 1987.

Number	Frequency (N=506)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0	21	4,2	4,2
1	44	8,7	12,8
2	126	24,9	37,7
3	153	30,2	68,0
4	106	20,9	88,9
5	39	7,7	96,6
6	9	1,8	98,4
7	6	1,2	99,6
8	2	0,4	100

The highest percentage of farm families (30,2%) have three children, with the average being 2,9. In practical terms, this may imply that there are children on most farms who are able to assist with household and farm activities.

However, not all children are in a position to make a significant contribution. They may be too young, reside in hostels or be working elsewhere. Table 4.14 provides a distribution of the children in different stages of development.

Table 4.14: Distribution of children on surveyed farms in the RSA, 1987.

Developmental stage	Average per family
Pre-school	0,5
Primary school	0,6
High school	0,5
Post-school study	0,3
Military training	0,1
Others	0,7
Total	2,7
Children in hostel	0,5

An average of 1,1 children per family (primary school plus high school) may be available to help with activities on the farm. Of these, however, 0,5 stay in hostels and are only available during weekends and school holidays. Pre-schoolers were not considered.

The inheritance of a farm is an important factor in the farm family which brings continuity to both. A high percentage of the respondents (59,3%) foresaw that some of their children would farm in the future. The tendency the world over is towards smaller families, but in the case of farms, fewer children may mean fewer

helping hands (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.20). This opens up a whole new vista for exploration with regard to the farmer's wife, as this factor may also of necessity compel her to greater involvement in activities on the farm.

4.1.7 Social life of the farmer's wife

Table 4.15 gives an indication of some aspects of the social life of the farmer's wife in terms of membership of certain organisations.

Table 4.15: Membership of certain organisations by the surveyed farmer's wife, RSA, 1987.

Organisation	Percentage
	wives a member
Women's organisation	45,2
Sports club	25,5
Agricultural organisation	19,9
Others	18,7

According to the survey, women's organisations are by far the most popular, with 45,2% of the respondents indicating that they belong to one. The fact that the average distance of farms from the nearest town is 30,6 km, could be thought of as a limiting factor. However, only 7,7% of respondents indicated that the distance from town was the aspect which caused them the most unhappiness. It must be stated, however, that in the case of some farmers' wives, distance is indeed a problem as 12,6% of the farms

are situated further than 50 km from the nearest town. This agrees with the findings of Sparrow (1983, pp.27-40) that the distance from town is a major reason why many farmers' wives are not as actively involved in social organisations as they would like to be.

4.1.8 Off-farm employment

About one fifth (20,8%) of the wives surveyed are involved in off-farm work. It may be that, while these women find themselves in a situation in which they are able to apply their knowledge and experience productively, the farm does not benefit directly. It may also be that the knowledge and experience they gained before their marriages could indeed be applied productively on the farm itself, but that additional money is needed for household and children's expenses (Hill, 1981b, p.73). According to Wilkening (1979, p.4) and Sander (1986, p.16) farmers' wives who are well qualified are more inclined to do off-farm work than those who are not. It would thus appear as if the well-qualified farmer's wife is often lost to the farm. However, the fact remains that 20,8% of the wives in the RSA are involved in off-farm work; thus a high percentage (79,2) are able to contribute their skills to the farm. Nor are farmers' wives involved in off-farm work totally lost to the farm; in fact, they do contribute a great deal to farm activities, for example the keeping of farm records.

Table 4.16 shows annual earnings of the 20,8% of the respondents who work outside the farm boundaries.

Table 4.16: Salaries of farmers' wives with off-farm employment.

Salary (per annum)	Percentage (N=277)
Less than R1 000	20,6
R1 000 - R5 000	23,8
More than R5 000	53,8
Other	1,8
Total	100

Another factor which also has to be considered is the farmer who has off-farm employment. This group accounts for 13,4% of farmers in the RSA, although the percentage is higher in some other countries. In Poland it is 35,0% (Tryfan, 1983, pp.76-85) and in Finland 35,0% (Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.6). It no doubt affects the farming business negatively if the farmer is not as readily available to supervise or perform normal farming activities. It can be expected that some of these tasks become the responsibility of his wife and children.

According to Van Der Walt (1986), there is a tendency for wives in general to become increasingly involved in jobs outside the home and it can be expected that this applies to the farmer's wife as well.

4.1.9 Farming experience before marriage

Obviously, if a woman marries a farmer, it would stand her in good stead if she had gained farming experience before her marriage. Such a wife would be familiar with the conditions on and typical problems of a farm. It may even be that a farmer would prefer to marry a woman with farming experience, which would explain why 53,2% of farmers' wives are daughters of farmers. Only 30,8% of farmers' wives had no farming experience before their marriages (Table 4.17). Bearing in mind that there are some 60 000 farmers in the RSA, the number is high.

Table 4.17: Farming experience of surveyed farmers' wives before marriage.

Farming experience	Frequency	Percentage
Daughter of farmer	607	53,2
Worked on a farm	13	1,1
Has a relative who farms	152	13,3
Held an agricultural profession	18	1,6
None	351	30,8
Total	1 141	100

Women who gave preference to marriage specifically to farmers may be more positively oriented toward, and thus more actively involved in, the farming business. It may also be that certain

things have an influence on her desire to marry a farmer. The respondents reacted as follows to the question of whether they have always wanted to marry a farmer:

Yes	-	41,1%
No	-	30,1%
Uncertain	-	28,8%

In the case of farmers' daughters, about half (51,0%) had always wanted to marry a farmer while 25,6% were uncertain. In cases where the father held a position in the agricultural field but not in farming as such, 38,2% wives indicated that they had always wanted to marry a farmer. However, daughters of farmers are not in all cases positively oriented towards farming, and 23,4% indicated that they felt strongly aversive to farming.

According to Table 4.18, the profession which the farmer's wife occupied before her marriage also had an influence on her desire to marry a farmer.

The most outstanding feature of Table 4.18 is the high percentage (89,3%) of wives who had held jobs in agriculture (probably with qualifications in agriculture) and who had always wanted to marry a farmer. This, together with the fact that more than half (51,0%) of the daughters of farmers had always wanted to marry a farmer, would seem to indicate that an agricultural background has a positive effect on a woman regarding her involvement in agriculture.

Table 4.18: Influence of occupation of the farmer's wife before marriage on her desire to marry a farmer.

Occupation	Desire to marry a farmer			Total
	Yes	No	Uncertain	
	(%)	(%)	(%)	
Education	36,2	36,8	27,0	100
Secretarial	37,4	29,7	32,9	100
Nursing	44,2	31,8	24,0	100
Administration	34,1	29,4	36,5	100
Computer	40,0	30,0	30,0	100
Agriculture	89,3	7,1	3,6	100
None	55,9	18,6	25,5	100
Others	37,9	30,8	31,3	100

4.2 THE FARM

The farm is the physical place where the farmer, his wife and their children spend most of their time. It is the location where the wife actually functions in her role as a farmer's wife. Many aspects about the farm will have an influence on her role on the farm.

4.2.1 Type of farming

As will be seen later, the type of farming also has a bearing on the role played by the farmer's wife. Table 4.19 shows the distribution of surveyed farms among different types of farming.

Mixed farming (i.e. livestock and crops) is practised most frequently (33,3%), followed by farming with sheep and/or goats (21,4%) and agricultural crops (13,9%).

Table 4.19: Main types of farming practised by surveyed farms in the RSA.

Type of farming	Frequency	Percentage
Mixed	379	33,3
Sheep/goats	244	21,4
Agricultural crops	158	13,9
Beef cattle	105	9,2
Dairy cows	57	5,0
Fruit	40	3,5
Sugar	30	2,6
Wine	29	2,5
Vegetables	20	1,8
Pigs	9	0,8
Tobacco	9	0,8
Pastures	9	0,8
Poultry	4	0,4
Others	46	4,1
Total	1 139	100

4.2.2 Size of farm

Farm size has an important influence on the role of the farmer's wife. Women who live on small farms in Kentucky in the USA tend to be more involved in farming operations than those living on

larger farms (Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, p.26). On smaller farms the woman's contribution is all the more important in light of the greater labour requirements of such farms which may not benefit from economies of size. Table 4.20 provides a break-down of the percentages of surveyed farms in the RSA in different size groups.

Table 4.20: Sizes of surveyed farms in the RSA, 1987.

Size group (ha)	Frequency (N=1093)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0-9	11	1,0	1,0
10-99	104	9,5	10,5
100-499	239	21,9	32,4
500-999	189	17,3	49,7
1 000- 4 999	405	37,1	86,7
5 000 and more	145	13,3	100

4.2.3 Distance from nearest town

The distance to the nearest town may be a problem for farmers' wives. Long distances may mean that they cannot attend functions, meetings and sport events as regularly as they would like to. It may also mean that their children must stay in a hostel.

These factors will affect the role of the family on the farm. In Table 4.21 the distribution of farms at various distances from the nearest town are given.

Table 4.21: Distribution of surveyed farms at various distances from the nearest town, RSA.

Distance (km)	Frequency (N=1134)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0-5	81	7,1	7,1
6-19	424	37,4	44,5
20-50	486	42,9	87,4
more than 50	143	12,6	100

The largest number of farms are located between 20 and 50 km from the nearest town, with more than 50% (55,5%) being 20 km and further away. The average distance is 30,6 km, which means that a round trip entails travelling 61,2 km.

According to Agassi (1979, p.7) wives in general are averse to travelling long distances and it is thus understandable that many respondents indicated that the distance from the nearest town was a cause of unhappiness on the farm.

4.2.4 Ownership of the farm

The type of ownership pertaining to the farm has an influence on the role of the farmer's wife and her children. The types of ownership of farms and their distribution which occurred in the survey are set out in Table 4.22.

Table 4.22: Distribution of type of ownership of farms in the survey, 1987.

Type of ownership	Frequency	Percentage
Husband is sole owner	764	67,2
Husband and wife in partnership	84	7,4
Husband is the manager on the farm (owned by somebody else)	54	4,7
Farm is hired	44	3,9
Wife is sole owner	43	3,8
Husband and father in partnership	26	2,3
Company	15	1,3
Other	107	9,4
Total	1 137	100

In the majority of cases, namely 67,2%, the husband is sole owner, compared with 3,8% of the farms which are solely owned by the wife. Another important aspect is that 7,4% of the farms are owned by a husband and wife in partnership. Taken together with the 3,8% of farms of which the wife is sole owner, the farmer's wife is either sole owner or co-owner of 11,2% of all farms in the survey.

Capital, including the ownership and control of land, has in the past predominantly been in the hands of males. The formation of a partnership not only stems from the desire to reduce the levels of

income tax payable on high single incomes, but also gives legal recognition to the position of women with regard to input of farm capital. It also shows an awareness of potential power in the hands of farm women and is a step towards a role of active management (Craig, 1979b, p.7).

4.2.5 Inheritance of the farm

The inheritance of a farm is a tradition found throughout the world and also applies to the RSA. A farm which is inherited, either by the farmer or his wife, makes ownership more personal and successive and also influences the role of the wife on the farm. The fact that the husband or wife grew up on that particular farm and the possibility that their children may inherit that same farm, contribute a great deal towards binding the wife to it.

Of farmers in the survey, 39,3% inherited their farms. In the case of wives, 8,9% had inherited a farm. Thus a total of 48,2%, or almost half of the farms, were inherited.

The inheritance of a farm has an influence on whether the parents foresee that some of their children will inherit the farm one day. Table 4.23 provides an analysis of the situation.

Table 4.23 shows that if the farm had been inherited by either the wife or husband, a higher percentage of respondents expected that their children would inherit the farm. Thus there is a tendency to want to keep a farm in the family.

Table 4.23: Relationship between inheritance of a farm and parents foreseeing that their children will inherit it in the future.

Expectancy that children will inherit the farm in future	Farm inherited by wife		Farm inherited by husband	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
	%	%	%	%
Yes	68,4	57,9	67,0	54,2
Uncertain	16,3	26,9	23,8	27,0
No	15,3	15,2	9,2	18,8
Total	100	100	100	100

4.3 FARMING

4.3.1 Some appliances on the farm

Only appliances which could assist the farmer's wife in her role on the farm - mainly with regard to administration - are analysed and discussed. A farm well equipped with aids for administrative purposes will contribute to the ease with which the wife handles administrative aspects, the extent to which she gains satisfaction from it, and it will also determine her involvement. According to the survey, the farmer's wife spends an average of 1,4 hours per day on farm administration, including record keeping.

In Table 4.24 an analysis is given of the involvement of the farmer's wife in certain administrative aspects on the farm.

Table 4.24: Involvement of the farmer's wife in certain administrative tasks on the farm.

Task	Percentage always involved*	Percentage never involved*
Typing	25,7	51,3
Answering the telephone	77,3	1,1
Keeping farm records	28,9	36,3
Running errands	71,0	1,2

*Those who are partially involved have not been included in this table.

It is clear from the table that the farmer's wife is highly involved in administrative tasks. It follows that appliances such as a typewriter, word processor, computer, photocopying machine or two-way radio would contribute greatly towards easing her task. The percentage of farms equipped with such aids are as follows:

<u>Appliance</u>	<u>Percentage of farms</u>
Typewriter	47,5
Word processor	2,9
Pocket calculator	18,5
Photocopying machine	3,1
Two-way radio	40,0

Thus, about 50% of the farms (50,4%) have either a typewriter or word processor. A two-way radio may be very useful for communication on bigger farms and may facilitate or even reduce the running of errands. This is certainly something which deserves attention, especially as 69,7% of farmers' wives are highly involved in running errands.

If farm size is correlated with ownership of two-way radios, the percentages are as follows:

<u>Size group (ha)</u>	<u>Percentage of</u> <u>farms with two-way radios</u>
0-9	9,1
10-99	24,0
100-499	34,7
500-999	36,0
1 000-4 999	49,4
5 000 and more	37,9

With the exception of the last category, the percentage of farms which are equipped with two-way radios increases as size increases. Obviously, the bigger the farms the more difficult communication is without such equipment. Two-way communication between farmer and wife would help to get messages to various points on the farm much more easily and rapidly. On average, the farmer spends 7,9 hours per day at various locations on the farm. During this time he is not at his office or in the house, and it would certainly cut down on time lost, in either tracking him down or waiting till he turns up, if two-way communication systems are available.

Equipment of this nature (two-way radios) facilitates the management process on the farm. Although a number of farms do carry such equipment, there is still scope for improvement in the case of a large number of farms. It must be borne in mind that the wife would probably be the person who would use these facilities most to communicate with her husband when he is somewhere on the farm.

4.3.2 Farm workers

The respondents were asked how many permanent farm workers they employ and how many they should have. An analysis of this data indicates that few farmers are unable to obtain sufficient numbers of permanent farm workers - in fact, some have too many. Thus the active involvement of the farmer's wife in farming activities cannot be ascribed to a shortage of labour.

4.3.3 Services used on the farm

Although relatively high proportions of farmers' wives and farmers are equipped with post-matric qualifications, an even greater number have no educational qualifications in agriculture. Even those with relevant qualifications still need expert advice on certain matters. In Table 4.25 certain services which both husband and wife use regularly are given.

From the analysis it is clear that a high proportion of both farmer and wife use the services of experts on a regular basis. Although 43,6% of farmers and wives use the services offered by the local extension officer, this figure could be much higher since these

services are provided free of charge. In most cases this also holds good for other extension officers, for example those from private firms.

Table 4.25: Services used regularly by the farmer and his wife.

Service	Percentage of respondents
Local extension officer (state)	43,6
Other extension officers (e.g. private firms)	45,6
Analysis of farm records	19,6
Assessment by a specialist (e.g. tax)	43,3
Other experts	5,8

4.3.4 Farm manager

It can be expected that where a full-time farm manager is employed, the farmer's wife will be less involved in farming activities. Of the farms in the survey, 11,2% employ a full-time farm manager and 3,0% a full-time secretary. In the latter case one would expect the answering of the telephone, typing and other administrative work to be done by the secretary and not by the farmer's wife, but this applies to only 3,0% of the farms. The percentage of farms in different size categories employing farm managers is set out in Table 4.26.

Table 4.26: Percentage of different sized farms with managers.

Size of farm (ha)	Percentage of farms with a manager
0-9	0,1
10-99	0,9
100-499	2,4
500-999	1,8
1 000-4 999	4,0
5 000 and more	1,8

The highest percentage of farms employing managers (only 4%) fall in the 1 000-4 999 ha range. Although one would expect farmers' wives living on these farms to be less involved in farming activities than those from the other size groups, it is impossible to determine its significance because of the generally low percentage of farms which employ managers.

4.4 FARMER ABSENT FROM FARM

4.4.1 Introduction

On many occasions the farmer is not at home or on the farm. Many farmers leave their farms for long periods to do military service, while others have to attend meetings of study groups, soil conservation committees and farmers' associations. Furthermore, the farmer spends most of the time out on the farm and not in his home (or office). During these times his wife often has to make

important decisions, run errands and see that the farm activities continue.

4.4.2 Military training

Most of the surveyed farmers (61,0%) had completed their two years military training, while another 33,3% were exempt from military training. Only 5,7% still have to do, or are busy with, their training.

4.4.3 Activities in town

The farmer obviously needs to go to town for various reasons, such as attending meetings, obtaining spare parts and marketing products. Meetings on matters such as soil conservation, and of the farmers' association, study group, local co-operative and so forth all take place in town. In general, courses for farmers and farmers' days are held in town, while the farmer may visit other farmers and research stations to obtain advice.

The farmer spends a great deal of time (56,4 hours) per month outside the farm boundaries attending to various matters. Calculated on the basis of an eight-hour working day, means that he is absent from the farm a full seven days per month. Given that a month of 30 days has 26 workdays, this amounts to an average of 2,2 hours per day. However, on some days he will be absent for at least a morning or even the whole day.

Table 4.27 contains an analysis of the hours per month the farmer spends on various activities outside the farm boundaries.

Table 4.27: Time spent away from the farm to attend certain activities and matters.

Activity	Average hours per month
Meetings	7,6
Courses, farmers' days	6,9
In town (e.g. shopping)	17,4
Others (not specified)	24,5
Total	56,4

This again focuses on the fact that the farmer is absent from the farm so often that his wife has to assume a large responsibility for running the farming business during that time. One should also bear in mind that even if the farmer is not actually absent from the farm, it does not necessarily mean that he is at home. He spends 7,9 hours per day on average away from his home - and his office. During this time the telephone must be answered, certain decisions must be made and errands handled, which is the sole responsibility of the wife.

In Table 4.28 the effect of farm size on the average hours the farmer spends out on the farm is analysed. It seems that the bigger the farm, the more time the farmer spends outside. This may be because a bigger farm entails more activities and the distances farmers have to travel are greater.

Table 4.28: The effect of farm size on the hours per day the farmer spends out on the farm.

Size of farm (ha)	Hours
0-9	5,1
10-99	7,7
100-499	7,7
500-999	7,9
1 000-4 999	7,9
5 000 and more	8,4

The effect of the type of farming on the number of hours the farmer spends elsewhere on the farm is set out in Table 4.29. This table shows that the type of farming has no or little influence on the number of hours the farmer spends elsewhere on the farm. In general, poultry farmers spend the least time, namely 5,6 hours per day, elsewhere on the farm while farmers who practise mixed and crop farming the most with 8,2 hours per day.

Table 4.29: Effect of type of farming on time spent by the farmer elsewhere on the farm.

Type of farming	Hours
	per day
Agricultural crops	8,2
Mixed	8,2
Tobacco	7,8
Sheep/goats	7,8
Fruit	7,8
Sugar	7,6
Vegetables	7,6
Wine	7,5
Other	7,4
Dairy cows	7,2
Pastures	7,1
Beef cattle	7,1
Pigs	6,1
Poultry	5,6

4.5 INFORMATION ON THE HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY

The farmer's wife makes use of several media and sources to obtain more information on her role as housewife and mother. This includes mass media (radio, television, magazines), group methods (lectures) and personal contact (doctors, teachers, etc.). While she without doubt does obtain a great deal of information from

these sources, they also serve as pleasurable means of entertainment.

In many cases farmers' wives have to travel long distances to town if they want to attend meetings and enjoy entertainment. This alone will limit her opportunities for attending such meetings and activities on a regular basis. In addition, the smaller towns generally do not offer the opportunities of a city.

Table 4.30: Regular use of sources of information by the surveyed farmer's wife.

Information media used by the farmer's wife	Percentage of respondents
<u>Information on</u>	
<u>home management</u>	
Magazines	86,6
Radio/Television	80,1
Lectures	35,5
Other	6,0
<u>Information on the family</u>	
Magazines	77,9
Radio/Television	73,1
School	40,1
Doctor	37,4
Lectures	28,8
Other	5,5

Fortunately a great deal of media information and other sources are at her disposal. It is thus understandable that she uses such media and sources on a regular basis. From the information set out in Table 4.30 the large extent to which information media are used can clearly be seen.

4.6 PROBLEMS AND UNHAPPINESS OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

Although many farmers' wives experience problems and unhappiness on the farm many are apparently so happy that they did not react to the question in the questionnaire about their problems. In fact, only 703 (61,2%) respondents reacted, while many wrote an additional note in which they said they were completely happy and experienced no problems.

4.6.1 Problems and unhappiness specified

The respondents were asked to list those aspects which cause the most unhappiness on the farm (an open question). The first aspect mentioned by respondents, which usually points to the most important aspect, was used to compile Table 4.31. Figures in this table concern only those respondents who reacted to the question.

Table 4.31 shows that about one fifth (19,6%) of the wives are unhappy with the farm workers, with most of the respondents specifically mentioning drunkenness, unreliability and laziness. If droughts, finance and high input costs are linked together they constitute the aspect causing most unhappiness. Farmers' wives in some other countries, such as Yugoslavia (First-Dilić, 1978, p.138) and Australia (Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40) also have to contend with drought. It must be borne in mind that the aspects listed in Table 4.31 were mentioned first in the questionnaire,

while most of them are also listed as a second or third source of problems.

Table 4.31: Aspects on the farm which cause the surveyed farmer's wife the most unhappiness.

Aspect	Percentage of respondents (N=703)
Farm labour	19,6
Drought	14,7
Finance	13,9
High input costs	9,8
Long distances from town	7,7
No electricity	4,7
Too busy	4,6
Loneliness	3,7
Poor farm roads	3,2
Problems with water	3,1
Safety on the farm	2,6
Children in hostel	2,6
Thefts	1,6
Insecurity	1,6
Has no say on the farm	1,6
The house garden	1,3
Others	3,7
Total	100

4.6.2 Regular income from the farm

About a quarter (24,5%) of the respondents receive a regular income from the farm while some 75% have no separate income in spite of the fact that most are highly involved in many farm activities. The matter of finance causes unhappiness for farmers' wives and was an aspect mentioned by a large number in the questionnaire (13,9%). According to De Waal (1966, p.2) a separate income would stimulate the farmer's wife to get the best for her family as far as the household is concerned.

Of those who receive a regular income, 27,3% receive R1 000 or less per month, 39,8% between R1 000 and R5 000 and 32,0% more than R5 000. A regular income for the wife is an aspect to which the farmer should give serious attention. This is supported by the findings of Siiskonen et al. (1982, p.31).

4.6.3 Parents-in-law on the farm

Some overseas studies indicate that when the parents-in-law still live on the farm, it has a negative influence on the role of the farmer's wife. However, no significant correlations could be found in this study despite the fact that the parents-in-law of 15,2% of the respondents still live on the farms, usually in cases where the husband inherited the farm.

Women's participation on the farm spans virtually the entire range of activities. Her participation in the enterprise varies according to her own desires and values as well as the expectations of her husband and other members of the family. It would seem that with a little consideration on the part of her

husband, in particular, at least some of the aspects causing frustration could be resolved, and the resultant greater happiness and harmony would no doubt be of benefit to all concerned.

4.7 CONCLUSIONS

From the background of the farmer's wife and her family it is clear that the farm family is in many respects unique and differs from the typical town or city family. This information could be usefully applied in this study, especially with regard to factors which influence the role of the farmer's wife on the farm. The same applies to the farm and the farming business. Aspects such as the size of farm, distance from the nearest town, farm type and so forth all affect the role of the farmer's wife.

The many hours the farmer is absent from the farm or the house means that his wife has to take responsibilities for and make decisions on certain important matters on the farm.

The farmer and his wife need and obtain a great deal of information to be able to run the household and farming business efficiently, and to properly care for their children. But there is room for improvement, and a disturbing aspect is that those who need expert information the most, are least likely to seek and use it.

The wife experiences some problems and frustrations on the farm and these are aspects which should be considered for inclusion in a special course for her.

The role of the farmer's wife on the farm will be discussed in the next chapter. The effects of the background of the wife and her family and the farm on her role will be evident in this chapter.

CHAPTER 5

THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN THE RSA

From the background of the farmer's wife, as discussed in the previous chapter, it is clear that the farm family is in many respects unique and differs from the typical town or city family. Many of these aspects have an influence on the role of the wife on the farm.

The questionnaire was compiled in a way which would ensure that information would be obtained about the most important aspects of the role of the farmer's wife. From the literature study and the comments of agriculturists, 18 different aspects (see Table 5.4 for details) were finally decided upon and listed in the questionnaire. The respondents had to indicate their involvement per item on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (much). In order to ensure that no important aspects regarding the wife's role were left out, space was provided in which respondents could add their own comments. However, the completed questionnaires showed that no important factors appeared to have been omitted.

Apart from the 18 aspects, questions were also asked about the wife's role in farm administration - a factor highlighted in the literature study as very important. While the farmer's wife also plays a role in decision-making on the farm, this aspect is considered so important that it is covered in a separate chapter (Chapter 6).

Multiple regression analysis was used to determine the significance of various factors affecting the role of the farmer's wife.

5.1 ADMINISTRATION ON THE FARM

5.1.1 Administration quantified

The keeping of records on the farm is an important tool in farm management. One reason for keeping farm records is to guide the farmer in future decisions (Barnard and Nix, 1986, p.495). It thus follows that any person on the farm who is concerned with farm records, is also involved in farm management.

Both the farmer and his wife spend at least a couple of hours per day on administration and record keeping - on average 2,1 hours in the case of farmers and 1,4 hours in the case of their wives. From the discussion on the role of the farmer's wife it will become clear that she regularly helps with record keeping activities on the farm. Indeed, 32,4% of the wives are highly involved in record keeping aspects. This is consistent with findings of studies undertaken all over the world (Wilkenning and Bharadwaj, 1966, p.10; Wilkenning, 1979, p.5; Siiskonen et al., 1982, p.9).

Table 5.1 provides an indication of the extent to which the surveyed wives and farmers spend a certain number of hours per day on farm administration. From this it is clear that the majority of wives (83,8%) and farmers (67,5%) spend about one hour per day on administrative matters.

Table 5.1: Administration on the farm.

Hours per day	farmers' wives	farmers
	%	%
1	83,8	67,5
2-5	15,7	26,8
6-10	0,3	3,8
more than 10	0,2	1,9
Total	100	100

5.1.2 Some factors which have an influence on farm administration by the farmer's wife

The educational qualification of the farmer's wife has no significant effect on her role in farm administration, according to the regression analysis. As far as the occupation of the wife before her marriage is concerned, only those in the nursing profession are positively ($PR > |T| = 0,0249$) correlated with time spent on farm administration.

5.2 FARM ACTIVITIES

5.2.1 Activities quantified

In order to quantify the activities of farmers' wives on a daily basis, the respondents were asked in the questionnaire to indicate how many hours per day they spend on the following: the household, care of children, transport of children, administration

on the farm and farming activities. Unfortunately, a number of respondents indicated that they spend 24 hours per day on the household and care of children, which made it impossible to calculate the average time spent on each of these activities.

The respondents indicated that they spend an average of 1,6 hours per day on the transport of children, 1,4 hours on administration and 2,2 hours on farming activities. This implies that, in addition to the household and care of children, the farmer's wife has to find a total of 3,6 hours per day for the farm business. Table 3.2 contains an analysis of the percentage of wives who spend a certain number of hours per day on farm activities.

Of the farmers' wives surveyed, 34,6% (the highest percentage) spend one hour per day on farming activities. Only 12,9% are not involved at all while 3,7% spend eight hours or more.

In the USA the housewife spends 8,0 hours per day on the household which includes the care of children (Nickell et al., 1976, p.246), and in Great Britain 11,4 hours (Hodgkinson, 1985, p.250). Although it was not possible to quantify this time in this survey, it is estimated to amount to some eight hours per day.

In Finland, farmers' wives spend an average of 4,2 hours per day on farming activities (Silekonen et al., 1982, p.11), in the USA 6,0 hours per day (Boulding, 1980, p.268), in Germany 3,5 hours per day (Schulze-Sorok and Guther, 1985, pp.323-341) and in the Netherlands 3,1 hours per day (Tober-Deorn, 1985, pp.316-319).

Table 5.2: The involvement of surveyed farmers' wives in farm activities, hours per day.

Hours per day	Percentage of wives (N=691)	Cumulative percentage
0	12,9	12,9
1	34,6	47,5
2	25,0	72,5
3	8,1	80,6
4	8,0	88,6
5	2,2	90,7
6	4,9	95,7
7	0,6	96,2
8 and more	3,7	100

Compared to their counterparts in the rest of the world, therefore, South African farmers' wives with their average of 3,6 hours per day find themselves at the lower end of the scale. This may be attributed to the fact that there is no shortage of farm labourers, as discussed earlier.

5.2.2 Factors which influence involvement of the farmer's wife in farming activities

From Table 5.3, the only factor which has a significant effect on the involvement of the farmer's wife in activities on the farm is whether the farmer is occupied in off-farm work (coefficient significant at the 1% level). This is to be expected, as the wife

will of necessity have to take over if her husband is not available on the farm.

Although size of farm (irrespective of type of farming) in this study was found to be of little significance with respect to the degree of the farmer's wife's involvement, various researchers have found it to have a definite influence, with the farmer's wife being more involved in activities on small farms (First-Dilić , 1978, p.135; Gasson, 1981b, p.16; Kalbacher, 1982, p.1; Coughenour and Swanson, 1983, p.26; Pevetz, 1983, pp.633-639; Buttel and Gillespie, 1984, p.183). According to Gilles (1982, p.12) the farmer's wife in the USA is most highly involved in the case of middle-sized farms.

Table 5.3: Factors which influence the involvement of the farmer's wife in farming activities.

Factor	Significance level of probability
Age of wife	.
Size of farm	.
Wife inherited farm	.
Mother-in-law still on farm	.
Father was a farmer	.
Wife receives fixed income from farm	.
Wife is occupied in off-farm work	.
Farmer is occupied in off-farm work	*
Wife is a widow	

* Highly significant (at 1% level).

Research in eastern England points to age having an influence too, for as age increases involvement on the farm decreases (Symes and Marsden, 1983, p.234). According to Jones and Rosenfeld (1981, p.23) the peak period of involvement in the USA is in the age group 31 to 45. However, in this study no significant correlation was found.

From research evidence it seems that in cases where the mother-in-law of the wife still lives on the farm (if the farm had been inherited by the husband) the farmer's wife seems to be less involved in farm activities (Kohl, 1976, ch.6; Hill, 1981a, p.372; Gasson, 1981a, p.252; Sparrow, 1983, pp.27-40). Once again, no significant correlation was found in this study. When land is inherited through the husband's family line, the wife is only a kin by contract and may be made to feel marginal during critical business negotiations.

Analysis of survey data indicates that widowhood does not significantly influence her involvement in activities on the farm. According to Pearson (1979, p.199), however, the extent of the widows' involvement in farming activities is much greater than that of non-widows in Baca County (Colorado, USA). The main reason is obviously that the widow is thrust into this role by the death of her husband and she has to continue farming, with the concomitantly deeper involvement that such a responsibility would entail.

5.3 SPECIFICATION OF THE ROLE

The assistance provided by the farmer's wife on the farm is grouped into five categories, namely not at all, little, regular, fairly high and highly involved. Results are shown in Table 5.4.

The farmer's wife has the highest involvement in answering the telephone, running errands and in the house garden. This is to be expected since these activities take place in or around the home (even in the case of errands, the starting point is the home) where the wife is present most of the time. The running of errands is listed as an important activity of the farmer's wife in Great Britain (Gasson, 1981b, p.8), the USA (National Opinion Research Center, 1982, pp.10-11) and Australia (James, 1982, p.313). Activities such as answering the telephone and running errands entail routine tasks, with which farmers' wives cope very well (Gasson, 1980, p.32). The house garden is usually laid out around the house and contribute to the beauty of the homestead, and it is understandable that the wife is highly involved here as well.

In general, farmers' wives have to provide first aid to farm workers fairly often. The relatively high percentage (11,5%) of wives who held nursing occupations before their marriages can be expected to be among those who make a large contribution in this regard.

Farmers' wives in general indicated that the extent of their involvement in "hard" jobs on the farm (i.e. requiring physical strength) such as dairy cattle, harvesting, pigs and beef cattle

Table 5.4: Extent of involvement of farmers' wives on surveyed farms in the RSA.

Aspect	Extent of involvement on the farm					
	Average (Scale 1-5)*	Description **	Mode	Percentage wives highly involved (5) *	Percentage wives involved to some extent (2-4)*	Percentage wives never involved (1)*
Answering the telephone	4,6	High	5	75,8	23,1	1,1
Running errands	4,5	High	5	69,7	28,3	2,0
Care of house garden	4,3	High	5	61,6	34,8	3,6
First aid to farm labourers	3,9	Fairly high	5	46,8	46,2	7,0
Vegetable and fruit garden	3,4	Fairly high	5	34,2	48,1	17,7
Keeping of farm records	3,0	Regularly	1	32,4	35,9	31,7
Typing	2,7	Regularly	1	29,5	24,1	46,4
Chickens	2,6	Regularly	1	25,9	27,4	46,7
Analysis of farm records	2,6	Regularly	1	24,7	29,5	45,8
Supervision of farm labourers	2,5	Regularly	1	8,2	63,1	28,7
Care of animals	2,3	Regularly	1	8,2	52,7	39,1
Marketing of produce	2,2	Regularly	1	10,9	41,5	47,6
Cooking for farm labourers	2,1	Regularly	1	12,3	33,5	54,2
Dairy cattle	2,0	Little	1	7,5	37,9	54,6
Beef cattle	1,8	Little	1	5,5	33,7	60,8
Harvesting	1,8	Little	1	4,7	38,3	57,0
Pigs	1,5	Little	1	7,5	14,4	78,1
Cultivation of land	1,3	Little	1	1,3	18,6	80,1

* Involvement on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (high).

** Involvement is described as follows:

1,0 not at all

1,1-2,0 little

2,1-3,0 regularly

3,1-4,0 fairly high

4,1-5,0 high.

and the cultivation of lands, is low. Pigs does not seem to be very popular with either farmers' wives or their children. Many researchers found that farmers' wives are generally more involved in activities concerned with farm animals than with crops (Gasson, 1981b, p.18; Wilkening, 1981, pp.27-37; Jones and Rosenfeld, 1981, p.ii; Felve, 1982, pp.210-213; Pevetz, 1983, pp.633-639). No similar tendency was observed in the survey, however.

For every single activity mentioned, there is a certain percentage of wives who are highly involved, with answering the telephone being the most common task (75,8%) and cultivation of lands the least common (1,3%).

There are also numerous activities in which wives are not involved at all. Only 1,1% stated that they never answer the telephone while 80,1% were not involved in cultivation of lands at all. In the former case a full-time secretary is probably employed on the farms, as 3,0% of farms do employ secretaries.

Without doubt the farmer's wife plays an important role on the farm since she is actively involved in numerous activities.

5.4 THE INFLUENCE OF AGE, QUALIFICATIONS, WIDOWHOOD AND FARM SIZE ON THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

The results described below are summarised in Table 5.5.

5.4.1 Age

The age of the farmer's wife influences a number of her activities. As her age increases her involvement in running errands and keeping farm records decreases significantly. Both typing and harvesting show a highly significant negative correlation with age, with involvement in both activities decreasing with an increase in age.

Involvement with dairy cattle, however, increases to a significant extent with increased age. The rest of the listed activities showed no significant correlation with the age of farmers' wives.

While Symes and Marsden (1983, p.234) found farmers' wives in eastern England to be most active between the ages of 35 and 49, Gasson (1980, p.22) found it to be between 26 and 35 (in the United Kingdom).

5.4.2 Qualifications

The wives' involvement in both chickens and supervision of farm workers decreases significantly with an increase in their educational qualifications. In the case of the other activities, there were no significant correlations with qualifications.

5.4.3 Widowhood

If the woman concerned is a widow, there is a significantly higher involvement in the following farm activities on the farm than is the case when the husband is still alive:

- keeping of farm records
- supervision of farm labourers (highly significant)
- care of animals (highly significant)
- marketing of produce
- harvesting (highly significant)
- cultivation of land (highly significant).

It is noteworthy that harvesting and the cultivation of lands, in which involvement of the wives in general was found to be low, both show a highly significant correlation with widowhood. Evidently, a widow is able to assume responsibility for these important activities on the farm when she has no choice in the matter.

Table 5.5: The influence of age, education, widowhood and farm size on women's activities on the farm in the RSA.

Farm activity (dependent variables)	Independent variables			
	Age	Education	Widowhood	Farm size
Answering the telephone
Running errands	*(-)	.	.	.
Care of home garden	.	.	.	**
First aid to farm labourers	.	.	.	*
Vegetable and fruit garden
Keeping farm records	*(-)	.	*	.
Typing	**(-)	.	.	.
Chickens	.	*(-)	.	**
Analysis of farm records
Supervision of farm labourers	.	*(-)	**	.
Care of animals	.	.	**	.
Marketing of produce	.	.	*	.
Cooking for farm labourers
Dairy cattle	*	.	.	.
Beef cattle
Harvesting	**(-)	.	**	**(-)
Pigs
Cultivation of land	.	.	**	*(-)

* Significant (at 5% level).

** Highly significant (at 1% level).

(-) Negative regression coefficient.

5.4.4 Farm size

Farm size as used here is irrespective of type of farming. The effect of a large sheep farm (e.g. 3 000 ha) and of a large wine farm (e.g. 100 ha) may be the same, with respect to involvement of the farmer's wife. The degree of involvement, however, will differ. The small number of various types of small farms (e.g.

wine, 29; pigs, 9; poultry, 4) did not allow a regression analysis for each type separately.

The farmer's wife's involvement in the care of the house garden (highly significant), first aid to farm workers and chickens (highly significant) increases with an increase in the size of the farm. However, there is a decreased involvement in harvesting (highly significant) and the cultivation of land as the size of the farm increases.

5.5 THE ROLE OF CHILDREN ON THE FARM

Farming is largely a family-operated activity in South Africa, and indeed in most parts of the world, despite changes in agriculture. "It is as much about women as it is about family, since it is impossible to look at one without considering the other. Nor can the situation of women be understood without relating it to the larger social system in which they are embedded" (Kohl, 1976, p.1). On the farm both wife and children are inextricably linked to the agricultural enterprise. They are intimately connected to the public sphere of the farmer (e.g. study group meetings on the farm) because this at the same time comprises the domestic sphere.

These facts are verified by the analysis of the role of the farmer's wife on the farm (section 5.3) and also by this discussion and analysis. The procedure that was followed to determine the role of children on a farm is the same as the one that was applied to the farmer's wife.

5.5.1 Role specification

The degree of involvement of children on the farm was also divided into five categories, namely not at all, little, regularly, fairly high and highly involved. Results are shown in Table 5.6.

Children seem to be most involved in answering the telephone and running errands probably because these activities take place at the home, where the children are most often to be found. Children have an affinity with animals and like to care for them. That is probably the reason why care of animals is an aspect in which children are regularly involved. Because harvesting is an activity which takes place at a certain time and within a short period, and is usually affected by labour problems, the children's help is enlisted during this period.

It is interesting to note that for every single activity mentioned, there is a certain percentage of children who are highly involved. The largest number is concerned with answering the telephone (13,2%) and the smallest with cooking for farm labourers (0,6%). On farms, labourers usually receive a lunch-time meal and at that time most of the children are still at school.

Children who are involved to some extent in all the activities, are involved most with answering the telephone (58,6%) and least with cooking for farm workers (3,7%). As can be expected, there are many children who are not involved in certain activities on the farm.

Table 5.6: Extent of the involvement of children on the surveyed farms, RSA.

Aspect	Extent of involvement on the farm					
	Average (Scale 1-5)*	Description **	Mode	Percentage children highly involved (5)*	Percentage children involved to some extent (2-4)*	Percentage children never involved (1)*
Answering the telephone	2,6	Regularly	1	13,2	58,6	28,2
Running errands	2,6	Regularly	1	14,0	56,1	29,9
Care of animals	2,3	Regularly	1	10,5	51,8	37,7
Harvesting	2,1	Regularly	1	12,8	34,5	52,7
Cultivation of land	2,0	Little	1	12,3	29,0	58,7
Care of the house garden	1,9	Little	1	4,0	45,0	51,0
Beef cattle	1,8	Little	1	8,4	27,4	64,2
Vegetable and fruit garden	1,8	Little	1	5,1	37,9	57,0
Supervision of farm labourers	1,8	Little	1	10,4	24,9	64,7
Chickens	1,7	Little	1	5,3	29,1	65,6
Dairy cattle	1,7	Little	1	6,6	27,8	65,0
Marketing of produce	1,6	Little	1	8,2	17,0	74,8
First aid to farm labourers	1,5	Little	1	3,4	21,4	75,2
Keeping farm records	1,4	Little	1	5,6	9,6	84,8
Analysis of farm records	1,3	Little	1	5,0	7,3	87,7
Pigs	1,3	Little	1	3,2	13,2	83,6
Typing	1,2	Little	1	2,4	8,4	89,2
Cooking for farm labourers	1,1	Little	1	0,6	3,7	95,7

* Involvement is on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (high).

** Involvement is described as follows:

1,0 not at all

1,1-2,0 little

2,1-3,0 regularly

3,1-4,0 fairly high

4,1-5,0 high.

It is clear that children certainly assist with farm activities to some extent. Researchers the world over indicate a high degree of involvement of children in farm activities (Wilkening and Bharadwaj, 1966, pp.8-9; Wilkening, 1979, pp.27-37; Pearson, 1979, p.199; Gasson, 1980, p.18).

5.5.2 Influence of developmental stage, farm size and involvement of the farmer's wife in off-farm work on the role of children on the farm

5.5.2.1 Developmental stage of children

The developmental stage of children has an important influence on their role on the farm, as shown in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7: Influence of developmental stage on the general role of children on the farm.

Developmental stage	% children involved	
	<u>in farm activities</u>	
	Not at all	To some extent
Pre-school	31,3	68,7
Primary school	9,2	90,8
High school	4,7	95,3
In hostel	10,3	89,7

As children progress through their developmental stages, their involvement in farm activities increases. Even the majority of children who stay in hostels are involved in farming activities (89,7%). As the children grow older and stronger their ability to

contribute to the farm increases. It can be expected that they carry more responsibility as well.

5.5.2.2 Farm size

The size of the farm also influences the extent to which children help on the farm. This correlation is set out in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Influence of farm size on the general role of children on the farm.

Farm size (ha)	% children involved	
	Not at all	To some extent
0-9	33,3	66,6
10-99	23,6	76,4
100-499	27,3	72,2
500-999	22,6	77,4
1 000-4 999	21,1	78,9
5 000 and more	9,3	90,7

Children living on larger farms are more involved in farming activities than those on smaller farms, probably because the bigger farms generally comprise a greater variety of activities and thus offer more scope for help within the ability of children. However, even on the smaller farms there is a high degree of involvement.

5.5.2.3 Off-farm work by the farmer's wife

When the farmer's wife is working outside the farm boundaries, it can be expected that she is not as readily available for farm activities. In these cases one would expect the children to make up for her unavailability and show greater involvement than usual. In such situations 72,8% of the children are involved in farm activities while the congruent percentage if the wife does not hold an off-farm job is 79,9%. These figures are contrary to expectations. A possible reason may be that the mother with no off-farm work sets an example by her participation in farm activities which the children emulate.

5.6 CONCLUSION

Women's participation on the farm spans virtually the entire range of activities. Her participation in the enterprise varies according to her own desires as well as the expectations of her husband and other members of the family. On average, the farmer's wife spends 2,2 hours per day on farm activities. She is mainly involved in answering the telephone, running errands and caring for the house garden.

Both the farmer's wife and the children are intimately connected to the farm. It is thus not surprising that the children also play an important role. They generally answer the telephone and run errands.

In the next chapter the important role of the farmer's wife in decision-making is analysed and discussed and it will be clear that she is an important factor in farm management.

CHAPTER 6

DECISION-MAKING ON THE FARM

The allocation of limited resources among a number of alternative applications requires a manager who can make the relevant decisions. Farm management is becoming an increasingly complex task, for as farms increase in size, their capital requirements generally increase substantially and aspects such as inflation, labour and land issues influence decision-making. Farm managers must be adequately prepared to identify new changes and to make correct responses. The decision-making process forms a major component of farm management. According to Barnard and Nix (1986, p.17) there are, for example, decisions concerning: a problem in need of a solution; whether sufficient information exists to enable the problem to be solved; and steps to be implemented to solve the problem. According to Kay (1981, p.6) "Farm and ranch management can be thought of, then, as being a decision-making process". The farmer's wife too plays an important part in this process.

The questionnaire was compiled in such a way so as to determine what role the wife, husband and both (together) play in the making of decisions on the farm. The same activities were taken into consideration as in the case of the determination of the role of the wife on the farm (Chapter 5). The wife had to indicate, on a scale of 1 to 5, what role she plays in decision-making, what role her husband plays and to what extent the decision-making on the farm is a joint activity. The respondents were also asked about

their role in general decision-making and long-term decisions on the farm. In all the tables concerning decision-making, widows are included as well. The low percentage (1,8) of widows will not have a significant effect on the results. For every question in the questionnaire a certain number of respondents, including widows, did not answer the question. This means that the number of widows who react on the questions may be even less - with less effect on the results.

6.1 GENERAL DECISIONS ON THE FARM

Table 6.1 gives an analysis of the division of decision-making between the farmer's wife, the farmer and both with regard to general aspects.

Table 6.1: Division of decision-making between farmer's wife and farmer on the farm.

Activity	Wife	Husband	Both
	%	%	%
The household	74,8	2,3	22,9
Purchase of small items	23,9	45,8	30,3
The family	16,3	4,0	79,5
Short-term decisions	5,2	32,5	62,4
Mechanisation	2,4	86,5	11,1
Farm labourers	2,2	76,2	21,6
Long-term decisions	1,4	27,8	70,8
Purchase of large items	0,8	55,0	44,2

The activities can be analysed as follows:

Purchase of large items: The role of the farmer is dominant (55%) with a high percentage (44,2) of joint decision-making. This may be explained by an analysis of the type of item: in the case of the purchase of livestock or farming equipment, for example, one would expect the farmer to make decisions on his own, (since the farmer is usually more concerned with these items than his wife) whereas joint decisions would concern important matters such as purchasing of land.

Purchase of small items (spare parts, medicine, etc.): In these cases less joint decision-making (30,3%) takes place and it seems as if wives take their own decisions on matters that concern them while their husbands do the same.

Farm labourers: The high percentage (76,2) of farmers who take decisions alone on labour matters, may probably be ascribed to the fact that they are usually directly concerned with farm labourers. From Table 5.4 it was evident that, while the wife regularly supervises farm workers, she is not as actively involved as her husband.

Mechanisation: The husband takes the decisions in 86,5% of the cases while his wife keeps a low profile (2,4%). This is to be expected because farmers' wives generally play a small role in activities in which mechanisation is important (e.g. harvesting and cultivation of land) (see Table 5.4).

The household: As expected, the wife is intensely involved (74,8%) in household decision-making since the house is usually her responsibility.

The family: In this case, most decisions are taken jointly (79,5%). This is by far the highest percentage as far as joint decision-making is concerned.

Long-term decisions: Important decisions with regard to the future are on the whole taken jointly (70,8%) while the wife will seldom make decisions alone (1,4%). This agrees with the findings of Gasson (1980, p.32) that the farmer's wife is more involved in medium-term than in short- or long-term decisions.

Short-term decisions: In most cases, the majority of decisions (62,4%) are made together. Again, the wife seldom (5,2%) takes decisions of this nature on her own.

In summary, the farmer's wife plays an important role as sole decision-maker in the household (74,8%) and to a lesser extent in the purchasing of small items (23,9%). These day-to-day activities are obviously important responsibilities of the wife.

The husband plays an important role as sole decision-maker in aspects concerning mechanisation (86,5%) and farm labourers (76,2%), and to lesser extent in the purchasing of large and small items and in the making of short-term decisions (32,5%).

Joint decision-making seems to be important on farms in the RSA. Joint decision-making was rated relatively highly on all the activities and was the highest in decisions regarding the family (79,5%), and long-term (70,8%) and short-term matters (62,4%). According to Nowak (1985, pp.132-137) the extent of joint decision-making on family affairs is greater in the case of modern farms than on farms with more conservative practices.

From the above analysis there can be little doubt that the farmer's wife plays an important role in decision-making on the farm. This is particularly evident from the high number of cases in which joint decision-making predominates.

6.2 DECISIONS SPECIFIED

The average involvement in decision-making with regard to specific items, of the farmer's wife alone, the farmer alone and of the two together, is analysed in Table 6.2. A separate column has been added in order to make a comparison of possible relationships between the wife's sole decision-making aspects and her average involvement on the farm.

Table 6.2: Decision-making on specified activities on surveyed farms in the RSA.

Activity	Involvement in decision-making							
	Wife only				Husband Joint			
					only			
	Average*	Descrip- tion **	Mode	**	Average*	Mode	Average*	Mode
Care of house garden	4,4	high	5	4,3	2,3	1	2,9	3
Answering the telephone	4,4	high	5	4,6	3,2	3	3,5	5
Running errands	4,3	high	5	4,5	3,3	5	3,6	5
First aid to farm labourers	3,9	fairly high	5	3,9	2,7	1	3,1	3
Vegetable and fruit garden	3,6	fairly high	5	3,4	3,0	1	3,0	3
Typing	2,9	regularly	1	2,7	1,7	1	1,9	1
Keeping farm records	2,9	regularly	1	3,0	4,1	5	3,0	1
Chickens	2,8	regularly	1	2,6	2,3	1	2,0	1
Analysis of farm records	2,6	regularly	1	2,6	4,2	5	2,9	1
Cooking for farm labourers	2,3	regularly	1	2,1	2,0	1	2,0	1
Supervision farm labourers	2,2	regularly	1	2,5	4,7	5	2,9	1
Care of animals	2,0	little	1	2,3	4,7	5	2,6	1
Marketing of produce	1,9	little	1	2,2	4,6	5	2,7	1
Dairy cattle	1,8	little	1	2,0	3,9	5	2,3	1
Beef cattle	1,6	little	1	1,8	4,2	5	2,3	1
Pigs	1,6	little	1	1,5	2,6	1	1,6	1
Harvesting	1,4	little	1	1,8	4,8	5	2,0	1
Cultivation of land	1,3	little	1	1,3	4,8	5	1,9	1

- * Involvement on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (high) indicates the involvement in decision-making on the farm.
- ** Involvement is described as follows:
 - 1,0 not at all
 - 1,1-2,0 little
 - 2,1-3,0 regularly
 - 3,1-4,0 fairly high
 - 4,1-5,0 high.
- *** Involvement on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (high) indicates the involvement of the farmer's wife in that particular activity on the farm (see also Table 5.4).

6.2.1 Role of farmer

The farmer alone is highly involved in decision-making on the care of animals, supervision of farm labourers, marketing of produce, beef farming, harvesting and the cultivation of land. This may be ascribed to the fact that most of these activities, and thus also most of the decisions, take place outside the home.

6.2.2 Joint decisions

Joint decisions are made mainly with regard to aspects such as answering the telephone, running errands, first aid to farm labourers, the vegetable and fruit garden and keeping of farm records. In all these aspects the wife is involved at least on a regular basis in both the activity and decision-making on it.

6.2.3 Correlation with the activities on the farm

There is a close correlation between the extent to which the wife makes decisions on a particular activity and her involvement in that activity. This is clear from Table 6.2. If she is active in a particular aspect on the farm, she will also be actively involved in decisions regarding that aspect. The reverse also holds good. This agrees with the findings of Wilkening and Bharadwaj (1967, p.10), Wilkening (1979, p.6), Boulding (1980, p.275) and Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1984, p.40).

6.3 THE INFLUENCE OF SOME ASPECTS ON DECISION-MAKING ON THE FARM

The discussion in this section is based on the extent of the wife's involvement in decision-making as set out in Table 6.2. Involvement is categorised into four groups, namely "high", "fairly high", "regularly" and "little". A complete exposition of the tables in this section is given in Appendix 3, where all the regression coefficients are presented. The methodology, as far as the statistical analysis is concerned, is described in section 3.4.1.

6.3.1 Decisions in which the wife is highly involved

Results are presented in Table 6.3.

6.3.1.1 Decisions concerning care of the house garden

From Table 6.3 it is clear that decisions concerning care of the house garden (the dependent variable) are not significantly

influenced by the independent variables as far as "wife only" is concerned. This is possibly because care of the house garden is usually exclusively the responsibility of the wife. Decisions made by her husband and jointly are negatively affected by the age of the wife - the older she is the less her involvement will be. In cases where the wife does off-farm work and has less time available for the house garden, decisions made by her husband and jointly are positively affected.

6.3.1.2 Decisions concerning the answering of the telephone

Regarding this aspect, decisions by the wife, as sole decision-maker, are negatively influenced by her qualifications (highly significant), her age, whether she does off-farm work (highly significant) and her sole ownership of the farm. The qualifications of the wife, however, have a positive influence on the husband as sole decision-maker. The better qualified wives are more involved in off-farm work and accordingly have less time for decisions; this task is then taken over by their husbands. When the husband is the sole owner of the farm and when wife and husband are in partnership, decisions by the wife with regard to answering the telephone are positively influenced, possibly because the wife has more time at her disposal for decisions when the responsibility of ownership is shared.

6.3.1.3 Decisions concerning the running of errands

As in the case of decisions concerning the answering of the telephone, decisions of the wife with regard to running errands

Table 6.3: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is highly involved.

Independent variable	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
Significance level of probability			
<u>Decisions concerning care of the house garden</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	•	•	•
Age of wife	•	**(-)	**(-)
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning answering the telephone</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	**(-)	**	•
Age of wife	*(-)	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	**(-)	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	*	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	*(-)	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	*	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	*
<u>Decisions concerning the running of errands</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	**(-)	•	•
Age of wife	•	*(-)	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	**(-)	*	•
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*(-)	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	*	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•

* Significant (at 5 % level).

** Highly significant (at 1 % level).

(-) Negative regression coefficient.

are positively influenced when the husband is the sole owner of the farm, as well as when husband and wife are in partnership. As the qualifications of the wife increase, her involvement as sole decision-maker decreases (highly significant) as in the case with decisions concerning the answering of the telephone. Joint decision-making is influenced positively when the wife inherited the farm. The reason may be that the wife is the legal owner of the farm and that she would like to be more involved. Decisions by the wife only (highly significant) and husband only are negatively and positively influenced respectively when the wife does off-farm work.

6.3.2 Decisions in which the wife is fairly highly involved

Results are presented in Table 6.4.

6.3.2.1 Decisions concerning first aid to farm labourers

Of all the different types of decisions considered, this is the only one where there is only one significant influence. A reason may be that the wife is the only person concerned with first aid. When the wife does off-farm work, decisions by the husband are positively influenced. This may be ascribed to the fact that decisions of this nature must be taken immediately and, if the wife is not available, the husband has to decide what to do.

Table 6.4: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is fairly highly involved.

Independent variable	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
Significance level of probability			
<u>Decisions concerning first aid to farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	•	•	•
Age of wife	•	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	*	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning the vegetable and fruit garden</u>			
Size of farm	*	*(-)	•
Qualifications of wife	*	•	•
Age of wife	•	**(-)	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	*(-)	•
Wife does off-farm work	*(-)	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•

* Significant (at 5 % level).

** Highly significant (at 1 % level).

(-) Negative regression coefficient.

6.3.2.2 Decisions concerning the vegetable and fruit garden

From Table 6.4 it is apparent that joint decision-making is not influenced by any of the factors considered. However, decisions by the husband are affected negatively by farm size, age of wife and off-farm work by the husband. A reason may be the husband's low involvement in this type of decision. Decisions by the wife are negatively influenced when she does off-farm work. The size of farm and the wife's qualifications have a positive influence on her involvement in decisions concerning the garden.

6.3.3 Decisions in which the wife is regularly involved

Results are presented in Table 6.5.

6.3.3.1 Decisions concerning typing

Table 6.5 shows that decisions taken by the wife alone are affected significantly only by her age. Typing is traditionally the task of the wife and as her age increases, her decisions on typing decrease. This is in line with the findings in the previous chapter.

6.3.3.2 Decisions concerning the keeping of farm records

As the size of the farm increases, the wife's involvement regarding decisions on keeping farm records decreases, while the role of her husband increases. Qualifications of the wife have a negative influence as well - perhaps because many of the better qualified wives are involved in off-farm work and are, therefore, not available for keeping farm records. As her age increases, the wife's involvement in decisions regarding record keeping decreases

Table 6.5: The influence of some independent variables on decisionmaking, regarding decisions in which the wife is regularly involved.

Independent variable	wife only	Husband only	Jointly
Significance level of probability			
<u>Decisions concerning typing</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	•	•	•
Age of wife	**(-)	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning keeping of farm records</u>			
Size of farm	*(-)	•	•
Qualifications of wife	**(-)	•	•
Age of wife	**(-)	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning chickens</u>			
Size of farm	**	•	•
Qualifications of wife	•	•	•
Age of wife	•	*(-)	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning analysis of farm records</u>			
Size of farm	*(-)	•	•
Qualifications of wife	**(-)	•	*(-)
Age of wife	•	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning cooking for farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	*(-)	•	•
Age of wife	•	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	•	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	•	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	•
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•
<u>Decisions concerning supervision of farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	•	•	•
Qualifications of wife	•	•	**(-)
Age of wife	*(-)	•	•
Wife inherited farm	•	•	•
Mother-in-law stays on farm	•	•	•
Husband does off-farm work	**	•	•
Wife does off-farm work	*(-)	•	•
Husband sole owner of farm	**	•	•
Wife sole owner of farm	•	•	**
Husband and wife in partnership	•	•	•
Farm is rented	•	•	•

• Significant (at 5 % level).

** Highly significant (at 1 % level).

(-) Negative regression coefficient.

- this may be due to the fact that this task is delegated to the children.

6.3.3.3 Decisions concerning chickens

A high percentage (46,7) of wives are never involved in chicken farming, and it is understandable that only one aspect, the size of the farm, has a significant positive effect. However, decisions by the husband are influenced by age of the wife (negatively) and whether the wife inherited the farm and does off-farm work (both positively).

6.3.3.4 Decisions concerning the analysis of farm records

Except for the age of the wife, this aspect of decision-making is affected in exactly the same way as the keeping of farm records as far as the "wife only" decisions are concerned. Decisions by the wife alone are negatively influenced by farm size and qualifications.

6.3.3.5 Decisions concerning cooking for farm labourers

As with typing, cooking is traditionally the task of the wife. Again, as with typing, decisions of this nature made by the wife are affected by one aspect only - this time negatively by her qualifications.

6.3.3.6 Decisions concerning the supervision of farm labourers

The significant influences of the wife's age (negative), her inheritance of the farm, her (negative) and her husband's (highly significant) involvement in off-farm work and her husband as sole owner of the farm (highly significant) are all logical. Her

involvement in decision-making increases when she is more personally involved. This is often the case as far as joint decisions are concerned. When the husband is the sole owner, the influence on joint decisions is highly significant, while the wife's qualifications have a strong negative effect on joint decision-making.

6.3.3.7 General

In the case of farm tasks for which the wife is traditionally responsible, independent variables have little affect on her decision-making pattern.

6.3.4 Decisions in which the wife is little involved

Results are presented in Table 6.6.

6.3.4.1 Decisions concerning the care of animals

When the husband is involved in off-farm work, decisions by the wife on the care of animals are positively influenced (highly significant), while the husband is less involved. The latter is also true when the wife is the sole owner of the farm. Despite the fact that the wife is usually little involved in the care of animals, she plays a role in decision-making when her husband is not available.

6.3.4.2 Decisions concerning the marketing of produce

When the husband is involved in off-farm work, decisions by the wife regarding product marketing are positively influenced whereas decisions by the husband are negatively influenced (highly significant).

Table 5.6: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is little involved.

Independent variable	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
Significance level of probability			
<u>Decisions concerning the care of animals</u>			
Size of farm	*		*
Qualifications of wife	*		*
Age of wife	*		*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*		*
Husband does off-farm work	**	**(-)	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*(-)	*
Husband and wife in partnership	*	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning marketing of produce</u>			
Size of farm	*(-)	*	*
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*	*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*		*
Husband does off-farm work	*	**(-)	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Husband and wife in partnership	*	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning dairy cattle</u>			
Size of farm	*	*	*
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*	*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*	*	*
Husband does off-farm work	*	*(-)	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*(-)	*
Husband and wife in partnership	**	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning beef cattle</u>			
Size of farm	*	**	*
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*	*
Wife inherited farm	**	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*	*	*
Husband does off-farm work	*	*	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Husband and wife in partnership	**	*	**
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning pigs</u>			
Size of farm	*	*	*
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*(-)	*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*	*	*
Husband does off-farm work	*	*	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	*	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Husband and wife in partnership	*	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning harvesting</u>			
Size of farm	**(-)	*(-)	*(-)
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*(-)	*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*	*	*
Husband does off-farm work	*	*	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	**(-)	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Husband and wife in partnership	*	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*
<u>Decisions concerning the cultivation of land</u>			
Size of farm	*	**(-)	*(-)
Qualifications of wife	*	*	*
Age of wife	*	*	*
Wife inherited farm	*	*	*
Mother-in-law stays on farm	*	*	*
Husband does off-farm work	*	*	*
Wife does off-farm work	*	**(-)	*
Husband sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Wife sole owner of farm	*	*	*
Husband and wife in partnership	*	*	*
Farm is rented	*	*	*

* Significant (at 5 % level).
 ** Highly significant (at 1 % level).
 (-) Negative regression coefficient.

Only farm ownership has significant influences on decisions made by the wife. When the husband is the sole owner and when husband and wife are in partnership (highly significant), the wife is in both cases more involved in decision-making.

6.3.4.4 Decisions concerning beef cattle

Farm ownership (farm inheritance and partnership) again has a significant positive influence on decisions by the wife on beef cattle. A partnership of husband and wife has a positive influence (highly significant) on joint decision-making as well.

6.3.4.5 Decisions concerning pigs

As regards the wife's decision-making on pigs, only one factor - her husband being sole owner - has a significant influence. Decisions by the husband are negatively influenced by the age of the wife but positively when the wife inherited the farm.

6.3.4.6 Decisions concerning harvesting

The size of farm has a negative influence on decisions by the wife only, the husband only, as well as on joint decisions. It is possible that as farm size increases, decisions on harvesting are taken more by farm managers (who are employed mainly on large farms).

6.3.4.7 Decisions concerning the cultivation of land

This is the aspect of the farm in which the wife is least involved and only one case of significance regarding decisions by the wife

could be found, namely if the husband does off-farm work. The size of farm has a negative influence on decisions by the husband (highly significant) and joint decisions. This may be for the same reasons as were discussed under factors influencing harvesting (section 6.3.4.6). Off-farm work by the husband has a negative influence on his decisions on land cultivation.

6.4 SUMMARY

As far as decision-making on the farm is concerned the farmer's wife is the sole decision-maker in the household and in the purchasing of small items. She makes decisions jointly with her husband on family matters and on long- and short-term issues. She is thus an important opinion-maker on the farm. With higher proportions of husbands and wives in partnership on farms, she might play an even bigger role here. Indeed, given her active involvement on the farm, she is entitled to have a bigger say.

Decision-making on the farm is affected by various independent variables. However, there are only a few variables which have a significant influence on decisions in which the wife is fairly highly involved, but when she is little involved, her decisions are influenced by a wider range of factors.

When the wife does off-farm work and has less time available for her normal tasks on the farm, this usually has a negative influence on decisions made by her regarding activities on the farm. Because tasks such as typing and cooking are traditionally the task of the wife, decisions on these matters are usually affected by few or no variables.

As farm management concerns decisions that affect the profitability of the farm business, the active involvement of the farmer's wife in decision-making on the farm highlights the fact that she is an important factor in farm management.

CHAPTER 7

TRAINING NEEDED BY THE FARMER'S WIFE FOR HER MANAGEMENT
ROLE ON THE FARM7.1 THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL COURSE FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE

By this time it should be apparent that the farmer's wife plays a prominent role on the farm. However, whether she is well enough equipped for this task, is still an open question. When trying to answer this question, the following aspects which were discussed and analysed must be borne in mind:

1. The farmer's wife is highly involved in many farm activities.
2. She plays an important role in decision-making on the farm.
3. Wives who are 49 years or younger comprise 70,7% of the respondents.
4. Wives who have tertiary qualifications comprise 46,8% of the respondents - 6,0% have administrative and 2,4% agricultural qualifications.
5. Widows who have to farm alone (1,8%) and who play an important role in agriculture.
6. Wives who work outside the farm boundaries (20,8%) and contribute to family income.
7. Wives who had no farming experience before their marriages (30,8%), but are actively involved in farming activities.
8. The respondents who did not initially want to marry a farmer (30,1%).
9. The distance of farms from the nearest town (average of 30,6 km) which causes unhappiness for many farmers' wives.

10. The relatively low percentage of farms either owned by the wife alone or in partnership with her husband (11,2%) means that few wives have a legal say on the farm.
11. The relatively low percentage (8,9%) of wives who inherited farms.
12. Those who are most in need of expert outside information and advice make the least use of it.
13. During the week farmers generally spend numerous hours away from the homestead or the farm and during that time their wives have to take over many responsibilities.
14. Most of the problems and frustrations experienced by the farmer's wife are directly linked to the farming enterprise.

The above information shows that most farmers' wives entered the farming business, many unforeseen, without being well equipped for the new task. Furthermore, they find themselves highly involved in many farming activities after a few years. This leads one to conclude that there is a need for a special training course for the farmer's wife in the RSA.

The questionnaire contained a question on whether the respondents would welcome a course compiled specifically for the farmer's wife. Of the respondents 72,2% indicated that they would indeed, while 67% indicated that the time and cost involved in a course would be justified. By far the majority (68,7%) indicated that they would enrol for such a course, with 18,3% being uncertain, while 58,2% of the respondents felt that they would insist on a certificate as tangible proof that they had successfully completed the course.

7.2 FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE FARMERS' WIVES' OPINIONS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A SPECIAL COURSE

Most farmers' wives surveyed feel that it would be a good idea to compile a special course for them (72,2%), while some are uncertain (18,1%) and a small percentage (9,7%) disagree. Table 7.1 contains an analysis of three factors which had an influence on this decision.

Table 7.1: Factors which influenced wives' opinions on a special course for them.

Factor	Percentage of wives in a specific group in favour of a course
<u>Age (years)</u>	
Under 30	81,8
30-39	75,9
40-49	69,0
50-59	67,3
60 and older	68,2
<u>Farm size (ha)</u>	
0-9	72,7
10-99	75,3
100-499	68,0
500-999	71,9
1 000-4 999	73,9
5 000 and more	73,8
<u>Widowhood</u>	
Widows	72,2
Non-widows	72,1

Age apparently influences the wives' opinion on whether a special course would be a good thing or not. With an increase in age, the percentage in favour declines, although it is still high. The size of the farm and widowhood did not apparently play any role in this regard.

7.3 ESTABLISHING A COURSE FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE

There are various factors which would have to be taken into consideration in establishing a course for the farmer's wife. These include distances from towns and the nearest college, university or technikon; the fact that the women are married and may have children; that the wives are actively involved in farm activities; that there are certain peak periods on the farm, e.g. harvesting time, and that farmers' wives do not have easy access to facilities such as libraries, duplicating machines and computers. These factors all make it obvious that it would be unfeasible to offer a full-time course, even at towns in the rural areas. Table 7.2 contains an analysis of the respondents' preferences on how such a course should be presented.

Of the respondents 44,8% would prefer a series of short courses, while 26,2% preferred a correspondence course. In practice it would be difficult to present short courses over the whole country, because time, costs and the availability of experts to present such courses would be problematic. A correspondence course would be much cheaper to present and would still satisfy the needs and preferences of a large number of respondents (26,2%). Such a course could be coupled to a series of short courses at the bigger centres. A course of this nature with a certificate as end result, would contribute substantially to the status enjoyed by the farmer's wife in the positive role she plays on the farm.

Table 7.2: The presentation of a course for the farmer's wife.

Type of presentation	Percentage respondents
Full-time only (e.g. two years)	0,5
Part-time only (e.g. two days per week)	11,2
A short course (e.g. two days long)	16,1
A series of short courses	44,8
A correspondence course	26,2
Other	1,2
Total	100

According to Hill (1981b, p.85) the presenter of such a course would be of cardinal importance. Farmers' wives would have much more confidence in an official educational institution than in private or state institutions. This leads to the conclusion that such a course should be offered by either a technikon or a university.

7.4. CONTENT OF COURSE

The content of the course will have to satisfy the needs of the farmer's wife. Thus it should be based on the role of the wife on the farm (as analysed in Chapter 5) as well as her needs (as analysed in Table 7.3). In the questionnaire respondents were asked to mention five aspects which, in their opinion, should be included in a course for the farmer's wife (an open question). Table 7.3 gives an indication of the first item mentioned by each

person, which may be taken to be the most important one in most cases.

Table 7.3: Aspects that should be included in a course for the farmer's wife.

Aspect	Percentage respondents
Book keeping	20,8
Farm management	12,1
Finance	10,3
Administrative/secretarial skills	8,7
Farm labour	8,4
Animal husbandry	5,3
General aspects of farming	4,9
Home economics	3,9
First aid	3,8
Mechanisation	3,7
Safety on the farm	3,3
Veterinary science	3,1
Computer science	3,1
A Black language	3,0
The wife - her role on the farm	2,3
Labour in the house	1,0
Needlework	1,0
Community development	0,5

Table 7.3 indicates that the respondents are mainly concerned with aspects linked directly to farm management. Book keeping (20,8%),

finance (10,3%) and administrative/secretarial skills (8,7%) as a group, are considered to be important, with farm management the second most important (12,1%) aspect. These aspects agree with the findings from researchers abroad such as Van Velzen (1979, pp. 1107-1108), Hill (1981b, p.87) and Scholl (1982, p.8). Farm labour, including first aid and community development, is also considered important.

A factor which certainly deserves attention, although not mentioned explicitly, is the wife/woman role of farmers' wives. They are the persons in whom their husbands confide both their fears and hopes and to whom they turn in times of despondency and joy. As such, they are in a position to exert a tremendous psychological influence over their husbands (Moor, 1985, pp.290-293). Thus, some knowledge of psychological determinants will help women to better fulfil this role. So too, a course on how to develop entrepreneurial skills would probably be very useful, as many farmers' wives are involved in some kind of small business of their own. The additional income derived from such a source will contribute to her happiness on the farm and to satisfaction with her life in general. Finally, the intellectual stimulation derived from such a course will add to and enrich her personal life (Knell, 1981, p.198).

From the above it should be clear there is a definite need for a special course for the farmer's wife, presented as a correspondence or short course with farm management and administration as the most important aspects.

7.5 CONCLUSION

Although farmers' wives are generally well-qualified, few are properly equipped for their role on the farm. It would thus seem that there is a definite need for a special course in which aspects such as farm management, record keeping, general agriculture, home economics, first aid, farm labour and community development are included. A correspondence course coupled to a short course or series of short courses appears to be the most practical way of presenting such an education package.

CHAPTER 8

THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN KANGWANE

8.1 INTRODUCTION8.1.1 Reasons for a project on the black farmer's wife

Because of significant differences in the culture and socio-economic background of the white and black populations it was considered worthwhile to conduct a survey among black farmers' wives as well, as this would provide a good basis for comparison between the two groups. Another important aspect is that South Africa consists of a dual economy - a highly developed (commercial) sector and a less developed (traditional) sector. This study may also open doors for a further in-depth study of the black farmer's wife.

8.1.2 Choice of the area to be studied

KaNgwane was chosen as the area of study mainly because it is known to the author. From a visit to KaNgwane during 1986 it became evident that this region would be suitable for a study of the role of the farmer's wife, particularly as certain areas had been subdivided into small agricultural projects. The KaNgwane government was in favour of the study and even supplied a person to help with the survey. After completion of the survey, another visit was made to the agricultural projects to obtain first-hand knowledge about the farmers' wives involved in the study.

It should be noted that the information and findings are applicable only to the agricultural projects surveyed. The

KaNgwane Government recommended that the study pertain to the following areas:

- a. Ngogolo sugar cane project (60 farmers) - sugar cane.
- b. Figtree irrigation project (24 farmers) - cotton, dry beans, vegetables and bananas.
- c. Shinyokana project (20 farmers) - cotton, dry beans, vegetables and bananas.

This recommendation was accepted by the author.

8.1.3 KaNgwane - a short background

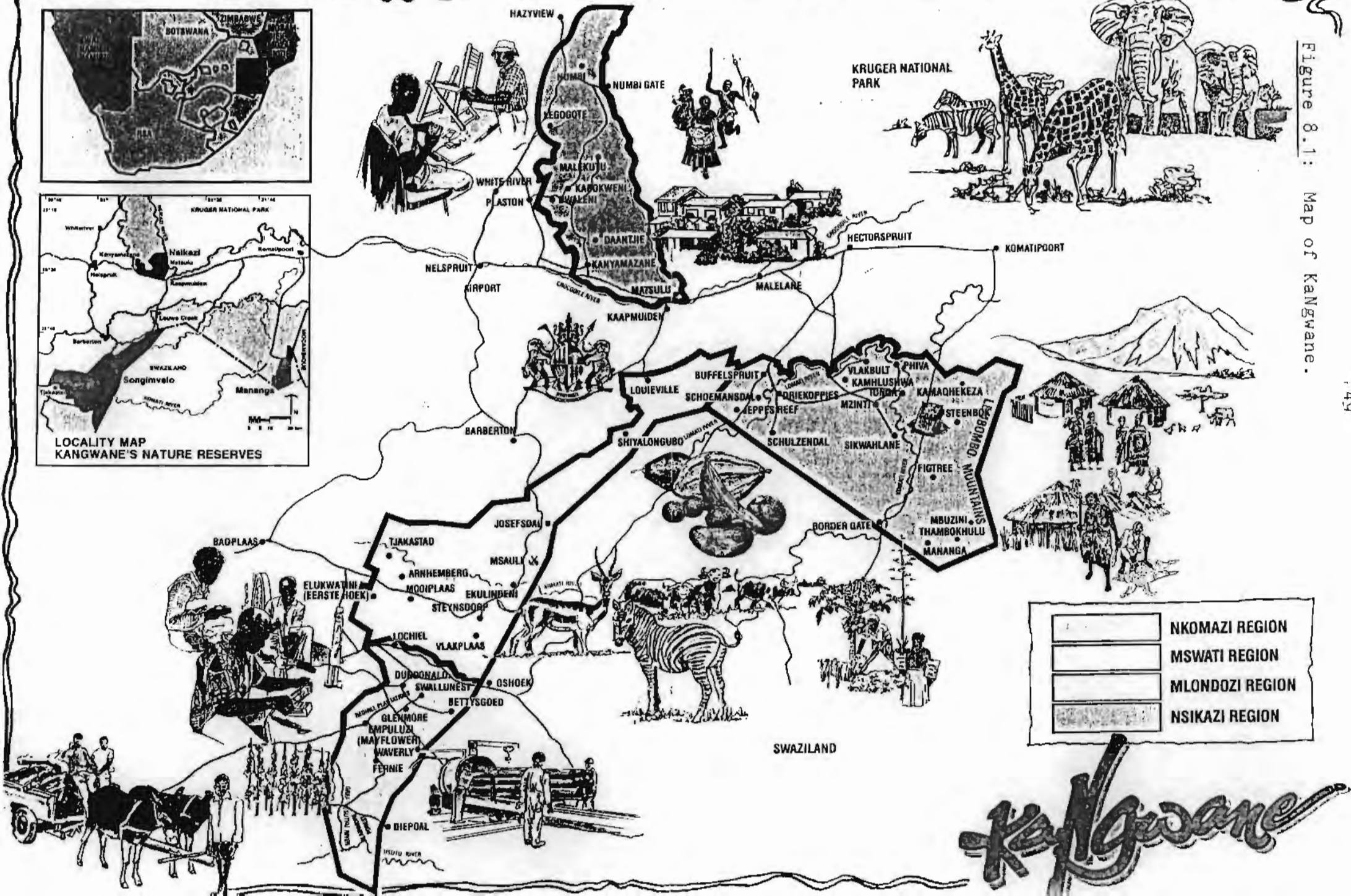
8.1.3.1 General

The Swazi Territorial Authority, which was established in November 1975, became known as KaNgwane when it was granted legislative assembly status in October 1977. KaNgwane received self-governing status on 31 August 1984.

Tucked into the South-Eastern Transvaal Lowveld (see Figure 8.1) the territory of KaNgwane consists of two unconsolidated pieces of land, totalling 374 000 hectares. The topography of the country varies from gently undulating to mountainous terrain. The Komati River and its tributaries, of which the Lomati is the biggest, flow through KaNgwane.

The Swazi people form the largest ethnic group of KaNgwane's multi-ethnic population. The resident population is approximately 948 000 and the official language is Siswati. The KaNgwane

Figure 8.1: Map of KANGwane.



Economic Development Corporation and the KaNgwane Agricultural Development Company (Agriwane) have been assigned the task of promoting development as far as agriculture, small businesses and the informal sector in the country are concerned.

8.1.3.2 Agriculture

Because of the diversity in climate between the different regions, virtually any agricultural product can be grown. The KaNgwane Government Department of Agriculture and Forestry, together with Agriwane, has strived to give momentum to agricultural development and to ensure the best possible utilisation of the land. Their philosophy is to get the farmer to participate and become totally involved in his own operation, to work with him but not for him.

The indigenous land tenure system is applicable in KaNgwane as well. In Africa the traditional tenure institutions (e.g. Agriwane) distribute land fairly evenly among communities. This system embodies arrangements whereby people in farming gain access to productive opportunities on the land. Writers on Southern Africa have viewed traditional tenure as an obstacle to agricultural development. Some regard individual freehold tenure as a preferred system (Low, 1986, p.162).

Extension centres have been established under Agriwane management to provide the individual farmer with information and training, as well as financial assistance. The system of settling individual farmers on economic land units (by Agriwane) under the traditional land tenure system has shown promising results and has gone a long way to motivating farmers to run their farms as economic units. In its capacity as acting consultant to the KaNgwane Government,

Agriwane is responsible for the development and management of various agricultural projects. The farmers are invited to apply for land within a particular project. After the recommendations of the community and the chief have been received the final allocation is made by Agriwane. The farmer has a free hand at decision-making on both technical and operational matters, but not in respect of the crop to be grown. Some of these agricultural projects are as follows:

Figtree and Shinyokana - cotton, dry beans, vegetables and bananas
 Tonga - rice, vegetables and sisal
 Ngogola - sugar and leather ferns
 Schoemansdal - coffee
 Mzinti, Sikwahlane and Vlakplaas - vegetables
 Louw's Creek - sugar, litchies, pawpaws and mangoes
 Honingklip - tobacco
 Dundonald - maize
 Cattle Breeding Schemes - Nguni, Brahman and Drakensberger
 Tongankukhu - chickens.

The success of the individual farmer and agricultural development on the whole continues to make a significant contribution towards enriching the lives of the people of KaNgwane and creating a more stable and happy community.

(Source: KaNgwane Government - 1987 and undated).

8.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

8.2.1 Background information

Since one of the main objectives of this study was to make a comparison between the white farmer's wife and the black farmer's wife, the two questionnaires obviously had to be similar. This was not always possible, due mainly to the differences in culture and socio-economic living conditions of the two groups.

To obtain the necessary background information a literature study was undertaken about the role of the farmer's wife on the farm in Third World countries as well as the role of the black wife in the family. Several discussions were held with officials from KaNgwane, and the author also visited KaNgwane to obtain first-hand information.

8.2.2 The questionnaire

A questionnaire was drawn up, based on the one used for the white farmer's wife, and was sent to officials in KaNgwane for their comments. A trial questionnaire was then sent out to six farmers' wives (two per group) who were representative of the three different agricultural projects. This resulted in several changes to the final questionnaire. An example of the questionnaire is provided in Appendix 2.

8.2.3 The survey

The final survey was undertaken personally by officials of the KaNgwane Government. This was done during October - a time of the year which is representative of the normal activities on the farm

in KaNgwane. Every farmer's wife was visited and the questions put to her, while the answers were recorded by the officials.

The biggest problem was to meet the wives on the farms or at their homes. After two personal visits, and when it became clear that it was impossible to meet all of them, it was decided that no further effort would be made to contact them. It seems that the credibility of the interviewers was a problem and that some of the farmers told their wives not to be available for an interview, because they do not trust a questionnaire.

The response was as follows:

Ngogolo sugar cane project - 40 farmers' wives were interviewed out of a total of 60.

Figtree irrigation project - 11 farmers' wives were interviewed out of a total of 24.

Shinyokana project - seven of the 20 farmers' wives were interviewed.

Once the questionnaires had been completed, they were coded and computerised for analysis.

8.2.4 Interpretation of information

Although the information is only representative of the different agricultural projects surveyed, it may also be applicable to other farmers' wives in KaNgwane as well. The three study areas were combined in the final processing by the computer to facilitate comparisons between the wives in the white commercial farming sector and those in KaNgwane. According to the HSRC, reporting of the descriptive statistics should be in terms of the scientist's requirements. Consequently, reporting frequency tables for the

total group of respondents or for three groups separately is for the researcher to decide. In any case, the differences of widowhood and the educational qualifications of the respondents in the three groups did not differ significantly according to chi-squared tests. Widowhood and qualifications were selected because of their major importance in the study.

Multiple linear regression analysis requires that the number of observations be substantially larger than the number of variables. The assumption of multi-variate normality is also made. This assumption is not so critical for large samples. Furthermore, this technique requires a value for the dependent as well as for each independent variable. Consequently, the sample size of 58 (which may be reduced due to missing values) is small. An alternative may be to reduce the number of variables, but this would make an extensive analysis (which was performed for the white commercial sector) impossible for the black sample. It is thus clear that it was not viable to conduct a regression analysis in this area of the study.

8.3 SHORT LITERATURE REVIEW

8.3.1 Historical developments in some Southern African countries

Changes in the less developed countries of Southern Africa, especially over the last 50 years, have been associated with the transition of formerly self-sufficient farming communities to deficit food producers.

The process of historical development of the agricultural economies of Lesotho and Botswana, for example, show remarkable

similarities. The indigenous populations in both Lesotho and Botswana were self-sufficient before the coming of the Europeans. A whole new consumer goods market was created by the Europeans which required households to allocate more of their labour time to the production of marketable produce than before (Low, 1986, pp. 48-49).

Surplus labour coupled to low opportunity cost in subsistence farming were used to generate the cash income necessary to meet the new demand for market goods. The narrowing of the gap between the price of purchased food relative to the cost of growing it, encouraged more and more people to leave farming in favour of wage employment. This trend was encouraged by the growing availability of jobs. However, most families remained on the land because of the traditional tenure arrangements. The wives thus continued to cultivate the land and the husbands migrated to wage employment (op. cit., pp.52-53).

8.3.2 Indigenous agriculture in Southern African economies

Despite the abundance of land, substantial foreign aid and the inflow of new technology, food production in many African countries has failed to keep pace with the growth in population. The underdevelopment of the indigenous sectors in Southern Africa may be due to historical neglect and policy discrimination or the current institutional biases that have favoured large-scale modern, urban and capital intensive production over small-scale peasant farming (Low, 1986, pp.1-2).

The reluctance to sell surplus cattle can be understood in terms of their consumption attributes, which include luxury

characteristics such as prestige, security, bride-wealth and status. But this may lead to the damaging effects of overgrazing and overstocking - an aspect being documented repeatedly (op. cit., p.6). Increasing wage opportunities, which encourage labour-extensive farming methods, together with the remaining labour force of women and children, directly lead to reduced productivity per hectare and per worker. Under traditional tenure, maintenance costs are low and are not related to the production potential of the land. The overall well-being of the family is maximised by maintaining a rural base even though it may be associated with reduced farm production due to emigration and labour shortages in the farm household (op. cit., pp.8-9).

8.3.3 The wife in developing Third World countries

The wife plays an important role in developing countries. However, while there is no denying that she will influence the process of development, her role in the community is limited, mainly by discrimination against women, especially in the political arena (Charlton, 1984, pp.27, 32-33).

For this reason it is important that a development policy for the wife include the following aspects:

- a. Improvement of the standard of living of wives and daughters, especially as far as food and health are concerned.
- b. Provision of minimum facilities for education.
- c. Expansion of facilities for improvement of production and income.
- d. Expansion of opportunities in which wives are allowed to make decisions.

e. International recognition for the wife with regard to her political and economic role (op. cit., p.218).

The characteristic family structures of the typical Third World inhabitant south of the Sahara has lead to the establishment of a unique agricultural production system in which the farmer's wife plays a dominant role. The wife makes the most important agricultural decisions and in addition does most of the work. For the sake of agricultural development, it may be preferable that she stays on the farm rather than becoming involved in off-farm work. This, however, depends on her opportunity cost (Charlton, 1984, p.49). Off-farm employment opportunities are usually limited, mainly because wives are on the whole poorly qualified (Mojalefa, undated, p.85).

As far as rice farming systems are concerned, women seem to be in a different situation. In the Philippines, for example, women play a limited role in the physical production process, while they are mainly involved in decisions pertinent to the allotment of money for farm activities such as the purchase of planting materials, land preparation and so on. The handling of the budget with regard to the different farm activities is a task which is predominantly handled by the wife. When money needs to be borrowed, the decision is usually taken jointly by the husband and wife rather than the husband on his own (Castillo, 1985, p.283).

Wives who hold high-school and college qualifications are more likely to join in the decision-making process, while decision-making tends to be the prerogative of the husband in the

case of a lower family income, shorter married life and a younger and less educated wife. During the second stage of married life, when the children are growing up, women increase their contribution to rice production (op. cit., p.284).

8.3.4 The black farmer's wife in the USA

One of the main reasons why the black farmer's wife does not play a permanent and pertinent role in agriculture in the USA, is due to discrimination to which the following factors contribute, according to Brown (1976, p.206):

- a. The slavery background of the black worker.
- b. Poor education facilities.
- c. Discrimination against blacks.
- d. Low income of blacks - they seldom have the opportunity to save money with which to purchase land.
- e. Poor security - loans are thus not available.

The history of the black wife in agriculture in the USA is one of hard work merely to survive. In spite of this, however, she has made a significant contribution to agriculture over the years and has become a factor to contend with (op. cit., p.212). Although the black farmer's wife is able to do tasks which the white wife does on the farm, she also has to overcome racial discrimination (Hill, 1981b, p.72).

8.4 RESEARCH RESULTS: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8.4.1 The farmer's wife and her family

8.4.1.1 Introduction

As in the case of farmers' wives in the main survey (the white commercial farming sector) it is impossible to determine the role of the farmer's wife without also taking into account the role of her husband and children. Most of the husbands in the surveyed regions live and work on the farms whereas in most of the national states the husbands have off-farm work. However, there are important differences between farm families in the commercial farming sector and in KaNgwane, namely different traditions and socio-economic living standards. According to Charlton (1984), inhabitants of the Third World south of the Sahara attach great importance to tradition. It is so important that some aspects cannot be explained in terms of particular variables without reference to the influence of tradition. It is also important to note that different ethnic groups have different backgrounds and live and work under different conditions, and also adhere to different traditions. This also holds good for KaNgwane, which has a multi-ethnic population, consisting of Swazi (who are in the majority), Shangaan and Sotho peoples.

Another problem was caused by the lack of knowledge of many respondents, who indicated that they did not know how old they were, what the occupations of their fathers are or had been, and so forth. The percentage of non-responses of this nature is relatively high and this, coupled with the low total population of

respondents, made it impossible to come to significant conclusions. In fact, it was not possible to conduct any regression analysis due to the low number of cases. For the purposes of this study, the term "farmer's wife" also refers to widows, except where the contrary is stated.

8.4.1.2 Age of the farmer's wife

In Table 8.1 an analysis is provided of the distribution of the age groups of the respondents.

Table 8.1: Distribution of the age of the farmer's wife in three surveyed areas of KaNgwane.

Age group (years)	Frequency (N=58)	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Under 30	4	6,9	6,9
30-39	13	22,4	29,3
40-49	12	20,7	50,0
50-59	7	12,1	62,1
60 and older	1	1,7	63,8
Don't know	21	36,2	100

Given the high percentage (36,2%) of respondents who did not know their age, it was impossible to draw a significant conclusion from Table 8.1. However, it would seem as if the greatest number of respondents are in the 30-39 age group (22,4%). However, it is possible that most of the women who did not know their age were of the older generations.

8.4.1.3 Qualifications of the farmer's wife and the farmer

The educational qualifications of the wives and their husbands are set out in Table 8.2.

Table 8.2: Educational qualifications of farmers' wives and their husbands in three surveyed areas of KaNgwane.

Qualifi- cation	Farmers' wives		Farmers	
	Percentage (N=58)	Cumulative percentage	Percentage (N=43)	Cumulative percentage
None	48,3	48,3	25,6	25,6
Grade 1	0	-	0	-
Grade 2	6,9	55,2	7,0	32,6
Std 1	6,9	62,1	2,3	34,9
2	12,1	74,1	11,6	46,5
3	3,4	77,6	11,6	58,1
4	6,9	84,5	7,0	65,1
5	6,9	91,4	16,3	81,4
6	5,2	96,6	14,0	95,3
7	1,7	98,3	0	-
8	0	-	4,7	100
9	1,7	100	0	-
Std 10 or higher	0	-	0	-

It is obvious from Table 8.2 that the farmers are much better qualified than their wives, i.e. 48,3% of the wives have no qualifications as against 25,6% of the farmers. Of those who are

qualified, the highest percentage (12,1%) of the wives have std 2 and the highest percentage of farmers (16,3%) std 5.

The poor educational qualifications do have an effect on off-farm work by either the wife or husband. Only two wives (3,4%) and one farmer (2,3%) hold occupations outside the farm boundaries. In addition to poor educational qualifications, other contributory factors for the low incidence of off-farm work in the areas of the three projects studied are that off-farm work is not available or too far from the farm.

8.4.1.4 Widowhood

A high percentage (25,9%) of the respondents (N=58) are widows. It implies that at least a quarter of the farmers on the three projects in KaNgwane are women, and as such, significantly influence farming in those areas. The high percentage could imply that a large number of farmers' wives would continue with the farming enterprise should they become widowed. The fact that so many widows stay on the farms and continue with the farming business may probably be attributed to their poor educational qualifications, the difficulties associated with reaching the nearest employment centres and the fact that a large number does not understand either Afrikaans or English.

Most of the widows are between 30 and 59 years old. Many (36,2%) of the respondents (widows and non-widows) indicated that they did not know how old they were - perhaps these are the women who are 60 years and older. This makes it impossible to come to a conclusion with regard to a link between age and widowhood.

Another important aspect is that 85,7% of the widows foresee their

business. The remainder indicated that they were uncertain, and not a single respondent replied negatively. In the case of non-widows, 42,5% indicated that their children would probably take over the farm at a later date.

As widows make up such a large percentage of the farmers in the three areas it is of the utmost importance that their needs and requirements receive special attention.

8.4.1.5 Children in the household

The average number of children per family in the sample is 5,5. This is much higher than in the case of families in the main survey (2,9 children per family).

The majority of children still live at home and are available to help with activities on the farm. In no case were children residing in hostels. The distribution of the children per family is set out in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3: Distribution of children per family in three areas of KaNgwane.

Number of children	% families (N=58)	Number of children	% families (N=58)
0	1,7	7	12,1
1	1,7	8	12,1
2	5,2	9	1,7
3	12,1	10	3,4
4	15,5	11	1,7
5	20,7	12	0
6	10,3	13	1,7

The highest percentage of families has five children, while 63,7% of the families have five or more children.

A high percentage (50,9) of the respondents foresaw that their children would one day continue farming on that particular farm. Only 12,3% did not foresee that this would happen while 36,8% were uncertain. One of the reasons why children are involved in farming activities (section 8.6) may be because they are aware that the farm will probably belong to them one day.

8.4.1.6 Literacy

The low percentage of respondents who are able to read and write either Afrikaans or English may be one of the reasons why so few are involved in off-farm work. Of the respondents 94,8% do not understand Afrikaans and cannot read or write it while in the case of English it is 87,9%. This aspect causes communication problems and requires urgent attention. Communication skills should be developed as far as possible (Armstrong and Lloyd, 1972, p.9; Makeham, 1978, p.16; Johnson, 1982, p.244). In addition, most information on agriculture which is provided via radio, television, magazines, and so on is only available in either Afrikaans or English and accordingly never reaches most of these people. This further underlines the importance that improvement of literacy be placed high on the priority list of development efforts.

8.4.1.7 Occupation of father

Any farming experience which the women gained before their marriages must be of great value to them, particularly in view of

the fact that not a single one has any qualifications in agriculture. Of the respondents, 37,9% grew up on farms while a further 5,2% came from a family where the father held a position in agriculture, though not as a farmer. The majority, therefore, did not have any prior farming experience.

8.4.1.8 Off-farm work

A low percentage of respondents, namely 3,4%, hold off-farm occupations. In the case of the husbands this percentage drops to 2,3%. This is in sharp contrast to the situation in Nigeria, where both the farmer and his wife consider off-farm work by the wife as an integral part of her role as farmer's wife (Adeyokunnu, 1981, pp.3-9).

The migration of labour from agriculture to the manufacturing industry is an essential component of the process of structural transformation and economic development (La-Anyane, 1985, p.20). However, in Lesotho and Botswana, migration to wage employment did not reduce population pressures on the land, since most migrants retained their rural home base. Farm households retain access to a wide range of household necessities such as food and shelter, which could be procured more cheaply by migrants than by purchasing them in the market place (Low, 1986, p.4).

It was stated earlier that one of the main reasons for off-farm work is the need to earn additional income. However, when the respondents were asked to mention those aspects which cause them the most unhappiness on the farm, not a single one mentioned money or finance. There are nevertheless factors which make it very difficult for them to obtain off-farm employment. Firstly, they

generally have low educational qualifications, and not a single woman in the sample has any vocational training. According to Wilkening (1979, p.4) and Sander (1986, p.16) qualifications have a positive influence on the probability of obtaining off-farm jobs. Secondly, a very low percentage of the wives understand either Afrikaans or English - a skill considered to be essential for employment in most positions. Thirdly, they have great difficulty in travelling to the nearest towns, as transport facilities are limited and long distances have to be travelled. The latter aspect was mentioned as the second most important problem/frustration for the farmer's wife when asked to name aspects which cause them the most unhappiness on the farm. Another possible reason why few women hold off-farm jobs is that they are involved in farm activities to such an extent that there is no time available for off-farm work (opportunity costs are important). It must be kept in mind that the farms are relatively large and, as such, need attention. Of the women interviewed 70,7% receive a fixed income from the farm and this may lead to a reduced need for additional income.

The matter of opportunity cost plays an important role in off-farm work. Improved education increases the opportunity costs of a woman staying on the farm. According to Low (1986, p.6) indigenous farm household members in Southern Africa do not enter the labour market because the marginal returns to labour on the family farm fall below the prevailing wage rate, but rather because some household members have a comparative advantage in wage employment compared with farm household production.

The respondents indicated that they experience a shortage of farm labourers, an average of 2,9 per farm. This again stresses the fact that the services of wives are needed on the farm. This is in line with the findings of Charlton (1984, pp.32-34,48) who suggests that wives in the Third World should rather stay and work on the farms. However, as indicated previously, the most important reason why most women do not hold off-farm jobs is probably due mainly to low educational qualifications and thus low opportunity costs. It may be argued that the percentage of women doing off-farm work could be higher because a high percentage of the respondents were not available for interviews. This, however, is disregarded because of the reasons mentioned in section 8.2.3.

8.4.1.9 Regular income from farm and from outside

A high percentage of wives (70,7%) receive a regular income from the farm, and this may be the main reason why they do not list money or finance as a major problem. This may also explain why they are so intensively involved in farm activities. Only 3,4% have an additional source of income.

8.4.2 The farm and farm business

8.4.2.1 Size of farms

The average size of the farms surveyed is 10,3 ha. The farms are relatively small compared to the commercial farming sector, but larger than the average farm in the less-developed areas where the average farm size is about one ha in extent. The soil is of a high quality and all land is under irrigation. The average farm size for the different types of farming is as follows:

Sugar - 7,0 ha

Vegetables - 10,3 ha

Cotton - 17,8 ha.

8.4.2.2 Farm labourers

The average number of permanent labourers per farm unit is 4,7, while the respondents felt that they needed 7,6, implying a shortage of 2,9 labourers per farm. As was stated above, this may be one reason why wives are so heavily involved in farm activities and why few are involved in off-farm work.

8.4.2.3 Use of services

One would expect both the farmer and his wife to use expert services available outside the farm on a regular basis. Their extremely low qualifications put them in a position where they are in need of knowledge about farming. In Table 8.4 an analysis is given of the use made of expert services on a regular basis.

Table 8.4: Expert services used regularly by the farmers, their wives and widows in three areas of KaNgwane.

Services	% of respondents (N=58)
Local extension officer	56,9
Personnel from Agriwane	79,3
Engineering services	0
Personnel from the co-operative	24,1
Personnel from private firms	0
Other farmers	25,9
Other	0

Table 8.4 shows that most respondents (79,3%) use the services offered by Agriwane and to a lesser extent those of the local extension officer. They make use mainly of those services available on the farm. This is obviously linked to the problems surrounding distances and transport, which make it difficult for the farmer and wife to obtain expert services outside the farm boundaries. This, in conjunction with their low qualifications and communication problems, shows clearly that services must be brought to the farm with advice in the farmer's own language. It is indeed unfortunate that most of the useful information on agriculture is published only in Afrikaans or English, and as such is of little use to these farmers and their wives. The effect of qualifications of both husband and wife (including widows) on the use of services is analysed in Table 8.5.

Table 8.5: Effect of educational qualifications on the regular use of services in three areas of KaNgwane.*

Service	<u>No qualifications</u>		<u>Qualified (from grade 1)</u>	
	Wife %	Farmer %	Wife %	Farmer %
Local extension officer	60,6	38,1	39,4	61,9
Personnel from Agriwane	43,5	24,2	56,5	75,8
Personnel from co-operative	57,1	22,2	42,9	77,8
Other farmers	66,7	18,2	33,3	66,7

*Widows are included.

In the case of wives (including widows), those without any educational qualifications make use of services more often than do those with qualifications. This is particularly true for the use of services from the local extension officer.

opposite applies. This may be due to the fact that the husbands without qualifications are not aware of their lack of knowledge and need for more expert information. The wives, on the other hand, may feel that they, as women, have to obtain more information, just because they are so intensely involved in farming activities.

8.4.3 Farmer away from home

During the time the farmer spends away from the farm, his wife is responsible for continuing the farming business. The weekly number of hours that the farmer is absent, and the activities he is engaged in during those times are analysed in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Hours per week that the farmer spends on certain activities in three areas of KaNgwane.

Activity	Average hours per week
Meetings concerning agriculture	6,4
Courses, farmers' days, etc.	0,2
At shops	1,4
Other	0,4
Total	8,4

Of a total of 8,4 hours per week spent on activities outside the farm, 6,4 hours are spent at meetings. These meetings, mainly with Agriwane, are mainly concerned with farming. This amounts to a full work day per week, and may be one of the reasons why the wives are highly involved in farming activities.

8.5 THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE ON THE FARM

8.5.1 Specification of role

The questionnaire was compiled with a view to ascertaining the most important aspects of the role of the farmer's wife. From the literature study and comments of agriculturists and officials from KaNgwane, it was decided to consider 14 different aspects in the questionnaire (see Table 8.7). The respondents had to indicate their own and the children's involvement per item on a scale of 0 (not at all), 1 (little) or 2 (much). To make sure that important aspects in which they played a role were not left out, space was left in which any other facet could be mentioned. From the completed questionnaires it was clear that no important aspects had been left out. The role of decision-making as part of the management process is considered so important that it is covered under a separate heading (see section 8.7).

Care of the household and vegetable and fruit garden and marketing of produce were listed as activities in which the farmers' wives were involved most often. It would seem that the wives are generally more involved in activities concerning crops than animals.

With the exception of care of animals and dairy cattle, the low percentages of wives who are not involved in farming activities indicate how high their overall involvement is. All the wives (100%) are actively involved in the vegetable and fruit garden and marketing of produce. On average, the percentage of wives involved in various activities to some extent is high too.

Table 8.7: Extent of involvement of the farmer's wife on farms
in three areas of KaNgwane.

Activities	Extent of involvement on farm					
	Average involvement (Scale 0-2)*	Description of average involvement **	Mode	Percentage wives highly involved*	Percentage wives involved to some extent*	Percentage wives not involved at all *
Household	2,0	Much	3	96,6	3,4	0
Vegetable and fruit garden	2,0	Much	3	100,0	0	0
Marketing of produce	2,0	Much	3	100,0	0	0
Cultivation of land	1,9	Much	3	91,4	3,4	5,2
Harvesting of crops	1,9	Much	3	91,4	3,4	5,2
Care of house garden	1,8	Much	3	83,3	8,4	8,3
Decisions concerning crops	1,8	Much	3	78,9	19,3	1,8
Chickens	1,7	Much	3	80,0	10,0	10,0
Care of children	1,7	Much	3	81,8	10,9	7,3
Keeping farm records	1,7	Much	3	77,6	17,2	5,2
Pigs	1,5	Regularly	2	50,0	50,0	-
Decisions concerning animals	1,5	Regularly	3	62,5	25,0	12,5
Care of animals	0,9	Little	2	25,9	40,8	33,3
Dairy cattle	0,9	Little	1	23,8	38,1	38,1

* Involvement is on a scale of 0 (not at all) to 2 (much).

** Average involvement is described as follows:

0 - not at all

0,1-1,0 - little

1,1-1,5 - regularly

1,6-2,0 - much.

Table 8.7 contains an analysis of the extent of the involvement of the farmer's wife in certain farming activities.

As far as the keeping of farm records is concerned, most of the wives are assisted by their children (who can read and write - however the children do not keep records per se). This is an important component of farming, as Agriwane requires records of the farmers and their farming enterprise on a regular basis. In addition, the wives make no distinction between "hard" and "soft" jobs and are involved in both types to an equal extent. On average, the farmer's wife spends 7,9 hours per day on farming activities, indicating that she is highly involved in activities on the farm, with a definite preference for aspects concerning crops.

8.5.2 Quantification of role

The daily number of hours the farmer's wife (including widows) spends on various activities is analysed in Table 8.8.

The surveyed farmer's wife spends a large number of hours per day (7,9) on farming activities, which is much more than that spent on the household (2,9 hours) and the care of children (2,1 hours). Altogether, she is occupied with various activities for 13,4 hours per day.

Table 8.8: Daily number of hours the farmer's wife (including widows) in three areas of KaNgwane spends on various activities.

Aspect	Average hours per day
The household	2,9
Care of children	2,1
Farming activities	7,9
Activities of women's clubs	0,5
Total	13,4

8.6 THE ROLE OF CHILDREN ON THE FARM

As in the case of the farm family in the main survey the farm family in KaNgwane is inextricably linked to the agricultural enterprise. A complete analysis of the role of the children in farming and the extent of their involvement is set out in Table 8.9.

With the exception of the keeping of farm records, there is a certain number of children who are regularly involved, or to some extent involved, in every activity. The children are more involved in activities concerning animals than crops - thus the opposite pattern of their mothers.

Table 8.9: Extent of involvement of children in farm activities
in three areas of KaNgwane.

Activities	Extent of involvement on farm					
	Average involvement (Scale 0-2)*	Description of average involvement**	Mode	Percentage children highly involved *	Percentage children involved to some extent*	Percentage children not involved at all*
Chickens	1,3	Regularly	3	63,6	0	36,4
Dairy cattle	1,3	Regularly	3	54,5	18,2	27,3
Care of house garden	1,1	Regularly	3	38,5	30,7	30,8
Care of animals	1,0	Little	3	42,9	17,8	39,3
Pigs	1,0	Little	2	50,0	0	50,0
Care of children	0,9	Little	2	21,8	47,3	30,9
Harvesting of crops	0,6	Little	1	12,3	33,3	54,4
Cultivation of lands	0,5	Little	1	10,5	31,6	57,9
The household	0,5	Little	1	7,0	36,9	56,1
Vegetable and fruit garden	0,4	Little	1	3,5	36,9	59,6
Marketing of produce	0,2	Little	1	1,8	19,3	78,9
Decisions concerning animals	0,2	Little	1	3,1	12,5	84,4
Decisions concerning crops	0,1	Little	1	1,8	0	98,2
Keeping farm records	0	Not at all	1	0	0	100

* Involvement is on a scale of 0 (not at all) to 2 (much).

** Average involvement is described as follows:

- 0 - not at all
- 0,1-1,0 - little
- 1,1-1,5 - regularly
- 1,6-2,0 - much.

8.7 DECISION-MAKING ON THE FARM

The decision-making process forms an important component of farm management. In KaNgwane, people living on the agricultural projects are to some extent responsible to Agriwane, which holds overall responsibility for the projects. Decisions made on the farm, therefore, are important both for Agriwane and for the farmers' survival and future.

The respondents (excluding widows) were asked to define their role, that of their husbands and the two combined, in farm decision-making. Table 8.10 contains an analysis of the decision-making responsibility on the farm.

Table 8.10: Decision-making aspects on farms in three areas of KaNgwane (excluding widows).

Aspect	<u>Decision-making (% respondents)</u>		
	(N=43)		
	Wife only	Husband only	Joint
The household	60,5	4,7	34,9
The family	32,6	2,3	65,1
The farm labourers	4,7	37,2	58,1
Crops	2,3	30,2	67,4
Purchase of large items	0	30,2	69,8
Purchase of small items	0	25,6	74,4
Long-term decisions	0	25,6	74,4
Short-term decisions	0	34,9	65,1
Animals	0	34,9	65,1
Mechanisation	0	41,9	58,1

The wife plays an important decision-making role on the farm as is evident from the fact that a large percentage of them are joint decision-makers in all the aspects and sole decision-makers in four of the listed items. With regard to both the household (60,5%) and the family (32,6%) the percentages as far as the sole decision-maker is concerned, is high. Active involvement in specific farm activities is positively correlated with decision-making on those activities. This is in line with the findings of Wilkening (1979, p.6), Boulding (1980, p.275) and Fassinger and Schwarzweller (1984, p.40). The husband plays a decision-making role in all aspects considered, although his role is particularly low with regard to the household (4,7%) and the family (2,3%).

Joint decision-making is important and is listed with relatively high percentages for all aspects, especially with regard to long-term decisions (74,4%) and the purchase of small items (74,4%) and large items (69,8%).

The farmer's wife in the surveyed areas of KaNgwane appears to play a larger role in farm decision-making than her husband. This accords with findings of Charlton (1984, pp.48-49) that the farmer's wife in the Third World is the major decision-maker on the farm. According to Castillo (1985, p.283) the wife is also highly involved in decisions pertinent to the allotment of money for farm activities, while joint decision-making predominates when money is borrowed.

8.8 PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

The respondents were asked to mention the single aspect which causes them the most unhappiness on the farm. This is analysed in Table 8.11.

Table 8.11: Aspects on the farm which cause the most unhappiness for the farmer's wife in three areas of KaNgwane.

Aspect	Percentage respondents (N=41)
Poor quality of water	19,5
Long distances from nearest towns	17,1
Water restrictions	14,6
Pests and diseases	14,6
Stones on lands	9,8
Farm too small	4,9
Soil erosion	4,9
Shopping takes very long	2,4
Too dependent on husband	2,4
Vegetable garden - more space	2,4
Schools too far	2,4
No nursery school	2,4
Too much work	2,4

It is evident that water causes most problems for the respondents, with poor water quality being named by 19,5% and water restrictions by 14,6%. Nearest towns situated far away from the farm (Malelane is about 60 km distant), pests and diseases and stones on lands were also of major concern.

The average distance from the nearest shop is 0,39 km. It should be stressed that these shops are usually general stores, and the term by no means designates a village, town or city. The shops stock only a few items and are relatively expensive. The people have to do their normal shopping in the nearest town. Malelane is the town closest to the three projects under discussion and is about 60 km away. The long distances from the nearest towns, the poor transport facilities and the long time involved in shopping do create problems for the farmers' wives in KaNgwane. Alleviating these problems will add considerably to the satisfaction they gain from participating in farming.

The need for more space for a vegetable garden (2,4%), although not listed as a priority, seems to be a sensitive problem because 29,3% of the respondents indicated that establishment and maintenance of a vegetable and fruit garden should be included in a special course for the farmer's wife. More space would enable them to expand their vegetable gardens resulting in higher cash sales and thus more money in their pockets. It should be noted that the land allocated to the farmers by Agriwane should be cultivated for a specific crop only. This means that only small portions on the outskirts are available for growing vegetables. They regard the vegetable garden as one of the best ways to get

additional cash money. They are unable to obtain fresh vegetables and fruit at the local shops, and in addition do not often get to towns and cities where fresh produce may be bought. There is thus a good local cash market for such products. Many of these problems and frustrations need the urgent attention of the KaNgwane Government, for once these problems have been solved, the farmers' wives in the surveyed areas of KaNgwane would be much more content with their situation, and this no doubt would be reflected in their productivity.

8.9 TRAINING THE FARMER'S WIFE IN KANGWANE FOR HER ROLE IN FARM MANAGEMENT

8.9.1 The need for a special course for the farmer's wife

From the discussion on the role of the farmer's wife in general and in decision-making on the farm in particular, it is evident that she plays an extremely important role, in some cases even more so than the farmer himself. Appropriate training of the wife for this task would thus be a justifiable expense. The following aspects which were discussed and analysed should be borne in mind:

- a. The farmer's wife is highly involved in most activities on the farm.
- b. She plays an important role in decision-making on the farm.
- c. Of the respondents, 50% are younger than 50 years of age.
- d. Of the wives 48,3% have no qualifications.
- e. About one-quarter (25,9%) of the women are widows.
- f. The literacy rate of the respondents is extremely low and almost no one can read or write Afrikaans or English.
- g. Only 3,4% of the wives have off-farm work.

- h. The distance from the nearest town is a major problem, as transport is not always available.
- i. The farmer is away from home 8,4 hours per week on average.

Given the high degree of involvement in farm activities and bearing in mind the poor educational qualifications of the respondents generally, there must be a need for more information about farming, which could be provided in a special course for the farmer's wife. All the respondents (100%) indicated that it would be a good idea if a special course was compiled for them. Without doubt, there is a need for one. This agrees with the suggestion by Charlton (1984, pp.159-160) that facilities with regard to education should be established for farmers' wives in developing countries.

8.9.2 Presentation of a course

The respondents were not asked for their ideas on how a course should be presented, because, it was argued, they would in all probability know little about the matter. However, the reaction of the respondents in the main survey could be used as a guideline. Some of the requirements and problems of the two groups are similar although the problems of the respondents in KaNgwane are in many cases more severe.

For the commercial farmer's wife in the RSA a correspondence course coupled with a series of short courses was considered the most practical solution (see section 7.3). However, a correspondence course is completely out of the question for the wives in the surveyed areas of KaNgwane since most of them cannot

read. A short course or a series of short courses would probably be the most suitable under the circumstances.

8.9.3 Content of the course

To determine what the content of a course for the farmer's wife should be, the specified role of the wife on the farm (as analysed in section 8.5.1) as well as their needs for a course should be taken into consideration.

In the questionnaire the respondents were asked to single out the aspect which they would like to have included in a course for the farmer's wife (widows included). Table 8.12 contains an analysis of their answers.

The vegetable and fruit garden is considered by many to be the most important aspect. General agricultural information is listed as the second highest priority. The women are intensely involved in farm activities and obviously feel the need to be better equipped for their task. Needlework is an important recreational activity, and as it is a hobby which can be practised despite the isolation of the farms, it deserves to be given due consideration. A surprising fact is that there was no great felt need for improving literacy in Afrikaans or English.

The farmer's wife in the three areas of KaNgwane has a definite need for a special course which could be presented in the form of a short course or series of short courses with general agriculture (including the vegetable and fruit garden) and needlework as high priority subjects.

Table 8.12: Aspects that should be included in a course for the farmer's wife (widows included) in three areas in KaNgwane.

Aspect	Percentage respondents (N=58)
Vegetable and fruit garden	29,3
General agriculture	20,7
Needlework	17,2
First aid	5,2
Literacy (reading, writing, etc.)	5,2
Child care	5,2
Mechanisation	5,2
Learning Afrikaans or English	3,4
Children's diseases	1,7
The household	1,7
Cooking	1,7
House garden	1,7
Irrigation	1,7

8.10 SUMMARY

The state of KaNgwane, which is situated in the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld, has a multi-ethnic population with the Swazi people in the majority. Various agricultural projects have been established in co-operation with Agriwane and three were chosen for this study. The traditions and socio-economic aspects of the people of KaNgwane differ greatly from those prevalent in the commercial farming sector of the RSA.

The farmer's wife in the three areas of KaNgwane has relatively poor educational qualifications. Almost 50% of the wives interviewed have no qualifications at all and most cannot read or write either Afrikaans or English.

The percentage of widows is high (25,9%), as is the average number of children, namely 5,5 per family. A low percentage (3,4%) of the wives hold off-farm jobs.

The farms are on average 10,3 ha in extent and are intensively cultivated, with sugar cane, vegetables and cotton being the most important farming crops. Water and distances from and transport to the nearest town are factors which cause farmers' wives the most unhappiness.

The farmer's wife in the three surveyed areas of KaNgwane is highly involved in farm activities and also plays the major role in decision-making on the farm. The children, too, are actively involved in farm activities.

There is a need for a special course for the farmer's wife, and it could take the form of a short course or a series of short courses with general agriculture and needlework as high priority subjects. Additional space for the fruit and vegetable garden is a sensitive aspect for the respondents and needs to receive urgent attention by Agriwane.

CHAPTER 9

THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN THE RSA AND IN KANGWANE -
A COMPARISON

Many of the differences in the roles of the two groups studied are a result of the wide disparity in culture and tradition. Conditions on the farms and in the communities differ so vastly that it is difficult and sometimes unfair to make comparisons. The traditional land tenure system in KaNgwane is in total contrast to the private ownership system in the RSA (the white commercial farming sector) and both have distinct influences on the role of the family on the farm.

In this chapter a comparison will be made between the most important aspects which were discussed and analysed in chapters 4 to 8. Every aspect is not always applicable to both groups and where this is the case, the aspect in question will not be discussed.

9.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION9.1.1 The farmer's wife and her family

Information discussed below is summarised in Table 9.1.

9.1.1.1 Age

Most of the respondents in the RSA are between 40 and 49 years old and in KaNgwane between 30 and 39 years of age.

Table 9.1: A comparison of certain characteristics of farmers' wives in the RSA and in KaNgwane.

Characteristic	Farmer's wife in the RSA	Farmer's wife in KaNgwane *
<u>Age</u>		
Majority age group (years)	40-49	30-39
<u>Qualifications</u>		
No qualifications (%)	0	48,3
Grade 1 to Std 10 (%)	46,6	51,7
Tertiary (%)	46,8	0
Other (%)	6,6	0
<u>Profession before marriage</u>		
Highest percentage	Education	None
<u>Widowhood</u>		
Widows (%)	1,8	25,9
<u>Children</u>		
Average per family	2,9	5,5
Five children or more (%)	11,1	63,7
<u>Off-farm work</u>		
Percentage involved	20,8	3,4
<u>Daughter of a farmer (%)</u>	53,2	37,9
<u>Fixed allowance from the farm (%)</u>	24,5	70,7

* Including widows.

9.1.1.2 Qualifications

The farmer's wife in the RSA is well qualified, with 46,8% holding tertiary qualifications. Wives in KaNgwane are poorly qualified with 48,3% having no qualifications at all. Furthermore, none of the KaNgwane respondents have tertiary qualifications.

9.1.1.3 Profession before marriage

The highest percentage of farmers' wives in the RSA occupied a profession in education, while the wives in KaNgwane held no professional jobs before their marriages. This big difference may be ascribed to the fact that wives in KaNgwane are poorly qualified.

9.1.1.4 Widowhood

The high percentage (25,9%) of widows amongst the wives in KaNgwane must certainly influence their role on the farm. This large proportion is in sharp contrast to the 1,8% of farmers' wives in the RSA who are widows. The fact that many men in KaNgwane drink dangerous types of home-made drinks, which often prove to be fatal, may be a reason for the high percentage of widows.

9.1.1.5 Children on the farm

The average number of children per family in KaNgwane is almost double (5,5) that in the RSA (2,9). In KaNgwane family labour may thus play a more important role.

9.1.1.6 Social life

It seems that farmers' wives in the RSA have a better social life than those in KaNgwane. The situation is aggravated by the long distances and lack of transport with which wives in KaNgwane have to contend.

9.1.1.7 Off-farm work

A very low percentage of wives in KaNgwane (3,4%) work outside the farm boundaries. This may be the result mainly of their low educational qualifications, long distances from towns and transport problems. A much higher percentage (20,8%) of wives in the RSA are involved in off-farm work.

9.1.1.8 Farming experience before marriage

Although 53,2% of the farmers' wives in the RSA and 37,9% of those in KaNgwane grew up on farms, a large number did not acquire any useful farming experience before their marriages.

9.1.1.9 Regular income from the farm

A high percentage of the wives in KaNgwane, namely 70,7%, receive a regular income from the farm, as against 24,5% of the wives in the RSA. The extremely high involvement in farm activities of the wives in KaNgwane may to some extent account for this discrepancy.

9.1.2 The farm

The size of the farm, ownership and type of farming are to a large extent fixed and predetermined in KaNgwane because of the land tenure system. A comparison of farm characteristics is

Table 9.2: A comparison of certain aspects of farms in the RSA and KaNgwane.

Aspect	RSA	KaNgwane
Average size of farms (ha)	1 000-4 999	10,3
Average distance from nearest town (km)	30,6	+ - 60
Average shortage of labourers per farm	0	2,9
Farmer away from home (average hours per week)	14,1	8,4

9.1.2.1 Type of farming

The survey amongst the farmers' wives in the RSA covered all types of farming, with mixed farming (33,3%) having the highest representation, followed by sheep and goat farming (21,4%) and agricultural crops (13,9%). The respondents in KaNgwane farm mainly with sugar cane and cotton, and a few with vegetables.

9.1.2.2 Size of the farm

The average size of farm on the three irrigation projects in KaNgwane is 10,3 ha, and this is more or less predetermined by Agriwane. In the RSA farm sizes vary considerably with the farms of most respondents being between 1 000 and 4 999 ha.

9.1.2.3 Ownership of land

Land ownership on the three irrigation projects in KaNgwane is regulated by Agriwane whereas freehold land tenure is the norm in the RSA where, in the majority of cases (67,2%), the husband is the sole owner.

9.1.2.4 Inheritance of farm

A large number of farmers, namely 39,3%, and 8,9% of their wives inherited their farms in the RSA. In KaNgwane no real inheritance is possible because of the land tenure system. However, if a family cultivates its allotted land, the children may "inherit" it.

9.1.2.5 Distance from nearest town/shop

Although the farms in the RSA are much further (30,6 km) from the nearest town than those in KaNgwane (0,39 km from nearest shop), the time factor is largely the same, as the wives in KaNgwane have to walk to the nearest shop and carry their goods home. Malelane is the town closest to the three projects studied and is about 60 km away. For these reasons distance has far more negative implications for the people in KaNgwane than for those in the RSA.

9.1.3 Farming

9.1.3.1 Farm labourers

The respondents in the RSA indicated that they have sufficient labourers, whereas in KaNgwane a shortage of 2,9 labourers per

farm was indicated. This may be one of the reasons why the KaNgwane women are so heavily involved in farming activities.

9.1.3.2 Use of expert services

In general it seems that the farmers and their wives (including widows) in the surveyed areas of KaNgwane make more use of expert services than do their counterparts in the RSA. If this is linked to the educational qualifications of the people concerned, it appears that the farmers and wives in the RSA who need expert advice the most, make the least use of it. In KaNgwane the opposite holds true.

9.1.4 Farmer away from home

Although the farmer in the RSA spends more time (14,1 hours per week) on outside activities than does the farmer in KaNgwane (8,4 hours) it in effect amounts to a great deal of time that they are not on the farm in both cases. During these periods the wife has to see to the farming activities and has to make decisions.

9.1.5 Collection of information for the household, family and farming

The farmer and his wife in the RSA make extensive use of different media for information on farming, the household and family. In KaNgwane most of the people cannot read or write either Afrikaans or English and as most information on farming is dispersed in these languages, they are unable to make use of it.

9.2 ROLE OF THE WIFE (INCLUDING WIDOWS) ON THE FARM

Farmers' wives in both the RSA and KaNgwane are highly involved in farming activities although those in KaNgwane generally play a bigger role.

In the RSA the farmer's wife is mainly involved in answering the telephone, running errands and caring for the house garden. In KaNgwane she is highly involved in most activities on the farm with the household, vegetable and fruit garden and marketing of produce being the most important aspects.

The "hard jobs" such as harvesting and cultivation of lands appear high on the list of the respondents in KaNgwane but low for those in the RSA.

Farmers' wives in KaNgwane are not much involved in activities concerning animals, and prefer cropping activities. In the RSA, on the other hand, farmers' wives listed their involvement in activities with crops as low and those concerning animals reasonably high.

The farmer's wife in KaNgwane spends an average of 7,9 hours per day on farming activities. This is more than twice the number of hours for the wife in the RSA (3,6 hours - 2,2 hours per day on farming activities plus 1,4 on administration).

9.3 ROLE OF CHILDREN ON THE FARM

Although the children are by no means as involved as the farmers' wives, they do make an important contribution to the activities on the farm in both groups. In the RSA the children are mainly involved in answering the telephone, running errands and caring for animals, whereas in KaNgwane they are mainly involved with chickens, dairy cattle and care of the house garden.

9.4 DECISION-MAKING ON THE FARM

Farmers' wives in both groups are actively involved in decision-making on the farms, both on their own and jointly with their husbands. As far as decision-making is concerned, wives in the three surveyed areas of KaNgwane take more decisions on their own than do the wives in the RSA. In both cases the household is the area where most wives take their own decisions. With regard to important long- and short-term decisions and the purchase of large items, most decision-making is done jointly. In the RSA 79,5% of the family decisions are made jointly, whereas the corresponding figure for KaNgwane is 65,1%.

9.5 PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THE FARMER'S WIFE

There are aspects on the farm which cause unhappiness to wives, but with the exception of long distances from town or the nearest shop, these aspects differ vastly between the two groups.

The wives in the RSA are most unhappy about farm labour, droughts and finance, whereas those in KaNgwane are most unhappy with the poor quality of water, long distances, water restrictions and pests and diseases. In the case of both groups most of the causes of unhappiness on the farm are coupled directly to the farm and farm business, which is an indication of the extent to which they are concerned with farm activities.

9.6 TRAINING NEEDS OF THE FARMER'S WIFE FOR HER ROLE IN FARM MANAGEMENT

Without doubt, there is a real need for a special course for the respondents in both groups. Most of them indicated that they would welcome and enroll in a special course for the farmer's wife.

Presentation of a course will differ for the two groups. The most practical presentation in the RSA would be a correspondence course coupled with short courses, while a short course or series of short courses would seem to be most suitable in KaNgwane. As far as the content of a course is concerned, both groups need education in general agriculture, with the wives in the RSA listing book keeping, farm management and finance as priority subjects. In KaNgwane wives indicated a need for education in aspects concerning the fruit and vegetable garden, general agriculture and needlework.

9.7 CONCLUSION

Both groups of farmers' wives are highly involved in farming activities and show a considerable commitment to the farm, particularly the women in KaNgwane. Both groups are in favour of a special course for the farmer's wife. Although the surveyed farmers' wives in both the RSA and KaNgwane experience a number of problems and frustrations, none of those mentioned are insurmountable. If these problems receive the necessary attention, and an appropriate course is instituted which is geared especially to the needs of farmers' wives in the two areas, their roles on the farm may be much more pleasant and still more valuable to the farming business.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN FARM MANAGEMENT IN THE RSA

The literature study on the role of the farmer's wife supplied useful and in many cases essential information, which served as a guideline for this study and provided the basis for comparisons with studies abroad. The background of the wife and her family as well as that of the farm supplied valuable information from which conclusions on the role of the wife on the farm could be drawn. Technical and managerial activities on the farm are so closely related and integrated that they were analysed and discussed simultaneously.

The role of the farmer's wife on the farm can to some extent be predicted on the basis of her background. Except in the case of women older than 60 years, age has little effect on her role on the farm. In general, farmers' wives are well-qualified, since 46,8% have tertiary educational qualifications. In spite of this, however, they may not be properly equipped for their role on the farm, because most of these educational qualifications are not directly applicable to her farm role. Applicable farming experience before marriage may contribute to and enhance her role on the farm, but this is lacking in most cases. A large number of respondents who have post-matric qualifications have some secretarial and administrative experience (30,2%), but the majority had no direct relevant farming knowledge.

Special attention should be given to those farmers' wives who did not grow up on farms (46,8%) and lectures or a short course on farming (organised by extension officers) will no doubt facilitate their adjustment to farm life.

Although farmers' wives take part in social activities, distances from the nearest town or city limit the extent of their involvement. This aspect causes a great deal of unhappiness on the farm, as women like and need to socialise. Special attention could be given to this by the Women's Agricultural Union; for example activities organised at farms on a rotational basis, rather than in towns would help a great deal. The South African Agricultural Union and local extension officers could do much as well. Vocational training programmes for farmers' wives could be co-ordinated with successful local projects such as the keeping of farm records. The farmer's wife could then make a greater contribution to agricultural and rural development, as well as to the development of society in general. The women could be involved in farming groups and organisations which can provide mutual support and serve as focus for training and the dissemination of agricultural information. The disparities, if any, between quality town life and quality country life could be reduced by the local authorities, not only as regards public services, but also in the field of social facilities such as creches, entertainment and other social amenities.

It seems as if farming as a way of life is still attractive and has a positive image, for a high percentage (41,1%) of the respondents indicated that they had always wanted to marry a farmer while 28,8% were uncertain. Furthermore, 51% of farmer's daughters had always wanted to marry a farmer. Even the children have a positive image of farming. More than half of the respondents (59,3%) foresaw that some of their children would farm on that specific farm in the future. This good image of farming should be used to advantage in the media.

The form of farm ownership in the RSA could be given more thought by farmers and their wives. If ownership of the farm is changed from the husband as sole owner (67,2%) to a partnership between husband and wife, the greater legal say would no doubt enhance her involvement. In addition, it may have tax advantages.

Traditionally, the oldest son or sons inherit the farm upon death of the farmer. In this study it was found that 39,3% of the men and only 8,9% of the wives had inherited farms. It could be argued that a daughter who is really interested in farming (and who marries a farmer) should be given an equal chance to inherit a farm without any discrimination. It could be to the benefit of the farming profession if the person who is most interested in the farm and competent to farm is allowed the opportunity to continue the farming enterprise.

It is disturbing that farmers and wives with the lowest educational qualifications make the least use of expert services. Special attention should be paid to this section of the farming population, and they should be encouraged to use outside expert advice and be made aware of the possible advantages it may hold for their business. Women might participate more in current agricultural extension programmes if the traditional male image of such activities were diminished. A possible strategy to change this image would be for state extension services to actively recruit female agricultural science graduates. These (female) extension officers could serve as role models for young women and enhance the sensitivity of the extension staff to the needs of the farmer's wife. Extension personnel should be reoriented to increase their sensitivity to the realities of the role of women on farms.

During the many hours that the farmer spends away from the farm (56,4 hours per month) together with the time he spends elsewhere on the farm (7,9 hours per day) and not at the homestead, his wife is often responsible for the running of the farming business. During these times she is the person who often has to make important decisions, and if she is well-informed, she may be able to fulfil her responsibilities with greater competence.

On average, the farmer's wife spends 2,2 hours per day on farm activities. She is mainly involved in answering the telephone, running errands and caring for the house garden. In the case of all the activities which were mentioned in the questionnaire,

there were some respondents who were highly involved in it. The farmer's wife needs recognition for this contribution, for example a regular income from the farm (only 24,5% at present receive a regular income), and more recognition from her husband would contribute a great deal towards improving her satisfaction. Men help to construct the social world of women and if they make conflicting demands, they must also be faced with the necessity of resolving them. The farmer should give recognition to his wife's involvement on the farm and support her. He should also be aware (e.g. through instruction) of how to make best use of his wife's potential contribution to the farm.

Both the farmer's wife and children are intimately connected to the public sphere of the farmer because it is integrated with the domestic sphere. It is thus not surprising that children play an important role on the farm. They generally answer the telephone and run errands, but there is a certain percentage of children who are involved in all the activities mentioned in the questionnaire. The children, too, should receive more recognition for their role on the farm. Motivation by means of pocket money, the allocation of the product yield of a particular animal or piece of land to a specific child, could help a great deal.

With regard to decision-making on the farm, the farmer's wife is the sole decision-maker in the household and in the purchasing of small items. She makes decisions jointly with her husband on family matters and on long- and short-term issues. She is thus an important opinion-maker on the farm. With higher proportions

of husbands and wives in partnership on farms, she might play an even bigger role here. Indeed, given her active involvement on the farm, she is entitled to have a bigger say.

Although farmers' wives are generally well-qualified, few are properly equipped for their role on the farm. It would thus seem that there is a definite need for a special course in which aspects such as farm management, record keeping, general agriculture, home economics, first aid, farm labour and community development are included. A correspondence course coupled to a short course or series of short courses seem to be the most practical way of presenting such an educational package.

Many farmers' wives experience problems and frustrations on the farm, mainly concerning farm labourers, droughts and finance. These, together with other problems such as insecurity, thefts, safety and loneliness, may have serious psychological effects. In these matters the church and experts in psychology could be instrumental in finding solutions. Personal safety is a sensitive issue on the farm, especially when the farmer is away for military training. The Government should pay attention to this matter.

Considering the magnitude of their contribution, the farmers' wives in the RSA today may be regarded as equal business partners with their husbands. Since the whole family is engaged in farm work, national and community level programmes in agriculture should be aimed at the farm family and not just at the male farmer. The farm women's position in and contributions

to agriculture should be a cornerstone of future policies in agriculture.

ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN FARM MANAGEMENT IN KANGWANE

The traditions and culture of the black peoples differ significantly not only from those of the whites but also between different ethnic groups. The fact that many of the findings seem 'unusual', may be ascribed to these differences.

The extremely low educational qualifications of the respondents (48,3% have no qualifications at all) have a major influence on their role on the farm. This, together with the fact that most of them do not understand Afrikaans and English, makes communication difficult, complicates development of the people and makes it very difficult to enhance their lifestyles. The people of KaNgwane must get better schooling facilities, otherwise future development will be slow.

There is a high percentage of widows (25,9%) who farm in the three surveyed areas of KaNgwane. The fact that these women stay on the farm may be attributed mainly to their low qualifications and their difficulty in understanding Afrikaans or English; they thus have little chance of obtaining off-farm jobs. In addition, 85,7% of the widows foresee their children returning to the farm at some future date. This obviously contributes to them staying on the farms. These women form a large part of the farming population and special efforts should be made to involve them in organised agricultural activities, and special attention should be given to their particular needs.

Although 37,9% of the respondents grew up on farms, by far the majority had no farming experience before their marriages, and no relevant agricultural qualifications. The newly married farmers' wives and particularly those who have no farming experience at all, should receive special attention as far as extension efforts are concerned.

A low percentage (3,4%) of respondents have off-farm jobs. Their low qualifications, inability to understand Afrikaans or English, long distances from town, transport problems and the shortage of farm labourers, are the main contributory factors to this situation.

The distance to the nearest shop and town causes women on farms in KaNgwane a great deal of unhappiness. Most of them have to walk to the shop and carry their goods home since no transport is available. This takes time and is an exhausting exercise. It also means that these people have difficulties in obtaining information and services. This is a serious problem which may in part be overcome by experts actually visiting the farms on a regular basis to offer advice, information and services. The road infrastructure also needs to be improved.

The farmer's wife (including widows) in the surveyed areas of KaNgwane plays a major role in decision-making. Literally all the women are fully involved in the vegetable and fruit garden and the marketing of produce. They also make no distinction between "hard" and "soft" jobs, and wives are involved to some extent in every activity which was mentioned, although they show a definite preference for cropping activities. This

praiseworthy contribution of the women needs to be recognised, not only by her husband, but also by the outside world.

Children play an important role in many activities on the farm. Agricultural training at school level should be considered as a prerequisite for giving them a sound background in farming, particularly as many of them will return to the farm at some future date. Indeed, 50,9% of the respondents foresaw that some of their children would farm some day.

The problems and frustrations of the people of KaNgwane are sensitive issues and particularly the technical problems should receive urgent attention. Poor water quality cause the respondents most unhappiness, with the need for additional space for the vegetable garden being very important too. Transport to shops and towns is a factor which inhibits the development of the people. The KaNgwane Government could also help and advise on pests and diseases in crops, the removal of stones in fields and soil erosion.

The real-need for a special course should receive the urgent attention of the Government. This could take the form of a short course or series of short courses with general agriculture and needlework as high priorities.

The future development of the farming community in KaNgwane depends to a large extent on the development of the people themselves and this will only become possible if the necessary facilities (for education, communication and infrastructure) are established.

The key to development in the white commercial farming sector as well as the traditional sector is better education and communication.

SUMMARY

THE FARMER'S WIFE IN THE RSA (THE WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMING SECTOR)

Despite the fact that the farming profession is largely dominated by men, the wife of the farmer makes an important contribution to the farm business.

The purpose of the study was to determine the role played by the farmer's wife on the farm with specific reference to farm management and, in addition, to determine whether she is adequately equipped for her task.

The farmer is frequently absent from the farm to attend meetings, for business reasons and for military training. He also spends a great deal of time out on the farm and away from the homestead. On these occasions the onus is often on his wife to ensure that the farming activities continue to run smoothly.

The method followed for the survey was first to undertake a comprehensive literature study to obtain the necessary background information. The survey was conducted by means of a questionnaire sent out to a sample of farmers in the RSA by post. The sample was drawn at random with the aid of a computer. The final processing of the information was also done by means of a computer.

A similar survey, but on a personal basis, was conducted on three agricultural projects in KaNgwane, the main purpose being to obtain data on the basis of which the roles of the farmers' wives in KaNgwane could be compared with those in the RSA.

Farm management is becoming an increasingly complex task. Farms are becoming larger, their capital requirements have increased substantially and together with technological innovations, management has taken on a new dimension and importance.

The contribution of the farmer's wife can, on the one hand, consist merely of maintaining the status quo, and to a meaningful influence in long-term decisions on the other.

Mechanisation has resulted in many tasks becoming easier to handle, with physical stamina no longer being as important as it was earlier. This enables the farmer's wife to play a larger role in many farming activities.

The wife has certain unique abilities and also limitations. Her unique abilities (for example, to do routine work) may be applied usefully in the farm situation. The role of the farmer's wife as mother, housewife and part farmer are so closely integrated that it is difficult to separate them. Smaller families and improved household aids have also meant that the farmer's wife is now able to spend more time on farming activities.

Farming is a family affair with the farm family being an integrated part of the farm business.

Studies abroad indicate that the farmer's wife plays an important role on the farm and particularly in decision-making. Some of the factors which influence her role on the farm are the financial conditions on the farm, her age, educational qualifications, whether she is involved in off-farm work, ownership of the farm, size of the farm and type of farming.

Most respondents are in the 40-49 age group but due to modern technological innovations both on the farm and in the home, age has become less important regarding her farm involvement, except for women over 60 years. Age is negatively correlated with decision-making on the farm.

On the whole, the surveyed farmers' wives are well-educated, with 46,8% holding tertiary qualifications. In this they surpass their husbands, of whom only 32,2% have tertiary qualifications. Of the wives, 33,5% have a qualification in education. In spite of their qualifications, however, most of the respondents may not be properly equipped for their role on the farm, because most of the qualifications are not directly applicable to farming.

While only 1,8% of the respondents are widows, the actual number is nevertheless large if one bears in mind that there are about 60 000 farmers in the RSA. The majority of widows stay on the farms because most foresee their children returning to the farm in the future to take over.

The average number of children is 2,9 per farm family. A high percentage (59,3%) of the respondents foresaw that some of their children would farm one day.

Although a large number of respondents are involved in social activities, the distance from towns and cities is a major problem and causes a great deal of unhappiness among farmers' wives. On average, farms in the RSA are located 30,6 km from the nearest town.

About one fifth (20,8%) of the respondents hold off-farm occupations. It can be expected that this percentage will increase in the future, because striving for a higher standard of living could force farmers' wives to earn additional money.

More than half (53,2%) of the respondents grew up on farms, which provided them with useful experience for their roles as farmers' wives. However, many of the women had no previous farming experience at all.

A high percentage (41,1%) of farmers' wives had always wanted to marry a farmer, with 28,8% being uncertain. This may indicate that farming as a career is perceived to be an attractive proposition by many women.

The husband is the sole owner of the farm in most of the cases (67,2%) with 3,8% of the farms being owned by the wife. Of the farmers, 39,3% inherited their farms, while only 8,9% of farmers' wives had inherited a farm.

Although a number of farms are well equipped and have the necessary aids to facilitate administrative and management tasks (e.g. computers, two-way radios), the majority are lacking in this respect.

Both husband and wife make use of the services of experts on a regular basis, but those who are most in need of expert advice (i.e. those with relatively low qualifications), make least use of it.

The farmer is absent from the farm for 56,4 hours per month on average, while he spends 7,9 hours per day on the farm but not at

the homestead. During these periods his wife is often responsible for the running of the farm and regularly has to make the necessary decisions.

A high percentage of wives use various media to obtain information on the household, her family and farming on a regular basis. This is also an important source of recreation for her.

On average, the farmer's wife in the RSA spends 2,2 hours per day on farming activities, mainly in answering the telephone, running errands and caring for the house garden.

The children are active in some activities on the farm, such as answering the telephone, running errands and caring for animals. The latter seems to be their favourite farming activity.

The farmer's wife plays an important role in farm decision-making. She is generally the sole decision-maker with regard to the household and the purchase of small items. She also makes joint decisions with her husband on the family, and on long- and short-term issues. Decision-making on the farm is affected by various independent variables.

Many aspects cause unhappiness on the farm, with farm labour, drought and finance being listed as the most important.

There is a definite need for a special course for the farmer's wife, which should be presented as a correspondence course by a recognised institution.

The high response of farmers' wives on the questionnaire (38,5% of the sample completed the questionnaire), indicates that these

women were sincerely interested in this study and that there is a real need for further attention to their role on the farm.

THE FARMER'S WIFE IN KANGWANE

KaNgwane, which is situated in the south-eastern corner of the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld, is a self-governing state with a multi-ethnic population, of which the Swazi is the largest group.

The farming system followed in KaNgwane consists of settling individual farmers on economic land units under the traditional land tenure system. Farms on the three projects surveyed are on average 10,3 ha in extent and sugar cane, vegetables and cotton are the main crops cultivated.

The survey was undertaken by means of a questionnaire, with the respondents being personally interviewed. It would seem that most of the respondents are in the 30-39 age group. This data is not reliable, however, because many did not know their exact age.

The respondents hold extremely low educational qualifications and 48,3% have no qualifications at all. Most of them do not understand Afrikaans or English. These conditions obviously limit the rate of future development.

About one quarter (25,9%) of the respondents are widows. They have a poor chance of finding off-farm employment and accordingly have to stay on the farm to earn a living. This large number of women should, as a group, receive special attention by extension personnel.

The average number of children per family is 5,5. Children play important roles in farm activities and are more involved in activities concerning animals than crops. They are mostly involved with chickens, dairy cattle and the care of the house garden.

Although 37,9% of the wives grew up on farms, the majority had no previous farming experience at all. A low percentage, namely 3,4%, of farmers' wives are involved in off-farm work. The main reasons for this situation is that most women have low educational qualifications and are faced with transport problems.

A high percentage (70,7%) of respondents receive a regular income from the farm and this may explain why they are so intensively involved in farming activities. An average shortage of 2,9 labourers per farm is experienced.

The distance from the nearest town causes much unhappiness for the respondents. Few farmers or their wives make use of expert services, mainly because they are unable to reach the offices of extension personnel.

The farm women are highly involved in farm activities and in decision-making. Although they make no distinction between "hard" and "soft" jobs, they have a preference for cropping aspects. These women spend an average of 7,9 hours per day on farming activities, while the farmer/husband spends an average of 8,4 hours per week on activities outside the farm.

Transport facilities and the poor quality of water cause a great deal of unhappiness on the farms. The farm women also have a need for additional space for the vegetable and fruit garden. Many of the problems and frustrations of the respondents could be solved and need urgent attention.

There is a real need for a special course for the farmer's wife, which should take the form of a short course or a series of short courses with general agriculture and needlework as high priorities.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE - FARMERS' WIVES IN THE RSA

TO: THE FARMER'S WIFE

Dear Madam

COMPLETION OF QUESTIONNAIRE - RESEARCH PROJECT - "THE ROLE OF THE FARMER'S WIFE IN THE MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM"

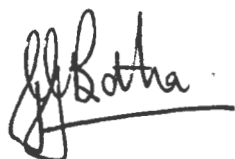
As you know, the farmer's wife plays a very important role on the farm - as housewife and as mother, but also as fellow-farmer.

The purpose of this project is to determine which role the farmer's wife plays on the farm and to come with pertinent proposals on how to ease this task for you. As one of the most important supporters of the farmer, your response is thus of utmost importance. You are thus requested to complete this questionnaire as honestly and as objectively as possible. Your response will be handled in the STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and will be used for research purposes only (you are for example not asked to identify yourself).

The results will be published nationally in popular magazines and papers.

Thanking you in anticipation for your co-operation

Kind regards



KOBUS BOTHA
DIRECTOR: SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
TECHNIKON PRETORIA

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your answers to the questions are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Please answer each question as honestly and objectively as possible.
2. Widows and divorcees are requested to complete the questionnaire as well - those parts to be answered by the farmer may be omitted.
3. Encircle the applicable numbers except when otherwise requested.
4. Please study each question thoroughly before you answer it.
5. Write as legibly as possible.
6. When finished, please return the questionnaire in the stamped envelope within 14 days.

Question-
naire
number

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01-04

A. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

1. AGE GROUP OF YOURSELF
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1 | under 30 |
| 2 | 30-39 |
| 3 | 40-49 |
| 4 | 50-59 |
| 5 | 60 and older |

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	05
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2. YOUR HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Std 8 or lower |
| 2 | Std 10 |
| 3 | Certificate |
| 4 | Diploma |
| 5 | Degree |
| 6 | Hons. degree |
| 7 | M. degree |
| 8 | D. degree |
| 9 | Other: Specify |

	06
--	----

3. DIRECTION OF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS - CORRESPONDING TO YOUR MAIN DIRECTION (ONLY ONE) - IF APPLICABLE
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Education |
| 2 | Secretarial |
| 3 | Nursing |
| 4 | Administrative |
| 5 | Agriculture |
| 6 | Management |
| 7 | Psychology |
| 8 | Ethnology (Science of nations) |
| 9 | Home economics |
| 10 | Other: Specify |

		07-08
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4. HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUR HUSBAND
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Std 8 or lower |
| 2 | Std 10 |
| 3 | Certificate |
| 4 | Diploma |
| 5 | Degree |
| 6 | Hons. degree |
| 7 | M. degree |
| 8 | D. degree |
| 9 | Other: Specify |

	09
--	----

5. DOES YOUR HUSBAND HAVE AN AGRICULTURAL QUALIFICATION?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |

	10
--	----

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6. WHAT IS/WAS THE OCCUPATION OF YOUR FATHER?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Farmer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | In agriculture, but not a farmer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Other: Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |

7. DID YOU ALWAYS WISH TO MARRY A FARMER?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Was uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |

8. WHAT WAS YOUR PROFESSION BEFORE YOUR MARRIAGE?

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Education | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Secretarial | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Nursing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Administrative | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Agricultural occupation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | None | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Other: Specify | |

9. WHAT TYPE OF FARMING EXPERIENCE DID YOU HAVE BEFORE YOUR MARRIAGE?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Daughter of farmer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Work on a farm | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Have a relative who farms | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Was occupied in an agricultural profession | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | None | |

10. IS THIS FARM A FAMILY FARM FROM THE SIDE OF YOUR FAMILY?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |

11. IS THIS FARM A FAMILY FARM FROM THE SIDE OF YOUR HUSBAND'S FAMILY?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 |

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12.	<u>ARE YOU A WIDOW?</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	No	
13.	<u>HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE IN THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT STAGES?</u> (Fill in number in applicable block)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-school	<input type="checkbox"/> 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary school	<input type="checkbox"/> 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	High school	<input type="checkbox"/> 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-school study	<input type="checkbox"/> 21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military training	<input type="checkbox"/> 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total	<input type="checkbox"/> 24
<input type="checkbox"/>	School children in hostel	<input type="checkbox"/> 25
14.	<u>DO YOU FORESEE THAT ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN WILL FARM ON THIS FARM ONE DAY?</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 26
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	No	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Uncertain	
15.	<u>OWNERSHIP OF THE FARM</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Husband is sole owner	<input type="checkbox"/> 27
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	You are sole owner	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	You and your husband in partnership	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Farm is hired	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Farm is managed by your husband	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Other: Specify	
16.	<u>DID YOU INHERIT THIS FARM?</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 28
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	No	
17.	<u>DID YOUR HUSBAND INHERIT THIS FARM?</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 29
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	No	
18.	<u>IF YOUR HUSBAND INHERITED THIS FARM, ARE YOUR PARENTS-IN-LAW STILL LIVING ON THE FARM?</u> (Encircle the applicable number)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 30
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	No	

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B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE FARM

19. WHAT IS THE POSTAL CODE OF YOUR FARM ADDRESS?
(Eg. Pretoria, 0001)
(Fill in figures in blocks)

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

31-34

20. WHAT IS THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE LAND ON WHICH YOU FARM?
(Fill in size in block)

--	--	--	--

hectare

--	--	--	--	--

35-39

21. HOW MANY PERMANENT FARM WORKERS DO YOU HAVE?
(Fill in number in block)

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

40-43

22. HOW MANY FARM WORKERS DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE?
(Fill in number in block)

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

44-47

23. DOES THIS FARM HAVE A FULL-TIME FARM MANAGER?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes
2	No

--

48

24. DOES THIS FARM HAVE A FULL-TIME SECRETARY/CLERK?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes
2	No

--

49

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25. WHAT TYPE OF FARMING IS MAINLY PRACTISED ON THIS FARM? (Only one - the most important one)
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Beef cattle |
| 2 | Dairy cows |
| 3 | Sheep/goats |
| 4 | Pigs |
| 5 | Poultry |
| 6 | Agricultural crops (eg. wheat, maize, etc.) |
| 7 | Pastures (eg. lucerne, etc.) |
| 8 | Vegetables |
| 9 | Fruit |
| 10 | Sugar |
| 11 | Tobacco |
| 12 | Tea/coffee |
| 13 | Wine |
| 14 | Mixed |
| 15 | Other: Specify |

50-51

26. HOW FAR IS THE FARM FROM THE NEAREST TOWN?
(Fill in km in block)

Km

52-54

27. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES DO YOU OR YOUR HUSBAND USE REGULARLY?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | The local extension officer | 55 |
| 2 | Other extension officers (Co-operative, etc.) | 56 |
| 3 | Analyses of your farm records | 57 |
| 4 | Your assessment by a specialist | 58 |
| 5 | Other experts: Specify | 59 |

28. DO YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING AT YOUR DISPOSAL?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|
| 1 | A typewriter | 60 |
| 2 | A word processor | 61 |
| 3 | A computer (hand type) | 62 |
| 4 | A computer (mini) | 63 |
| 5 | A duplicator | 64 |
| 6 | A two-way radio | 65 |

C. YOUR HUSBAND AWAY FROM THE FARM/HOUSE

29. HAS YOUR HUSBAND COMPLETED WITH HIS MILITARY TRAINING (2 YEARS)?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Exempted |

66

30. HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK YOUR HUSBAND STILL HAS TO SPEND ON MILITARY TRAINING, CAMPS. ETC?
(Fill in number in blocks)

months

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		67-68
--	--	-------

31. FOR HOW MANY HOURS PER MONTH ON AVERAGE IS YOUR HUSBAND AWAY FROM THE FARM?
(Fill in hours in the applicable blocks)

	Meetings for farming purposes
	Courses, farmer's days, etc.
	In town
	Other: Specify

		69-70
		71-72
		73-74
		75-76

32. HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY ON AVERAGE IS YOUR HUSBAND ELSEWHERE ON THE FARM AND NOT AT HOME?
(Fill in estimated hours in block)

	hours
--	-------

		77-78
--	--	-------

33. HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY ON AVERAGE DOES YOUR HUSBAND SPEND AT HOME ON ADMINISTRATION?
(Fill in estimated hours in block)

	hours
--	-------

		79-80
--	--	-------

D. YOUR ROLE AS WIFE

34. HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY ON AVERAGE DO YOU SPEND ON?
(Fill in amount in the applicable blocks)

	The household
	Care of children
	Transport of children
	Farming administration
	Farming activities (outside the house)

		81-82
		83-84
		85-86
		87-88
		89-90

35. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF -
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | A women's organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> | 91 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | An agricultural organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> | 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | A sports club | <input type="checkbox"/> | 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Other: Specify | <input type="checkbox"/> | 94 |

36. WHEN SENT ON A FARM ERRAND ARE YOU FREQUENTLY UNAWARE OF WHAT EXACTLY YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DO OR GET? (e.g. being a spare part)
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | 95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | | |

37. DO YOU HAVE AS WIFE A FIXED INCOME OUT OF THE FARM?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | 96 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | | |

38. HOW MUCH IS THIS FIXED INCOME PER ANNUM?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Less than R1 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 97 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | R1 000-R5 000 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | More than R5 000 | | |

39. DO YOU WORK OUTSIDE THE FARM BOUNDARIES?
(Eg. in town) (Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | 98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | | |

40. WHAT IS YOUR ANNUAL INCOME OUT OF SUCH WORK?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Less than R1 000 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | R1 000-R5 000 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | More than R5 000 | | |

41. DOES YOUR HUSBAND WORK OUTSIDE THE FARM BOUNDARIES? (eg. in town) (Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | No | | |

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42. WHICH ASPECTS ON THE FARM CAUSE YOU THE MOST UNHAPPINESS?
(Mention one per block - note: No need to fill in all the blocks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

101-102

43. DO YOU REGULARLY OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS? -
(Encircle the applicable number)

The household

	Yes	No	
Magazines	1	2	103
Radio/TV	1	2	104
Lectures	1	2	105
Other: Specify	1	2	106

The family

Magazines	1	2	107
Radio/TV	1	2	108
Lectures	1	2	109
Your doctor	1	2	110
School	1	2	111
Other: Specify	1	2	112

The farming

Magazines	1	2	113
Books	1	2	114
Radio/TV	1	2	115
The extension office	1	2	116
Farmer's days (attend it)	1	2	117
Study groups	1	2	118
The co-operative	1	2	119
Other: Specify	1	2	120

44. BY WHOM ARE THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS MADE ON THE FARM?
(Encircle the applicable numbers)

	Your- self	Your hus- band	You and your husband	
Purchase of large items	1	2	3	121
Purchase of small items	1	2	3	122
Concerning the farm workers	1	2	3	123
Concerning mechanisation	1	2	3	124
The household	1	2	3	125
The family	1	2	3	126
Long-term decisions	1	2	3	127
Short-term decisions	1	2	3	128

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E. A SPECIAL COURSE FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE

45. DO YOU THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA THAT A COURSE SHOULD BE COMPILED ESPECIALLY FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE?

(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Uncertain |

129

46. MENTION 5 ASPECTS WHICH YOU THINK SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A COURSE

(Mention one aspect per block)

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

130-131

47. IF YOU SHOULD ENROLL FOR SUCH A COURSE, WOULD YOU INSIST ON A CERTIFICATE?

(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |

132

48. DO YOU THINK THAT THE TIME AND COST PUT INTO A COURSE FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE WILL BE JUSTIFIED?

(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Uncertain |

133

49. HOW DO YOU THINK SUCH A COURSE SHOULD BE PRESENTED?

(Encircle the applicable number)

- Full-time only (eg. 2 years)
Part-time only (eg. 2 days/week)
A short course (eg. over 2 weeks)
A series of short courses
A correspondence course
Other: Specify

- | |
|---|
| 1 |
| 2 |
| 3 |
| 4 |
| 5 |
| 6 |

134

50. WOULD YOU ENROLL FOR A COURSE SPECIALLY COMPILED FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE? (ACCEPTING IT WILL SUIT YOU AS FAR AS COST AND TIME ARE CONCERNED)

(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Uncertain |

135

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F. THE DIVISION OF THE ROLES BETWEEN YOURSELF,
YOUR HUSBAND AND THE CHILDREN ON THE FARM

51. This question is subdivided into two columns, namely column A and column B. You are requested to indicate in column A on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (much) how much you help with a specific farming activity. In column B you should indicate on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (much) how much your children (if applicable) help with a specific farming activity.

Example

Column A

Your help

not at all
↔
much

1 2 3 (4) 5

dairy

Column B

Your children's help

not at all
↔
much

1 (2) 3 4 5

In the accompanying example you would feel for example that your contribution to the dairy, although not excessively high is above average - you thus encircle 4. As far as column B is concerned, you would feel that your children are to a lesser extend involved to the dairy - you thus encircle the 2.

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Column A

Your help

Column B

Your children's
help

not at all



much

Aspects

not at all



much

A B

1	2	3	4	5	a. cultivation of lands	1	2	3	4	5			136-137
1	2	3	4	5	b. harvesting	1	2	3	4	5			138-139
1	2	3	4	5	c. care of animals	1	2	3	4	5			140-141
1	2	3	4	5	d. pig farming	1	2	3	4	5			142-143
1	2	3	4	5	e. chicken farming	1	2	3	4	5			144-145
1	2	3	4	5	f. dairy	1	2	3	4	5			146-147
1	2	3	4	5	g. beef farming	1	2	3	4	5			148-149
1	2	3	4	5	h. vegetable and fruit garden	1	2	3	4	5			150-151
1	2	3	4	5	i. marketing of products	1	2	3	4	5			152-153
1	2	3	4	5	j. supervision over farm workers	1	2	3	4	5			154-155
1	2	3	4	5	k. cooking for farm workers	1	2	3	4	5			156-157
1	2	3	4	5	l. care of the house garden	1	2	3	4	5			158-159
1	2	3	4	5	m. first aid to farm workers	1	2	3	4	5			160-161
1	2	3	4	5	n. typing	1	2	3	4	5			162-163
1	2	3	4	5	o. answering the telephone	1	2	3	4	5			164-165
1	2	3	4	5	p. keeping farm records	1	2	3	4	5			166-167
1	2	3	4	5	q. analysis of farm records	1	2	3	4	5			168-169
1	2	3	4	5	r. running errands	1	2	3	4	5			170-171
					s. other: specify								
1	2	3	4	5	(i)	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	3	4	5	(ii)	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	3	4	5	(iii)	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	3	4	5	(iv)	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	3	4	5	(v)	1	2	3	4	5			

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52. As in the previous question this question is subdivided into categories as well, but as far as decision-making is concerned. Column A represents the extent to which you are involved in decision-making and in column B your husband's involvement in decision-making.

This question is answered on a scale as well. When you have no say in decision-making, you encircle the 1 in column A. When you are involved in a lesser extent, you indicate a 2 and when it is average indicate a 3. When you feel your involvement is more than average, encircle a 4. When you are fully responsible for a particular decision, encircle the 5. Exactly the same is applicable for your husband, but it is indicated in column B. Column C is concerned with joint decision-making - the extent to which you and your husband take decisions jointly.

		Column A					Column B					Column C					FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
		Degree of your decision-making					Degree of your husband's decision-making					Joint decision-making								
		none \longleftrightarrow always					none \longleftrightarrow always					none \longleftrightarrow always								
Aspects																	A	B	C	
a.	cultivation of lands	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				172-174
b.	harvesting	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				175-177
c.	care of animals	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				178-180
d.	pig farming	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				181-183
e.	chicken farming	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				184-186
f.	dairy	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				187-189
g.	beef farming	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				190-192
h.	vegetable and fruit garden	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				193-195
i.	marketing of products	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				196-198
j.	supervision over farm workers	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				199-201
k.	cooking for farm workers	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				202-204
l.	care of the house garden	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				205-207
m.	first-aid to farm workers	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				208-210
n.	typing	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				211-213
o.	answering the telephone	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				214-216
p.	keeping farm records	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				217-219
q.	analysis of farm records	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				220-222
r.	running errands	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				223-225
s.	other: specify																			
	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
	(ii)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
	(iii)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
	(iv)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				
	(v)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				

APPENDIX 2

QUESTIONNAIRE - FARMERS' WIVES IN KANGWANE

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Question-
naire
number

--	--	--

01-03

A. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

1. AGE GROUP OF YOURSELF
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1 | under 30 |
| 2 | 30-39 |
| 3 | 40-49 |
| 4 | 50-59 |
| 5 | 60 and older |
| 6 | don't know |

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04

2. YOUR HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | None |
| 2 | Grade 1 |
| 3 | Grade 2 |
| 4 | Std 1 |
| 5 | Std 2 |
| 6 | Std 3 |
| 7 | Std 4 |
| 8 | Std 5 |
| 9 | Std 6 |
| 10 | Std 7 |
| 11 | Std 8 |
| 12 | Std 9 |
| 13 | Std 10 |
| 14 | Certificate |
| 15 | Diploma |
| 16 | Degree |

05-06

3. ARE YOU A WIDOW?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |

07

4. HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUR HUSBAND
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | None |
| 2 | Grade 1 |
| 3 | Grade 2 |
| 4 | Std 1 |
| 5 | Std 2 |
| 6 | Std 3 |
| 7 | Std 4 |
| 8 | Std 5 |
| 9 | Std 6 |
| 10 | Std 7 |
| 11 | Std 8 |
| 12 | Std 9 |
| 13 | Std 10 |
| 14 | Certificate |
| 15 | Diploma |
| 16 | Degree |

08-09

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5. DO YOU ... AFRIKAANS?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Understand		10
2	Speak		11
3	Read		12
4	Write		13
5	Cannot understand, speak, read or write ...		14

6. DO YOU ... ENGLISH?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Understand		15
2	Speak		16
3	Read		17
4	Write		18
5	Cannot understand, speak, read or write ...		19

7. WHAT IS/WAS THE OCCUPATION OF YOUR FATHER?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Farmer		20
2	In agriculture, but not a farmer		
3	Other		
4	Don't know		

8. HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE IN THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT STAGES?
(Fill in numbers in applicable block)

	Pre-school			21-22
	Primary school			23-24
	High school			25-26
	Post school study			27-28
	Employed			29-30
	Other			31-32
	Total			33-34
	School children in hostel			35-36

9. DO YOU FORSEE THAT ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN WILL FARM ON THIS FARM ONE DAY?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes		37
2	No		
3	Uncertain		

B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAND ON WHICH YOUR FARM

10. WHAT IS THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE LAND ON WHICH YOU FARM?
(Fill in number in block)

	hectare
--	---------

				38-41
--	--	--	--	-------

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11. HOW MANY PERMANENT FARM WORKERS DO YOU HAVE?
(excluding your family)
(Fill in number in block)

42-44

12. HOW MANY FARM WORKERS DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE?
(Fill in number in block)

45-47

13. WHAT TYPE OF FARMING IS MAINLY PRACTISED ON THIS FARM?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Sugar | <input type="text"/> | 48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Vegetables | <input type="text"/> | 49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Sisal | <input type="text"/> | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Cotton | <input type="text"/> | 51 |

14. HOW FAR IS THIS FARM FROM THE NEAREST SHOP?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | about $\frac{1}{4}$ kilometre (250 metre) | <input type="text"/> | 52 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | about $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre (500 metre) | <input type="text"/> | 53 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | about $\frac{3}{4}$ kilometre (750 metre) | <input type="text"/> | 54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Further: Fill in number in block | <input type="text"/> | 55-56 |

15. HOW DO YOU GET AT THE SHOP?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Walk | <input type="text"/> | 57 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | With a vechile | <input type="text"/> | 58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | With a bus | <input type="text"/> | 59 |

16. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES DO YOU OR YOUR HUSBAND USE REGULARLY TO HELP WITH THE FARMING?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Extension officer | <input type="text"/> | 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Staff of Agrikwane | <input type="text"/> | 61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Engineering services | <input type="text"/> | 62 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Staff of the co-operation | <input type="text"/> | 63 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Staff of private firms (eg. fertilizer, tractors, etc.) | <input type="text"/> | 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Other farmers | <input type="text"/> | 65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Other | <input type="text"/> | 66 |

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C. YOUR HUSBAND AWAY FROM THE FARMING

17. FOR HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK ON AVERAGE IS YOUR HUSBAND AWAY FROM THE FARM?
(Fill in hours in the applicable blocks)

<input type="text"/>	Meetings for farming purposes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	67-68
<input type="text"/>	Courses, farmer's days, etc.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	69-70
<input type="text"/>	In town or at the shops	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	71-72
<input type="text"/>	Other: Specify	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	73-74

D. YOUR ROLE AS WIFE

18. HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY ON AVERAGE DO YOU SPEND ON?
(Fill in hours in the applicable blocks)

1	<input type="text"/>	The household	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	75-76
2	<input type="text"/>	Care of children	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	77-78
3	<input type="text"/>	Farming activities (outside the house)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	79-80
4	<input type="text"/>	Activities of women clubs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	81-82

19. DO YOU HAVE AS WIFE A FIXED INCOME OUT OF THE FARM?
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes	<input type="text"/>	83
2	No		

20. DO YOU WORK OUTSIDE THE FARM BOUNDARIES AS WELL?
(E.g. a shop or on another farm)
(Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes	<input type="text"/>	84
2	No		

21. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SOURCE OF INCOME? (Apart from the farm and work outside the farm boundaries) (Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes	<input type="text"/>	85
2	No		

22. DOES YOUR HUSBAND WORK OUTSIDE THE FARM BOUNDARIES AS WELL? (E.g. in town or on another farm) (Encircle the applicable number)

1	Yes	<input type="text"/>	86
2	No		

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23. WHICH ASPECTS ON THE FARM CAUSE YOU THE MOST UN-
HAPPINES? (E.g. far from town)
(Mention one per block)

The aspect which causes you the most unhappiness
(only one)

.....

Other - name two at the most

.....

.....

87-88

24. BY WHOM ARE THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS MADE ON THE
FARM?
(Encircle the applicable number)

	Your- self	Your hus- band	You and your husband	
Purchase of large items (for the farm)	1	2	3	89
Purchase of small items (for the farm)	1	2	3	90
The household	1	2	3	91
The family	1	2	3	92
Concerning mechanisation	1	2	3	93
Concerning the farm workers	1	2	3	94
Long-term decisions	1	2	3	95
Short-term decisions	1	2	3	96
Crops on lands	1	2	3	97
Farm animals	1	2	3	98

25. YOUR HOUSEWORK
(Encircle the applicable number)

- ☐ 1 Is it done by yourself?
☐ 2 Is it done by a full-time help?

99

E. A SPECIAL COURSE FOR THE FARMER'S WIFE

26. DO YOU THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA THAT A COURSE
SHOULD BE COMPILED ESPECIALLY FOR THE FARMER'S
WIFE COVERING ASPECTS SUCH AS THE HOUSEHOLD,
CARE OF CHILDREN AND FARMING?
(Encircle the applicable number)

- ☐ 1 Yes
☐ 2 No

100

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27. MENTION 3 ASPECTS WHICH YOU THINK SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A COURSE (E.g. how to drive a tractor, fertilization, read and write, cooking, etc.)
(Mention one aspect per block)

The aspect which you think is most important
(only one)

.....

Other - name two at the most

.....

.....

101-102

28. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU, YOUR HUSBAND AND YOUR CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?
(Where applicable)

[illegible]

APPENDIX 3
REGRESSION RESULTS

Table A.3.1: Factors which influence the involvement of the farmer's wife in farming activities

Factor	Significance level of probability (PR > T)*
Age of wife	0,7716
Size of farm	0,1998
Wife inherited farm	0,9990
Mother-in-law still on farm	0,8828
Father was a farmer	0,2851
Wife receives fixed income from farm	0,1190
Wife is occupied in off-farm work	0,0681
Farmer is occupied in off-farm work	0,0129
Wife is a widow	0,7388

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).

Table A.3.2: The influence of age, education, widowhood and farm size on women's activities on the farm in the RSA.

Farm activity (Dependent variables)	Independent variables			
	Significance of estimates (PR> T) *			
	Age	Qualifi- cation	Widow- hood	Size of farm
Answering the telephone	0,3338	0,7557	0,1084	0,2539
Running errands	0,0456(-)	0,7884	0,0689	0,0600
Care of home garden	0,9004	0,6469	0,8425	0,0013
First aid to farm labourers	0,6153	0,1382	0,5713	0,0341
Vegetable and fruit garden	0,4032	0,0684	0,7262	0,0512
Keeping farm records	0,0145(-)	0,4443	0,0240	0,0739
Typing	0,0017(-)	0,0890	0,9118	0,2232
Chickens	0,9717	0,0115(-)	0,7322	0,0017
Analysis of farm records	0,0559	0,8775	0,0753	0,0593
Supervision of farm labourers	0,3624	0,0435(-)	0,0050	0,3869
Care of animals	0,2515	0,9629	0,0014	0,1502
Marketing of produce	0,4805	0,7983	0,0149	0,1393
Cooking for farm labourers	0,7434	0,0905	0,6358	0,0878
Dairy cattle	0,0126	0,9537	0,7484	0,4710
Beef cattle	0,5786	0,9781	0,0824	0,1422
Harvesting	0,0002(-)	0,3851	0,0005	0,0001(-)
Pigs	0,9382	0,3980	0,4750	0,7472
Cultivation of land	0,6262	0,9883	0,0001	0,0370(-)

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).

(-) Negative regression coefficient.

Table A.3.3: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is highly involved.

Independent variable	Decision-making (PR > T) *		
	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
<u>Decisions concerning care of the house garden</u>			
Size of farm	0,0735	0,0574(-)	0,3439(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,1900	0,1036(-)	0,0887(-)
Age of wife	0,4133(-)	0,0097(-)	0,0047(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,5404(-)	0,3137	0,7738(-)
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,5979	0,7129(-)	0,9897
Husband does off-farm work	0,5500	0,6300(-)	0,7749(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,0817(-)	0,0289	0,0299
Husband sole owner of farm	0,1343	0,4788	0,5918(-)
Wife sole owner of farm	0,2133(-)	0,4274(-)	0,9498(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,4582	0,9742	0,7974
Farm is rented	0,1018	0,9751	0,3383
<u>Decisions concerning answering the telephone</u>			
Size of farm	0,2917	0,9715	0,4852
Qualifications of wife	0,0025(-)	0,0077	0,6408
Age of wife	0,0177(-)	0,8574	0,6173
Wife inherited farm	0,1461	0,1580	0,1065
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,1124	0,6202	0,5809(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,3075(-)	0,3595	0,9243(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,0001(-)	0,1080	0,4114
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0089	0,9615	0,9954
Wife sole owner of farm	0,0137(-)	0,4412(-)	0,8336(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0401	0,5252	0,9551(-)
Farm is rented	0,3793	0,4085	0,0321
<u>Decisions concerning the running of errands</u>			
Size of farm	0,4376	0,9382(-)	0,8574
Qualifications of wife	0,0056(-)	0,6216	0,0753(-)
Age of wife	0,0542(-)	0,0353(-)	0,5313(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,3621	0,7768	0,0136
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,4915	0,8135(-)	0,6418(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,9825(-)	0,4099(-)	0,3079(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,0008(-)	0,0354	0,2387
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0151	0,0355(-)	0,7703(-)
Wife sole owner of farm	0,1029(-)	0,4755	0,4325(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0231	0,6669(-)	0,9368
Farm is rented	0,1675	0,9439	0,0577

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).
 (-) Negative regression coefficient.

Table A.3.4: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is fairly highly involved.

Independent variable	Decision-making (PR> T) *		
	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
<u>Decisions concerning first aid to farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	0,3593	0,9017	0,9913(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,8943	0,6324(-)	0,2956(-)
Age of wife	0,7780	0,2076(-)	0,5077(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,5700	0,3037	0,1756
Mother-in-law stays			
on farm	0,3920	0,7195	0,5869
Husband does off-farm work	0,3742(-)	0,8272(-)	0,2615(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,2673(-)	0,0190	0,2375
Husband sole owner of farm	0,2597	0,6087	0,6371
Wife sole owner of farm	0,8531(-)	0,4873(-)	0,6979(-)
Husband and wife in			
partnership	0,1705	0,7575(-)	0,7600(-)
Farm is rented	0,7016	0,6258	0,3008
<u>Decisions concerning the vegetable and fruit garden</u>			
Size of farm	0,0314	0,0179(-)	0,3934(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,0224	0,0907(-)	0,2857(-)
Age of wife	0,3932	0,0094(-)	0,3887(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,8278	0,2739	0,3971
Mother-in-law stays			
on farm	0,0657	0,3437(-)	0,7490(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,3397	0,0260(-)	0,5246(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,0228(-)	0,1083	0,9998(-)
Husband sole owner of farm	0,3183	0,7659	0,6841
Wife sole owner of farm	0,8866	0,4937(-)	0,6756(-)
Husband and wife in			
partnership	0,0924	0,5175	0,1814
Farm is rented	0,9595(-)	0,5603(-)	0,7404

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).
 (-) Negative regression coefficient.

Table A.3.5: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is regularly involved.

Independent variable	Decision-making (PR)IT(1) *		
	Wife only	Husband only	Jointly
<u>Decisions concerning typing</u>			
Size of farm	0,9867(-)	0,8055	0,4824(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,4935(-)	0,1212	0,9616(-)
Age of wife	0,0023(-)	0,3480	0,3663(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,3662	0,0781	0,1262
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,5730	0,8507(-)	0,9849
Husband does off-farm work	0,2987	0,0341	0,2975
Wife does off-farm work	0,3220	0,3856(-)	0,6693
Husband sole owner of farm	0,3632	0,8122(-)	0,1717
Wife sole owner of farm	0,6064(-)	0,4276(-)	0,2170(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,3434	0,3659	0,3215
Farm is rented	0,1920(-)	0,1571	0,2903
<u>Decisions concerning keeping of farm records</u>			
Size of farm	0,0253(-)	0,0222	0,7836
Qualifications of wife	0,0002(-)	0,4830	0,0560(-)
Age of wife	0,0068(-)	0,5711	0,0598(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,7298(-)	0,3778	0,5641
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,9891	0,8159(-)	0,7615(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,9031	0,1988(-)	0,6691(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,4692	0,5677(-)	0,6009(-)
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0430	0,2630(-)	0,9023
Wife sole owner of farm	0,6445	0,3762(-)	0,7111(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,9767(-)	0,2845(-)	0,8052(-)
Farm is rented	0,3044(-)	0,0577	0,5046
<u>Decisions concerning chickens</u>			
Size of farm	0,0007	0,2025(-)	0,6246
Qualifications of wife	0,9265	0,8128(-)	0,8480(-)
Age of wife	0,1493	0,0390(-)	0,1130(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,3683	0,0290	0,2116
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,9778(-)	0,8926	0,6903(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,8210(-)	0,3817(-)	0,1968(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,6012(-)	0,0236	0,3601
Husband sole owner of farm	0,1448	0,4346(-)	0,8686
Wife sole owner of farm	0,6845	0,4115(-)	0,4590(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,9229(-)	0,7209	0,2496
Farm is rented	0,6354(-)	0,0972	0,2930
<u>Decisions concerning analysis of farm records</u>			
Size of farm	0,0292(-)	0,1628	0,5045(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,0002(-)	0,5371	0,0286(-)
Age of wife	0,1613(-)	0,6164(-)	0,6545(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,1153	0,2243	0,6215
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,3828	0,4070	0,5855
Husband does off-farm work	0,2623	0,6199(-)	0,8558(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,1808	0,3746(-)	0,6006
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0384	0,2649(-)	0,9752(-)
Wife sole owner of farm	0,9472(-)	0,3358(-)	0,6779(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,3652	0,3404(-)	0,5330(-)
Farm is rented	0,9450	0,1094	0,3118
<u>Decisions concerning cooking for farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	0,9473	0,3339(-)	0,4584(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,0283(-)	0,7647	0,1475(-)
Age of wife	0,1175(-)	0,2642	0,8565(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,1044	0,8887	0,0698
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,5899	0,3016	0,0732
Husband does off-farm work	0,3948	0,3773(-)	0,5602(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,0616(-)	0,1243	0,6160(-)
Husband sole owner of farm	0,6591	0,3042	0,1710
Wife sole owner of farm	0,0762(-)	0,1029(-)	0,1551(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,7287	0,7075	0,9085
Farm is rented	0,1735	0,8785	0,0227
<u>Decisions concerning supervision of farm labourers</u>			
Size of farm	0,1410(-)	0,4822	0,7380
Qualifications of wife	0,1673(-)	0,6172(-)	0,0049(-)
Age of wife	0,0167(-)	0,1847(-)	0,7428
Wife inherited farm	0,0148	0,7997(-)	0,8063
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,6406	0,7697	0,4414(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,0025	0,3395(-)	0,1552
Wife does off-farm work	0,0147(-)	0,8213	0,1169
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0033	0,7032	0,0032
Wife sole owner of farm	0,2008(-)	0,2315(-)	0,9673
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0671	0,9292	0,3102
Farm is rented	0,7881	0,9906	0,2616

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).
(-) Negative regression coefficient.

Table A.3.5: The influence of some independent variables on decision-making, regarding decisions in which the wife is little involved.

Independent variable	Decision-making (P > T) *		
	wife only	Husband only	jointly
<u>Decisions concerning the care of animals</u>			
Size of farm	0,9131(-)	0,0055	0,6581
Qualifications of wife	0,6174(-)	0,6782(-)	0,0855(-)
Age of wife	0,5338(-)	0,3465(-)	0,6550
Wife inherited farm	0,4746	0,8823	0,4935
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,1175	0,5993(-)	0,3653
Husband does off-farm work	0,0018	0,0070(-)	0,0550
Wife does off-farm work	0,0572(-)	0,3394	0,3488
Husband sole owner of farm	0,1108	0,0103	0,3430
Wife sole owner of farm	0,1995(-)	0,0172(-)	0,7814
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0813	0,9813(-)	0,1151
Farm is rented	0,5060	0,0901	0,2789(-)
<u>Decisions concerning marketing of produce</u>			
Size of farm	0,0348(-)	0,2144	0,6150(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,1460(-)	0,0798	0,0714(-)
Age of wife	0,5337(-)	0,6938	0,5426
Wife inherited farm	0,1238	0,9048	0,1693
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,4232	0,6187	0,9125
Husband does off-farm work	0,0130	0,0002(-)	0,5623
Wife does off-farm work	0,4459	0,7518(-)	0,8120(-)
Husband sole owner of farm	0,5131	0,0816	0,8299(-)
Wife sole owner of farm	0,8844	0,2490(-)	0,6691
Husband and wife in partnership	0,8202	0,8732	0,3801
Farm is rented	0,4121	0,0333	0,7778(-)
<u>Decisions concerning dairy cattle</u>			
Size of farm	0,8793	0,4908	0,8981(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,9687(-)	0,0417	0,8708(-)
Age of wife	0,4619	0,9886	0,2381
Wife inherited farm	0,3731	0,1171	0,5193
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,7724	0,0953	0,6484
Husband does off-farm work	0,6121	0,0253(-)	0,4985
Wife does off-farm work	0,1956(-)	0,1328	0,3619(-)
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0129	0,0493	0,4417
Wife sole owner of farm	0,1186(-)	0,0164(-)	0,4041(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0036	0,4483	0,4843
Farm is rented	0,3048(-)	0,2599	0,6345
<u>Decisions concerning beef cattle</u>			
Size of farm	0,3947	0,0001	0,3408
Qualifications of wife	0,7302(-)	0,8328(-)	0,3734(-)
Age of wife	0,8192	0,4005	0,3752
Wife inherited farm	0,0004	0,0129	0,1777
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,9666	0,5417	0,4166(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,0192	0,1281(-)	0,9444(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,8442	0,7596	0,3621
Husband sole owner of farm	0,4815	0,1836	0,5219
Wife sole owner of farm	0,6492(-)	0,2716(-)	0,1987(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,0034	0,3312(-)	0,0057
Farm is rented	0,3803(-)	0,2472	0,2649(-)
<u>Decisions concerning pigs</u>			
Size of farm	0,3736	0,5760(-)	0,3920(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,9263	0,5916	0,9814(-)
Age of wife	0,2093	0,0318(-)	0,6428(-)
Wife inherited farm	0,0969	0,0324	0,0632
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,4263	0,2787	0,4046
Husband does off-farm work	0,1364	0,9122(-)	0,5374(-)
Wife does off-farm work	0,4091(-)	0,0619	0,3227
Husband sole owner of farm	0,0217	0,0871(-)	0,3180
Wife sole owner of farm	0,3817(-)	0,2262(-)	0,3157(-)
Husband and wife in partnership	0,6834	0,3033	0,0100
Farm is rented	0,3874(-)	0,0842	0,2454(-)
<u>Decisions concerning harvesting</u>			
Size of farm	0,0045(-)	0,0165(-)	0,0109(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,9773(-)	0,4949	0,1718(-)
Age of wife	0,7799(-)	0,0431(-)	0,4049
Wife inherited farm	0,7282(-)	0,4965	0,3029(-)
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,9944(-)	0,1576	0,9393(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,0941	0,0002(-)	0,3967
Wife does off-farm work	0,6759(-)	0,1264(-)	0,8806
Husband sole owner of farm	0,2954	0,3868	0,1074
Wife sole owner of farm	0,4923	0,2097(-)	0,1746
Husband and wife in partnership	0,9028	0,4789	0,0885
Farm is rented	0,7415(-)	0,8378	0,3443(-)
<u>Decisions concerning the cultivation of land</u>			
Size of farm	0,3368(-)	0,0011(-)	0,0237(-)
Qualifications of wife	0,9181	0,9013	0,2075(-)
Age of wife	0,5496	0,0689(-)	0,1303
Wife inherited farm	0,6270	0,3586	0,8363(-)
Mother-in-law stays on farm	0,6798	0,0447	0,8879(-)
Husband does off-farm work	0,0492	0,0019(-)	0,1492
Wife does off-farm work	0,3994(-)	0,2194(-)	0,4619
Husband sole owner of farm	0,3750(-)	0,3349	0,0525
Wife sole owner of farm	0,1152(-)	0,4515(-)	0,9477
Husband and wife in partnership	0,1272	0,5798	0,0557
Farm is rented	0,4006(-)	0,7697	0,9628(-)

* Exceedence probability for a specific T (statistic value).
(-) Negative regression coefficient.