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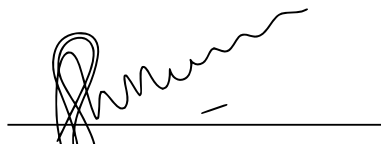
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Assessing the Role of Women on Small-Scale Agribusiness
at Wincanton Estate in Kariega, South Africa.

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**ASSESSING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SMALL-SCALE
AGRIBUSINESS AT WINCANTON ESTATE
IN KARIEGA, SOUTH AFRICA.**

BY

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Dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in Geography

Nelson Mandela University

Faculty of Science

Department of Geosciences

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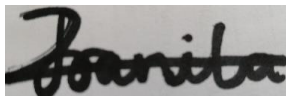
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PLAGIARISM DECLARATION

I Zalwango Joanita, 220888000 hereby declare that this thesis for the degree of Master of Science in Geography is my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment to another university or for another qualification. All sources used and quoted have to the best of my knowledge been properly acknowledged.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanita', on a light gray background.

Zalwango Joanita

30.11.2022

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ACRONYMS

3ADI - African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative.

AFAWA- The Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa.

AFDB- African Development Bank.

AIDA – Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

APET- African Union Panel on Innovation and Emerging Technologies.

ASFG- African Smallholder Farmers Group.

AWAB- African Women in Agribusiness Network.

AWDF- Africa Women's Development Fund.

CAADP- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program.

FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

GCCASP- Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program.

GCF- Green Climate Fund.

IFAD- International Fund for Agricultural Development.

IFC- International Finance Cooperation.

AUDA-NEPAD-African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development.

SADC- Southern Africa Development Community.

SMEs- Small and Medium Enterprises.

SDGs- Sustainable Development Goals

ABSTRACT

Agricultural development is a prerequisite for most economies to grow. Agricultural activities are key to food security and sustaining livelihoods globally. Within the African continent, more women are employed in agriculture and agribusiness activities than other sectors. As main contributors to the labour force in the agricultural sector, women get involved in many agricultural and agribusiness activities to sustain their families. With over 60% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa involved in agriculture, there is need to explore and assess the role they play in promoting agribusiness with special focus on Kariega, in South Africa.

The identified participants in the study, as self-employed farmers, participate in agribusiness, thereby creating employment opportunities whilst generating personal incomes. Several benefits to female involvement in agribusiness were identified, including the ability to sustain families, stable cash flow, and empowerment. Several challenges were identified, including adequate capital, inaccessibility to private land, droughts, water scarcity, climate change effects and stigmatisation. Through a feminist qualitative methodology, the study utilised semi-structured interviews to collect data from 10 women involved in agribusiness around Kariega, Nelson Mandela Bay. Themes from the findings are analysed to highlight the important role played by women toward agribusiness, their achievements, government and private sector role and the hinderances still faced by these women in agricultural cooperatives.

Discussion from the analysis included a framework of recommendations, for policy makers, development practitioners and future researchers. The study found that all stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector should work together for sustainable agricultural development and sustainable development goals to be achieved. Sustainability among women farmers can be achieved by (a) Increasing government intervention and support (b) Climate smart agriculture practices (c) Overcoming stigmatisation (d) Encouraging and involving the youth (e) Diversification and integration of farm businesses and (f) Using contract farming.

Keywords: women empowerment, agricultural development, sustainable development goals, agribusiness, climate change, contract farming, climate smart agriculture

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The international community recognizes that agriculture is one of the main drivers of development, growth, and poverty reduction, especially within developing countries that depend mainly on agriculture (Charmes, 2006). Despite the underperformance of the agricultural sector in South Africa, various development policies have pointed out agriculture as a priority sector for job creation and employment opportunities, especially in rural areas (Hart & Aliber, 2012). Development of agriculture within Africa, according to empirical research, can be strengthened if the contributions of rural women towards the sector are recognized and supported by national governments and the agribusiness community (World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009). The desire to investigate and analyse the participation and performance of rural women within agribusiness can be translated into empowerment of women within agribusiness activities which gives direction to this research study.

This chapter outlines the study overview providing a background, rationale, significance, study aim and objectives. It also presents an overview of the literature review, research design and the structure of the study by summarising the subsequent chapters.

1.2 Background of the Study

The agricultural environment in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), having gone through decades of unproductivity, is undergoing widespread economic transformation (FAO, 2007). The aftermath of the structural adjustment programmes ushered in a more stable business environment and rapid economic growth in the region (Koiri, 2014). Despite the stable business environment and economic growth, the rate of poverty in SSA remains high, affecting women who play a crucial role in daily agricultural activities and rural economies (Weinberg, 2015). Not only are the women involved in agriculture mostly involved in unpaid, part time and seasonal agricultural activities, they are faced with various constraints of accessing agricultural land and inputs, extension services, markets and finances which could bail them out of the poverty trap (OECD & FAO, 2016).

1.3 Rationale and Justification of the Study.

The term agribusiness can be defined as the commercialisation and value addition in the agricultural sector with an emphasis on pre and post-production enterprises and building linkages among different agricultural and business enterprises (FAO, 2007). The agricultural sector in South Africa is heterogeneous in nature, given the various provinces that carry out different agricultural activities which are dependent on the climate, vegetation and soil type in the different provinces (World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009). Such activities include dairy and crop farming, fish farming, horticulture, and game farming. All these activities directly involve women at all stages within the small subsistence sector in South Africa and Africa as a whole (International Finance Corporation, 2016).

Research suggests that women in Africa contribute immensely towards agriculture and growth of economies through involvement in agricultural activities across the world (Doss & Sofa team, 2011). However, such contributions are not economically valued due to gender disparities within agribusiness in Africa (Hart, 2008). These gender disparities are due to the unrecognized domestic labour input women offer for example producing agricultural crops, tending to animals, preparing family meals, collecting fuel and water for home and farm use, as well as looking after the family members (Doss & Sofa team, 2011).

Conversely, most activities carried out by unemployed women are not financially valued which increases constraints women experience in accessing productive resources (Hart & Aliber, 2010). Research shows that many of these activities are often not regarded as active employment for the women though they are needed for the wellbeing of households which discourages their participation in agribusiness (Hart & Aliber, 2012; Cooke & Clare, 2016). In addition, the performance of women has been limited by some shortcomings within communities such as inadequate training and finance, technology, unfair land ownership and tenure systems that hinder women from accessing development opportunities as compared to men (IFC, 2016). This research study explores the challenges, constraints, achievements, and solutions to

the increasing gender gap within Agribusiness in semi- urban South Africa, and how the government and private sector can assist in closing the widening gap.

1.3.1 Location of the Study Area.

Using Figure 1.1, the area of interest in this study is Wincanton Estate town located in Kariega, one of the main towns in the Nelson Mandela Bay located in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Kariega is of particular interest because it is an agricultural area where very many small-scale farmers practice various farming and agribusiness activities as a means of survival. Below is a location map showing Kariega area where the participants in this study reside and perform their agribusiness activities.

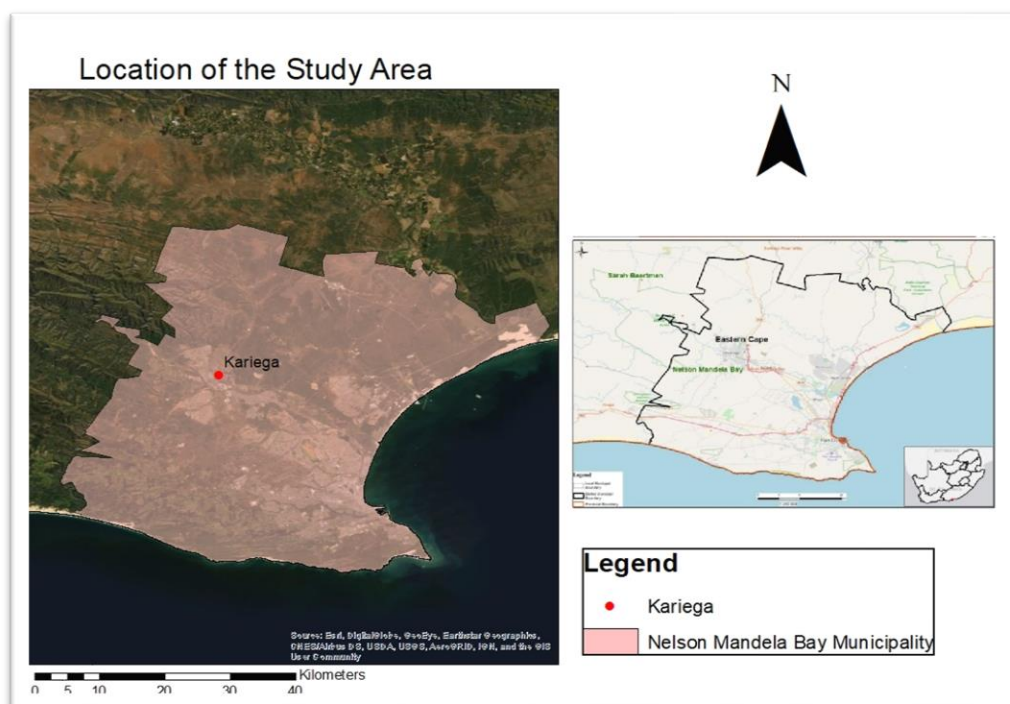


Figure 1-1: Location Map Showing Kariega Area

Source: Own Compilation

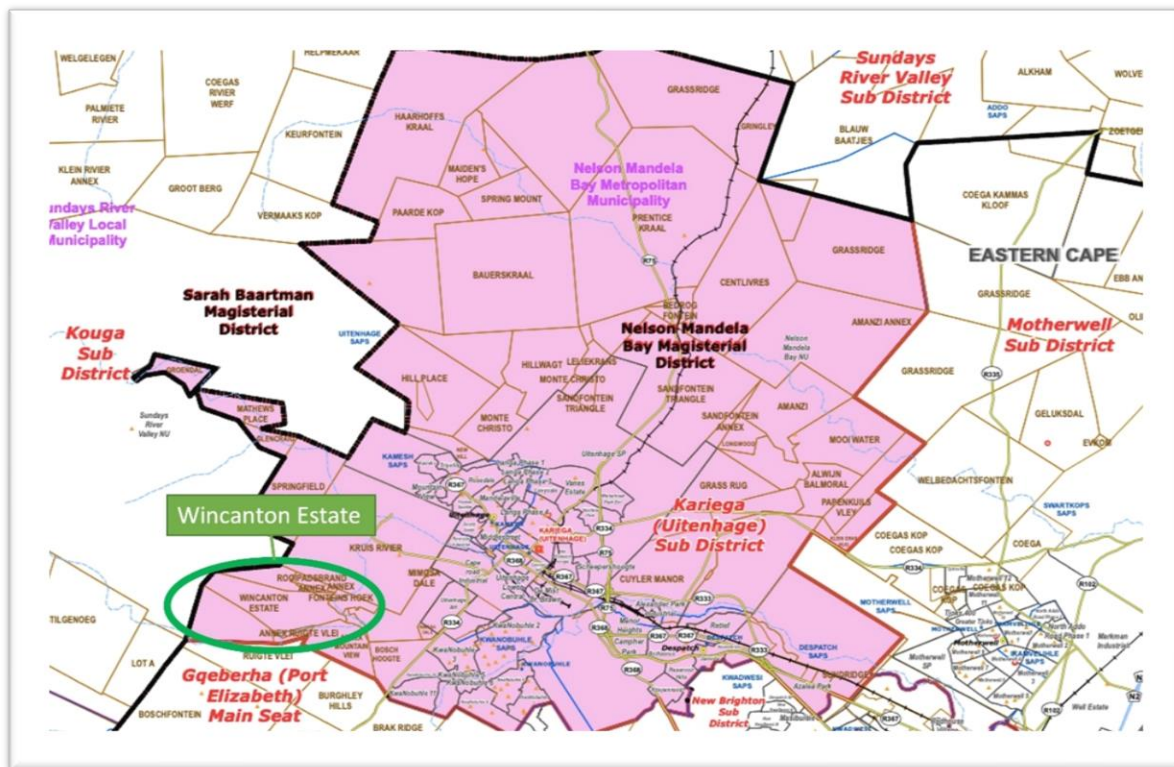


Figure 1-2: Location of Wincanton Estate, Kariega.

Source: Adapted from Department of Justice and Correctional Services (2021)

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study explores the reasons for the gender disparity within the agribusiness sector where women's roles are dictated by society. This research sought to make an informed study that may enable the government and private sector to educate, empower and mobilize women farmers to express their needs and challenges within their communities to achieve sustainable development and growth locally and at national level. Analysing reasons for the varying progress of women in agribusiness would enable the researcher to contribute to the body of knowledge and recommend more appropriate approaches of empowering and enhancing women growth in agribusiness across South Africa.

1.5 Research Aim and Objectives

The primary objective of the study was to evaluate the significance of women's contributions to the development of small-scale agricultural enterprises in Kariega (formerly Uitenhage), Nelson Mandela Bay. The study attempted to analyse the various roles and participatory processes of women in this industry as well as suggest ways to improve their productivity. Three goals were established during this investigation to achieve the study goal.

1.5.1 Objectives.

- To evaluate government and private sector support towards promoting growth of women-headed small-scale agribusinesses in Wincanton Estate, Kariega.
- To explore the growth and achievements of women in small-scale agribusiness in Kariega.
- To identify the challenges still hindering growth of women-owned agribusinesses within Kariega.

1.5.2 Research Questions

- Examine the role of government and private sectors in growth of women-headed small-scale agribusinesses within in Kariega?
- What roles do women play in fostering small-scale agribusiness growth around Kariega?
- What are the different achievements and challenges experienced by women as they partake in farming and agribusiness activities around Kariega?

1.5.3 Scope of the Study

The research study focuses on women staying in Wincanton Estate located in Kariega who are involved in small-scale agricultural activities and agribusiness with some support from government or private sector. The years under review were 2010 to 2020 to enable the analysis of agribusiness trajectory through the 10 years in semi urban Kariega. Using a document review approach, the study examined existing trends in

agribusiness from previous research to analyse how this industry had been performing in terms of female participation, crop productivity, government interventions as well as private sector involvement and contribution towards empowering these women farmers within a 10-year period.

1.6 Current Global Issues Shaping Women Roles in Small-Scale Agribusiness Development.

Women in agricultural development have played a significant role in transforming agricultural productivity and creating value chains to encourage agribusiness (OECD & FAO, 2016). One way of sustaining food systems and food security is through sustainable agribusiness within which women have a significant role in production, harvesting and selling farm produce to retailers and final consumers (AFDB & GCF, 2019). Women continue to intensify their efforts towards advancing in agriculture and agribusiness despite the various obstacles they face like droughts, climate change, disease outbreaks, lack of land, inadequate capital, and discrimination (Doss, 2014). Many countries, particularly in Africa, still view women as a source of unpaid labour, which undermines their potential and ability to produce on large scale (Koira, 2014).

In addition, adverse effects of climate change further deter women from agricultural activities due to poor resilience techniques that expose female farmers to farm losses (FAO, 2015). Studies have shown that increasing temperatures, droughts and floods play a big part in reducing crop yields and this affects productivity of small-scale farmers who depend mostly on agriculture to sustain their livelihoods (FAO, 2017). Conversely heat and water scarcity have a direct impact on the health of domestic animals which affects the quality of meat and other animal products (FAO, 2015). The farmers may face the negative impact of droughts on the quality of the feeds and fodder for the animals. All the adverse effects affect productivity and performance of women involved in farm activities as they are sometimes devastating conditions (IFC, 2016; Ingabire, 2021)

A Projection on Crop Yield Variation Due to Climate Change.

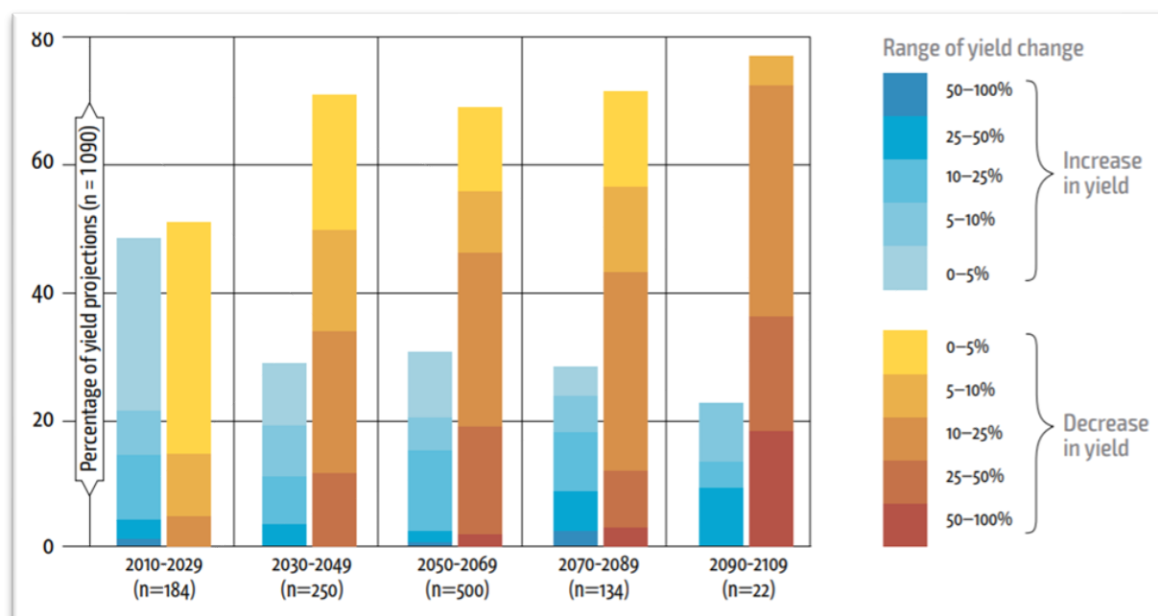


Figure 1-3: Impact of Climate Change on Crop Harvests.

Source: Porter et al. (2014, p. 504)

The projection presented in Figure 1-3 indicates that the future in the case of food security is uncertain if climate change effects are not mitigated (Porter, et al., 2014). For agricultural sustainability, it is inevitable that small scale farmers embrace climate resilient water, land, forestry, and fisheries management practices to adapt to climate change, eliminate poverty and eradicate hunger globally (FAO, 2017).

Research further indicates that climate change aggravates gender inequalities among low- or middle-income communities such as loss of income, property, farms due to natural disasters and calamities and this leaves women and children more vulnerable than the men (FAO, 2017). Consequently, in many low- or middle-income countries women make up almost half of the labour workforce in the agricultural sector (AFDB & GCF, 2019). Despite this they have limited access to important disaster management information and are restricted in terms of resources such as land and finances which leaves them disadvantaged more than the men, yet they take on more

household responsibilities and agricultural workloads with little or no pay for the labour they provide (Abass, 2018).

Whilst there are organisations and government entities that assist women in fighting social, economic and climatical adversities, women have autonomously continued to play a significant role in agribusiness growth to attain sustainable equality and development (Doss, 2014; Lambrecht, et al., 2017).

Regardless of the various constraints women farmers face in agribusiness, they make enormous contributions towards food production and security for both home consumption and sale (Abass, 2018). Women participate in agribusiness and agriculture as independent farmers, unpaid labourers on family farms and paid employees for other farmers and agricultural enterprises (ASFG, 2013). Regardless of how these women participate in agriculture, their substantial role towards food production and food security cannot be undermined (AFDB, 2016). This shows that women farmers are an important factor in agriculture and agribusiness growth in terms of food supply and food security across the globe (FAO, 2017).

In addition, empirical research shows the outstanding contribution from women in the forestry sector (Patil & Suresh, 2018). By working in both the formal and informal forestry sectors, women take part in agroforestry, tree improvement, forest conservation and watershed management (UNIDO, et al., 2010). Through forest conservation and its positive impact, climate change disasters are minimised while providing employment and income to women farmers in the forestry sector (AFDB & GCF, 2019). Most women in this sector earn income from operating tree nurseries, logging, and wood processing across the globe (Patil & Suresh, 2018). However, there is a gap in recognizing and documenting the significant role women play in forestry in terms of the policy making, level of income and wages as well as the working conditions which are poor compared to men in the same sector (Patil & Suresh, 2018).

Women farmers have played a tremendous role in other agricultural sectors like poultry farming, livestock management, fisheries (Koiri, 2014). Women especially among rural farmers share the biggest responsibility compared to men and children in

rearing animals and poultry keeping (Patil & Suresh, 2018). Perhaps it is for this reason that women have more control over poultry and small-scale mixed animal farming in homes that allows them to earn some income to sustain livelihoods and reinvest in agribusiness (OECD & FAO, 2016).

In addition, women have an advantage over men in terms of access to rural markets given that they are more invested in small scale agribusinesses hence the easy access to local markets (IFC, 2016). With accessibility to local markets, women farmers can sell their produce within the communities around them and hence have better control over the income hence creating consistent value chain systems in the marketplace (The World Bank, 2013; AFDB, 2019).

Currently women play an important role in agribusiness income generating activities but have little control over the incomes generated (United Nations, 2021). Besides, access to resources such as land, credit facilities, water and fuel is still limited which hinders women's work efficiency and productivity thus undermining their contribution towards agribusiness growth and development across the globe (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021). Section 1.7 provides an overview of the research methodology employed in the current study.

1.7 Qualitative Research Methodology

The study applied a qualitative research design to address the purpose of this study which intended to explore the role of women in agribusiness in Kariega. Channelling a qualitative design approach or a qualitative epistemology to the study strives to transform thought into action and bring out the multiplicity of perspectives initiated by both the participants and researchers focusing greatly on gender related issues and encounters by women and other marginalized groups in dynamic circumstances (Olesen, 2018; Leavy, 2017).

Narrative inquiry as utilised in this qualitative research study and akin to grounded theory research can be vitally useful in scrutinizing and intervening in social and cultural issues affecting different women in the agribusiness field (Olesen, 2018).

Utilising the new knowledge obtained from the participants, researchers, and development practioners are propelled to generate new insights and views of how to mitigate the daily challenges and achieve sustainable growth as well as development (Leavy, 2017; Spencer, et al., 2014). Due to this, a qualitative research approach was appropriate for this study's narrative examination of the role that women played in the growth of small-scale women-owned agribusinesses in Wincanton Estate, Kariega.

1.7.1 Data Collection

The study utilised telephone interviews as the mode of data collection. Primary data was collected through semi structured, in-depth telephone interviews with the women who carry out farming and agribusiness around Wincanton Estate in Kariega, Nelson Mandela Metropole. Brinkmann (2014), maintains that despite qualitative interviewing being used as a major tool in attaining evidence on social experience, discussions and interaction, many critiques emphasize that it is more of normal conversation consequently making it the most objective instrument in qualitative studies.

1.7.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

A total number of 15 women farmers were approached and requested to take part in the research study voice their experiences in the agribusiness activities and 10 of them agreed to participate in the study. And since women farmers engaged in agribusiness were the target group, the following criteria was applied by researcher to select the participants.

- Must be living in Kariega, Nelson Mandela Metropole.
- Must have experience of at least one year or more in a specific agribusiness activity.
- Must be above the age of 18 years.
- Must have access to food stuff markets where they sell their produce.

1.7.3 Semi Structured Interviews

The researcher used semi-structured interviews to interact with the participants and collect the required data. The semi structured questions allowed the interviewer to emphasize and examine the main crucial issues in relation to the research project (Brinkmann, 2014). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with a high risk of spreading or contracting the Covid-19 virus, telephonic meetings were preferred and arranged to restrain physical interaction. Therefore, the interviewer ensured that supplementary consultation calls took place for validity and reliability checks in case some unclear reactions emerged during transcription process and reporting of the first telephone interview data. The interview questionnaire is attached as appendix 1.

1.8 Data Analysis

The researcher was able to conduct a thorough and analytical synthesis of the dataset obtained attributable to a thematic data analysis approach. The Atlas ti software program played a key role in assisting the researcher through the many stages of data analysis, including coding, annotation, and grouping of the interview transcripts (Gibbs, 2014). The structuring and collection of the data for analysis and future use were made possible with the help of this software. Data reduction, restructuring, and representation were all made possible by the program (Roulston, 2014).

1.9 Contributions of the Study

The goal of this research was to explore the role of women in agribusiness growth in Kariega, Nelson Mandela Bay. The study also focused on identifying the government and private sector role towards supporting women in agribusiness. In addition, the research intended to assess the achievements and challenges the participants in the study face during their daily activities.

The study strived to contribute towards the body of knowledge by exploring the role played by government and private organisations towards agricultural development and ways through which they can improve their support towards agribusiness activities. The study in the same regard aimed at identifying the achievements some of the

women have realised from their agribusiness activities to encourage and motivate others who can join and expand the sector thus creating more jobs and empowering more women in South Africa.

The research study also revealed that most people disregard agricultural activities as a form of employment or profitable investment. This results in a lack of interest from younger individuals who, rather than becoming involved within agriculture, await opportunities in the formal sector. Thus, the study intended to present the benefits and opportunities available within the agricultural sector to attract more youth, hence decreasing unemployment.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

One of the key limitations to the study was the difficulty in accessing participants due to travel restrictions put in place by the government as a preventive measure of Covid-19 spread. Time constraints were also a foreseen limitation since the researcher needed to carry out in depth interviews and get meaningful information from the participants who have their businesses and farming activities to attend to. Having lengthy interviews could not be possible due to time limitations and busy schedules of the participants.

In addition, there were additional limitations posed by using telephone interviews instead of face-to-face interviews, for example mobile airtime expenses, refusal of some eligible participants to take part in telephone interviews by dropping the calls or not picking the call at all and absence of well-established rapport with the eligible participants.

1.10.1 Delimitations of the Study.

The researcher focused the study on women in agribusiness around Kariaga only excluding the men to go in-depth and look at data rich cases that would give detailed experiences about their agribusiness activities within the area of focus. Therefore, future studies may investigate and explore experiences from the men and youth too.

1.11 Structure of Thesis

The following aspects are discussed in the five chapters of the study.

Chapter one introduces the study of promoting and supporting women in the agricultural sector. The study aims at providing input to the agricultural development model for empowering women financially and economically. Included in this section is the purpose, significance, background, aim and objectives of the study.

Chapter two aims at presenting the theories that support and provide a lens to view gender mainstreaming in agribusiness and previous literature about women empowerment in the agricultural and agribusiness sector. Reviewing literature facilitates in identifying the knowledge gaps that still exist and those that need further research.

Chapter three presents the methodology and design that is used by the researcher to achieve the research aim and objectives in the study. It discusses the qualitative design employed in the study, the critical and the qualitative narrative analysis that is applied to the study. The study also indicates the research methodology, data collection method, sampling methods, data analysis as well as the validity and reliability checks used in this study. Ethics considerations and approval are also presented in this chapter.

Chapter four presents the study results and findings as provided by the participants. It analyses the data collected and reports the findings with the help of ATLAS.ti software. The analysed data is then used to discuss the findings and correlate it to the theoretical models and literature from previous studies to give meaning to the study.

Chapter five presents a conclusion to the study by summarising and providing recommendations that can be used by government, policy makers and other stakeholders to provide more support and promote women farmers and other vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector. Recommendations for future and further research are also indicated in this chapter.

1.12 Summary

The objective of this research is to provide a holistic assessment on the role played by women in agribusiness and provide recommendations in alignment with the government and private sector support. With agriculture as one of important sectors for any country, the study aims at exploring the contribution of women in agricultural and agribusiness development. The outcome of the research is intended to supplement on the existing body of knowledge in the agricultural sector by advocating for women and youth empowerment not only in South Africa, but also across the African continent. The chapter includes the rationale and background of the study, a brief outline of the subsequent chapters, as well as contributions and limitations of the research study.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW.

2.1 Introduction

Chapter one introduces and gives an overview of the study, background, rationale, significance, and summary of the subsequent chapters. This current chapter outlines the four feminist theoretical frameworks which support this study: post-modernism, post-colonialism, transnational, and African feminism theory. The empirical review further explores the role, significance, and contributions of women in Agribusiness with specific reference to the South African context. The review further expounds on the need for agribusiness, the value of women's input in agribusiness, the various constraints women are facing and how financing and investing along the value chains is affecting women in Agribusiness.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The present study explores the gender gaps within agribusiness in peri-urban South Africa. Theories are used to test assumptions on various phenomena (unemployment, climate change, poverty, gender discrimination) in order to determine relevant policies and principles used to explain such phenomena (McHugh, 2014). Traditionally the process of testing theories was male centred and tailored to the theorist's nationalities, cultures, and economic classes without the consideration of female perspectives and experiences or the difficulties facing women within the field of agri-business (Rose, 1994).

Prior to the challenging of existing information by feminist theory, these theories were used to generate systems and policies that adversely affected female livelihoods (Aguinaga, et al., 2013). Feminist theory criticizes patriarchal and androcentric perspectives and hypotheses through the generation of comprehensive interpretations of women's various actualities (Ahikire, 2014). The expertise established has been used in reviewing various policies and beliefs to foster decision making on alternative policies to support women with the problems affecting them (Davies, 2014).

2.2.1 Post-Modern Feminism

Post-modern feminists underpin the exploration of women's experiences and knowledge as a path to creating new feminist informed ideologies and knowledge (Harding, 1987). Post-modernists suggest that there is no singular reality which expresses the complexity and heterogeneity of the female experience, thus the theory purports that there exists multiple subjective experiences and realities (Leavy, 2007; Olesen, 2018). Within this assumption, the female experience is a conglomeration of various perspectives, beliefs, knowledge structures and subjective realities (Olesen, 2018). However, post-modern feminism also supports the view that knowledge claims should be developed from a broader base of experience and point out that female experiences will differ based on demographic considerations such as race, sexual orientation, and culture (McHugh, 2014).

The post-modern feminist perspective is therefore considered as an approach that serves the interests of women since it does not view women as a homogeneous group but rather as a complex, dynamic and homogenous group with subjective experiences (McHugh, 2014).

2.2.2 Post-Colonialism or Post-Colonial Feminism Theory.

Post-colonial feminism can be explained as an era which followed colonialization emerging in the 1980s and gaining momentum as a critical spade in the 1990s (Mohanty, 1991). This movement argues for social justice, emancipation, and democracy; hence fighting unjust power structures, racism, discrimination, and exploitation (Mishra, 2013; Mohanty, 1991).

Post-colonial feminism as a discourse pursues peaceful resolutions and equality for marginalized women globally (Olesen, 2018). This branch of feminism assumes that the world can be a place where differences are appreciated and applauded whilst advocating for social, economic, religious, and cultural freedom for all women (Tinker, 2015). Marxist and post-colonial feminisms invalidate unjust power relations. Feminists were determined to examine their mediocre status and asked for betterment

in the social positions, calling for equal opportunities and justice for females (Mishra, 2013). However, this strengthens post-colonial feminism highlighting the degree to which women are still operating alongside a colonial legacy that is strongly patriarchal ideologically, economically, communally, institutionally, and politically (Weedon, 2002).

Post-colonial feminism was born out of a critique aimed towards western feminism, which was dominated by the experiences of white women, largely from Western Europe and Northern America (Aguinaga, et al., 2013). This perspective created a vacuum for women in third world countries since western feminisms, like radical and liberal perspectives, tend to standardize and universalize female experiences which does not necessarily reflect the experiences of women in post- colonial societies (Olesen, 2018).

Post-colonial feminism explores women's capabilities, work, sexuality, and individuality in terms of neo-colonialism and imperialism with gender, race, class, and sexualities in diverse contexts (Mishra, 2013). Post-colonial feminists further criticize western feminism ideology regarding its universalisation of female experiences, arguing that western feminism is ethnocentric and does not consider the unique experiences of women in different post-colonial nations (Mohanty, 1991).

The major objective of post-colonial feminism is to highlight the variances in class, race and setting regarding lives of women in various parts of the world visible and recognizable using non tyrannical ways (Mishra, 2013). Post-colonial feminists advocate for female emancipation that is sub-alternated by social, cultural, and economic structures which renders global liberalization a wish to many postcolonial feminists (Mohanty, 1991). However, despite its attempts to reorganise existing feminist discourse to be more inclusive of previously marginalized and discriminated individuals, post-colonial feminism does not form itself in absolute disagreement of other feminist orientations (Mishra, 2013).

With the post-colonial effects and the apartheid regime following the colonial era provided an additional challenge to women in the quest to emancipation and

empowerment. One of the ways in which women attempted to take their position in a new post-colonial era, was through active participation in the agricultural sector (Weinberg, 2015).

2.2.3 African Feminist Theory

According to Arndt (2002, p. 64), African feminist theory advocates for equality for women in terms of monetary activities and administering justice to those oppressed in society. She further explains that with the forms of discrimination and oppression against women that are traditionally nurtured within African societies, it is almost impossible in most of these countries for women to access credit, employment and acquire assets compared to their male counterparts (Arndt, 2002; Mama & Abbas, 2014).

African feminist theory also advocates for complementarity where men and women in society support and build one another to obtain positive change and growth (Arndt, 2002, p. 66; Oyekan, 2014). It is suggested that one of the ways in which this can be achieved is through men supporting their wives and daughters to take part in economic activities and roles outside home structures that would diversify family incomes and reduce the burden on men as heads of households (Oyekan, 2014). Despite the absence of complementarity in African societies, as some feminist scholars argue, it is challenging to achieve in Africa (Arndt, 2002). Such assumptions arise because in their view complementarity is underpinned by equal rights and status of women and men which is still unbalanced based on research in Africa (Ahikire, 2014).

African feminism spurs inquiry into growth and under-development issues within the continent that are informed by the various challenges and difficulties on the continent (Ahikire, 2014). Women throughout Africa, owing to constant mobilisation, have come up and joined different forums, network platforms, non-governmental, and community-based organisation as a means of congregating to voice their collective concerns (Mama & Abbas, 2014). Beyond these networks, gender discernibility has been realised in sectors such as education, agriculture, and health which is attributed to

women shared capabilities of presenting various concerns and advocating for their rights (Ahikire, 2014).

Research has previously focused on elaborating the extent of female contributions within agriculture and agribusiness (Sachs, 2018). Some of these studies have suggested that women play a significant role in agricultural development and agribusiness activities in the past decades at global level (Carty & Mohanty, 2015). Despite the recognition of these significant contributions, few government policies and services have been put in place to improve women's status in agricultural societies with minimal or inconsistent enforcement (Ahikire, 2014). Such shortcomings have rendered government efforts inadequate, thus the need for scholars, policy makers and researchers to re-strategize and refocus on practical systems that will put women at the forefront of benefitting from the agricultural and agribusiness activities within which they participate (Mama & Abbas, 2014).

2.2.4 Transnational Feminist Theory

Transnational feminist theory, like African feminism, also confronts global and neoliberal policies imposed by states which negatively impact women's lives with consideration to racial, tribal, class and ethnicity bases (Carty & Mohanty, 2015). Some feminists argue that transnational feminism emanates from communal engagement and the actualities set forth, take on neoliberal and globalization policies as factors that have compelled women into an immeasurable desire to collaborate for change due to their influence on the lives of women (Carty & Mohanty, 2015).

Transnational feminists perceive feminist action as a union against racial, class, imperial and colonial gender power inequalities imposed by the colonial powers in most African societies (Mama & Abbas, 2014; Tinker, 2015). Transnational feminism further argues that separating local and global feminist struggles does not do justice to the movement which aims to empower women and other marginalized groups locally and globally (Davies, 2014). Consequently, there is a desire of acknowledging the intersectionality of gender struggles and perspectives in UN agendas such as

sustainable development, human rights, natural environment, and population dialogues (Carty & Mohanty, 2015; Davies, 2014).

In the same regard, assumptions that women's contributions to household activities and the informal sector need no economic compensation were alluded to as research presented that single-income families benefitted from household and home care activities which were performed by women locally (Tinker, 2015). However, the argument now converges on land being seized by multinational and foreign corporations that have increased agricultural production and rendered women who survive and feed their families on farming and agribusiness despondent (Tinker, 2015; Davies, 2014). Thus, transformative feminism associates itself with the burdens and challenges of working women in small scale farming and production as well as informal trade activities (Mariama, 2015).

However, some pro-transnational feminists suggest that the digital era presents an opportunity for achieving sustainability, gender equality, and female empowerment across sectors (Mariama, 2015). It is suggested that an information driven world and environment which is intelligently networked to connect people to material things and information could assist in achieving these ideals if embraced globally (Young, 2015).

Whereas feminism has gained significantly by ensuring that there are more women in formal business sectors, there are still women who are still oppressed and unappreciated as farm workers, home caretakers and cleaners (Cooke & Clare, 2016). Consequently, there is need to review empirical research about the need to continue empowering women. This is especially needed in agribusiness to provide a background on why there is need to modernise agribusiness and enrich the lives of women participating in this activity.

2.3 The Need for Agribusiness in Africa.

There are various reasons why agribusiness is needed in Africa, and particularly in South African rural development. With the highest population in peri-urban areas being women and children, there is need to increase female participation in agribusiness to

increase income levels which enable the women headed households survive and earn a suitable living (Hart & Aliber, 2012). Due to high rural urban migration, many men move to towns in search for better employment opportunities leaving women and children in the peri-urban areas (Sachs, 2018). This leaves the burden of supporting families to women; thus, taking part in agribusiness enables these women support themselves and their children (Hart & Aliber, 2010).

In addition to promoting income generating activities, agribusiness encourages social inclusive development strategies through fostering reduction in poverty and other social problems like high crime rate, drug abuse and prostitution (Doss & Sofa team, 2011). Through strong synergies that co-exist within agribusinesses, poverty reduction and agricultural sector performance in Sub Saharan Africa, there is potential of stimulating agricultural growth by creating linkages between agribusinesses and small-scale farmers which could reduce poverty in Africa (World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009).

Another factor is the fair accessibility to the agro-processing industry by small scale farmers (Hart & Aliber, 2010). Low start-up costs required are favourable to rural women who earn little income from crop and livestock production (Hart & Aliber, 2012). The lower start-up costs encourage rural households to invest in agribusiness, exposing them to other agro-based networks (Abass, 2018). This engagement encourages linkages, high productivity and product quality improvements in the marketplace thus promoting female empowerment and rural development (Hart & Aliber, 2012). However, the challenge of inaccessibility and costly inputs in some rural areas still poses a problem to female farmers as they struggle to take part in agribusiness (Hart & Aliber, 2010).

2.4 Role of Women in Small-Scale Agribusiness in Sub Saharan Africa.

Women's role in agribusiness around Sub Saharan Africa cannot be overlooked. Women contribute equally as men in agricultural employment and agribusiness activities, although their contributions are usually unacknowledged (Lambrecht, et al., 2017). The agricultural labour input for women is estimated at 60% across Sub

Saharan Africa and their estimated continent food production is between 70% to 80% (IFC, 2016). Women in Sub Saharan Africa are confined to production of low value crops (e.g., food crops grown for local consumption and markets), as opposed to men who partake in production of high value crops, mostly for export purposes (e.g., coffee, cocoa, cotton due to higher economic returns expected (IFC, 2016).

The production of low value food crops highly overshadows the value and position of women in the agribusiness and agricultural sectors for most of African states (Graca Machel Trust, 2015). This affects the decision making which is left to the male heads of the family, yet women contribute more to agricultural production, harvesting and marketing the produce (Hart & Aliber, 2012).

2.5 Constraints African Women face in Agribusiness Operations.

Being the main pillar in the agricultural sector in Africa, has not shielded women from experiencing challenges and constraints as they undertake agribusiness (ASFG, 2013). From farming activities to household responsibilities, women are key actors as cultivators, livestock breeders, entrepreneurs, consumers, and traders along the agricultural value chain process (IFC, 2016). Despite the undeniable influence on the growing agricultural and agribusiness sector in most parts of Africa, there is still need for more resolutions to mitigate the gender specific challenges that are being faced by women and enhance their participation in Agribusiness (Koira, 2014).

Empirical research also shows that across the continent women dominate as post-harvest primary processors, market stall vendors in local markets, operators of small local food restaurants and are currently increasing in the manufacturing of ready to eat packaged foods (Njobe, 2015). Despite this female enthusiasm in the Agri-entrepreneurial sector, women-led agribusinesses still operate on small-scale, informally and are inconsistent in nature (The World Bank, 2013). Irrespective of such limitations, many women still strive to stay in business, retain and expand their small agribusinesses into well-established and systematised profitable enterprises (NEPAD, 2013).

Undeniably most of the challenges experienced in agribusiness and the agricultural sector do not discriminate according to gender which puts both women and men at the same spot (NEPAD, 2013). Such challenges include unstable economic environment, inadequate infrastructures, unfair legal and regulatory structures which affect all businesses (UNIDO, et al., 2010). Conversely, agribusinesses headed by women must struggle with a few gender specific challenges such as lack of collateral to secure finances and loans, inadequate technical capabilities, and socio-cultural impediments, thereby deterring their expansion into profitable market segments (AFDB, 2019).

Scarcity of technical capabilities limits most African women in agribusiness, deterring profit making in the sector (The Montpellier Panel, 2012). Even with the advancement in education for girls and women across the continent, highly productive agribusiness necessitates specialised vocational and technical skills in specialities like food safety, food storage and packaging as well as commodity certification which most African women do not hold (AFDB & GCF, 2019).

Another constraint is inaccessibility to finance experienced in various African SMEs (AFDB, 2019). Women in Agribusiness encounter various setbacks in accessing financial help to support their businesses because of bureaucracy, lack of collateral in form of tangible assets and land as well as high risk perception (AWDF, 2015). Empirical research shows that a wide gap exists for African women in accessing financial help for agricultural activities across different value chains (AFDB, 2016). Hence, most women are left with only family loans and personal savings which cannot sustain and run long-term businesses (AFDB, 2019).

Socio-cultural impediments, resulting from social stereotypes, have also hindered women in growing their agribusinesses (Doss, 2014). Since African women are home custodians, the responsibilities held in their homes tend to fully engage them thereby limiting their capability to actively run and grow their businesses (Graca Machel Trust, 2017). This causes conflict between responsibilities of stabilizing family obligations and business activities for these women (Lambrecht, et al., 2017).

Other constraining factors include existing disparities in land ownership and distribution across the continent which poses a threat to female-led agribusinesses, adverse market access and incentives restricting trade and capacity to produce high quality produce for the market, inadequate inclusion of women and youth in agricultural and agribusiness development and insufficient incentives to enhance sustainability and climate resilient systems (Abass, 2018).

Equally women in agribusiness operate on small scale in most cases, which exposes them to several constraints in the daily operations. Such constraints include limited access to high quality farm inputs, insufficient information on how to use inputs on the farm, restricted access to technology and machinery, scarce hired labour, and ignorance about modern farming methods (The World Bank, 2013). The global integration of world markets has left many small-scale farmers, including women, vulnerable due to decrease in opportunities, disintegration of the production process and continuous structural changes in most economies (World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009). All these limitations, coupled with severe climate change impacts seem to result into downward trend in the number of women within agribusiness and as a result women face challenges in accessing long term financial assistance and security (IFC, 2016).

2.6 Financing and Investing in Women Along Agribusiness Value Chains.

Governments and many development organisations have, over the last decades, provided and established platforms to increase access to finances, deliver agricultural inputs, and reinforce technical training and business support to women agripreneurs (AFDB, 2016, p. 36). The Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa, a pan-African initiative, was set up by the African Development Bank to deal with the financing challenge facing women in Africa (AFDB & GCF, 2019). This initiative embraces a 3-way approach: stimulating access to finance, delivering technical support, and growing the supporting environment (ASFG, 2013).

While capital injection in female led businesses is still low across the continent, research shows that most female led businesses require less than \$50 000 to make a

social and economic impact across the continent (ASFG, 2013). In addition, women have generally proved to be credit worthy as they pay up their loans within the agreed time limit more regularly than men. Hence successful programs such as micro-finance and saving unions, and peer training business groups and schemes should be supported to achieve the set goals (AFDB, 2019).

More initiatives across the continent should be rolled out to sustain and grow female agri-prenuers and businesses (Graca Machel Trust, 2015). Feasible solutions should be generated through thorough engagement with women in agribusiness to fully comprehend their challenges, strengths, and needs (The Montpellier Panel, 2012). The Global Gender Summit is involved in driving such opportunities and action points forward to empower female agri-prenuers as they dominate most agribusiness activities such as: farming, post-harvest primary processing, market stall trading, running fast food establishments, and producing ready to eat packaged food products (The World Bank, 2013). Yet, with such dynamism, female agri-prenuers still struggle to keep and sustain their businesses with the growing competition, locally and internationally (AFDB & GCF, 2019).

Across the African continent several projects and programs have been set up through the UN and its sister organisations to enable women in various sectors, including agribusiness and agriculture, to manoeuvre and consolidate their business into productive and stable income generating activities (Doss, 2014). Some of these projects below have been successful while others must prove their progressive impact pertaining to the women led businesses.

2.6.1 The Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA).

The Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa is a pan-African initiative which seeks to bridge the \$42 billion gender financing gap faced by African women (AFDB, 2019). With women being a great pillar of the African economy, and Africa having the highest percentage of women entrepreneurs globally, AFAWA is presented with the opportunity to motivate these female entrepreneurs (The World Bank, 2013). Research also shows that women reinvest the largest part of their incomes into their

families, education, wellbeing, and health more than men do, suggesting that through supporting and financing female entrepreneurs and businesses, social transformation through business growth is possible (AFDB & GCF, 2019; The World Bank, 2013). With the various financing challenges female entrepreneurs face when accessing finance (\$15.6 billion financing gender gap in the agricultural sector alone), AFAWA recognises some of the challenges such as:

Insufficient capacity by financial institutions to understand women entrepreneurs who regularly lack the financial and business expertise to counteract the needs of financial institutions (AFDB, 2019, p. 4).

Tough business environment with a lot of legal and regulatory structures that impede women from fully partaking in private sector business growth (AFDB, 2019, p. 4; ASFG, 2013).

High lending interest rates encountered by women since financial institutions view it as a (high-risk) offering loans to women entrepreneurs (AFDB & GCF, 2019, p. 8).

Shortage of conventional collateral and guarantees (AFDB & GCF, 2019, p. 8).

AFAWA' s approach to all these challenges is therefore closing the gender gap in accessing finance and emancipating entrepreneurial capacity for African women (AFDB, 2019).

2.6.2 African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

Being a fundraising and grant making initiative, African Women's Development Fund aims at empowering women across the African continent (AWDF, 2015). After its establishment in 2001 Accra Ghana, its mission was to consolidate support for local, national, and international initiatives for African female-led transformation and sustainable empowerment (AWDF, 2015). Having its focus on 5 major areas, AWDF supports women through: economic empowerment; human rights; health, reproductive and HIV/AIDS based rights; peace building, and political participation (AWDF, 2015).

AWDF, through its various activities has realized some achievements alongside the challenges. Some of the achievements noted are:

- Promoting skills development and entrepreneurship among women in the rural communities (AWDF, 2015).
- Ensuring stable income and food securing through empowering marginalized women which contributes to development with families and communities (AWDF, 2015).
- Increased innovation, flexibility and knowledge sharing among the beneficiaries of the projects run by AWDF has facilitated problem solving and continuous learning within communities (AWDF, 2015).

African Women's Development Fund has identified two key internal challenges the organization has encountered during its activities. Firstly, rapid expansion of the organization funding within African countries poses a risk to quality and sustainability of the various projects, however its growth has been progressive even with the reduction in the funds available (AWDF, 2015). Secondly, the scarcity of quantitative data to evaluate and appraise the efficacy of the projects run by AWDF has been identified as an internal challenge facing the organization. To deal with this deficiency AWDF has been able to implement Information Management Systems to assist with appraisals, estimations, and impact assessment of the projects (AWDF, 2015).

2.6.3 Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme-Phase II (GCCASP)

The agenda of this programme under AUDA-NEPAD (African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development) is to enable women, and other susceptible groups, to adapt to climate smart agricultural practices that would enable these farmers to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and agribusiness activities (NEPAD, 2013).

Due to adverse consequences of climate change on farming activities, especially in Africa where the exposure is increasing while the response capacity remains relatively

low, there is a need for the programme to engage female small-scale farmers and other vulnerable groups across the continent (NEPAD, 2012). Training farmers climate change resilient practices has been done to empower these groups towards coping with devastating impacts of climate change and variability on agriculture and agribusiness activities (FAO, 2015).

One major challenge that has been identified by the organization, is the lack of shared understanding of climate change as a significant problem. On the other hand, the roles and responsibilities organizations play in sensitizing communities is affected by gender disparities (Ingabire, 2021). This tends to impact the response and capacity individuals (especially female farmers) have, to combat the adverse effects of climate change (Mulema, et al., 2021). Empirical research also indicates that female farmers are more vulnerable than men due to inaccessibility to supporting services and productive resources, which limits their resilience to climate disasters and shocks thus keeping them in the climate vulnerability trap (Ingabire, 2021).

Some achievements that have been realized include: land access by female small-scale farmers, inputs, new technology and credit. (NEPAD, 2013) Some have also been involved in decision making at the different economic levels within their communities (Mulema, et al., 2021). The programme has also supported capacity building through training, and access to learning and information to enable female small-scale farmers to address climate change related adversities (NEPAD, 2012).

With the interventions identified by the organization (e.g., strengthening female platforms, investing in innovative practices, capacity building, and closing institutional gaps) there is a possibility of reducing the negative impact of climate change imposed on agricultural activities (NEPAD, 2012).

2.6.4 African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAB)

African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAB) focuses on addressing challenges in food security and ascertaining opportunities for women within the agro-industry (Mofokeng & Njongenhle, 2020). Additionally, AWAB aims at supporting initiatives that

increase women's competitiveness and involvement in local and global markets (Graca Machel Trust, 2017). The desire to advance women beyond subsistence farming, and toward sustainable agribusinesses which objectively take part in the agricultural value chain system, offers the network a great foundation for an inventive, sustainable, and local solution to cater for agribusiness challenges in most African countries- especially SADC countries (Graca Machel Trust, 2017).

Through various activities (trainings, team building workshops), the AWAB network has strengthened women's proficiency and self-reliance in managing finances to undertake ground-breaking and extensive projects whilst utilizing financing models that boost access to finance and various marketing opportunities in agribusiness (Graca Machel Trust, 2017). The AWAB has also been active in recognizing various female leaders in key sectors to guide and advocate for amendments in the social, economic, financial, and political domains (Graca Machel Trust, 2015). Because of network building opportunities and the removal of structural barriers, it is believed that women in agribusiness can achieve highly through the development of agribusiness value chain strategies in Africa. These value chain strategies in turn compel development partners to be more responsive to the needs of women within the agro-industry (Graca Machel Trust, 2015).

2.7 Primacy for Agribusiness Value Chain Advancement in Developing Countries.

In response to the different organizations operating to support African women in agribusiness and agro-industry development, a programme framework was formulated to be undertaken by key agribusiness stakeholders and the international development community (UNIDO, et al., 2010). The role of the framework was to enhance and complement the undertakings by all stakeholders involved (Ponte, 2011). Programs such as the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI) were put in operation to advance agribusiness development with collaboration from the international community (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011). Six main components were

formulated as a basis for the programme framework to support national, regional, and continental policy approaches for agribusiness development. These include:

- Public-Private sector discourse on agribusiness advancement aims at initiating awareness regarding the opportunities and challenges facing women in agribusiness and establishing public-private sector dialogue with key stakeholders and the international community in agribusiness value chains (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011).
- Collaboration within key stakeholders such as farmers, producers, traders, the marketing sector, government departments, logistics, suppliers, financing bodies, technology and innovation institutes is considered an important step towards involving and empowering marginalized farmers and groups in agribusiness development (Van Rooyen, et al., 2011; Ponte, 2011).
- Examining and analyzing concerns in addition to disseminating knowledge and information on the current state of agribusiness. It is proposed that this will expedite agribusiness development within Africa and globally, thereby enhancing coordination and amalgamation at all levels (Van Rooyen, et al., 2011).
- Agribusiness knowledge and information dissemination. Due to swift changing global determinants in agribusiness expansion, it is essential to persistently analyze trends in the agricultural supply fields for agribusiness, technology, increasing agricultural inputs, trade, infrastructure, markets, finance, and energy (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011). Gaining new insight into existing opportunities and challenges within agribusiness value chains through research, seminars, dialogue, information sharing publications, websites and workshops transforms many marginalized groups into knowledgeable farmers who are ready to share the new knowledge and information acquired with their fellow farmers (UNIDO, et al., 2010). In addition, information sharing leads to knowledge creation and new global frontiers in agribusiness value chain development that is of relevance to Africa in terms of value chain integration between farms, infrastructure, logistics, finance, energy, trade, technology, and innovation (Ponte, 2011).

- Programme governance justified with empirical research argues that an agribusiness value chain approach epitomizes a prospective and vital path to wealth creation in Africa (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011). However, resourceful coordination and execution of the programme framework with key stakeholders in agribusiness value chain development in Africa is needed to improve governance and honoring obligations (ASFG, 2013; Graca Machel Trust, 2017). This can help rebuild social virtues that are insufficient in most African and developing nations leading to many project failures (Hart & Aliber, 2012). Consequently, embarking on consistent monitoring and evaluation for agribusiness value chain progression, constraints, challenges, opportunities and prospects and expansion potential at national, regional, and continental level offers a levelled ground for elevating women and other marginalized groups in agribusiness and within agro-industry (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011).
- Global agribusiness partnerships arise due to the need for deeper integration of African countries into global agribusiness. Establishing links with key stakeholders in the field of finance, technology, innovation, trade, investment, and capacity building is crucial (AFDB, 2016; Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011). Such partnerships which embrace agribusiness technology, innovation, trade, and investments within rapidly emerging economies (e.g., Egypt, Tunisia and South Africa) and developed countries accelerates value-chain agribusiness advancement in Africa (Ponte, 2011). With more affiliations, agribusiness funding and finance for developing countries, and investment in agro-industry, infrastructure, and energy coming from various sources is made possible, thereby sustaining women and other marginalized groups partaking in small scale agribusiness (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011).
- Aid for trade in agribusiness exports should be boosted. Agribusiness and the agro-industry sector in Africa are yet to exploit its capacity in capturing emerging market opportunities in prospective export markets for both developed countries and emerging economies (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011). Underpinning the capacity of African farmers, especially women, to take on activities in global agribusiness trade systems and conquer market opportunities in developing emerging economies,

intensifies scientific capacity to produce and market inexpensive, safe, reliable agro-industry produce (Williams, 2011).

- Technological collaboration for agribusiness development across the continent. Despite successful development of agribusiness value chains in a few African countries like Egypt, Nigeria and Ethiopia, there is need to foster more agribusiness knowledge and development across Africa (Van Rooyen, et al., 2011). It is crucial to have an expansive range of African countries with the required conditions for viable agribusiness development and establish digital markets in countries with more proficiency as well as emerging economies around the world (Kormawa & Roepstorff, 2011).
- Having advisory services for policy development and efficient business environment accelerates capacity building for advancing value chains in agribusiness (AFDB, 2019; Williams, 2011). Capacity building in return fosters advancement of SME business and finance models, boosts agribusiness value chains in rural and semi urban areas, cultivates stronger regional cooperation, and minimizes infrastructure and energy constraints within agribusiness sector (AFDB, 2016). With the need to boost small scale agribusinesses and bridge the gender gap, there is need to analyze how technology and digital transformation can enhance closing the gender gap and promote growth in the sector.

2.8 Gender Disparities Across Small Scale Agribusinesses in The Digital Era

Gender disparities or imbalances in the agricultural sector impede many women from consummating their full potential as farmers and businesspeople in the agricultural sector (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021). With digital transformation, information and communication technologies can be useful and powerful in addressing the existing gender gaps across the sector and value chains (OECD, 2019). There are various gender imbalances across the agricultural sector as indicated below that are directly impacting women's contribution towards developing small scale agribusinesses (AFDB & GCF, 2019).

Limited access to information has been linked to the causes of gender disparities in digital transformation that negatively impacts and deprives many small-scale women farmers from accessing relevant information (FAO, 2018). This is because of lack of education and skills that deter most small-scale women farmers from using the available technology and data for their benefit and the community, they live in (GSMA Connected Women, 2015). Therefore, to address agribusiness challenges and expediate their role in the agricultural and agribusiness sector, women farmers need to embrace the new digital platforms to compete better and favourably with their male counterparts (FAO, 2018).

Affordability as a general challenge regardless of the gender is one of the hurdles in accessing advanced technologies in agribusiness (FAO, 2019). However, it is likely that more women than men in small scale agribusiness cannot afford these services and utilities to enhance farming operations and activities (Cooke & Clare, 2016). Notably, the gender divide in agriculture grows as technological sophistication intensifies thus increasing the cost consequently creating more barriers in accessibility and affordability for women farmers who have limited capital input for their farms (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021).

Low levels of technological literacy or digital illiteracy which translates into lack of awareness of the potential benefits that may arise from using digital platforms in various agribusiness activities (FAO, 2019). Fewer women compared to men in small scale agriculture embrace new digital innovations since some with no formal education are not familiar with using different digital platforms for business purposes. Evidently, there is lack of trust in technology and internet devices when it comes to safety of personal information (FAO, 2018). The lack of trust limits internet usage especially with financial platforms that are exposed to online frauds which increases the gender divide as more women fear taking risks associated with digital platforms (GSMA Connected Women, 2015).

Inherent biases and social cultural norms play an important role in increasing gender based digital transformation exclusions (The World Bank, 2016). Across the globe in

countries like Egypt and India, some societies believe that the internet is inappropriate for women and girls because of the social negative perception associated with internet and its usage (GSMA Connected Women, 2015). The same perceptions are held among rural communities hence depriving rural women farmers the benefits of accessing and using digital innovations in farming to their advantage (FAO, 2018).

With all the above factors influencing the gender divide, various stakeholders need to get involved in bridging the existing gender gaps across all agribusiness value chains to achieve the desired empowerment and growth among small scale farmers and agribusinesses.

2.9 Bridging Digital Gender Divide in Small Scale Agribusinesses.

By encouraging African countries to adopt new technologies and innovations furthers narrowing of the gender gap hence influencing rural women farmers to embrace new innovations and technologies (FAO, 2018). For instance, the African Union Panel on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (APET) emphasizes that African countries should incorporate materializing innovations into women agribusiness and farming activities to upsurge access to financial instruments and markets (AUDA-NEPAD, 2020). Emergent technologies such as digital, artificial intelligence and robotics can be adopted to create value addition in agribusiness (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021). For example, women can be skilled in using canning technologies that enhances preservation of products as a means of broadening agricultural productivity and efficacy for small scale farmers regardless of the gender (AUDA-NEPAD, 2020).

Initiatives by some African countries to afford women farmers access to digital agriculture has realized positive impact (Krishnan, 2018). A case in point is Rwanda's "buy-from-women" platform where women farmers access digital agriculture technologies to increase access to digital markets for most rural women farmers (UN Women, 2016). These platforms have positively impacted agribusiness through connecting women to agricultural information, markets and financial instruments which has greatly improved agribusiness activities and lifespans (Cooke & Clare, 2016).

Additionally, women farmers have continued to take advantage of digital technologies through utilisation of smartphones, digital apps, and digital financial services to have information related to market trends, weather trends and changes (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021). With availability of this information women farmers can ascertain planting and harvesting seasons depending on the weather trends, market information, mobile money services and agricultural extension information (Huyer, 2016). Having access to information in communities enables women to control assets and resources, take part in decision making and improve their influence or confidence thus increase in production (Huyer, 2016).

African farmers are being skilled in various digital skills to help them improve technologically and be able to engage with agricultural experts in different fields. Using these technologies like mobile devices empowers women farmers to secure their knowledge in local and organic crop varieties that are weather resistant which secures planting and harvesting using the available technology (OECD, 2019; GSMA Connected Women, 2015).

Moving beyond farm production to support women at all stages of the agribusiness value chain has proved to be beneficial in many ways like increasing market and social control for many women farmers, better service accessibility and reducing some of the gender biases that disempower women in agribusiness value chains (Huyer, 2016). However as indicated by various studies women can only benefit from such initiatives if they have equal access to production resources and agricultural services (Hart & Aliber, 2012; Ingabire, 2021). These include climate smart technologies and agribusiness digital services that minimise the production time (FAO, 2019; Ingabire, 2021).

In addition, digital transformation and technologies aimed at supporting resilience and climate change adaptation for small scale farmers can contribute immensely to women empowerment and transformation of gender relations whilst increasing sustainability in agricultural production for many women farmers (Huyer, 2016). To achieve this sustainability and empowerment, strong policy frameworks are required to reinforce

equitable decision making between men and women, control of assets by women and strong capacity building (ASFG, 2013).

2.10 Impact of Agri-Tech Transformation on The Role of Women in Small-Scale Agribusiness

Agri-tech transformation fosters economic growth and societal well-being through linking various stakeholders and ideas, hence enabling remarkable innovations, and sharing of relevant knowledge among farmers and businesspeople about sustainable farming methods, relevant technologies and viable business methods (The World Bank, 2016; OECD, 2019). Digitalisation of agriculture and agribusiness has a substantial impact on the role women play in promoting small scale agribusinesses through unlocking crucial benefits that transforms many lives and offers practical opportunities to women farmers and businesses (FAO, 2018; Sachs, 2018).

Improvement in the flow of information and easy access of both information and training opportunities (AUDA-NEPAD, 2021). Using various mobile applications women farmers access both general and specific agricultural knowledge that women in agribusiness benefit from in various ways such as access to weather forecasts, online classes as well as training platforms on modern farming trends and methods, market related trends and challenges (GSMA Connected Women, 2015). The availability of such information empowers women farmers to operate smoothly and compete favourably in the market, thus enhancing the pivotal role they play in agribusiness and agricultural production (ITU, 2019; IFC, 2016).

In terms of digital financial services, women farmers benefit a lot from accessing online financial services such as online payments and mobile banking (UNCTAD, 2016). Using digital financial services reduces operation costs while saving time consumed in going to banks to access financial services (ITU, 2019). This saves farmers a lot of time and money as they have more time for farming activities due to reduced movements (Cooke & Clare, 2016).

Advanced Agri-tech methods allow more women farmers to engage in diverse agricultural activities during the working hours creating more sources of income (Huyer, 2016). The farmers can feed their families better, improve farming facilities, access better technologies, and improve their standards of living (Cooke & Clare, 2016). Adoption of new technologies provides more time for these women farmers to access training, become better decision makers and plan for their families thus making their role more simplified in agribusiness and agriculture (Krishnan, 2018).

Advanced mechanization of small-scale agricultural production has been made possible with utilization of new technology in all sub sectors of agriculture (UN Women, 2016). This includes a wide range of activities like crop management, animal health, water usage, land clearing, pesticides, and fertilizers application (Munyaradzi, et al., 2019). On the other hand, technology advancements are being embraced along the food value chains to facilitate aggregation, processing, and distribution of the commodities (IFC, 2016). All these processes enable women in small scale farming to produce and harvest in larger quantities and better quality in a short period of time thus largely contributing to the sector and sub sectors (Doss, 2014).

However, high levels of mechanization are reducing the demand for unskilled labour that a lot of women provide hence leading to job losses (Lambrecht, et al., 2017). This is because the technology driven agriculture requires skilled labour over unskilled workers who perform routine activities thus undermining women's role in agribusiness (Munyaradzi, et al., 2019).

2.11 Summary

Through the review of pertinent literature, a theoretical framework was established, providing a lens through which current literature and data regarding women empowerment and its challenges are explored. In addition, the literature review examines current initiatives operating to encourage and support African women within agribusiness. The benefits towards women, their families, the communities they live in, and the economy shows that women are central in promoting sustainable, profitable, and inclusive agribusiness across continental and global level. However,

women still face a multitude of challenges and barriers limiting their success within agribusiness and becoming self-reliant. Chapter Three focuses on the research design and methodology employed in this research study.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The preceding chapter discussed the theoretical framework and literature review that provides a basis for justifying the discussion on current gender disparities and inequalities in the agricultural sector. Chapter three now provides a description of the research design and methods employed in this research project. It will outline the research design, methodology, kind of data, target population, sampling design and procedures, data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations undertaken in this study.

3.2 Qualitative Research Design

A research design is an action plan a researcher conforms to, piloted by the research problem, aim and objectives pertaining to experimental findings that advance into a solid conclusion (Babbie, 2007). A research design can too be portrayed as a comprehensive clarification of specialized choices intended to arrange, actualize, and prepare information of a research study (Blaikie, 2007). Several authors concur that a research design highlights the findings and procedures used to direct the study's investigation and reach a sound conclusion (De Vos, et al., 2011; Neuman, 2013; Creswell, 2017). Although, a research design aids in reaching the primary research aim, objectives, and providing a solution to the research question, it also provides a methodological basis and outlines the procedure for gathering correct data findings (Creswell, 2017). Unrelated evidence to the research can be avoided with a well-planned research strategy (Blaikie, 2007). A qualitative research design was used for this study.

Qualitative research seeks to depict specific aspects of the human experience and scrutinize it in a way that provides a more perceptive perspective of individual subjectivity rather than focusing on generalizability or quantifiability of the study (Denzin, 2009; Holloway & Jefferson, 2000). It is for this reason that a qualitative research design will be fitting to the goals and objectives of this study's narrative

investigation into the contribution of women towards the growth of small-scale agribusiness in Wincanton Estate in Kariaga.

The advantage of employing qualitative procedures is that they offer rich, in-depth facts and data that preserves the perspectives of the participants and offer a variety of contexts for understanding the topic being investigated. Therefore, qualitative methodologies can be advantageous when used to explore phenomena that can lead to the investigation of narratives from individuals or groups (Merriam, 2009).

3.3 Research Methodology

This section outlines the methodological approach used in this study. Using a narrative analysis approach, this research attempts to explain and comprehend how humans perceive and make meaning of their experiences as well as how the setting in which narratives are produced affects story telling (Griffin & May, 2018).

3.3.1 Narrative Analysis

“Narrative analysis draws on a range of theories and in fact contains within it several different varieties of analysis, so that it is hard to specify overall rules about what kind of data ought to be analysed, or even how anyone narrative analysis should proceed” (Griffin & May, 2018, p. 512). Narrative inquiry is described by many as a method by which we deliberately assemble, break down, and represent individuals accounts, as told by them (Bochner & Riggs, 2014; Moen, 2006; Sandelowski, 1991). Etherington (2006) asserts that narrative analysis provides significant information that binds layers of understanding about individuals, their way of life and how these respondents have made a change. The shape of the respondents’ stories helps organise information about how people have interpreted events; the values, beliefs and experiences that guide those interpretations; and their hopes, intentions, and plans (Etherington, 2006).

There are diverse forms of narrative analysis, some emphasise the content of stories, while others focus on the meaning – and in some cases it could encompass both. According to Polkinghorne (1995) thematic analysis is one method for analysing stories, which can be seen as a window into a known reality. Stories can also be

analysed using other methods that draw on theory. Additionally, it is possible to think of narrative analysis as a socially situated kind of scientific literacy that emphasizes the complexity, uniqueness, depth, and texture of lived experience.

Feminist qualitative researchers like (Ahikire, 2014; Aguinaga, et al., 2013; Carty & Mohanty, 2015; Davies, 2014; Sachs, 2018; Hart & Aliber, 2010) being known for exploring day to day experiences for marginalized groups especially women ,the application of feminist qualitative methods in the study was appropriate in capturing the daily challenges faced by women for example, inaccessibility to financial services, lack of land ownership, health and social welfare predicaments along with the global climate change with the help of in-depth interviews (Rose, 1994; McHugh, 2014).

3.3.2 Feminist Narrative Analysis

Feminist narrative analysis is ideal in this study as a medium through which people tell their experiences or stories (Murray, 2018). McHugh (2014) notes that despite stories being used for communicating experiences, they are capable of moving people into action. Thus, the narrative approach can be used to expand feminist goals as required by this research study (Bochner & Riggs, 2014). According to Murray (2018) storytelling is perceived as a way of including women's experiences, assisting women break the silence as well as giving them a voice of expression and analysis of their own capabilities - a key aim of this present study.

Feminist theory as known for placing gender relations at the centre, conventionally providing emancipatory objectives and critical lens through which to view any inquiry (McHugh, 2014). As feminist social research aims at examining contributions of women in various fields in the public space, these concerns elaborate on women as contributors, social reformers, high achievers, wage earners and educators (Leavy, 2007).With all their contributions in different activities women still fight for their place in the public world. Therefore, with a feminist narrative inquiry methodology, this explorative study is ideal for conveying more attention to the women working hard to have a place in agribusiness and agricultural sector.

The advantages of employing a feminist narrative inquiry approach, according to McHugh (2014) are:

- It focuses primarily on women.
- It recognises the intersection of different identities (race, gender, sexuality, religion, and language).
- It unpacks institutional, and cultural, sources of oppression as experienced by women.

Therefore, this study, having such a strong alignment to a feminist narrative inquiry framework, is well positioned in terms of achieving and realising the set goals and objectives of this study.

3. 4 Target Population, Sampling Design and Sample Size

The target population, sample design and size in a study determine the representative of the target population which helps in generalization of results obtained from interviewing the sample according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria applied in a study as explained further below (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Target/study population can be explained as a group or pool of elements that have qualities applicable to a particular study from which the researcher draws the study sample (Leavy, 2017). For this study, the criteria for the target population were women above the age of 18 years involved for at least one or more years in agriculture, and agribusiness activities, on government-leased land. These women needed to be residents of Wincanton Estate in Kariaga and have access to some support from government and/or private sector through cooperatives to carry out farming and agribusiness activities.

The researcher's entry into the agri-business cohort, was via the chairlady of the Kariaga Small Farmer Co-operative. The target population for this study was drawn using the purposive sampling method to determine the participants eligibility for interviews. The Kariaga Small Farmers Co-operative in Wincanton Estate consists of 15 women involved in the small-scale agribusiness. At a co-op meeting, the chairlady

requested that those who were willing to partake in this study, were to willingly provide their contact details for the researcher, satisfying the need to abide with the POPI act which stipulates that no information can be shared without consent.

A total of 15 women were approached at the above-mentioned meeting to voice their experiences in the agribusiness activities. And since women farmers in agribusiness were the target group, the following selection criteria was applied by researcher to select the participants:

- Must be living in Kariëga, Nelson Mandela Metropole,
- Must have experience of at least one year or more in a specific farming and agribusiness activity,
- Must be above the age of 18 years, and
- Must have access to food stuff markets where they sell their produce.

Ten women provided their contact details, and these 10 women were chosen as the participants of this study. These 10 women met all the participant criteria, and their experience ranged from 2.5 years to 20 years of agri-business experience.

3.5 Source of Data Collection

The study utilised two modes of data collection i.e., primary, and secondary data (narrative analysis). Primary data was collected through semi structured in-depth telephone interviews with the women who carry out Agribusiness around Kariëga, Nelson Mandela Metropole. Face-to-Face data collection was hampered with restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brinkmann (2014), argues that despite several critiques of qualitative interviewing being perceived as normal conversation, it is a major tool used in capturing objective social experience, dialog and interaction thus making it the most objective instrument in qualitative studies. The telephone conversations and interactions with the participants therefore created a natural setting for the interviewer and participants to give more accurate and insightful reactions and at the same time ensured safety for both parties taking into consideration the COVID19 pandemic (Brinkmann, 2014; Leavy, 2017).

3.5.1 Semi-Structured In-Depth Interviews.

The semi-structured interview is a qualitative data gathering technique or tool that involves in-depth interaction between the participants and the researcher. Semi-structured interviews enable the interviewer to focus the discussion on crucial issues in relation to the research project (Brinkmann, 2014). Semi-structured in-depth interviews give researchers access to individual's views, memories and opinions as provided by the interviewee rather than in the words of the interviewer, which is important for women studies who have been socially, financially, economically, and politically excluded for a long time (Hesse-Biber, 2007). This semi-structured interview schedule allowed more freedom for the participant to respond, in so doing it created the opportunity for rich narratives to unfold which could otherwise be restricted by a rigid structured questionnaire (Roulston, 2014).

Due to the pandemic with a high risk of spreading or contracting the COVID19 virus, telephonic interviews were preferred to limit physical contact and thereafter follow-up consultation calls were done for validity and reliability checks if some responses appeared unclear to the interviewer during data analysis and reporting of the first telephone interview data. The follow up interviews ensured validity of the information provided by the participants during the first telephonic interviews.

3.6 Validity and Reliability of Data

In qualitative research, it is important to determine whether a study's findings are correct from my, the participant's, or the reader's perspective in order to determine their validity; this is the viability and suitability aligned with qualitative research (Creswell, 2009; Creswell & Miller, 2000).

Cho and Trent (2006) argue that if specific approaches, procedures, and/or strategies are used as part of the investigation or inquiry, qualitative research can be more trustworthy. In other words, validity techniques can be adopted to ensure that reality is accurately reflected.

Welman and Kruger (2001) describe validity as a method of confirming that the desired data was successfully collected during the data collecting process. Validity refers to the extent to which an empirical measure accurately reflects the meaning of the subject being examined (Patton, 2015). Furthermore, Welman and Kruger (2001) describe validity as an instrument to ensure that the process used to collect data of the study has been done effectively. Laxton (2014) states that the accuracy of a study's findings and proof of a cause-and-effect link are related to validity. The following procedures were followed in this study to ensure that the data being gathered was valid.

- A comprehensive review and analysis of the literature was done.
- Prior to starting the interviews, participants were given a thorough explanation of the study's objectives.
- All survey questions were completed.
- To ensure that the participants' contributions to the study had not changed, follow-up phone interviews were conducted.
- Participants were provided with guarantees of confidentiality and anonymity prior to the interviews. As a result, the interviews were trustworthy since the participants might have been completely honest.

The afore-mentioned procedures ensured that the participants were comfortable throughout the interviews, which in turn confirmed that the process was trustworthy and reliable.

Reliability

Reliability in data gathering is related to dependability, which would entail that the same outcomes occur every time the same method or technique is used (Zohrabi, 2013). In this study, reliability was achieved by making sure that:

- Using confidentiality and participant anonymity to ensure that the data collected is precisely for the study being investigated; and

- By carefully and accurately wording the participant survey questions to eliminate ambiguity.
- Through carefully and accurately phrasing questions for the participants to avoid ambiguity.
- Interview notes and any insights that emerged during data analysis were kept to keep track of every decision the researcher made and to make the entire process transparent. (Creswell, 2013).

3.7 Qualitative Data Analysis

A thematic data analysis approach was utilised in this research study to have a comprehensive and analytical synthesis of the data collected. Thematic data analysis enabled the researcher to discover themes from the interview transcripts that capture meaning to the appropriate research questions and feasibly attaining links between the various themes thus allowing pattern identification in the data (Willig, 2014).

Despite transcription entailing an inevitable risk of systematic bias, it was used in transforming the recorded audio data into written material for easy interpretation, coding, categorising, and analysis (Kowal, S. & O'Connell, D.C., 2014). One way of counteracting the risk of bias was constant verification and continuous reference to the audio recordings from the conversations and in-depth interviews (Willig, 2014).

Thematic analysis of interview data, with the help of Atlas ti software program was used to assist with coding, annotation, and sorting of the interview transcripts (Gibbs, 2014). Using this software assisted with the organization and collation of the data for analysis and future use. With assistance of the software the researcher was in position to do data reduction, data reorganization and data representation (Roulston, 2014). Constant reference to data was done to ensure validity and reliability is maintained.

3.8 Validity and Reliability of Qualitative Research

Validity and reliability for the data collected was ensured by doing cross data validity checks across different sources like telephone interviews, follow-up interviews and document analysis to ensure that information is credible and true (Patton, 2015).

Triangulation in the data collection methods by using both interviews and document analysis enabled the researcher to limit bias during analysis and interpretation phases (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Having follow-up telephone conversations with the participants after the first telephone interviews was another way of ensuring internal validity and reliability of the data collected. External validity was guaranteed by providing detailed rich substantial accounts and description of the research process to enable transferability in case a fellow researcher is interested in making some comparisons with the research findings and reports (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Qualitative reliability was guaranteed by constant cross-examination of data transcripts to verify the noticeable inaccuracies made during transcription process do not exist (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). In addition, a detailed study protocol is available for other researchers who would have interest in following the same procedures and perhaps another person could be requested to assist in cross checking the codes to ensure credibility of the data collected (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Olesen, 2018). However, with all the precautions put in place, the researcher encountered a few limitations as alluded to in chapter one.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Pera and Van Tonder (1996) refers to ethics as the acceptable approach to conduct. Ethics is considered as a branch of philosophy that deals with codes of conduct that individuals should abide by since they set the standards and guidelines for how people should behave in general (Akaranga & Makau, 2016; Eysenbach & Till, 2001). Therefore, ethics concerns both the participants and the researchers.

Ethical clearance was granted for the study by the Faculty and University Ethics committees after submitting the ethics application (H21-SCI-GEO-002) in accordance with the institution's policy on research ethics. This research project was designed and conducted in accordance with Nelson Mandela University's Policy on Research Ethics, in particular the Research Ethics Committee: Human (REC-H) and the POPI Act which emphasizes protection of personal information of the participants in this study.

For a research project to be successful, all parties involved must have a mutual understanding based on cooperation, trust, expectations, and obligations (Eysenbach & Till, 2001). According to Babbie (2001), all parties involved in research should be conscious of the distinction between acceptable and inappropriate conduct. When conducting the study, the researcher was aware of the duties, guidelines, obligations, and rules. Therefore, it was the researcher's duty to take all necessary precautions to preserve the participants' rights and well-being.

When engaging with the women farmers at Wincanton Estate, the study included verbal and written communication, which may have involved emotions. As such, the questions asked were intended not to be harmful, discriminatory, or to invade the privacy of participants. Study participants were not coerced into giving information against their consent, and they were not categorized into groups based on their race, ethnicity, or language. As a result, participants were allowed to share information freely and voluntarily. The study took precautions to ensure that participant identities and any information they submitted would be anonymous and would only be used for the study's objectives, thus guaranteeing anonymity and confidentiality. To ensure that traditions and beliefs are respected, the study obtained the required approval and followed the proper steps prior to commencing.

The research had to be done in a way that did not violate anyone's privacy or cause harm, bias, or discrimination, but rather justice and fairness. Participants were not compelled to divulge any information with which they did not feel comfortable. Hence, provision of information was voluntary, and the participants were aware of their rights. Informed consent form was distributed before conducting interviews and the study guaranteed rights to anonymity, confidentiality, informed consent, and respect for participants.

Participant discretion was highly protected by making the interview recordings and transcripts anonymous and confidential; and interviewees were informed of this at the recruiting stage. Participants were also informed of the nature and purpose of the study. In compliance with Nelson Mandela University's Policy on Research Ethics, the

research study was comprehensively explained to the potential participants and documented informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

Participants were therefore informed that they did not have to participate in the research if they felt uncomfortable. No pressure or intimidation would be used, or incentives provided to participants to allure them into participation and thus were able to provide free and informed consent. All the above measures were put in place to ensure the protection of the participants' privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity. The REC-H ethics approval letter is attached as Appendix 2.

3.10 Summary

Chapter 3 describes the comprehensive feminist qualitative methodology, narrative analysis, study protocol explaining the steps taken to achieve the research objectives, population sample and semi-structured interview data collection instruments, thematic data analysis as well as strategies that were utilized to ensure validity and reliability. Ethical considerations were also emphasized to ensure protection of the participants in the study. The next chapter focused on presentation and data analysis of data collected from interviews. The study analyzed a 10-year trend in the performance and participation of women in the agricultural sector and agribusiness with the aim of assessing their role in agribusiness, identifying the achievements and challenges as well as presenting the possible ways of empowering women within agribusiness. For clarity of the findings discussed in the following chapter 4, the researcher utilized graphical charts and presentations despite the study being entirely qualitative. Consequently, graphical presentations were used to clearly illustrate the demographic findings and accentuate certain phenomenon to accomplish the study aims and objective.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

Chapter Three presents the strategies and methodology followed throughout the research process to collect and analyse the data to answer the research questions and address the research problem. Chapter four concerns the analysis and discussion of the research findings. The study findings are presented under major headings according to study objectives and interview themes followed by analysis and discussions of the findings. For illustrative and transparency purposes of the findings, a few graphs and numerical narratives highlight some pertinent information in graphical format which is not common in purely qualitative reporting like this one. This serves to emphasize certain phenomenon that needs clarity with the help of graphical elaborations. Figure 4-1 below shows the process of synthesizing data into themes, sub themes and codes.

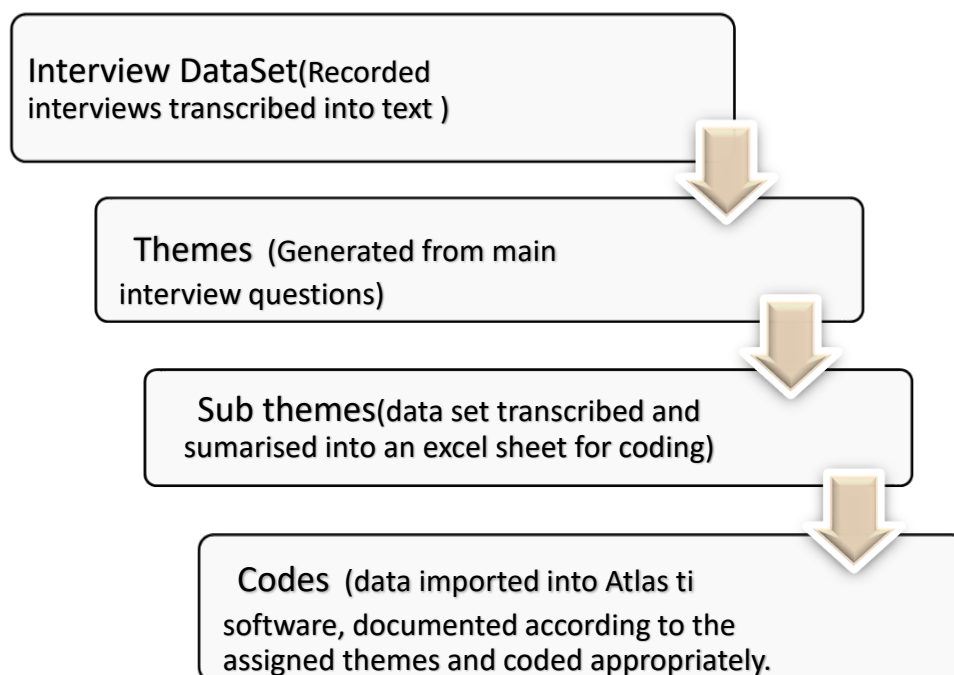


Figure 4-1: A Figure Showing the Preliminary Data Coding Process.

Source: Own Compilation

4.2 Themes and Sub Themes

The findings are summarised into themes, sub-themes, and codes to provide a clear view of how the data collected is synthesized and coded using thematic analysis to give meaning to the study and provide answers to the research questions. The table below indicates the various themes and codes generated from the data collected and categorized according to the interview questions.

Table 4.1: A table displaying Themes, Emergent Sub-Themes and Codes

Themes	Sub-Themes	Codes
Demographics	Education level, Age, Marital status	Married, Widowed, Single
Family Structure	Family size, Family head	Nuclear, Extended
Business Structure	Years in agribusiness, Operation scale, Type of produce, Ready market	Small-scale, Large-scale Long-term, short-term, Food-crops, Animal products, Bi products
Reason for Small/Large scale	Land shortages, Capital, few opportunities to expand, Inadequate cash flow, No machinery, Discrimination of women, Inadequate Government support, High Operating expenses, No diversification, Lack of Marketing skills, Access to Information	Land, Capital, Discrimination, Cash flow, Confidence, Government support, High expenses, Diversification, Integration Extension services, Funding, Equipment, Marketing skills, Feedback, Accountability, Neglect of farmers, Agricultural information, Privileges, Women keep in markets
Government & Private Sector Support	Form of funding/support. Access to Land& Infrastructure	No support yet, Waiting for submitted application, one time cement voucher, Jojo tanks, limited funding, Land, Irrigation systems, Farm equipment, Poultry and feed, Elaboration

		activities, medical supplies, Veterinary Doctors
Benefits	<p>Achievements:</p> <p>Food for feeding families. Taxable incomes. Employment opportunities.</p> <p>Knowledge & Exposure in business.</p> <p>Basic business skills</p>	Food security, Income, Employment, Resilience, Patience, Trainings, Survival, Sustainability, Business skills
Challenges	<p>Hinderances: No land,</p> <p>Climate change effects,</p> <p>Expensive hired labour,</p> <p>Lack of capital, Poor security, Poor quality farm tools, Animal diseases and emergencies, Limited government support, Covid 19 challenges</p>	Land, Drought, Water shortage, Theft, Expensive labour, Capital, Diseases, Emergencies, Government support,
Role of women	Important role: feed families, incomes for survival, more knowledgeable, Resilient and Patient, Pay tax from the income, Employment to others	Food security, sustain livelihoods, Resilience, Taxes, Job opportunities, income, new skills
Covid-19 Impact	Negative and Positive Impact	<p>Negative: unemployment, low sales, restrictions, low incomes, low production, strikes</p> <p>Positive: high demand for vegetables, high production, income, diversification of business</p>
Government/Private sector Role	Ways Government can support women	Increase support, provide more land & capital, special budget for women, low interest investment loans, Proactive extension officers, accessible services, Business

The following section, after identifying the themes and codes focuses on the participants social demographics and characteristics as part of the data collected to evidently illustrate the links and disparities among this group of participants.

4.3 Social Demographic Characteristics

Social demographics indicate the social characteristics of the participants involved in the study which may include age, education level, marital status, and family structures. Social demographics influence the participation and contribution of a specific group of people with the same interests towards a particular cause in each community (United Nations, 2019). The findings of the study indicate that social demographics in the study influence the efficacy and activities of women doing agribusiness in Kariaga. The demographic information of interest within the study, and discussed in subsequent sections are the age, marital status, education level and household size of the respondents within the study sample.

4.3.1 Age, Marital Status, Education Level

Respondents aged between 18 and 85 years were included within the study sample, with most of the participants being above the age of 50 years. According to the findings, the highest percentage of women involved in agribusiness in this target population were over the age of 50, suggesting that interest in agribusiness and agricultural activities is more likely to be practised by older individuals than the youths in this study location. This implies that the youth are probably less interested in agricultural activities and aim for formal and office jobs or businesses.



Figure 4-3: Graph Showing Participants' Age Brackets.

Source: Own Compilation

In Figure 4-3 the findings indicate that an age gap exists in participation for the younger age groups and the responsible departments should engage and encourage the youth to participate actively in agribusiness and agriculture and not leave it for the senior members in their communities. As suggested by previous studies that women play a significant role in the agricultural sector (Carty & Mohanty, 2015; Ahikire, 2014), encouraging the youths to actively take part in agribusiness activities should be a priority to ensure production continuity, sustainability and agricultural development (Abass, 2018). To maintain their significant role in agriculture, women groups, advocates, and stakeholders can take a leading role in sensitising and encouraging the young women to actively invest and operate agribusinesses as one way of ending hunger, poverty and increasing employment opportunities (United Nations, 2021).

The study findings, in the case of marital status, as shown in Figure 4-4 indicates that most women in this cooperative have lost their partners or are separated and single which shows that they are doing agribusiness on their own. This finding implies that women, even without support of their partners, can carry out economic activities and support their families through such activities like agribusiness. In relation to the research, the findings indicate that there is a big role woman play in promoting development through the economic activities they engage in. In addition, the literature suggests that women manage to run businesses without access to credit facilities and financial assistance, which indicates that they play an important role in the absence of male support as well as external assistance like government and private sector support (Mama & Abbas, 2014; Oyekan, 2014).

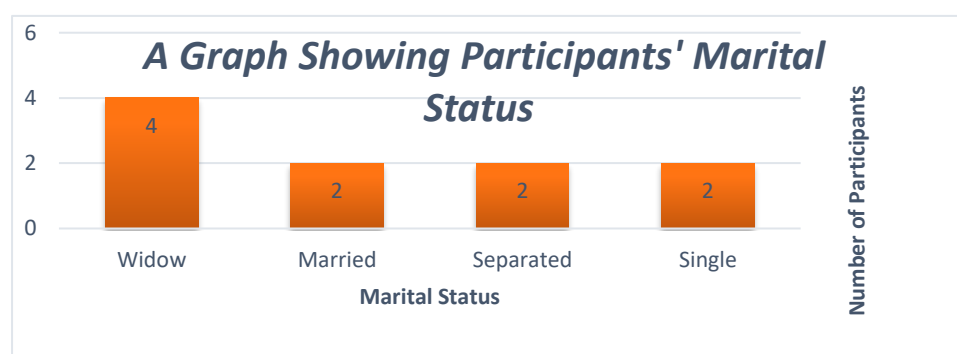


Figure 4-4: A Graph showing Marital Status of the Participants

Source: Own compilation

In the case of level of education for the participants, the findings suggest that 60% of women in this cooperative did not go beyond grade 12 in terms of level of education. The women noted that they have been able to participate in agribusiness with the help of agricultural trainings provided by the department of agriculture which has helped them acquire various skills in agricultural activities and agribusiness. This finding suggests that passion and interest is the critical determinant in agribusiness success, rather than the requirement for advanced education.

On the contrary, the findings as shown in Figure 4-5 also indicate disparities in education with only four participants having studied beyond diploma level. This emphasizes the injustices women have gone through throughout the years in regard to education inequalities as pointed out in the literature that somehow prohibit them from being confident enough to challenge the male counterparts and take part in technologically advanced agricultural tasks and activities (AFDB, 2016; AFDB & GCF, 2019).

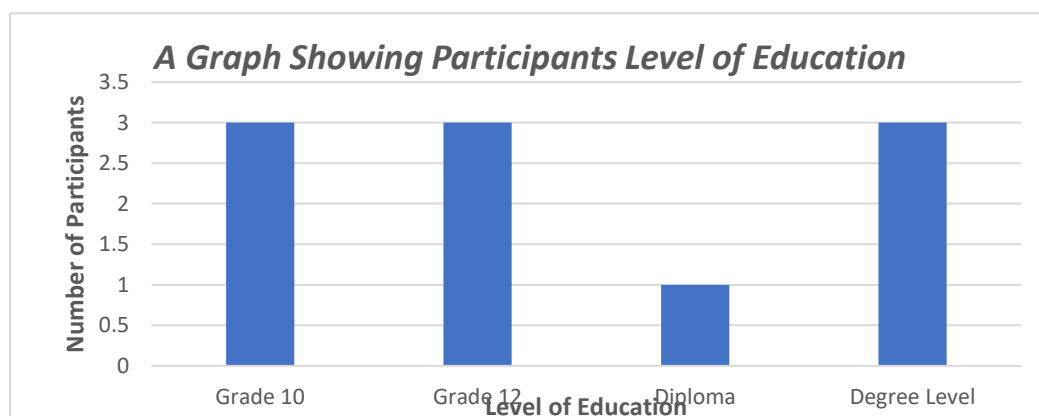


Figure 4-5: Graph showing Education Level Status of the Participants

Source: Own Compilation

4.3.2 Family Structure /Size

The family structure for the participants in the study indicates that 80% of participants play the role of the head of family. This involves supporting the family in various ways

regardless of whether the family is nuclear or an extended type of family structure. This finding suggests that having women active in agribusiness activities generates income that supports survival in many female-headed households, thus improving the standard of living in communities. Previous studies also indicate that women carry the burden of supporting their families by reinvesting their incomes into family expenditures like education, health, food which indicates the importance of having women employed in activities like agriculture that helps in reducing the family head burden on men (AFDB & GCF, 2019).

4.4 Operation Scale of Agribusiness

According to the findings, 70% of the women that participated in the study have farms and gardens restricted to a few hectares or leased church and school land. From this study only one participant operates on large scale, and this is because she decided to integrate and diversify her outputs to increase her cash flow. Operating on small scale may be restricting a lot of farmers who indicate that if provided with an opportunity, they would be operating on large scale.

4.4.1 Basis for Small Scale Production

During the study, participants identified various reasons for operating on small scale, including lack of opportunities to expand, preference of staying in markets rather than getting involved in farming, others indicated that men were more privileged than women, and lack of government and private sector support. Some of these reasons for operating on small scale are manifested in the previous studies as most women operate small scale businesses and market stalls that are informal and inconsistent in nature which impedes a lot of women from expanding their agribusinesses (The World Bank, 2013; Njobe, 2015).

Below are excerpts from the interview data showing the participants view regarding the reasons for operating on small scale.

Table 4.2: Statements Regarding Reasons for Operating on Small Scale

Participant A	<p>“Women in Agri business are still on small scale because they haven't been given the chance to move forward. It's only now that they're getting that opportunity.</p> <p>Because men were the first privilege all these years, now women are starting to stand on their feet.</p> <p>But there's many of them. They are still on small scale because many are sitting at and on the markets. On the taxi ranks in town still selling on small scale. They're buying vegetables and selling instead of planting them themselves. On their own land and selling them. “</p>
Participant G	<p>“Women have been raised in the Location, with no land for growing greens. Only match-box houses that are congested in streets, with no space for farming”</p>

The Figure 4-6 below is extracted from Atlas ti software showing the analysis of the reasons why women operate on small scale. Using the themes and codes created from the data ,the researcher was able to extract the common reasons justifying why these women still operate on small scale and as seen below,the most frequent reasons were lack of land,capital, inadequate government support and discrimination.

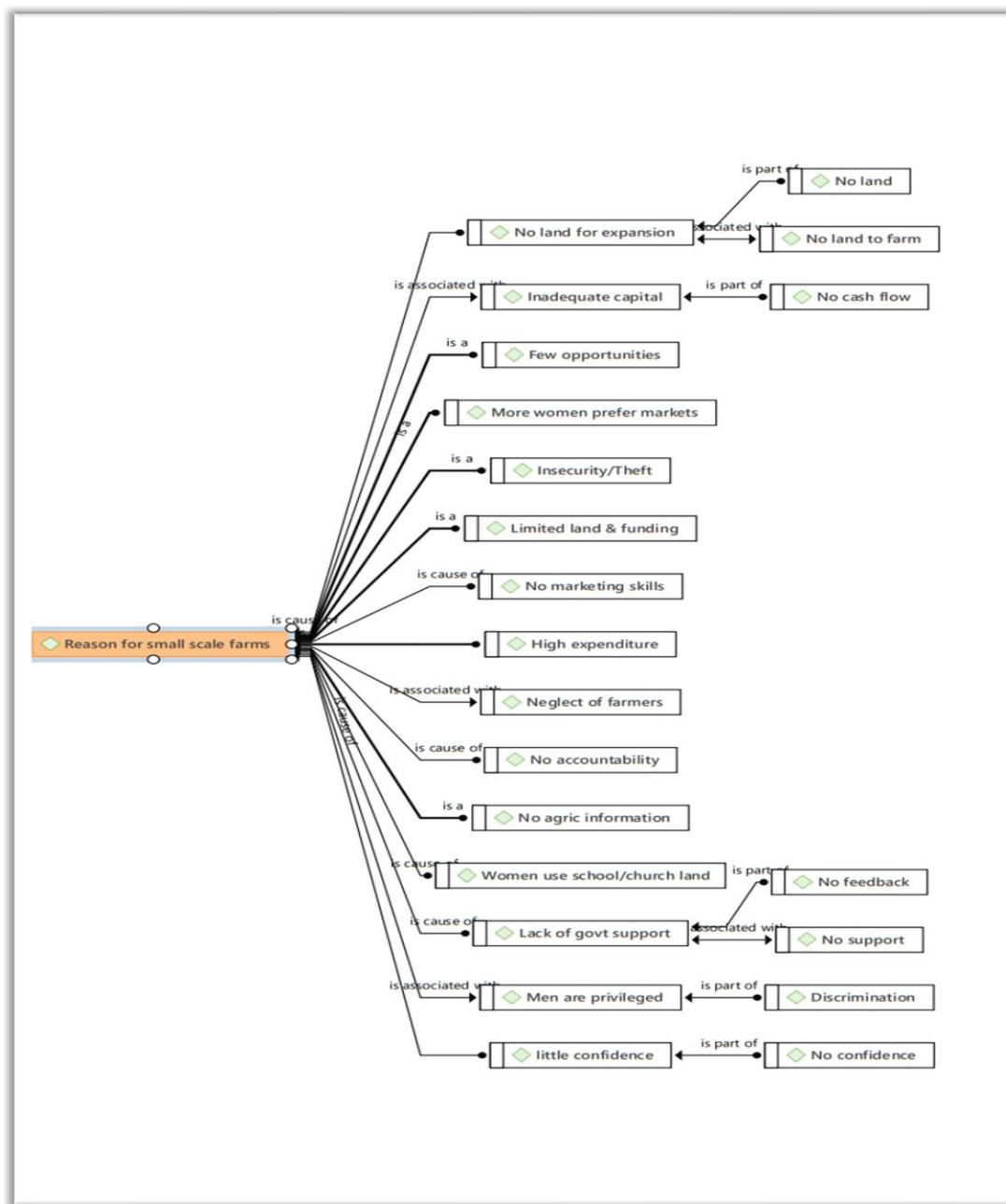


Figure 4-6: Reasons Why Women Operate on Small Scale

Source: Own compilation

The analysis in Figure 4-6 indicates that the most pressing reasons for not operating on large scale are lack of land to expand, limited support and funding from government, discrimination, poor accountability, and lack of confidence to expand and

grow their agribusiness activities. This limitation therefore discourages production, reduces income levels and disrupts women's contribution towards agriculture, trade, and the economy (Njobe, 2015).

4.4.2 Years in Agribusiness

According to Figure 4-7 the findings indicate that half the participants have been involved in agribusiness for less than 10 years and the other half have been there for more than 10 years. Respondents who have been involved for longer periods have realised several benefits like stable incomes and cash flow, agricultural skills, whilst the new entrants are facing a lot of challenges, and some noted that it is mostly passion, determination and love for farming that is keeping them in this activity. The Figure 4-7 below shows the years the study participants have been involved in their farming and business activities.

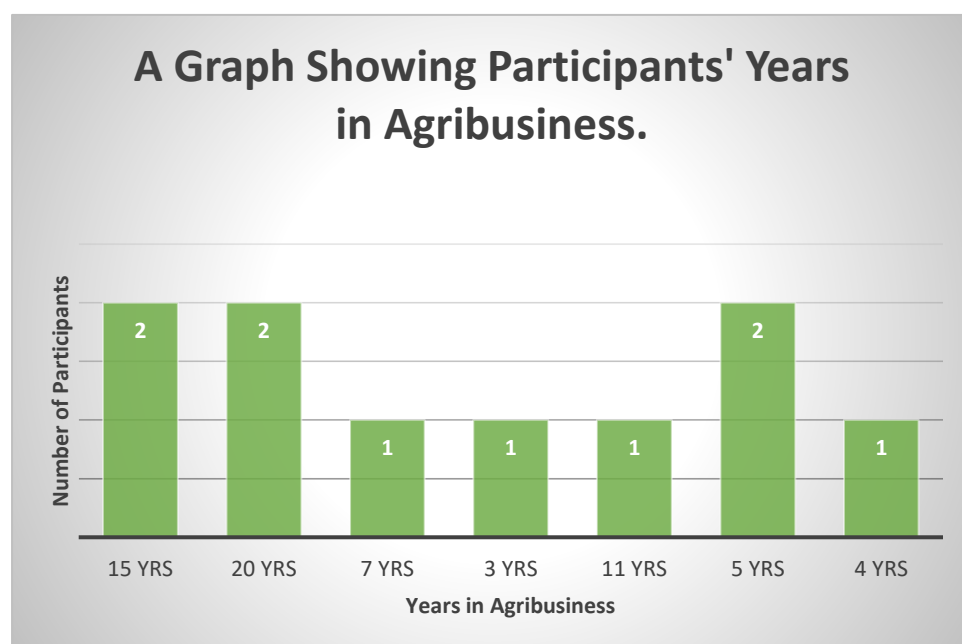


Figure 4-7: A Graph Showing the Years Participants Have Been Involved in Agribusiness

Source: Own Compilation

Table 4.3 below has quotes from the participants explaining their participation in agribusiness for the years they have been involved in agricultural activities.

Table 4.3: Statement Relating to Reasons for Practising Agribusiness

Participant D	“As I said that it's the passion that we have. If there was no passion you know, would have given up a long time ago, but as time went by, we we've grown to love the business and enjoy. Now there's nothing that can stop us. “
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Whereas the contributions of women in the agricultural sector have been overlooked over the years, there is emerging evidence that women are better performers in this sector given their consistent passion and dedication towards economic activities such as agribusiness. Regardless of the various challenges they encounter, women have shown resilience in farming and agribusiness activities to ensure that they sustain their businesses, families and livelihoods as highlighted from previous studies (IFC, 2016; Doss, 2014).

4.4.3 Type of Produce

Findings in Figure 4-8 indicate that the respondents are involved mostly in food production, with the produce ranging from vegetables, legumes, potatoes, poultry, piggery, goat, sheep, rabbit and cattle rearing. All these are sold in auction markets as well as retailers who sell in many of the Nelson Mandela Bay streets, shops, and markets. From the produce, the participants can get some income for survival and support for their families.

However, the production of only food crops manifests a limitation on the side of women as they specialise in low value food crops leaving the production of cash crops to men (FAO, 2017). Continuous production of low value food crops such as vegetables, legumes, fruits overshadow women’s significant contribution in the sector compared to men who are involved in cash crop production like coffee, cotton (Lambrecht, et al., 2017). This signifies the need for government to promote diversification and

encourage women to take up production of high value cash crops to increase incomes, employment opportunities and sustainable agricultural growth (AFDB, 2019). The graph below illustrates how the different participants partake in agribusiness in terms of the produce that comes from their farms. As per the graph, the highest number (80%) of the farmers produce vegetables while only 10 % of the farmers produce either sheep or rabbits.

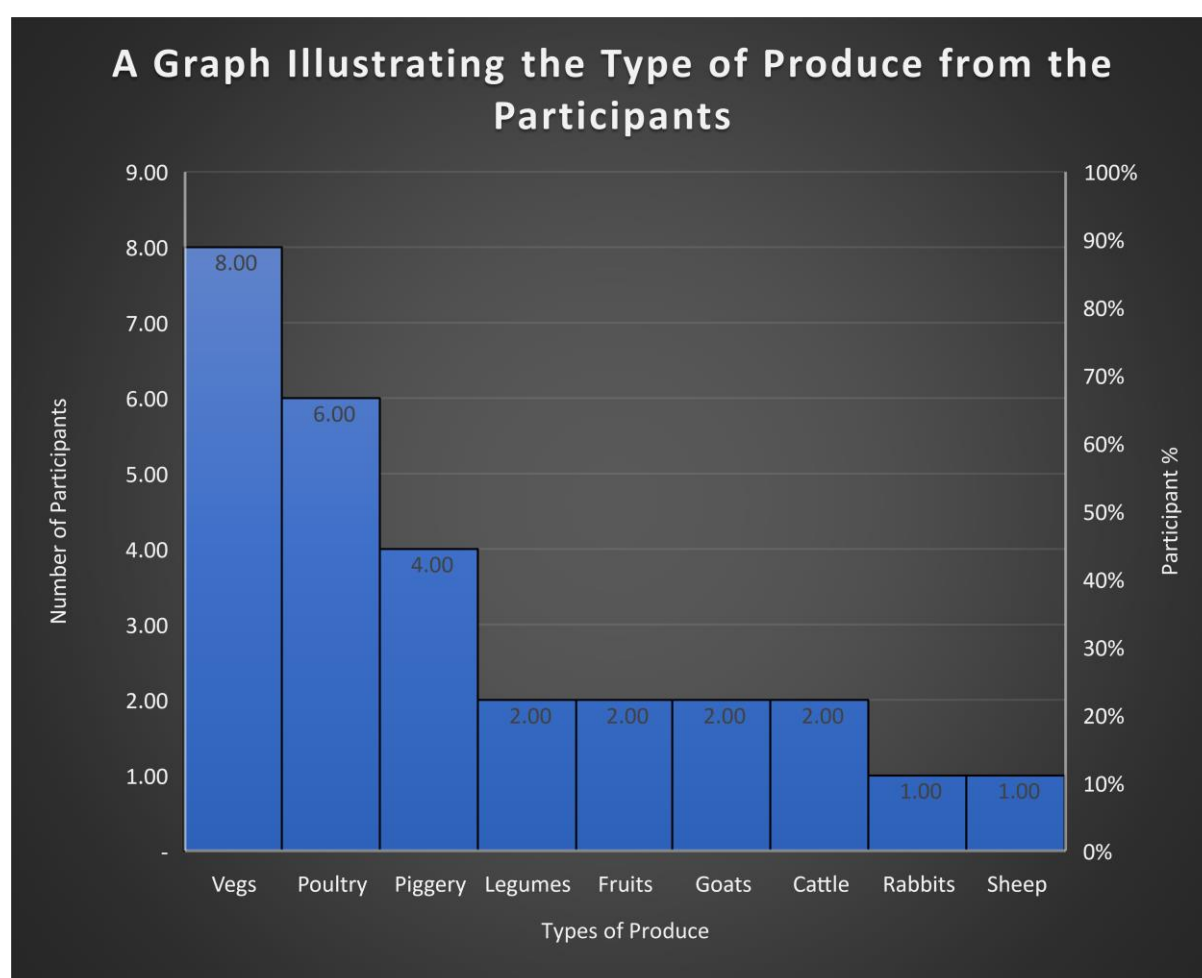


Figure 4-8: A Graph Showing the Different Types of Produce from The Participants

Source: Own Compilation.

The Figure 4-9 below is an extract from ATLAS.ti showing the various produce and agricultural products these farmers sell to the retailers and surrounding communities.

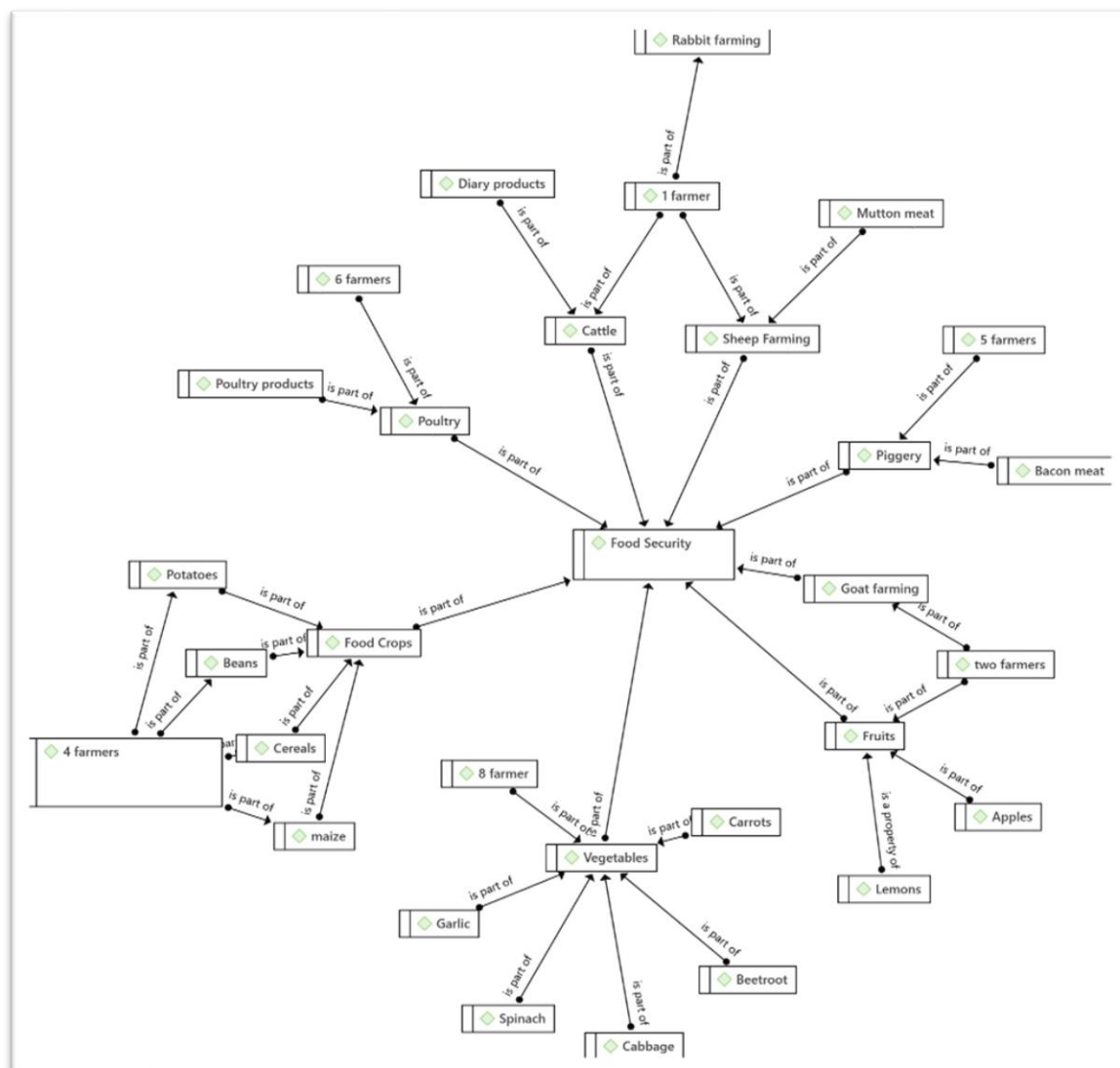


Figure 4-9: Various Types of Produce by the Participants

Source: Own compilation

4.4.4 Market Accessibility

In terms of market accessibility, 90% of the participants indicated that there was ready market, especially the auction markets that they go to twice or once a year. Others revealed that they sold their produce to the community, retailers, hawkers, and street

vendors in the neighbourhood and around the Nelson Mandela Bay area. Only one participant noted that the market was not enough.

4.5 Government & Private Sector Support

Government and private sector support involves financing the farmers, providing trainings, monitoring and evaluation and skills development. Despite the need for support, farmers in this study indicated that government and private sector support was still inadequate. With only 50% of the farmers acknowledging receipt of government support, others had not received support and were still waiting for help from the government. The following sections provide details regarding the government and private sector support highlighting the impact of each towards farmers and their economic activities.

4.5.1 Government Funding and Support

The type of funding and support revealed by the participants included vouchers for cement, veterinary clinics and doctors, extension officers that provide farm trainings, farm machinery and irrigation systems, land, poultry, and water tanks. The extract below shows the response of one of the participants when asked about the type of support provided to her by the government.

Table 4.4: Statements relating to the Type of Support Given to Farmers by Government

Participant B	"Government bought us land (land affairs), department of agriculture installed irrigation, bought us new Holland tractor and equipment."
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The analysis in Figure 4-10 below shows the various types of government support that have been provided to the farmers in form of vouchers, medical services during emergencies, farm inputs, and on the other hand other farmers submitted funding applications and were still waiting for support from the government.

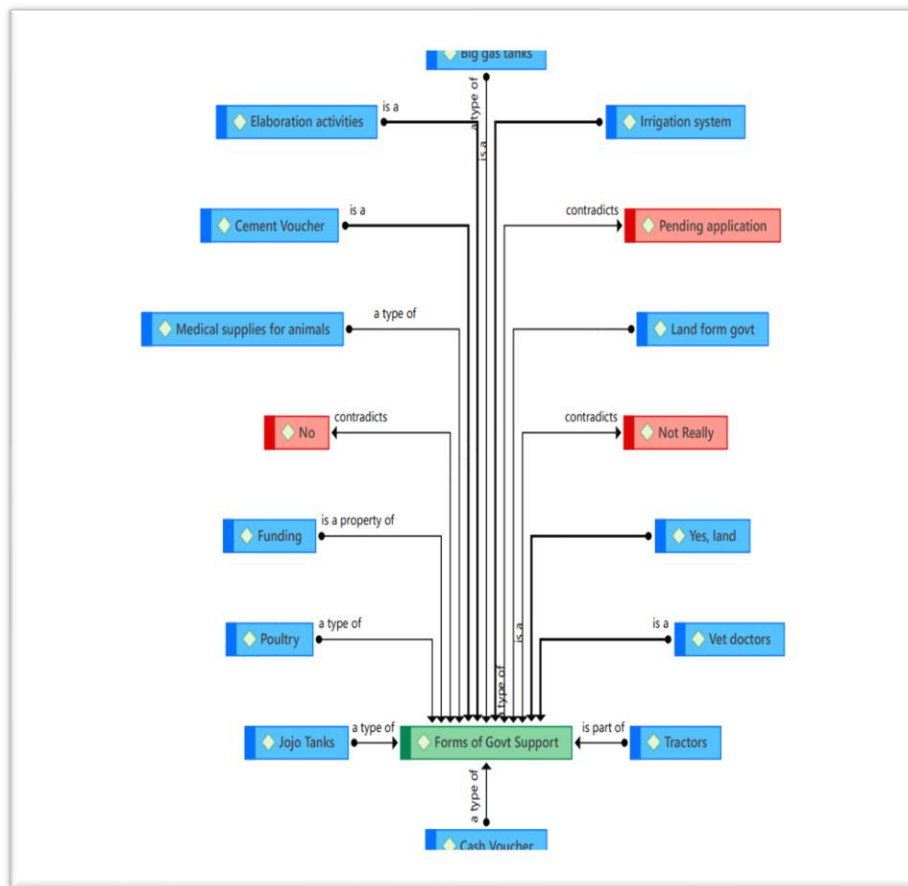


Figure 4-10 Different Forms of Support Provided by Government.

Source: Own compilation

Although government funding and support has benefitted a few farmers, there is still need for support to those farmers that are still waiting for funding to improve livelihoods, increase food production and encourage agribusiness growth.

4.5.2 Private Sector Funding and Support

The participants stated that there has been limited support from the private sector such as banks and big companies, possibly due to fear of approaching these sectors. Some participants also noted that they are not interested in bank loans due to high interests and fear of losing their farms due to failure to pay back the bank loans. Below is a quotation from a participant revealing that she is afraid of getting support from the

banks due to high lending interest rates that could see her lose her property after failing to repay the loan.

Table 4.5: Extracts Relating to Support from Private Sector

Participant C	<i>"I have not received support from banks coz am scared of getting loans from banks & fail to pay back"</i>
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Over the past decades, governments and other development organisations have extended financial, technical, and advisory support to women led development initiatives to empower and support women in various development activities (AFDB, 2019; Sachs, 2018). However, with the support provided previous studies indicate that a financing gender gap still exists as highlighted by the participants (AFDB & GCF, 2019). With this revelation, it is suggested that there be a collaboration between the government and private sector to harmonise funding and loan availability to farmers, especially the women in agribusiness, to give the access to soft and low interest loans. This will assist them in pushing their businesses forward and increase production.

4.5.3 Accessibility to Land and Infrastructure

Many participants noted that access to land and infrastructure was a significant challenge. The findings suggest that it was one of the main reasons why many women still operate on small scale as they don't have enough land to expand. Respondents revealed that they only access leased land from churches and schools, which is not sufficient for large scale farming and constructing structures for poultry, cattle and goats. The quotations below reveal the status of land ownership and infrastructure accessibility among the participants.

Table 4.6: Statements regarding Accessibility to Land and Infrastructure by the Participants

Participant A	<i>"I only have access to community land"</i>
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Participant F	<i>“Not yet, I operate on a small garden on church land”</i>
Participant G	<i>“Yes, my land bonded by Absa bank, I have limited Infrastructure, no clean water, no irrigation system since the pump was stolen by criminals and no Jojo water tanks to harvest rainwater.”</i>

The analysis in Figure 4-11 indicates the participants accessibility to land and infrastructure with 70% of the participants revealing that there is still inadequacy in infrastructures like water supply and farming land. With water and land shortage being the most pressing challenge, other highlighted adversities included absence of irrigation systems to deal with droughts, insecurity, high labour costs and inadequate capital.

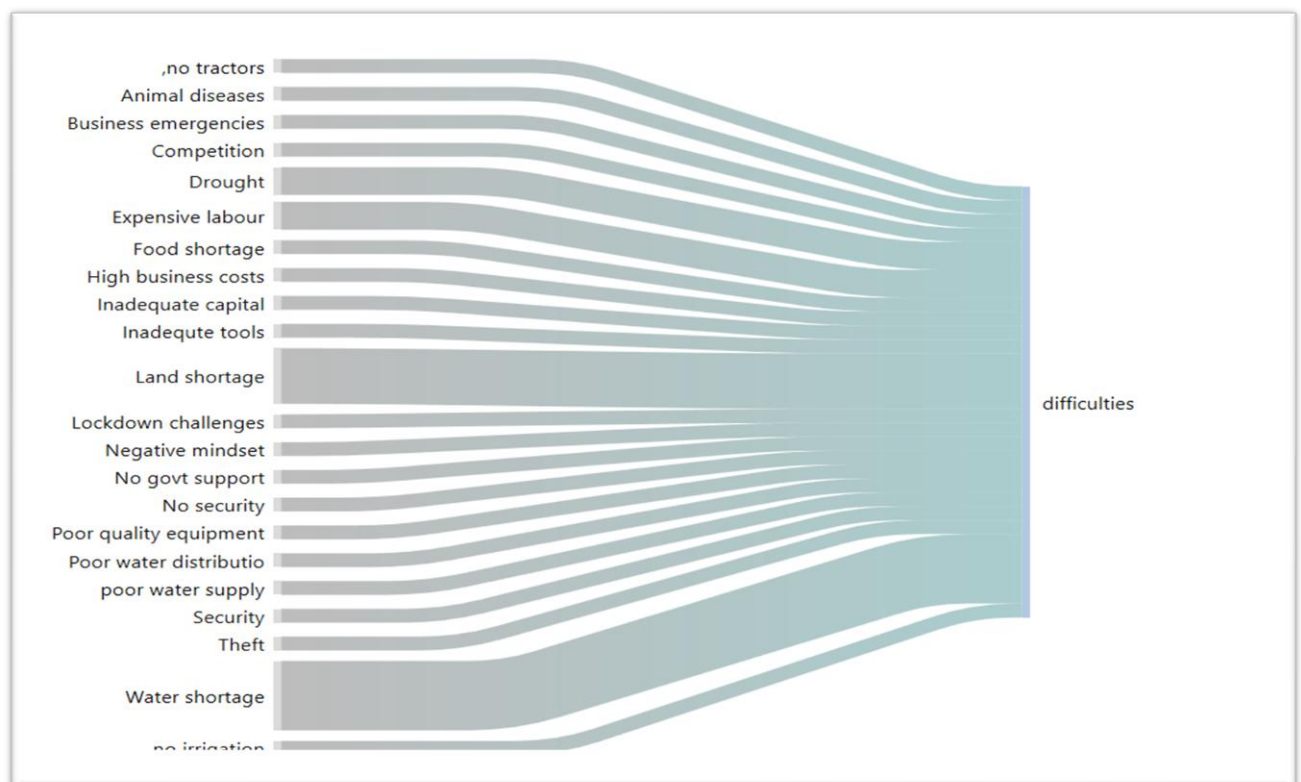


Figure 4-11: Challenges Faced in Accessing Land and Infrastructure.

Source: Own compilation

The issue of land inaccessibility is one of the main obstacles to African women farmers who do not have the right to own land or property in their communities (Abass, 2018). With the land and infrastructure problem, the participants hinted about the unused chunks of land owned by government that could be availed to them through leasing for 5 -10 years period by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. This could ease on the problem of inadequate land that is needed to operate on large scale.

In addition to the challenges faced in accessing infrastructure and land, transnational feminists argue that multinational and foreign companies grab land and produce agricultural products in large quantities leaving no market for small scale farmers who must feed their families using income from agribusiness activities (Tinker, 2015; Davies, 2014).

In the case of infrastructure, more funding is needed to support these women in constructing strong and long-lasting farm structures for their animals to increase production and provide better security to the animals. On the other hand, government and private sector with the help of digital and new technology platforms can sensitise the small scale farmers into contract farming that could see them access funds from the big multinational firms to enable them improve their farm structures, purchase land and mechanise agricultural activities (Mariama, 2015; Young, 2015).

4.6 Role of Women in Agribusiness Growth

Women play an important role in agriculture and agribusiness as noted by the participants. With the limited resources and discrimination, women have been persistent in empowering themselves and fighting for their position economically to contribute towards development. Participants in the study revealed that if women were given opportunity, they would be in position to transform agribusiness as well as farm and sell at large scale. The excerpt below shows the views of the participants when asked about the role women play in promoting agribusiness within the community and country.

Table 4.7: Statements relating to Role of Women in Promoting Small -Scale Agribusiness

Participant D	<i>“A huge role is played by women, we have the patience, determination, and resilience than men to operate agribusiness. Women are more knowledgeable in activities they love to do.”</i>
Participant G	<i>“Yes, a lot, women must feed their families so it’s an instinct to farm. Women support the men in looking after their families and they get the income from agribusiness.”</i>

These findings are also supported by empirical research indicating various roles women play in promoting agribusiness across sub-Saharan Africa. With reference to literature, women contribute 60% of labour input and 70% to 80% in food production although most times their contributions are not acknowledged (IFC, 2016). Women over the years have played a big role from agriculture production stage, to harvesting up to marketing stage (OECD & FAO, 2016). This indicates that women’s input in agribusiness and agriculture contributes majorly towards food security, agricultural employment, income generation and economic growth which facilitates sustainable growth and development (United Nations, 2021).

The following analysis in **Figure 4-12** shows the different roles women play towards their community and country using earnings from agribusiness which promotes agricultural development in general. The most highlighted roles were supporting families, re-investing in agribusiness, producing food for the community, providing employment opportunities and paying taxes. All these contributions facilitate sustainability in agriculture and development.

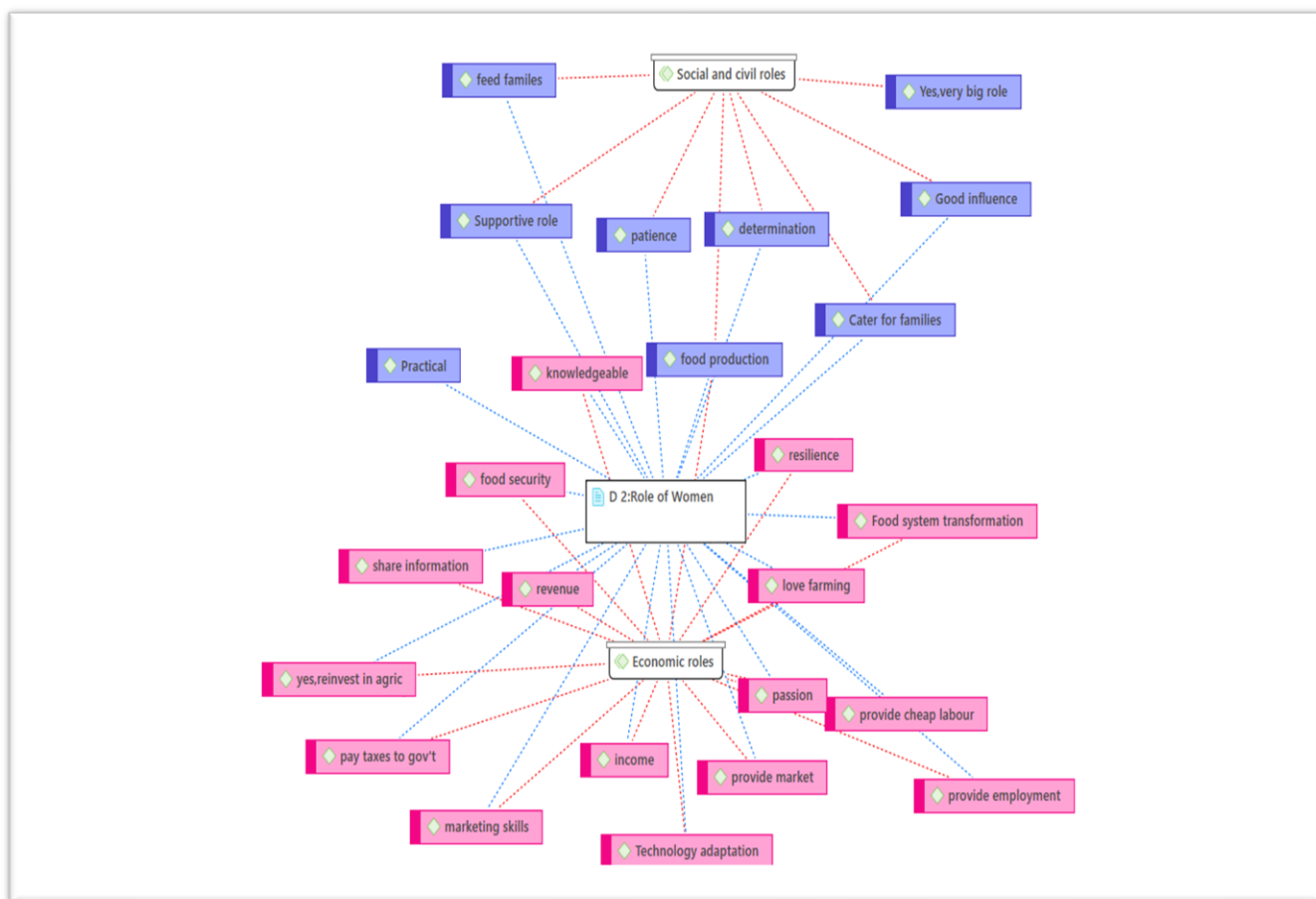


Figure 4-12: Outstanding Roles Women Play in Promoting Agribusiness.

Source: Own compilation

4.6.1 Achievements

Having identified the numerous roles women play in promoting agribusiness, participants revealed the various achievements and benefits they have realised since the start of their agribusiness journey. Some of the achievements noted were access to training and workshops about farming that has expanded their agriculture knowledge, means of survival and support for their families, acquisition of properties, diversification and integration of business, exposure from agricultural competitions and providing employment to family and the communities around them.

The following excerpt shows the response of participants when asked to explain the benefits they have realised from agribusiness activities.

Table 4.8: Statements regarding Achievements Realised from Agribusiness

Participant H	<i>"I now have a cash flow to open other businesses and integrate. I collect Income to support my family. I was able to connect electricity to my farm without government support"</i>
Participant A	<i>"I learned a lot in workshops how to plant, keep the soil fertile, how to produce and sell quality food"</i>
Participant C	<i>"I have benefitted from agriculture training from the department of agriculture. I also get some little income for home use & food security"</i>

The analysis extract below elaborates the various benefits that have been attained by participants during their agribusiness journey. The most highlighted benefits were food supply and security, income, agricultural trainings, and business skills as shown below in Figure 4-13.

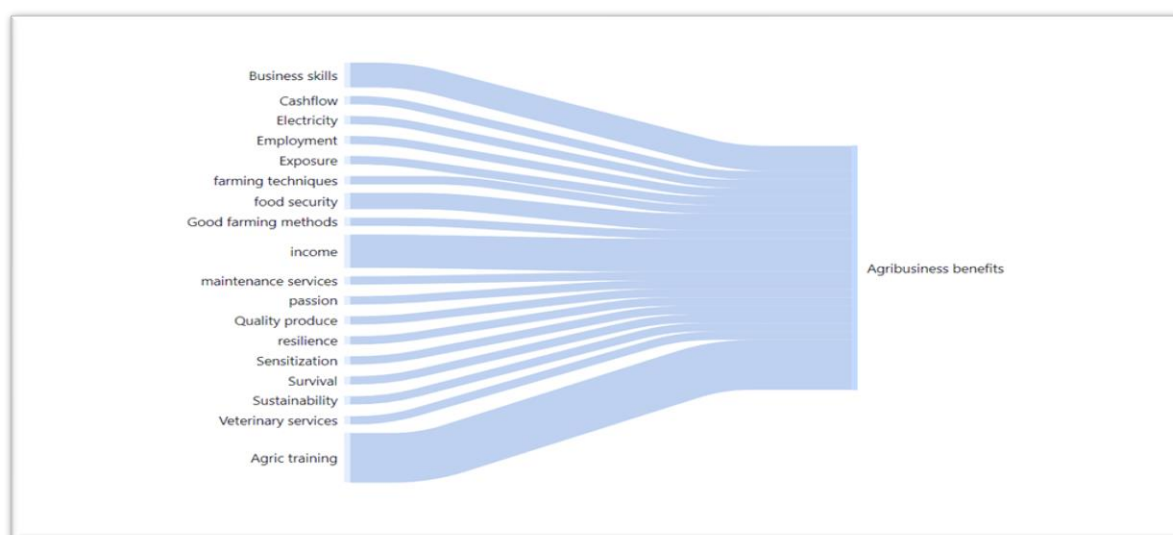


Figure 4-13: Benefits of Engaging in Agribusiness.

Source: Own compilation

With various organisation set up to support women and youth in agriculture and agribusiness, more women should be able to grow financially and improve their standards of living (AFDB, 2019). As research shows that women reinvest in business more than the men, higher incomes and returns facilitates more investments into agriculture which plays a big role toward sustainable growth and development (AFDB, 2016).

4.6.2 Challenges

Despite the benefits attained, the women noted that they experience various challenges in the daily running of their activities. These daily challenges include high remuneration costs for the employees, lack of land, drought, water shortages, high management costs for their businesses and farms, failure to access valuable information. They indicated that if the government and relevant stakeholders could provide them with appropriate support some of these challenges would not be a constant hinderance to their farming business. The extract below shows the different challenges emphasised by the different participants in their agribusiness activities.

Table 4.9: Statements regarding the Challenges Experienced by Women in Agribusiness

Participant D	<i>"No land, too many expenses to run the business, lockdown challenges. Emergencies happen that need money to sort out. Drought, no water, no food for the animals"</i>
Participant E	<i>"There is poor water distribution, water pipes get broken, and security is also a problem"</i>
Participant G	<i>"There is a lot of competition. Remuneration for workers i.e., 20rand per hour is high for small scale farmers to pay the employees. Equipment used in farms are poor quality so must be replaced all the time, which is difficult, no tractors, no irrigation systems, no tunnels, need for food to work."</i>

different approaches to enable women prevail over such obstacles. African governments have over the years implemented various initiatives to transform women in agricultural sector although not all have been efficient in empowering women and providing solutions to the existing challenges (Aguinaga, et al., 2013). In this era of working towards sustainable development, leaders and governments should not rely on homogeneous solutions provided by western countries but customize solutions after engaging the affected groups (Abass, 2018). This ensures that there is gender mainstreaming in the process of resolving the existing challenges (Carty & Mohanty, 2015).

4.6.3 Role of Government and Private Sector in Supporting Women-Owned Agribusinesses.

Several suggestions were made by the participants that could bring change among the women and farmers in agribusiness if government gave the sector priority. These suggestions included increasing funding to female farmers cooperatives, lower interests on bank loans for farmers, setup a special budget towards women in agribusiness, bringing services like mobile and vet clinics nearer to the farmers, and training women to diversify and integrate their businesses.

Table 4.10 shows the extracts from the participants pointing out different ways the government and private sector can extend support towards women in agribusiness.

Table 4.10: Statements stating ways the Government Can Extend Support Towards Women Growth in Agribusiness

Participant G	<i>“Yes, multidisciplinary approach is required whereby professionals from development studies & other fields must be included in planning. Psychologists are also needed since women need to develop holistically. Women need to be empowered because when you educate a woman, the whole family benefits”</i>
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Participant I	<i>“Provide more funding and training for women cooperatives and provide quality farm inputs”</i>
Participant C	<i>“Govt should provide a budget towards women in agribusiness to help those operating on small scale. Funding for opening market for women operating on small scale. Agricultural training and provide markets”</i>

Analysis in Figure4-15 below shows different sustainable approaches for example, increasing funding, providing extension services to farmers, monitoring and evaluation of government agricultural departments, the government can use to support and uplift women in agribusiness, increasing security and many others as shown below.

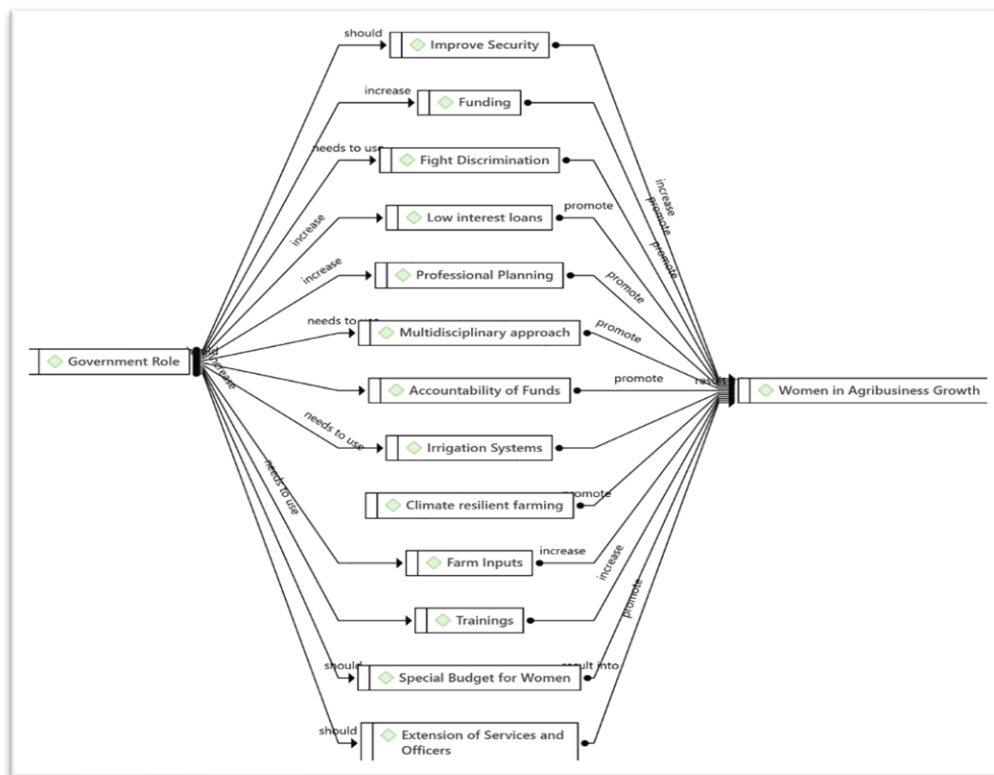


Figure4-15:Government Role Towards Supporting Women Growth in Agribusiness.

Source: Own compilation

Government giving more support to agriculture and small-scale farmers can aid in the growth of the sector and the economy such that development starts from the

grassroots up to the highest level in the economy (AFDB, 2016). Agricultural departments and stakeholders involved should assist in planning and implementation of government programmes to benefit all interested parties (Graca Machel Trust, 2017). In addition, as pro transnational feminists argue that for countries to achieve women empowerment and gender equality, there is need to embrace the digital era in an information driven environment to take up opportunities guided by governments and world leaders. Taking up these opportunities create a favourable environment for women farmers to achieve equality, sustainability, and economic empowerment (Young, 2015).

4.7 Impact of Covid19 on women-owned farm enterprises and agribusiness activities.

Covid19 has affected everyone worldwide, farmers and businesspeople were not left out socially and economically (Das & Roy, 2022). Africa is experiencing an economic downturn, and the Covid19 pandemic's harshest effects have not spared the agricultural sector, which employs 50% women (Ngalawa & Derera, 2020). Border closures, restrictions on trade, and restriction measures have made it difficult for farmers to access inputs like seeds and fertilizer, markets, and agricultural workers to harvest crops (Ngalawa & Derera, 2020).

As a result, both domestic and global food supply chains have been disrupted, and the availability of wholesome, secure, and varied diets has significantly reduced (Brenya, et al., 2022). The pandemic has rendered structural economic, social, and technological imbalances worse for women who already struggle to fulfil their many societal obligations (Das & Roy, 2022). Women's capability to react to and recover from the pandemic's bottlenecks is hampered by these disparities yet women are a key pillar in the Africa's food and agricultural systems (Fernando, 2020).

One-third of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) that produce, manufacture, and trade agricultural products and services are owned by women, who also make up 50% of the agricultural labour force (Ingabire, 2021). Not only did the epidemic disrupt their way of life and agricultural enterprises, but it also put their

families' welfare in jeopardy, increased incidences of gender-based violence, and hindered trade (Ngalawa & Derera, 2020).

The participants revealed some of the ways Covid19 impacted their activities and businesses. Participants pointed out different ways the Covid19 pandemic impacted their activities as listed below.

Table 4.11: Statements regarding the Impact of Covid19 on Agribusiness Activities

Participant B	<i>"Covid19 caused loss of jobs resulting into poor income which affected farm business negatively. Consumers have no money to buy the produce."</i>
Participant D	<i>"Not much help from the government even after the government promised help to farmers. All sectors should be proactive to help farmers. No business during the pandemic and not much help from the agriculture ministry."</i>
Participant J	<i>"Covid19 restrictions limited trading activities so market for the produce reduced. Unemployment increased. No trainings due to restrictions"</i>
Participant C	<i>"No sales due to unemployment. Strikes due to covid19 related causes affected business and agricultural activities"</i>

Contrary to the negative impact, some farmers pointed out that the Covid19 pandemic had some positives since demand for fresh fruits and vegetables like lemons, garlic, cucumbers, ginger, and oranges increased. These farmers had to increase production of these vegetables and fruits to meet the demand thus increasing their incomes.

Despite most of the participants indicating that they were negatively impacted, 20% of the participants highlighted a few positives they encountered during the pandemic as indicated below.

Table 4.12: Statements regarding the Positive Impact of the Pandemic to Some Farmers

Participant H	<i>“Covid was a blessing in disguise, provided market for vegetables and fruits. Started to produce sanitizers from the farm to supply govt departments which gave me extra income and profits.”</i>
Participant G	<i>“It was a positive impact for me because, people started to demand for fresh vegetables and fruits like lemons garlic which provided high incomes for the farmers. Increasing demand for garlic, lemons, and other fresh vegetables increased farming activities and incomes for vegetable farmers & provided more jobs for farm workers.”</i>

Figure 4-16 highlights the negative and positive impact arising from the Covid19 pandemic for the different participants. Some of the notable negative impacts were unemployment, movement restrictions, low purchasing power for consumers due to low incomes, no trainings due to restrictions and strikes. On the other hand, the positive impacts included high demand for fresh foods and vegetables, increased production for fresh foods, and increase in incomes

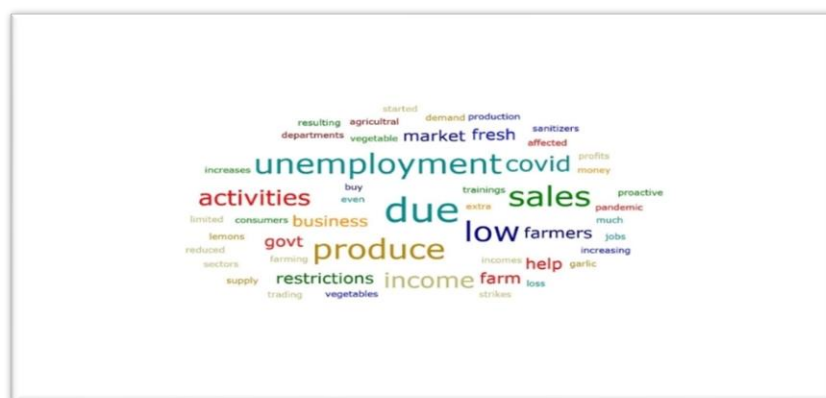


Figure 4-16: Impact of Covid 19 on Agribusiness.

Source: Own compilation

The pandemic has had both negative and positive impact as indicated in the analysis despite having more negative impacts in terms of unemployment, movement restrictions and reduction in sales.

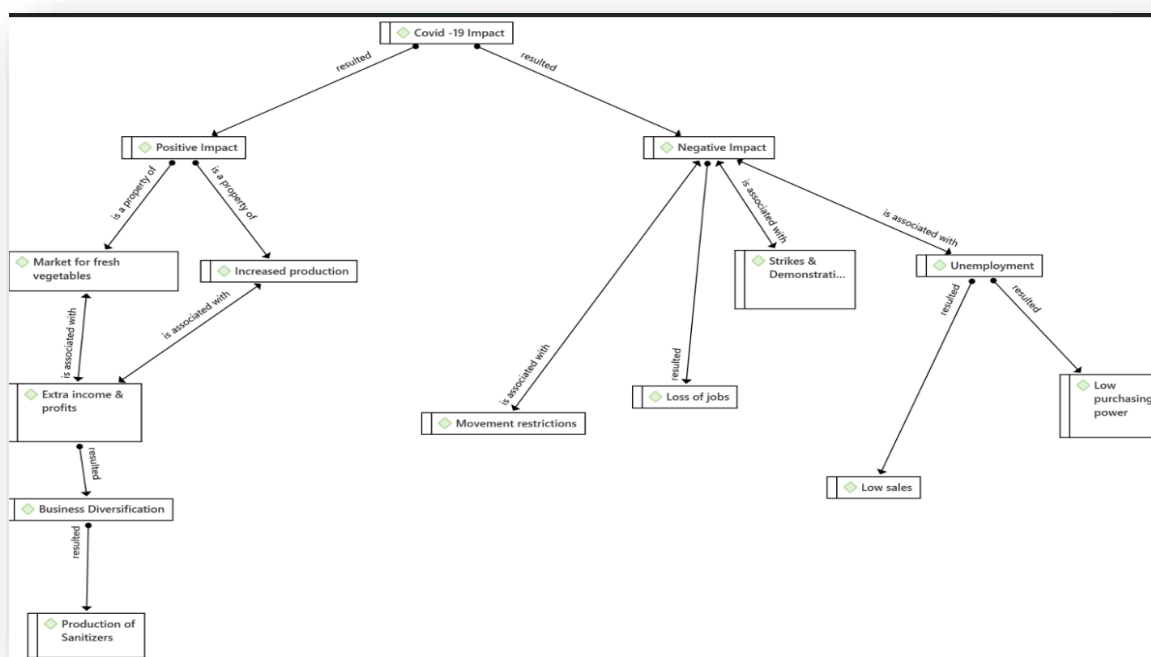


Figure 4-17: Positive and Negative Impact of Covid 19 Pandemic.

Source: Own compilation

The impact of Covid19 is viewed in two different ways as presented in Figure 4-17. As shown in Figure 4-17 above, the positive impacts are revealed by some farmers who benefitted from increased sales during the pandemic while other farmers reveal the negative impacts that for them led to a lot of losses, unemployment, strikes and restrictions. A substantial body of research reveals that efficacy of interventions created for and aimed at agricultural women can assist in safeguarding their lives and means of subsistence in the wake of disasters like COVID19 (Fernando, 2020).

Such interventions must be organized and implemented by African governments. Inputs like seeds, fertilizer, insecticides, mechanization, and professional services

must be uninterruptedly accessible. It also implies that women may access knowledge and skills to get the best results from their labour inputs (Fernando, 2020). In order to mitigate the short- and long-term detrimental effects of pandemics and disasters on food systems and agriculture, countries across the continent and the world should equip and train farmers. (Mofokeng & Njongenhle, 2020).

Recovery is contingent upon having access to funding—grants for businesses that shut down because of the epidemic and flexible loans for those that continued, albeit in a limited capacity (Das & Roy, 2022). Accessing high value markets is crucial for recovery in addition to greater incomes that support the development of women's agribusinesses' capacity for financial resilience (Fernando, 2020). Digital platforms served as a vital lifeline for businesses during the pandemic. Social media was used by female business managers to sell their products while getting access to data on productivity, weather and agronomic recommendations, investment, and markets (Mofokeng & Njongenhle, 2020). To rebuild economies, it is essential to scale up the deployment of digital capacity building and boost the participation of female entrepreneurs in the digital economy through digital marketing, digital finance, and digital trade (The World Bank, 2016).

It is also crucial to provide women with specialized training and capacity building so they can respond, recover, and develop resilience; but, due to low literacy rates and small networks, women's access to pertinent information and support systems remains constrained (Brenya, et al., 2022; Fernando, 2020). In this regard, policy makers need to view the interconnected nature of agribusiness food systems through a gender lens to provide appropriate diverse solutions to the adverse impacts of pandemics and relieve small scale farmers of declining crop harvests, earnings, and food insecurity (Abass, 2018).

4.8 Significance of Women-Headed Agribusinesses in Promoting Sustainable Development

Role of agriculture and agribusiness in promoting sustainable development cannot be undermined, as noted by the participants. It was revealed that agribusiness supports

many people in terms of employment, supporting livelihoods, source of taxes for the government and increasing production of food in the economy. The extract below reveals opinions of the participants regarding the role of agribusiness in promoting sustainable development.

Table 4.13: Participants' Opinions Regarding the Importance of Women-Owned Agribusiness in Promoting Sustainable Development

Participant G	<i>“Yes, agribusiness creates jobs and with no jobs or scarcity of jobs there is no sustainability.”</i>
Participant E	<i>“Very important role agriculture supports livelihood even without jobs you can survive if you have a garden. We also get healthy foods fresh from the gardens.”</i>

Participants revealed various ways through which agribusiness promotes development and Figure 4-18 shows the analysis indicating that agribusiness increases taxable income, sustains livelihoods and families, provides employment, reduces poverty through increased incomes, women empowerment and so many other contributions that favour sustainable development.

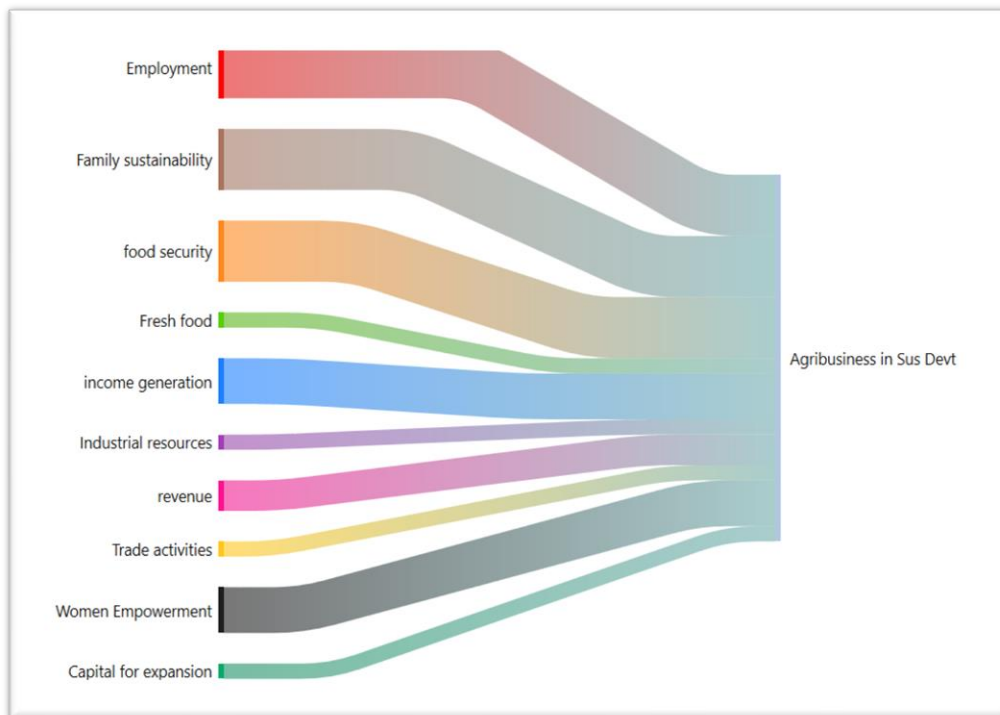


Figure 4-18: Role of Women-Headed Small-Scale Agribusinesses in Promoting Sustainable Development.

Source: Own Compilation

This finding shows that the government should give priority to small scale farmers and agriculture during the planning and budgeting phase for the economy so that sustainable growth is achieved as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) (United Nations, 2021). Whereas women in agribusiness have not gained enough coverage yet, they play a crucial role in promoting agribusiness by fully participating in the various stages of the agribusiness value chain (IFC, 2016). With high agribusiness productivity, comes more youth employment, better livelihoods, more food security, and higher incomes which presents substantial opportunities for economic growth and sustainable development across the globe (Koira, 2014).

4.9 Realisation of Growth among Small-Scale Women-Owned Agribusiness in Wincanton Estate.

The data gathered is evidence that there has been growth in agribusiness sector over the last 10 years. There has been a marked increase in the number of women-headed agribusinesses in Wincanton estate. Crop production, increased employment opportunities, food security, and steady income have all seen remarkable growth and output that was non-existent ten years ago. Therefore, to achieve higher growth in the agribusiness and agricultural sectors, women's contributions to agribusiness growth should be supported through intensifying agricultural extension services, multi-disciplinary support programmes, agricultural land, low interest loan facilities and training on climate resilient farming.

4.10 Summary

This chapter focused on presenting the findings and results from the interviews as well as providing an analysis of the study findings. Analysis of the results was aided by ATLAS.ti software to provide direction and meaning to the study. Encouraging women in agribusiness and agricultural activities enables countries achieve several SDG's such as zero hunger, gender equality, no poverty, good health and well-being and sustainable cities and communities (United Nations, 2021). All these goals cannot be achieved if women are discriminated against and stigmatised, yet they play a very important role in promoting agribusiness in their communities.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

Chapter 4 presents and analyses the study findings as provided by the participants and utilises ATLAS.ti software to provide a systematic analysis. Chapter Five presents the summary of findings with specific focus on the main study objective which is exploring and assessing the role of women in promoting agribusiness within Kariega. It further summarises the findings and suggests recommendations in relation to the literature presented concerning women in agricultural activities and business. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the research knowledge gaps, recommendations for future research areas and a brief conclusion.

5.2 Discussion of Study Objectives

Through the engagement with various women in agribusiness, the study aimed to explore and analyse the current state of agribusiness in a women's cooperative located in Wincanton Estate, Kariega, Nelson Mandela Bay. The participants assisted in providing answers to the stated study objectives below as provided in the findings.

- To assess the role of the government and private sector towards promoting women-owned agribusinesses within Kariega.
- To explore the participation and achievements of women in agribusiness in Kariega.
- To identify the challenges still hindering women from attaining growth in their farms and agribusiness enterprises within Kariega.

5.2.1 Role of Government and Private Sector

According to the participants, the government involvement towards helping women in agribusiness is highly sought after. The most notable interventions include the provision of land by Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, provision of capital through farm inputs, vouchers, work equipment, bringing agricultural services in the communities (e.g., veterinary clinics and extension officers),

and a special government budget for women in agribusiness and agricultural sector. It is suggested that if the interventions were implemented consistently, agricultural, and sustainable development would be encouraged, starting with the vulnerable groups like women and the youth.

5.2.2 Achievements Attained by Women in Agribusiness

Participants identified a few milestones that have been reached for the time they have been involved in agribusiness, including free agricultural training, income to support families, constant food supply for families, resilience and patience, business knowledge acquisition, exposure within the business community, and creation of employment opportunities. Such achievements indicate that more benefits can be attained if these farmers get all the support and incentives needed for cost-effective production to occur.

It is recommended that the government and private sector collaborate in the provision of increased support to these cooperatives in communities to foster economic growth and development. Encouraging agricultural and agribusiness development can also help address gender disparities, as noted by the participants, since women are crucial contributors to agricultural production. However, if they are not fully supported, it hinders and limits their performance and contribution toward agribusiness and agricultural development.

5.2.3 Challenges Faced by Women in The Agricultural Sector

With a few achievements noted, participants revealed several challenges and gender imbalances that they still face in their daily routine and agribusiness activities. The most pressing challenges identified through the interview process were the scarcity of land, drought, water shortages, social stigma, inadequate capital and support from the government, high operating costs, gender imbalances and expensive farm labour. Addressing these challenges can help households and cooperatives become more productive and sustain their livelihoods which encourages better living standards and reduces poverty.

The findings concur with the literature regarding the challenges and constraints women experience as they try to take part in income generating activities (Abass, 2018). Gender disparities and discrimination has been a challenge for a long time with women facing significant discrimination within the agricultural sector and beyond (Hart & Aliber, 2012). Although female organisations have been set up to advocate for equality, there is still a gap that requires government and private sector attention to be addressed as the participants noted that one of the main problems, they face is stigmatisation and discrimination of women in the various activities and services they try to access. This discourages some women to take up available opportunities which increases unemployment and poverty, thus discouraging agricultural entrepreneurship and development.

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic cannot be overlooked, since it is one of the highlights from the interviews with the participants. Participants revealed that they were negatively affected by the pandemic in various ways, however some disclosed that business improved and generated more profits in their agribusinesses. The farmers who managed to overcome the negative impacts earned more income from selling fresh foods, vegetables and fruits that were in high demand during the pandemic. High demand for the fresh vegetables encouraged them to produce more which indeed increased incomes and employment opportunities for the unemployed in the community. This implies that farmers should exploit all available opportunities even in unprecedented times and look for ways to overcome calamities when they do appear.

It is further recommended that government initiatives focusing on disaster management training be implemented to prepare emerging farmers for possible challenges they may face. Preparing farmers to cope with calamities and emergencies like droughts, floods, disease outbreaks and water scarcity helps farmers overcome such challenges with minimal adverse effects on their agricultural activities which helps in sustaining food supply, incomes and ensures food security during disaster times.

With the adverse effects of climate change affecting various farmers without any knowledge of how to overcome these effects, various countries and governments are adopting climate smart agriculture approaches. Climate smart agriculture should be encouraged among female farmers' cooperatives through training to ensure that farmers practice climate resilient agriculture (AFDB & GCF, 2019). Through training farmers about climate resilient practices like crop rotation, water and land management, agroforestry, mulching, inter cropping and crop livestock management, farmers can achieve sustainability in agricultural produce, food security and stable incomes which fosters growth and development (AFDB & GCF, 2019).

Inadequate capital and credit facilities to acquire land was identified as a major challenge to the respondent sample. This challenge should be addressed as a main factor in promoting women in agribusiness. Many farmers disclosed that they don't have access to private farmland, so they farm on church or public-school land. The lack of capital does not favour these women to access and buy land for agriculture as well as practice climate resilient agriculture. In addition, due to inadequate credit facilities, commercialization of agriculture is limited due to low production, high labour costs and high costs of machinery. The government therefore should increase direct investment in the agricultural sector by providing agricultural finance and insurance packages to farmers.

Female emancipation, as emphasized in the literature, was also highlighted by the participants as one of the crucial paths to promoting women economically. Feminists from earlier studies have noted that through economic empowerment women can be emancipated to play a crucial part in promoting development. The government of South Africa through land reforms aimed at promoting equality through redistribution of land for agricultural development (Hart, 2008). By making land available, the government intended to foster better nutrition and higher incomes for women and other vulnerable groups as a way of recognising the significant contributions made by women towards agriculture and development.

While all these incentives are provided by the government, their impact on women remains minimal due to continuous social and economic segregations. Consequently, apart from the gender imbalances, other social imbalances like the class and racial segregations do affect the performance of women in various sectors of the economy like agriculture as indicated by the participants. It is recommended that these imbalances be given attention by government and other stakeholders to ensure that equality is exercised in all areas of interest. This will encourage women to actively participate and perform better in agribusiness.

5.3 The Role of Women in Agribusiness Growth

The main study objective as outlined aimed at identifying the crucial role women contribute towards agribusiness growth. Through the interview process, the participants highlighted that women play a significant role, yet sometimes their input and labour is unpaid, undervalued and overlooked. In various parts of Africa, according to the literature, women oversee food security, and most men keep away from such roles because there is little or no monetary value accorded to these responsibilities (Cooke & Clare, 2016).

Whilst women are at the forefront of managing their agribusiness activities and food security in homes as revealed by the findings, they have not received adequate support in form of farm inputs, land, credit services, extension services, agricultural training, and incentives. Even with the Women in Development approaches, there is still inadequacies like discrimination and unfair property rights impeding the performance of women in agricultural activities that policy makers should interrogate more to better understand the reasons for the underperformance of women in agriculture and agribusiness.

According to the findings of the study, women have the capability to produce food for their households, earn incomes to sustain families and be custodians of knowledge in their communities. However, women should look beyond sustaining livelihoods and focus on leadership in agribusiness, creating wealth and encouraging more youth to

participate in agribusiness. This indicates true empowerment of women that goes beyond working to provide food security and cater for their families.

Governments and the private sector, through various development awareness programmes and organisations should mobilise the younger generations to re-engage in agriculture and agribusiness. With evidence from the study, the age groups that were mostly involved in agribusiness were women of 50 years and above. This implies that the youth have not actively participated in agribusiness activities and failure to sustain agricultural productivity will result into food insecurity causing rampant hunger among populations. This undermines one of the SDG goals of zero hunger by 2030. Sustainability should be a priority in the agricultural sector and business to fight poverty, hunger, and climate hazards (United Nations, 2021).

Consequently, exploring the role of women in agribusiness from a feminist perspective has elaborated a few milestones achieved and various challenges still faced by women in agricultural and agribusiness sector. With the current social, political, and economic trends and dynamics affecting agriculture, through the lens of feminist theories, the study is informed about the existing and current gender as well as social and economic disparities that need to be addressed for sustainable agriculture and development to materialize.

5.4 Recommendations for Future Research

Despite the existence of various studies around agribusiness and agricultural development, significant knowledge gaps still exist around the gendered agriculture field. It is recommended that future researchers investigate the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge to help small holder farmers in digitalising farm businesses, mitigating adverse effects of greenhouse emissions using climate smart agriculture techniques, impacts of climate change on low- and middle-income countries in terms of vulnerability to food insecurity and impact of gender mainstreaming in contract farming in the digital era.

5.5 Summary

Commitment towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals has been a global priority, resulting in more women participate in agriculture and agribusiness with the aim of ending hunger, achieving gender equality, food security and better nutrition and taking part in sustainable agriculture. Within sub-Saharan Africa, women have actively participated in agriculture and play a vital role in promoting agribusiness despite the financial, social, political, and economic impediments they face in society. With reference to the research findings, policy makers and researchers should engage in comprehensive research and evidence to create awareness about the prevailing gender related gaps and emergent issues that deter agricultural and sustainable development in many parts of the world. This underpins evidence-based decision making and practice in planning and policy implementation.

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APPENDIX ONE- INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Tell me about your education level, age bracket and marital status?
2. Describe the size of your family?
3. Are you the family head in your home?
4. How long have you been involved in agribusiness activities?
5. What is the size your agricultural farm (small or large scale)?
6. Why do you think women in agribusiness are still operating at small scale?
7. What type of agricultural products do you produce in your home?
8. Do you have ready market for your produce?
9. Do you have access to land and infrastructure to grow your business?
10. Do you receive government support for your activities?
11. How has the government supported you in these activities?
12. Does the private sector like banks, cooperatives, extension service providers help you in your agribusiness activities?
13. What has been the role of the private sector in growing your business?
14. What are some of the benefits you have realized after taking part in the sector?
15. What are the challenges you face in your daily activities?
16. Do you think women have an important role to play in promoting agribusiness activities?
17. Why do you think women are not fully participating and benefiting from agribusiness activities?
18. Any suggestions for what the govt and private sector can do to enhance and help in developing the small agribusiness women farmers?
19. Do you think agricultural activities play an important role in enhancing sustainable growth?
20. How has the covid-19 pandemic affected your farming and business activities, and what do you think can be done to overcome the negative impact of the pandemic on agribusiness?

APPENDIX TWO- ETHICS APPROVAL LETTER

Chairperson: Research Ethics Committee (Human)

Tel: +27 (0)41 504 2347



PO Box 77000, Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, 6031, South Africa mandela.ac.za

sharlene.govender@mandela.ac.za

REC-042508-025 Ref: [H21-SCI-GEO-002] / Approval] **NHREC registration nr:**

12 June 2021

Dr L Williams-Bruinders

Faculty: Science

Dear Dr Williams-Bruinders

**GENDERED AGRICULTURE: ASSESSING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN
AGRIBUSINESS IN UITENHAGE, SOUTH AFRICA**

PRP: Dr L Williams-Bruinders

PI: Ms. J Zalwango

Your above-entitled application served at the Research Ethics Committee (Human) (31 March 2021) for approval. The study is classified as a medium risk study. The ethics clearance reference number is **H21-SCI-GEO-002** and approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The immediate completion and return of the attached acknowledgement to Imtiaz.Khan@mandela.ac.za, the date of receipt of such returned acknowledgement determining the final date of approval for the study where after data collection may commence.
2. Approval for data collection is for 1 calendar year from date of receipt of above- mentioned acknowledgement.
3. The submission of an annual progress report by the PRP on the data collection activities of the study (form RECH-004 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal) by 15 November this year for studies approved/extended in the period October of the previous year up to and including September of this year, or 15 November next year for studies approved/extended after September this year.
4. In the event of a requirement to extend the period of data collection (i.e., for a period in excess of 1 calendar year from date of approval), completion of an extension request is required (form RECH-005 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal).
5. In the event of any changes made to the study (excluding extension of the study), RECH will have to approve such amendments and completion of an amendments form is required PRIOR to implementation (form RECH-006 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal).
6. Immediate submission (and possible discontinuation of the study in the case of serious events) of the relevant report to RECH (form RECH-007 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal) in the event of any unanticipated problems, serious incidents or adverse events observed during the study.
7. Immediate submission of a Study Termination Report to RECH (form RECH-008 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal) upon expected or unexpected closure/termination of study.
8. Immediate submission of a Study Exception Report of RECH (form RECH-009 available on Research Ethics Committee (Human) portal) in the event of any study deviations, violations and/or exceptions.

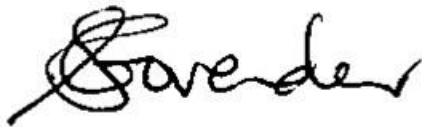


9. Acknowledgement that the study could be subjected to passive and/or active monitoring without prior notice at the discretion of Research Ethics Committee (Human).

2 Please quote the ethics clearance reference number in all correspondence and enquiries related to the study. For speedy processing of email queries (to be directed to Imtiaz.Khan@mandela.ac.za), it is recommended that the ethics clearance reference number together with an indication of the query appear in the subject line of the email.

We wish you well with the study.

Yours sincerely



Dr S Govender

Chairperson: Research Ethics Committee (Human)

Cc: Department of Research Development

Faculty Administration: Science

APPENDIX THREE: DRAFT LETTER TO GATE KEEPERS



DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCE

Research Title: Gendered Agriculture: Assessing the Role of Women in Agribusiness in Uitenhage, South Africa.

Information Sheet for Gate Keepers of Uitenhage Small Farmers Primary Cooperative

Dear Chairperson,

My name is Zalwango Joanita a master's of Geography student registered at NMMU. The research I wish to conduct for my master's dissertation involves assessing the role of women in promoting agribusiness around Uitenhage.

I humbly seek your consent and help in recruiting and enrolling female members from your cooperative into my research study to enable effective data collection. I require your assistance in identifying 15 research participants for an in-depth telephone interview. The interview should take approximately 20-30 minutes and can be conducted at a convenient time and date to be arranged. All answers and results from the research will be kept strictly confidential and the results will be reported in a research paper available to all participants on completion. Participant anonymity and confidentiality is guaranteed. If you require any further information regarding the study do not hesitate to contact me on 0679897757. Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Joanita Zalwango

Email: s220888000@mandela.ac.za

APPENDIX FOUR: INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS ON RECRUITMENT



Department of Geosciences

MSc of Geography

Research Title: Gendered Agriculture; Assessing the Role of Women in Agribusiness in Uitenhage, South Africa.

Written/Oral information given to participants on recruitment.

My name is Zalwango Joanita, and I am a Masters' student in my second year at Nelson Mandela University. My research project focuses on women in Agribusiness, around Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth. The research project seeks to assess and evaluate the role women have played in promoting Agribusiness activities in Uitenhage alongside all the challenges that are still faced. By collecting relevant data from women with experience in Agribusiness, there will be evaluation of the past implemented policies which will provide a foundation for better implementation of future policies and projects.

The researcher insists and assures prospective participants that personal information will not be used in anyway during the study. The inclusion criteria will entail only female participants that are 22 years of age or older with a year or more of experience in Agribusiness. There will not be exclusions according to racial backgrounds and only women living within Uitenhage will be eligible to participate in the study.

As a prospective participant you have the right to raise concerns that may bother you regarding the research project or the questions that I will be asking. You also have a right to leave the interview as u may choose if you feel uncomfortable in anyway. The information gathered will be used for my research project only. The data put together will not be used by any other person and the information acquired from the data will only be used in my research study. Thank you.

APPENDIX FIVE: INFORMATION GIVEN TO VOLUNTEERS AT ENROLMENT



Department of Geosciences

MSc of Geography

Research Title: Gendered Agriculture; Assessing the Role of Women in Agribusiness in Uitenhage, South Africa.

Information sheet given to participants at enrolment.

My name is Zalwango Joanita, and I am doing my masters' degree in my second year at Nelson Mandela University. My research project entails having in-depth interviews with female residents of Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth. The research project focuses on assessing and evaluating the role women have played in promoting Agribusiness activities in Uitenhage alongside all the challenges that are still faced.

As a participant you have the right to raise concerns that may bother you regarding the research project or the questions that I will be posing. You also have a right to leave the interview as u may choose if you feel uncomfortable in anyway. The information gathered will be used for my research project only. The data put together

will not be used by any other person and the information acquired from the data will only be used in my research study.

Thank you.

Signature: _____

Date:

Contact Detail:

APPENDIX SIX: INFORMED CONSENT FORMS



Department of Geosciences

MSc of Geography

Research Title: Gendered Agriculture; Assessing the Role of Women in Agribusiness in Uitenhage, South Africa.

Informed Consent Form

I,, hereby give my informed consent to participate in a research study conducted by Zalwango Joanita as part of her masters' research project.

The interview will approximately take 20- 30 minutes of your time. We do not expect any risks associated with your contribution, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time as you may choose.

Zalwango Joanita has justified the need for me to take part in her research project and has guaranteed that my participation and responses to her inquiry form will be kept private, anonymous, and confidential. She has also given me a written information statement containing details of her research project.

I am aware that this research is conducted according to NMMU's Policy on Research Ethics.

By signing this form, I agree that:

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I do not have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time.
2. The transcribed interview recordings or extracts from it may be used in her study.
3. I have read the Information sheet.
4. I do not expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation.
5. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

Thank you for agreeing to this interview.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Details:

Student: Zalwango Joanita

Tel: 067 989 7757

Email: s220888000@mandela.ac.za

Signature..... Date.....

Supervisor: Dr. Leizel Williams-Bruinders Tel: 041 504 4367

Email: [Leizel.williams- bruinders@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Leizel.williams-bruinders@mandela.ac.za)