THE ROLE OF RURAL AGRICULTURE IN IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CASE OF NKWALINI-BAFAZI IN ELLIOTDALE

by

NONCEDO REINNET SOLANI

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Supervisor: Jenna Tanale

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ABSTRACT

The problem that is researched relates to the tendency of rural people to abandon agriculture in favour of wage employment and non-agricultural informal activities, and the existence of large areas of underutilized arable land in rural communities. This study explored the specific role of agriculture in the rural communities. The need to improve the quality of life of rural households through the promotion of agriculture and industry gave rise to the implementation of the Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme. In this strategy it is envisaged that vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all will be achieved.

The main research question underpinning this study relates to the role of rural agriculture in Nkwalini-Bafazi in meeting the set objectives of the project; such as improving household food security; equipping farmers with necessary skills in order to promote agricultural productivity. The research question can further be captured in these two queries: i) other than the reasons already known for the decline of agriculture in rural areas of South Africa (e.g poor extension services, poor soils, lack of market and so forth); what other fundamental reasons may be there for the poor performance of agricultural production in the communal areas? ii) What role, positive or negative has the government and its agencies played in respect to agricultural development in communal areas.

The study, through qualitative methodology, sampled households in Nkwalini-Bafazi who are part of the Siyazondla Food Production Programme. The study investigated the role of agriculture in improving the livelihoods of rural people; and what strategies are required to promote agriculture so as to make contributions for future policy directions. Although this programme has been successfully initiated, from the findings of the study it is evident that beneficiaries are facing many challenges. It is crucial for the South African government to implement mechanisms to ensure that farmers will obtain incentives for farming activities, promotion of food security and rural local economic development, in order to redress the imbalances of the former apartheid regime.

Key words: food security, rural development, agriculture
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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction to the study of rural agriculture in improving household food security

1.1 Introduction

One of South Africa’s poorest province is Eastern Cape and 29% of the population in the province lives below the poverty line of R250 (SAIRR, 2008:77). In the Eastern Cape one of the most underdeveloped municipalities is Mbashe. It has limited access to basic needs such as water, health services and electricity (Statistic SA, 2001, in the Mbashe Municipality Integrated Development Plan, 2008/9). It is estimated that between 75% and 90% of the people in the Mbashe Local Municipality are the poorest and the unemployment rate is 70% (STATSSA, 2001). Based on various integrated development plans of different municipalities within the Eastern Cape, agriculture is viewed as the key economic driver (Kepe, 2004). In a nutshell, agriculture is seen as the key element of a local economic development strategy which would most likely reduce rural poverty.

Agricultural development is a crucial element in any society’s transformation to a modern industrial state (Raymond F. Hopkins, n.d.). In this process, the provision of food to a growing non-agricultural labour force is a necessity and the securing of resources is a further and often vital contribution that needs to be made by agriculture (Raymond F. Hopkins, n.d.). Despite the debates about agriculture’s actual contribution to rural development, it is generally accepted that primary agricultural production plays a significant role in rural economic development by contributing to household food and nutrition security (Aliber and Hart, 2009). The Green Revolution strategy for rural development and agrarian transformation was established by the Department of Agriculture. Before the arrival of whites in South Africa who implemented harsh and segregated policies such as the various Land Acts, the fields were always green and the aim of Green Revolution strategy is to bring back similar fields to black people. The
pilot exercise of the Green Revolution strategy was conducted in Mbashe Municipality to test the impact of the strategy (DoA, 2008/9).

There are sub programmes under the Green Revolution strategy and one of them is the Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme – which is the focus of the research. The aims of the Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme are to increase productivity and improve household food security; to build decision making and management capacity and, lastly, to demonstrate effective training and extension services (Assessment of capacity to implement PDGP, 2004). The main research problem of the study relates to the role that agriculture can play in increasing the economy of rural communities and also the evidence from the research findings indicating its challenges and current potential opportunities.

The interest in this topic was developed by the fact that the researcher is an extension officer working for the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and therefore closely works with rural farmers, especially the Siyazondla members. The researcher is also assisting the farmers in establishing homestead gardens. There are many projects that have been launched in Mbashe Local Municipality but because of various reasons they are not viable. The Department of Agriculture, Social Development, Local Government and Amathole District Municipality are participating in the establishment of these projects with the aim of sustaining them. The study will, therefore, identify the underlying causes of the factors affecting the sustainability of these projects and come up with recommendations that will improve such projects. This means that research of this nature will contribute to sustainable agriculture in rural areas.

There was a concern for food supplies as a result of global food crisis during the 1970s. Food security is a situation that exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2002. Some of the factors that affect food production globally are in both developed and developing countries which changed agricultural practices and raised crop yields. These factors are influenced by indicators
which have severe impacts on food production such as climate change. This means water deficit or drop in water for irrigation. Land degradation and desertification are other indicators caused by intensive farming.

**Research problem and questions**

The research problem is the tendency of rural people to abandon agriculture in favour of wage employment and non-agricultural informal activities, and the existence of large areas of under-utilized arable land in rural communities.

The research is guided by the main question:

What is the role of rural agriculture in Nkwalini–Bafazi village in meeting the set objectives of the project, such as improving household food security and equipping farmers with necessary skills in order to promote agricultural productivity?

The research is guided by the following sub-questions:

- Does agriculture contribute to improving the livelihood of rural communities?
- To what extent are subsistence farmers equipped with knowledge, skills and other necessary support to implement projects?
- What are the challenges facing agricultural production to improve people’s livelihoods or development to sustain rural development?
- What does the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and others do to assist rural communities?

**1.2 Research aims and objectives**

The study sought to explore the specific role of agriculture in rural communities and the upliftment of the rural poor. The secondary aim was to explore the role that the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and government agencies have played or could play in stimulating agricultural development in rural areas.

The specific objectives were to:
o Investigate the role of agriculture in improving the livelihoods of rural people under the Siyazondla Food Production Programme.

o Establish the extent to which Siyazondla Food Production Programme has empowered subsistence farmers and recommend new strategies for the implementation of rural development programmes.

o Explore the potential opportunities and challenges to agricultural development in the communal areas of the Mbashe Local Municipality.

o Explore the role government and its agencies have played and could play in stimulating agricultural development in the Nkwalini–Bafazi village.

1.4 Study area

The Mbashe municipality is situated in the South Eastern part of the Eastern Cape Province and is bound by the Qhorha River in the south and the Mncwasa River in the north along the Indian ocean.

Fig. 1.4a Geographic location of the study area

Source: Map produced by Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (Updated Strategic Plan, 2011/12).
1.4.1 Policies supporting food security in South Africa

It is enshrined in Section 27, 1 of the Bill of rights that all South Africans have a right to access to sufficient food and water. Therefore the state must take reasonable legislative to ensure in realizing this right. The tense inequalities by the apartheid system led to human rights violation, social and economic deprivation, including poverty. The aim of the food security policy is eradication of hunger and poverty. GEAR forms the macro-economic framework within which a food security policy must be developed. It provides the fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies required to stabilize the economy and enhance international competitiveness and emphasize employment creation, stimulating new investments, infrastructure investments and human resource development as key areas. Provision of production inputs by the state to different categories of farmers is a requirement to improve household food security.
According to Chambers, “Rural development is a strategy to enable specific group of people, poor women and men to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need” (1983:147). It involves agricultural development activities as most of people who live below the poverty are in rural areas. It is one of the means for revitalisation of economy for farmers and rural communities. Rural development in South Africa resulted from colonial land dispossession and the implementation of apartheid policies of separate development (http://www.phuhlisani.com). The Polokwane conference of the ANC reviewed Rural Development as a central pillar in the struggle against unemployment, poverty and inequality. Eastern Cape Province adopted the rural development strategy which seeks to strategise on ways to address the inequalities associated with the colonial past. The Mbashe Municipality has been named the pilot where Nkwalini-Bafazi village in Elliotdale has been chosen. The study contributes to a national call for rural development by intensifying the green revolution strategy through an improved Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme that will effectively benefit rural society at large. Research of this nature has the potential to move beneficiaries away from state-grant dependency syndrome to effective sustainable production activities as advocacy of the envisaged Village Renewal Strategy in South Africa (4th annual Rural Development Conference, 2008).

Women and development is a national initiative from the Department of Agriculture in attempting to recognize the historic role of women in agricultural development and to bring them to the mainstream of economic activities and agrarian reforms. According to Xingwana (2007), it is an effort to liberate women in rural areas from the shackles of patriarchy and to make a reality the one third quota for women in all land reform programmes. For the purpose of this study women in small scale agriculture like Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme are defined as women with passion for farming as an activity. They are determined to eradicate hunger under all difficulties, by providing food on the table for their families and society at large; those who never compromised their role in food production by using available arable land at their disposal to produce food for their families.
Agriculture is regarded as the backbone of development and as the main vehicle through which poverty and underdevelopment can be alleviated in Mbashe Local Municipality. Agriculture’s main role is production of food for rural and urban communities and cash crops and livestock for export in order to earn foreign currency.

1.5 Methodology

In this research study a qualitative research approach was used to gain information on the needs of the farmers as this will answer one of the sub-questions of the study, and also to gain knowledge about the efficiency of their production systems in improving the livelihoods of the people of Nkwalini-Bafazi. Semi-structured interviews were used with the aim of exploring the respondents’ points of view, feelings and perspectives. To complement these interviews a camera was used to capture the physical structures of the homestead gardens. The researcher used the data gathered from the target group as the primary information source and the literature from published and unpublished journals, books and articles as secondary data for the research.

1.6 Outline of the research study

Chapter One is the introduction. It provided an outline of the problem statement, the aims and objectives, the research design, and the significance and limitations of the study. It further provides the background and policy context revealing policies that relate to agriculture as a poverty reduction strategy.

Chapter Two reviews both global and national literature which relates to the role of agriculture in improving household security in poor rural communities. It further puts into context South Africa’s approach of using agriculture as a poverty reduction strategy.

Chapter Three outlines the research design and methodology, the survey area, the target population and the sample as well as sample techniques that were used. Data collection instruments that were used are also described and in the conclusion data analysis is given. The qualitative research methods and semi-structured interviews were used in collecting information from the respondents.
Chapter Four gives the findings based on the research question alluded to in chapter one of the study. This is done by presenting, interpreting and analyzing the collected data. It then links the findings with related literature so as to come up with plausible conclusions.

Chapter Five gives the conclusions drawn from the findings of the research and it proposes recommendations for the problem that has been investigated.
CHAPTER TWO

Household food security: Theoretical framework

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is about food security and its impact on rural livelihoods. It begins with the historical origins of food insecurity in South Africa through the discussion of the colonial and apartheid regimes. The role of agriculture prior the betterment policy is outlined and also the impact of these policies in improving household food security are highlighted. This chapter proceeds by exploring the general conceptions of food insecurity in South Africa, the gender dimensions and what the post-apartheid government has put in place to curb the challenge of poverty at a broad policy and implementation level. Lastly, the theoretical framework of the study is described.

2.2 Food insecurity in South Africa

This section discusses the historical context in both the pre- and post-democracy periods. It does this first by setting this historical context within the concept of poverty.

2.2.1 Poverty

According to UNDP “poverty is the condition of not having the means to afford basic human needs such as clean water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter (2006). The inability of the South African economy to provide employment led to poverty and inequality. The South African government has committed itself in eradicating poverty and hunger up to 50% by 2014. One of the critical components in meeting that objective is household food security. Meanwhile the social grant is the mainstay of social protection against income poverty.

(Chambers, 1983) argues that rural poverty is seen as a consequence of processes which concentrate wealth and power, and these processes operate at three levels: (I) internationally, the richer countries have made and keep the poor countries relatively poor through colonial exploitation and post-colonial unequal exchange, and at the same time benefit from the investment of capital and the expatriation of profits; (2) internally,
within the poor countries, urban and especially urban middle class interests gain at the cost of rural interests, through shifts in the rural-urban terms of trade (cheap food for the towns and expensive goods for the countryside; and (3) through investments in urban industries and services, and within the rural areas themselves, the local elites - landowners, merchants, moneylenders, and bureaucrats - consolidate their power and wealth and, for their part, the rural poor stand to lose relatively and often absolutely through all these processes.

Rural development refers to a distinctive strategy for intervention by the state in the economies of their developing countries, and is more widely defined than just the development of agriculture. The reason is being that it entails more than just increasing agricultural production and it addresses itself to the rural economy as a whole - it is wider. It focuses particularly on the problems of poverty and inequality (Gabriel, 1991).

2.2.2 Historical context: Pre- and post-democracy

Food security includes the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food as well as an insured ability to acquire acceptable food in a socially acceptable way (Anderson, 2009). This means ensuring a continuous supply of sufficient, nutritious food. The basic definition of food security is that it refers to the ability of individuals to obtain sufficient food on a day-to-day basis. Internationally food security is defined as the ability of people to secure adequate food. More especially, it has been defined by researchers as the access by all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life (Anderson, 1990). According to the World Food Summit organised in Rome in 1996, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (http://www.fao.org).

Since the mid-1970s, the African continent has been the only region that has been unable to feed its own population (HRSC, 2011). South Africa is facing a similar plight to other sub-Saharan African countries. Currently there are approximately 14 million people in South Africa who are vulnerable to food insecurity and 1.5 million children under the age of six years who are stunted by chronic malnutrition (The Presidency,
2008). It is unlikely that the country will be able to produce sufficient food in the future unless radical new policies change current practices.

Of all the historical injustices endured by the African people of South Africa in the centuries of the most brutal oppression and exploitation, none has been as thorough and systematic as the manner in which they were disposed of their land (Matikinca, 2013:vi). The land dispossession of the Africans in South Africa legitimized by the Land Act of 1913 has hitherto remained the most stubborn reminder of the painful past upon which the current South Africa was founded (Matikinca, 2012:vi). The concept of food insecurity is closely linked with the poverty in the country due to dispossession of land.

Black people in South Africa lived in dispersed homesteads. These were closer to the fields they tended (McAllister, 1988). This means that field cultivation was their day to day activity. Women tended the fields successfully and produced crops while men looked after livestock (McAllister, 1988). It is evident that women are not focusing only on domestic chores, and also men are not migrating to cities for better jobs. The climate in these areas was conducive to crop production and the fields were always green, and as a result there was no conception of poverty (Platzky and Walker, 2005:17). There were no factors affecting food production such as water shortages due to climate change. Therefore during the precolonial era, black people were responsible for their survival (Platzky and Walker, 1988). There was no need of social protection to curb income poverty. The independence of black people started to change because of the introduction of betterment and rehabilitation policies by the colonial and apartheid systems (Platzky and Walker, 1988). McAllister (1988:1) states that:

Betterment was a process which involved dividing a given area (Rural Ward) into residential; arable and grazing land; relocating people from site to site in village-type residential areas; demarcating and fencing arable lands and establishing fenced grazing camps.

The above statement means that black people were relocated into villages and confined in the cultivation of smaller areas.

There are four effects of betterment which were identified by McAllister (1992:210). The first was economic hardship and agricultural underdevelopment due to residential relocation into villages (ibid). This means that black people had to face economic
constraints as they were confined to cultivating smaller and infertile lands. Second was the loss of local autonomy and increased regulation and control from the centre (ibid). This is why in South Africa land reform is seen as autonomy – fostering service delivery. Third was the social disruption due to villagization (ibid). It had great social consequences as people’s lives were disrupted. The good neighbourliness and mutual support were affected as they used to help each other during ploughing, planting and harvesting the land. Last was the deteriorating ecological circumstances and loss of land (ibid). This suggests that people could no longer produce enough food to feed themselves and their families and nor could they keep livestock.

Platzky and Walker (1988:348) refer to betterment policies as enforced villagization of the black people and not as rehabilitation policies to teach black people new farming methods as they claim. This suggests the fact that these policies were implemented against the will of the people and this is how rural areas and ‘Trusts’ were established. During this period people were relocated and given far smaller residential sites with arable fields (Platzky and Walker, 1988). “Land tenure system changed as they were issued with inferior title deeds. Some received quitrent titles whilst others were given Certificates-to-Occupy which were much lesser in status than the conventional freehold titles (Matikinca, 2012:21). According to Platzky and Walker (1985:23) the white settlers claimed that betterment and rehabilitation policies were introduced to teach black people about good farming methods so as to preserve their farming land for the future. They accused subsistence farmers of practicing bad farming methods like overgrazing, overstocking and soil erosion (Yawitch, 1983:41). This led to a decrease in subsistence food production and the spread of poverty. Since then black people started to be dependent for survival on the economic system and the colonial government (Yawitch, 1983:43).

Colonial conquest impacted negatively on traditional rural economies, forcing the users to maximize their use of land and skimp on conservation measures (McAllister, 1992:202). The growing population on a declining land resource base placed great pressure on available resources (ibid). The dependency syndrome led to migration from rural areas to cities in search of work with the aim of providing for their families (HRSC,
It can be noted that historically South Africans survived through agriculture and when they did not have the resources and land to continue it led to poverty and food insecurity, which is experienced even today.

Poverty and food insecurity in South Africa are the result of several centuries' worth of colonial and apartheid policies, designed specifically to create general conditions unfavourable to the well-being of black people (NDA, 2002:17). The concept of food insecurity is related to poverty and administrative structures of the apartheid regime where both public and private resources were reserved for whites in the country. The two concepts are interrelated and to some extent have an influence on one another. Food insecurity is hunger, therefore when an individual is experiencing hunger that person is in poverty. South Africa is largely deemed a food secure nation producing enough staple foods or having the capacity to import food, if needed in order to meet the basic nutritional requirements of its population (FAO, 2008). According to Hart et al South Africa seems to be food secure at the national level but the situation is different at households level in rural areas (2009). People in rural areas do not benefit more than those in urban areas which may be due to many factors such as lack of resources, illiteracy levels and unemployment rates in rural areas (Hart, 2009). Demetre et al. (2004) through their study confirm South Africa’s national food secure status but suggests that more than 14 million people, or about 35% of the population in the country are estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity. Vulnerability to food insecurity refers to full range of factors that place people at risk of becoming food insecure. There are three kinds of vulnerability which were identified by Du Toit and Ziervogel (2004:21). The first was economic vulnerability related to stress and livelihoods. Second was health vulnerability related to ill health and disease. Last was the social vulnerability related to stress on social networks.

This deficiency in rural areas goes against the right to food that is enshrined in international and national law (FAO, 2009). This has led to food security receiving much attention after 1994 when South Africa became a democratic country (Demetre et al., 2004). The South African government has aimed at reducing poverty about 50% by 2014. Achieving household food security is a critical component in meeting that
objective. Many strategies and policies have been put forward to fight against food insecurity. The South African government had implemented an Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS). It aims to achieve physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food by all South Africans at all times to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life (DoA 2002a:13). Thus improving household food security. IFSS streamlines, harmonizes and integrates food security programmes, shaped by (1) the urgency of maintaining and increasing the country’s ability to meet its national food requirements, through domestic agricultural resources and importation of food items that cannot be produced efficiently; and (2) the need to eradicate inequalities fuelled by inadequate and unstable food supplies, lack of purchasing power, weak institutional support networks, poor nutrition, inadequate safety nets, weak emergency management systems and unemployment (DoA 2002a:19).

2.3 Agriculture and food security

Agriculture and food security are inextricably linked. According to Lund the agricultural sector in each country is dependent on the available natural resources, as well as on national and international policy and the institutional environment that governs those resources (2008). These factors influence women and men in their choice of crops and levels of potential productivity. Agriculture, whether domestic or international, is the only source of food both for direct consumption and as raw material for refined foods (May, 2004). Therefore, agriculture is the backbone of household food and livelihood security for millions of rural people. People whose agricultural livelihoods are secure are able to engage further in agriculture as well as diversify into other activities (Labadarios, 1999). Agriculture provides food which will be consumed at home and a surplus which can be sold to help fight poverty (ibid). The surplus money which comes from agriculture can be used to send children to school which is crucial to alleviate poverty and to increase the economy of the country as a whole (ibid).

Mutangadura (2005:3) argues that small scale farmers, the majority of whom are women, play a major role in providing food for everyone in the family. Various studies have shown that in some settings men tend to plant crops with high market value, whereas women tend to plant crops that can supplement a family’s diet (ibid). Improving
women’s health and nutrition, and their access to education and training opportunities, enhances their human capital as an input to ensuring individual and household food security (FCND:1999). If women have secure property rights, they have control in household decision-making (FAO, 2008). This means if they have access to land they will cultivate it, thus preventing them from being vulnerable to domestic violence and HIV/AIDS (ibid). Land distribution was designed to provide grants to black people to access land specifically for agricultural production. Equality must be promoted for both women and men for them to be able to make the best decision on how to provide for their families.

A FAO report (2004) emphasised that agriculture is the key to food security in many parts of the world. The report indicates further that agriculture contributes to poverty alleviation by reducing food prices, creating employment, improving farm income and increasing wages (ibid). (Aliber, 2009) argues that implementation of agricultural activities must be a central component of policy approaches to food insecurity reduction and increasing economic growth. Increased investment in agriculture will help redress the current inequalities. Empowering people to grow their own food for subsistence or income generation will provide nourishment and potential income to many people in the country (ibid). The majorities of people living in rural areas have access to land but lack the necessary skills and access to resources to farm sustainably (Jacobs, 2009). Factors such as lack of access to finance, communication infrastructure, education, skills development facilities and agricultural inputs still prevent South Africans from making substantial progress in farming (Jacobs, 2009).

On the other hand, small scale farming may not improve food security (Albert and Hart, 2009). Poor households that engage in their own production are not necessarily more food secure (ibid). The reason for that is lack of access to land as a result of apartheid. Households may engage in their own production as an additional livelihood strategy, or even for recreation (ibid). Alternatively, it may indicate deep poverty and the implementation of a survival strategy (ibid). This further indicates that chronically poor people have limited access to natural resources such as land. For example, Aliber (2009) looks at two equally poor but otherwise contrasting district municipalities, namely
Vhembe in Limpopo and OR Tambo in the Eastern Cape. Both districts have a high concentration of people who engage in agricultural activity. However, Vhembe has a very low incidence of hunger, and OR Tambo a very high one (ibid). A recent study by Hart (2009) shows that 49% of people experienced hunger during a twelve-month period, largely due to their inability to purchase sufficient food at various times. Access to appropriate extension and research support, access to input and output markets and the quality of natural resources available can be important contributors to food production outcomes (Hart et al., 2009).

There was an absolute and relative increase up to around 2004 in the number of households for whom agriculture represented an ‘extra source of food’, and at the same time a decline in the number of those relying on agriculture as a main source of food (Stats SA. 2008c). This shows that there is considerable movement into and out of agriculture, suggesting that many households treat agriculture as a sort of residual activity from which they can seek benefit when it suits them, but abandon when it is inconvenient. We imagine this might especially arise when more remunerative opportunities surface. Un- or under employment and, therefore, the availability of labour in the household seem to be key factors, as do changing household sizes. Therefore, agriculture does help if it can be done properly to fight against food insecurity.

2.4 The gender dimensions of household food security

Gender relates to the socially assigned roles and behaviours of men and women (HRSC, 2011). A study in sub-Saharan Africa showed that men are often responsible for land clearing, burning and ploughing, while women are engaged in more time-consuming weeding, transplanting, post-harvest work and, in some areas, land preparation, and both take part in seeding and harvesting (FAO, 2006c). The link between secure rights to land and household food security and nutrition is more pronounced when women in the household have secure land rights (HRSC, 2011). Furthermore, the cultural and social association of cash crops and large livestock in men’s control while subsistence food crops and small livestock are in the women’s domain illustrates how food security is a gendered concept (Stringer, 2001). All the above suggests the fact that women are major role players in ensuring household food security.
security. Women comprise 20 to 50 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries (FAO, 2011b).

Women make up 61% of all those involved in farming. Insofar as women outnumber men as subsistence producers, this is consistent with the prevalent stereotype of homeland agriculture; what is perhaps surprising is that commercially oriented black farmers are equally likely to be women as men (FAO, 2011b). The high prevalence of women in agriculture and particularly in terms of those engaged in semi-subsistence production (as an extra source of household food) to supplement household food requirements demands an increased focus on this group and the specific and often gender determined constraints they face (ibid).

In addition, working women tend to earn less than their male counterparts, so the depth of their working poverty tends to be greater (May, 2004). Alongside this, about one-third of young women have HIV, which means their nutritional needs must be urgently met if they are to actively participate as mothers and breadwinners. It is therefore surprising that there remains a marked absence of empirical studies addressing women and gender in the food insecurity arena (ibid). As a result there is a mismatch between policy and programmatic work to curb the gendered dimensions of food insecurity. However, preliminary evidence suggests that women and girls are to be considered most-at-risk-populations (and therefore vulnerable to food insecurity) because they have limited access to and control of resources (be it income, land, water, and failing support systems) when compared to men (ibid).

2.5 Conceptual framework

Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway (1992:27) proposed the following composite definition for sustainable rural livelihoods:

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term.
This means that people live in an environment where there are capabilities and stress and shock such as disasters which impact on their lives. Sustainable livelihoods can extent to the next generations depending on the assets and resources people have. This can be applied to this study in the sense that communities are capable of fending for themselves but they need resources that will help to ensure success such as programmes to deal with food security.

According to Sen (1992:8) “‘Capability’ refers to a person or group’s freedom to promote or achieve valuable functionings, i.e. capabilities are the real opportunities and the set of choices that individuals have to increase their well-being, their freedom, their agency aspect and their agency freedom.” People have a choice to join in the agricultural activities promoted by the government to fight against poverty or not. However agriculture is a way out of poverty for those unemployed and living in rural areas (Lund, 2008). Therefore, people can enhance their capabilities for the betterment of their lives.

Another theorist of human sustainability development (HSD) believed that the best development process will be one that enables improvement in people’s quality of life; one that must allow countries and cultures to be able to be self-coherent (Max-Neef, 1998a). So consistent with this universality, ul Haq (1995) defined what he understood as Sustainable Human Development (SHD) describing it as equal access to development opportunities for present and future generations, a type of development where each generation must meet its needs without incurring debts it cannot later repay (Max-Neef, 1998a). These debts referred to those concerning pollution and exploitation of resources, of financial, social and demographic implications, among others (ibid).

Sen has defined a capability-centred approach to sustainability stressing that it stands for the type of “development that promotes the capabilities of the present people without compromising capabilities of future generations” (Sen, 2000a, p. 5) but disagrees and argues about the incompleteness of the Brundtland definition saying that, in his opinion, human beings are not only ‘people with needs’ but also agents of change who can - given the opportunity - think, assess, evaluate, resolve, inspire, agitate, and through these means are able to reshape their environments (Sen, 1992). This study focuses on
Sen’s theory as he emphasized that not only development process are important as cited by Max-Neef, 1988a but also that people are agents of change. People can make a difference in their lives by using the opportunities they get such as the Siyazondla programme. According to Sen (1995):

"Development requires the removal of major sources of un-freedom: poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or over activity of repressive states. People are thus given opportunities to fight against poverty and develop in their communities. People are capable of promoting change in their lives and, given the opportunity, they can work hard to improve their livelihoods. This study reveals that the programme encouraged the people at Nkwalini-Bafazi to partake in agricultural activities as they were given opportunities to make a difference in their lives.

2.5.1 Livelihoods strategies

Rural livelihoods, rural poverty and rural development are concepts frequently used in the development discourse. In the Eastern Cape most of poor people are living in rural areas and agriculture is their means of living. According to ECSECC (2002), rural areas constitute the space where human settlement and infrastructure occupy only small patches of the landscape, most of which is dominated by fields and pastures, woods and forest, water, mountain and desert. From the food security perspective is the need to enhance people’s capacity to generate income and to strengthen the existing livelihood strategies of the poor. Urban and rural households adopt diverse livelihood strategies to maintain food security including food production, local employment, migrant labour, and reliance on social security benefits and local support systems.

2.5.2 Sustainable livelihoods capital assets

In the livelihoods framework, assets are conventionally classified as natural capital, physical capital, human capital, financial capital and social capital (Ellis, 2000). Such assets in conventional economics are usually known as factors of production and are subdivided into land (natural capital) and labour (human capital).
**Natural capital**: This refers to land and natural resource base, including marine resources, woodland and forest products including edible plants and fruit, building and weaving materials, thatch, fuel and wood for carving, wildlife, insects, honey, medicinal herbs and grazing, climate, soils and land capabilities, minerals, quarries, sand deposits, clay, wetlands, water catchments, ground water sources and biodiversity. The economic value of land and natural resources to household livelihoods is often underestimated. The institutions that govern access to natural resources and land rights management affect how much households can use natural resources for their livelihoods (Ellis: 2000).

**Physical capital**: This includes farm equipment, shelter and infrastructure. Infrastructure includes clinics and schools, roads, dams and sanitation services, electricity supply, communication and information sources such as telephones, radio, television and the internet. Physical assets are essential for people to be able to carry out livelihood activities (Krantz: 2001).

**Human capital**: This includes skills, knowledge, the ability to labour, the education and health status of the household members and the community, the ability to find and use information to cope, adapt, organise and innovate (Allison: 2003).

**Financial capital**: This includes assets and entitlements that have a cash value. They include income, remittances from family members working away from home, sources of credit, pensions, savings, cattle, stores of seed, crops and food. There are economic resources like livestock that have many asset values. For example, livestock has essential cultural significance, it can be exchanged or sold for cash and it provides milk and meat. By-products like manure contribute to agriculture and household cultivation and can be used for fuel (Ellis: 2000).

**Social capital**: Ashley & Carney 1999 define social capital as social resources which people draw upon in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. It includes social networks, organisations, the relations of trust and reciprocity within and between families, within social networks and in communities and the support provided by religious, cultural and informal organisations. Social capital is enhanced by a culture of human rights and
democracy and by vibrant local institutions. The local institutions can be defined as functioning social systems. There are many types of institutional systems. For example, the rights and duties of people who use common grazing or forest resources maybe governed by locally agreed and enforceable norms and rules (Ashley & Carney 1999).

Sustainable livelihood framework is a way to improve understanding of the livelihoods of poor people. It draws on the main factors that affect poor people’s livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. It can be used in planning new development activities and in assessing the contribution that existing activities have made to sustaining livelihoods. The two key components of sustainable livelihoods are: a framework that helps in understanding the complexities of poverty; a set of principles to guide action to address and overcome poverty. Advocates of the livelihoods approach believe agriculture will always remain the mainstay of rural areas.

2.6 Government documents

The following official documents were perused to provide the official position regarding the topic:

**The policy speech 2008/2009**

Under service delivery context, the MEC stated that, the six peg policy comprises of millennium development goals which promote gender equality and women empowerment will be intensified. He stated the following challenges of the green revolution strategy:

i) The green revolution strategy demands a multi-sectoral integrated development approach by all government sectors. Community needs such as access to roads, clinics, schools and market are not within the competence of Department of Agriculture.

ii) The unstable Eskom electricity delivery and increasing fuel prices driven by global oil and coal prices (ECDoA: 2008/9).
Assessment of capacity to implement PDGP in the Eastern Cape

The report argues that the uncertainty with regards to funding flows is the main problem although Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme is easier to measure. Furthermore the rationale or imperative of the program is determined more by the expected outputs and outcomes.
CHAPTER THREE

Research methodology for food security in rural communities

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology of the study. Research methodology consists of the research approach and framework, research design, sample and sample procedure, data collection and data analysis which are used in the study and also guides the researcher on methods that are used in the research process. A clear description of the research area is provided.

3.2 Methodological approach and framework

The research methodology is a strategy of inquiry which moves from the underlying assumptions to the research design and data collection (Myers, 2009). In this research study the interpretive paradigm was used. The interpretive paradigm is underpinned by observation and interpretation, thus to observe is to collect information about events, while to interpret is to make meaning of that information by drawing inferences or by judging the match between information and some abstract pattern (Aikenhead, 1997).

By going directly to the social phenomenon under study and observing it as completely as possible, the researcher developed a deeper understanding of it (Babbie, 2007:286). Thus the researcher observed the interpretation of the participants about the food security programme. The interpretive approach aims to explain the subjective reasons and meanings that lie behind social action.

A qualitative research approach was linked with the interpretive paradigm to gain information on the role of agriculture and to gain knowledge on the efficiency of the communal production systems in improving the livelihoods of the people of Nkwalini-Bafazi. This approach was chosen because it allows for a more detailed investigation of improving food security and answering questions of who is affected by the issue and in this study the affected are rural people of Nkwalin-Bafazi. It further gives answers to what the case is and what factors are involved. Qualitative research methodology attempts to tap into the deeper meanings of particular human experiences and intends
to generate theoretically richer observations that are not easily reduced to numbers (Rubin and Barbi, 2001:46). Qualitative research in its broad sense refers to research that elicits participants’ accounts of meaning, experiences and perceptions as it produces data in written or spoken words. This study deals with social science and is an explanatory research. The explanatory research implies that the research in question is intended to explain rather than simply to describe the phenomena studied (Maxwell, 2008).

3.3 Research assumptions and delimitations

The Mbashe municipality is situated in the South Eastern part of the Eastern Cape Province and is bound by the Qhorha River in the south and the Mncwasa River in the north along the Indian Ocean. The observed component of the study was demarcated to include households of Nkwalini–Bafazi in Elliotdale, under the Mbashe Municipality in the Amathole district. This area was identified as severely stricken by poverty and has also benefited from rural development programmes funded by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform.

The main assumption to the study is that the role of agriculture as the key to improving food security is not clear in our communities, which has led to the collapse of many projects. Therefore, designing effective programmes for improving agricultural productivity could have a positive impact on household nutrition status. The fact that the researcher is Xhosa speaking and also understands the culture was an advantage in helping to get first-hand information. Language is important in that it is a manifestation of culture and carries empowering and domesticating words and meanings (Skota-Dayile, undated: 355). The participants in this study were the Siyazondla programme beneficiaries from Nkwalini-Bafazi, the extension officer and the programme coordinator.
3.3.1 Siyazondla homestead food production

The Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture offers a number of food security programmes. These programmes work mainly by providing farmers with grants in the form of tools, training and production inputs like seeds. Siyazondla homestead food production helps poor households to produce their own food. The target groups are beneficiaries of food parcels, unemployed breadwinners, HIV infected and affected families, households earning less than accepted minimum social grant level, child headed households and physically challenged people. It provides infrastructure, training, start-up inputs and follow-up support programmes for backyard gardens that are a maximum of 12x12 m in size. The grant provides support to the maximum value of R2000 in the first year after which an ongoing input supply support occurs in the following years (DoA, FSP, undated). Beneficiaries are mobilized in groups of fifteen to form projects. The Siyazondla is aimed at encouraging rural people with emphasis on women to plough their backyard gardens and it has had positive spinoffs in assisting the poor, vulnerable and food insecure households.

The objectives of Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme are as follows:

- To increase productivity and improve household food security
- To build decision making and management capacity and
- Demonstrate effective training and extension services (Assessment of capacity to implement PDGP, 2004).

3.4 Research design and methods

According to Bless and Smith (1995) research design relates directly to the testing of hypothesis. Research design has two essential components: observation and analysis of the relationship between the variables (Bless, et al., 2006). This section discusses the design and methods used in the study.

3.4.1 Research design

This study used a case study as the research design. Case study research design is an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life
context, when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident, and in which multiple sources of evidence are used (Yin, 1984:23). De Vaus (2001) states that a case study can extend experience or add strength to what is already known through previous research. Data presents a collection of facts assembled for a particular purpose (Denzin, 2000:12). The case study method was chosen for this study because it generally answers how agriculture improves the livelihoods of people living in rural areas. The fact that a case study lacks generalizability also made it suitable for the research. This means that results found from this study cannot be applied to the general population because the people under study were not representative of the whole population.

3.4.2 Research methods and tools

The data collection methods and tools used for this research were semi-structured interviews and document analysis. Official documents were perused to provide the official position regarding the topic. Interviews are dynamic conversations where meanings are ‘co-operatively built up’ by both interviewees and interviewers, conveyed by the interviewees as well as received, interpreted and recorded by the interviewers (Gubrium, & Holstein, 1999:11). The aim of the interview was to obtain data from various households, extension officers and programme coordinators with regard to the benefits and implementation of the Siyazondla Household Food Production Programme. This method was chosen because it enabled the researcher to look at the basic attitudes or opinions of the participants. Semi structured interviews have a combination of set questions and open questions allowing for new ideas to come up during the interview (Best & Kahn, 2003; Argarwal, 2005). This type of interview can provide reliable, comparable qualitative data, and ‘semi structured interviews allow more clarifying, probing and cross-checking questions where the interviewer has the freedom to alter, rephrase and add questions according to the nature of responses from interviewees (Best & Kahn, 2003; Argarwal, 2005). An interview guide was used that was comprised of twenty-six questions. Open-ended questions are the most effective route towards an authentic understanding of the people’s experiences (Neuman, 2000). The reason for this is that they provide opportunity for identifying new ways of seeing
and understanding the topic at hand. To complement the interview data, a camera was used and photographs were taken to capture physical structures of the homestead gardens and also poultry structures. The researcher also used a tape recorder to record the interviews as this assisted in capturing lengthy responses from the respondents. Sometimes it is difficult to record lengthy responses manually; therefore, the use of a tape recorder assisted the researcher to listen attentively to the respondents (Seidman, 1991).

3.5 Research process

The research process is a step-by-step process of developing a research study (library.uaf.edu). All the activities were based on primary and secondary sources from which recommendations are formulated. Bless and Smith (2000) define a sampling frame as a list of all units from which a sample is to be drawn. According to them, there are two types of sampling methods, which are probability and non-probability sampling procedures (ibid). For this research, the most suitable method used was the availability sampling method which is the type of non-probability sampling procedure. The purpose of the availability sampling method is to draw a sample of the members of the project available at the time of data collection. This was chosen because it was unfeasible to access all participants as it was not easy to find all the members as a group during data collection. The population comprised of sixty households from the beneficiaries of the Siyazondla Food Production Programme. This means there are four groups involved in this study. Each Siyazondla group constitutes fifteen members who work individually in their households. A meeting with four Siyazondla groups and two extension officers from the Elliotdale agricultural office was conducted for the selection of the sample. The geographic situation was the reason for the selection as the houses were scattered. The sample was selected in a meeting, and it was suggested that the committee members be the ones who form the sample for the interview. The selection was done without difficulties as there are good group dynamics among the members. There is open communication among the members which is central to good group dynamics and they also tackle their problems quickly.
A meeting was organized with various stakeholders so that the researcher could be granted permission to work in the area of study. Again the researcher worked with the officials from the Department of Agriculture in that area, specifically the coordinator of the Siyazondla Household Food Production Programme and the extension officer responsible for the area, Nkwalini-Bafazi. The researcher managed to meet with the extension officer who is the facilitator of the projects and is the one who is working in the area identified. The extension officer was willing to give information based on the support provided to the community of Nkwalini-Bafazi by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) and also about the historical background of each household before receiving support from the DRDAR.

As the researcher used to work in the Mbashe Municipality, it was not difficult to access the respondents. Nkwalini-Bafazi is about 35 kilometres from Elliotdale town. The extension officer working in the Nkwalini-Bafazi location secured an appointment for the researcher to meet with the beneficiaries. During the first meeting the beneficiaries were waiting along the road for the researcher and their extension officer to arrive. The extension officer introduced the researcher to the project members and they warmly welcomed the researcher. They went to the house of one of the members to conduct the meeting and were so keen to know what the researcher had come to do in their area. One member told the researcher that they thought the researcher had brought them something from government. After the meeting the owner of the house showed the researcher the garden and also gave information about their family background and how Siyazondla has been helping them. The researcher took photographs of the garden, pigs and the children in that household. A pilot interview of four people was done during this visit. The members took the researcher to other gardens to visit and see what they were doing. During the second visit most of the project members attended the meeting and some of selected sample were interviewed. The interviews took about two weeks because the researcher had to set appointments for the interviews and also had to travel a distance of about 435 kilometres to and from the research area. The problems encountered during the interviews were that project members were not all there during the first visit. During the pilot interview the participants were not sure about the study and they thought that the researcher was
bringing something for them. Above all that they were willing to participate as the extension officer was part of the meeting.

3.6 Data analysis

According to Trutty, Rothery and Grinell (1996), data analysis is a summary of completed observations which yields answers to the research question. Data was then transcribed from the recorder to the note pad and that was an added advantage for the researcher to be familiar with the data. Strydom et al. (1998) argue that “repetitive reading through the data enables the researcher’s familiarity with the data”. The researcher used the data gathered from the target group as the primary information and the literature gathered from published and unpublished books, journals and articles as secondary data for the research.

The study used Taylor-Powell and Renner’s (2003) approach of categorizing the responses. There are two steps to use in categorizing the information in this approach. The following steps were used: identifying the themes and patterns and then organizing them into coherent categories (ibid). The former step involves identifying such themes and patterns like ideas, concepts, behaviours, interactions, incidents, terminology and phrases used. The latter step organizes the themes or patterns identified in step 1 in order to summarize and bring meaning to the text (ibid). During the process of categorizing the data, other themes that served as sub-themes were identified and the process was continued until all relevant themes had been identified and labelled. After the identification of themes and having put them into various categories, their meaning and significance to the analysis were explained through what Taylor-Powell and Renner (2003) called “interpreting the data”.

3.7 Verification

Using these two research methods enabled the researcher to have a degree of triangulation which strengthened the research findings. Triangulation refers to the application and combination of several research methodologies in the study of the same phenomenon and is a preferred approach in the social sciences (Thurmond, 2001:254). The benefits of triangulation include “increasing confidence in research data,
creating innovative ways of understanding a phenomenon, revealing unique findings, challenging or integrating theories and providing a clearer understanding of the problem” (ibid). Therefore using interviews as well as document analysis added a depth to the results that would not have been possible using a single-strategy study.

Reliability is an examination of the stability or consistency of responses. To increase the consistency and reliability of a project, document all procedures and if possible set up a detailed protocol (Creswell, 2009:191). This study was measured through checking the transcripts for obvious mistakes and also ensuring that there were no drifts in definitions of codes or application of them during the coding process. Validity means the accuracy and effectiveness of an instrument used to measure what was intended to be measured, “consistently and dependability of a measuring instrument” (Du Plooy, 2001:72). This means an instrument ‘consistently produces the same measurement or answers over a period of time’. Qualitative validity is based on determining if findings are accurate from the standpoint of the researcher, the participant or the reader (Creswell 2009:190). In this study validity was measured by the fact that the researcher ensured that the respondents were clear about the nature of the research. The researcher also built a trust relationship with the respondents by visiting and stay with the respondents for some time during interviews. The importance of validity is that if the results of a study are not deemed to be valid then they are meaningless to the study. If it does not measure what it is meant to measure then the results cannot be used to answer the research question, which is the main aim of the study.

3.8 Ethics

Ethical guidelines serve as standards and as a basis on which the researcher ought to evaluate his/her own conduct (De Vos, 2005:57). The researcher was competent to do the research and acknowledged the assistance received from other researchers in this field and from the findings. Any research that involves people must show awareness of the ethical considerations and an agreement to conduct the research in accordance with ethical procedures (Bak, 2004:28). Ethical issues like confidentiality, informed consent and voluntary participation in this research were observed and adhered to and the purpose for this was to avoid harm to the participants. The researcher asked permission
from the extension officer responsible for Nkwalini-Bafazi to conduct research and she also explained the objectives of the study.
CHAPTER FOUR

Findings: Empirical evidence and discussion from the case study on the household food security.

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the study in the context of the Siyazondla Programme as one of the means of rural agriculture improving household food security in Elliotdale. The demographic characteristics of the project members and other variables based on the objectives of the study are presented in this chapter. Discussions on the results and how they link with the research objectives, questions and the theoretical framework are also presented.

4.2 Empirical findings

This section first deals with the demographic profile, then it is followed by the views of the members in the programme. Finally, the role of the Siyazondla Programme in the Mbashe Municipality in unpacked.

4.2.1 The demographic profile

The respondents were asked to provide their demographic profile by indicating their age group, marital status, gender and race. Understanding demographic variables of the project members was important as they may have an impact on how respondents view agricultural activities for improving household food security.

The fact that there were more females than males is attributed to males being migrant labourers in neighbouring towns and in the mines. Gender is an important determinant of the nature of household decisions on enterprise choice and resource allocation, among others (Besta, Belete & Doni, 1999). Females are regarded as responsible for taking care of domestic work in their homes. Farming is always regarded as the activity that is undertaken by males; however, in this study project members were mainly women. They are responsible for maintaining the subsistence gardens for their
households. They produce different kinds of vegetables for their own consumption and sell the surplus. Table 4.1 below shows the demographic profile of the respondents.

Table 4.1: Demographic profiles of the respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>LEVELS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENDER</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td>30 - 39 YEARS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 - 49 YEARS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 – 59 YEARS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARITAL STATUS</td>
<td>SINGLE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MARRIED</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WIDOWED</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHNICITY</td>
<td>AFRICAN</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the total of 20 respondents, 50% were between 50-59 years. These statistics indicate that interest in this project is mostly shown by the older generation with the younger people showing little interest. Youth may find the physical labour associated with agriculture straining and they have an advantage of migrating to big cities to seek work. According to Randela (2005) the age of the household head is an important aspect in agriculture because it determines the experience one has in a certain type of farming. Older people have better experiences in agricultural activities than younger people in that they know the social and physical environments better than younger people. This is reflected in the study as many older people were involved in the programme and all had experiences from the pre-democracy era where farming was a way of life.
From the 20 respondents interviewed, 85% were married, 10% widowed and 5% divorced. Having more people to assist and contribute to ideas in farming activities are always more important than having fewer (May, 2005). Married couples give the support base to each other and encourage one another to achieve their goals. Zenda (2002) stated that married people are able to share household activities such as agricultural production, herding of livestock and other household chores. On the other hand, 20% of the respondents were single or widowed which implies that they have to find work to support themselves and their families on their own and may lack that support base. Due to the high unemployment rates individuals are looking for any way to support their family especially through agriculture which does not require many skills. This shows that anyone can join the programme whether having agricultural skills or not.

All of the respondents in the study were black Africans who considered themselves Xhosa. The majority of black people in South Africa live in the rural areas (Kiplangat, 2003), thus agricultural productivity and its associated agricultural extension services are important in relation to their livelihood activities.

4.2.2 The Siyazondla Programme

This sub-section discusses the results from the interviews from 20 project beneficiaries, one extension officer and one coordinator on various aspects of the programme such as: the formation of the project, source of information about the project, encouragement to be part of the project, project membership requirements, farming experience, skills obtained from the project, positive changes in life, challenges, solutions to the challenges, training obtained, extension officer and farmer relationship, youth participation, views about Siyazondla and farmer recommendations.

Sixty percent of the beneficiaries joined the programme through word of mouth of community members. The other 40% heard about it through other means such as through the Wool Growers’ Association and councillors at the centre. Their encouragement to be part of the project was due to their love for gardening, getting free seedlings, previous knowledge on planting and farming, no joining fee and working as a
group being cost effective as they buy products in bulk and how the project creates a sense of purpose. Below are some responses demonstrating this:

*The fact that I grew up planting encouraged me a lot and I also hear that the programme is about planting and we were going to get free seedlings* (Respondent 6: 15/08/2014).

*Working as a group encouraged me because money is a problem that makes it difficult to order. As much as I am married I cannot afford to have money because my husband is not working too. Therefore working as a group allows me to contribute a small amount and buy in bulky as a group* (Respondent 4: 15/08/2014).

According to the responses the requirements needed in order to qualify as a member of the Siyazondla Programme included an Identity Document, a garden, fifteen members and a cell phone. This shows that there is no joining fee and everyone is welcome to join the programme to help uplift them from poverty. Fifteen members for a group is encouraged as the group works as a team together to support each other and this the number required by the Department of Agriculture. Everyone strives to perform their best since they are accountable to the group.

This programme changed the respondents’ lives in many ways, which, according to them, included: a change in lifestyle being able to provide for basic needs, having a sense of purpose, increased household income and being able to feed their children and send them to school. It has helped improve their household food security especially for unemployed people who constituted 80% of the sample. Therefore, this programme has helped to provide food which is in line with Mutangadura (2005:3) who argued that small scale farmers, of whom the majority are women, play a major role in providing food for everyone in the family. Below is one of the responses relating to this:

*I am able to feed my children, send them to school and the household income increased from the sales of the surplus* (Respondent 4: 15/08/2014).
About 75% of the respondents had some experience before they joined the project and the remaining 25% had none. Those who had some experience had knowledge on planting, especially in maize production, and experiences from childhood and knowledge passed down from parents and grandparents who taught them about gardening. During the pre-colonial era, black people were responsible for their survival (Platzky & Walker, 2005:15). Women tended the soil successfully and produced crops and men looked after livestock. The climate in these areas was conducive to crop production and the fields were always green, leading to a reduction of poverty (Platzky & Walker, 2005:17). Lessons on farming are passed on from generation to generation as a way of surviving. This is in line with Sen’s capability theory which emphasized that sustainability must be promoted from generation to generation to fight against poverty (Sen, 1992).

When respondents joined the project, they acquired skills such as planting methods, demonstration and application of fertilisers, broiler production, food processing and preservations, vegetation production, poultry, harvesting and other agriculture activities.
Some of the skills they received from the training through their extension officers and the project. Only 30% of the respondents had their training accredited, i.e. they had certificates from different training centres and colleges. This may be due to lack of financial resources to apply at these colleges and the distance from their rural homes to the colleges. The remaining 70% acquired skills through demonstrations by the extension officers. For those who went to colleges to enhance their skills it shows their dedication to make a living through farming. Skills in farming are very important as they affect the production outcomes. Below is one of the responses relating to this:

*I received training on planting of vegetables, jam making, poultry production and sewing at Tsolo Training College* (Respondent 4 and 7: 15/08/2014).

**Figure 4.2: Skills transfer (Source: IFAD 2014)**

The respondents’ responses show that they all had good relationships with their extension officers. Their extension officers provided them with information, technical skills, advice, inputs, seedlings and soil sample tests when needed, and they also visited them to provide encouragement along the way. Therefore a good relation with extension officers is important as individuals can get advice any time they are stuck.
Good relations make working together easy and enhances trust which is important especially where money and products are involved. Below is one of the responses relating to this:

*There is a good relationship between the group and extension officer. The officer is providing inputs, chicks, seedlings and also taking soils samples for soil tests* (Respondent 5: 15/08/2014).

There were also challenges that emerged during the project. Seventy percent of the respondents noted facing similar challenges. The challenges they faced mainly included not having garden fences leading to damage to the crops caused by livestock. Some farmers used shrubs and sticks for fencing, but these are not very effective in fending off livestock. Another challenge noted was the unavailability of water. Mbashe is regarded as the most under-developed municipality in the Eastern Cape with minimal access to water, below average access to health services and limited access to electricity (STATSSA, 2001). The sources of water are far away and in some areas they have to compete with the livestock for the water. Some farmers end up giving up vegetable production due to the lack of water for irrigation. This is the most important limiting factor in agricultural production (ibid). The other problem was that some members are leaving the project showing that they are only interested in getting paid at the end of month. The respondents had responses to these problems and came up with possible solutions. They believe the programme can assist in providing materials for fences and tanks to collect rain-water. The also think the programme should replace those members who left the groups with willing participants. Below is a response relating to this:

*The Department of Agriculture should help us by providing fencing material. We are not working so it’s not easy for us to buy fencing materials as we rely on social grants* (Respondent 1: 15/08/2014).
One extension officer was interviewed to get an understanding of this programme. He has been an extension officer since 2003. Because of the success of the Green Revolution pilot, this led to the introduction of this programme. The extension officer pointed out that various women from different locations initiated it and started collecting money, opening bank accounts and purchasing products through their offices. From the extension officer’s perspective the main aim of the programme is to fight hunger. The government is integrating food security as a strategy to increase household production, and improve nutrition and food security. From the officer’s response it can be noted that there is a working committee which organises everything to do with the project. The extension officer has a good relationship with project members who are also supported by trust as they give her money to purchase inputs on their behalf. Below is one of the responses made by the extension officer:

*Integrated food security is one of the strategies to increase household production and trading to improve nutrition, food security and to provide capacity building* (Extension officer: 15/08/2014).
In addition, the programme coordinator also contributes to the upliftment of the programme as they work hand in hand with the extension officer in various wards to ensure the programme is implemented successfully. The increasing membership rates demonstrate that the programme is improving the livelihood of the community. The programme coordinator emphasised that the programme was good and has a lot of potential to help change the lives of the community. Below is one of the responses made by the project coordinator:

*Many people are becoming interested in the program this means there is a rapid growth membership. The increase of membership shows the improvement in livelihood and change in lifestyle* (Programme coordinator: 15/08/2014).
Table 4.2 Summary of findings for the Siyazondla Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>75% gained sufficiently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25% did not gain experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Skills brought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 70% knowledge gained from family on farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 30%- maize producers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Skills learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 70% through extension officer demonstrations (non-accredited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 30% through colleges (accredited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship to extension officer</td>
<td>Good- providing technical skills, advice, support inputs and frequent farm visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges</td>
<td>• Inadequate fencing which led to damage by livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of water sources: far away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Some members in it for the wrong reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solutions to challenges</td>
<td>Join Programme to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tanks for water and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Replace members who leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons members join the programme</td>
<td>• Love for gardening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Getting free seedlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Previous knowledge on planting and farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No joining fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cost effective working as a group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Having a sense of purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of programme on respondents</td>
<td>• A change in lifestyle being able to provide for basic needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Having a sense of purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased household income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Being able to feed their children and send them to school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.3 The role of Siyazondla Programme in Mbashe Municipality

All the respondents showed that this programme had made improvements in their community through betterment in their lives, getting garden equipment and inputs. Most people in Mbashe have lost jobs from mines; now they have something to do to make a living. This programme is giving them an opportunity to be respected by their families as well as support them. It has really made an impact on poverty alleviation and they recommend the government to keep assisting the community (Respondents 1,2,3,4 and 5: 15/08/2014).

Seventy percent of the respondents had a few youths in their groups who helped them with fetching water and manure, and ploughing. The youths were not available for interview as they only assist when the need arises. The youth are being encouraged to join the programme as some of the members are now old and they do not have much strength to do hard work. This shows there is a need to attract more youth to be part of the programme as they have the manpower. Below is one of the responses relating to this:

Youths do the ploughing and also fetch water. They also attend occasions which are far from home (Respondent 6: 15/08/2014).

There have been no job openings from the project but a few odd jobs come up especially during the planting and harvesting times. All the respondents claimed that the programme has changed their lives for the better. Below is one of the responses relating to this:

There are casual jobs during planting time and harvesting, as some members are old and cannot do everything in their garden by themselves (Respondent 6: 15/08/2014).

The role of the project for the municipality is thus to provide the community with skills, knowledge and inputs to help fight poverty and food insecurity through agriculture.
4.3 Discussion
This section discusses the findings in general and in relation to the objectives and research questions of the study and how they link to the findings and how the findings link to the theoretical framework.

4.3.1 Relating the findings to the questions and objectives of the research

The main research question was the role of rural agriculture in Nkwalini–Bafazi in meeting the set objectives of the project such as improving household food security and equipping farmers with necessary skills in order to promote agricultural productivity. This question was divided into four sub-questions to get an in-depth understanding.

The first important question this study sought to answer was how agriculture contributes to improving the livelihood of rural communities. The data revealed that the programme has been beneficial to the community especially as most people have lost their jobs at the mines. The programme has given them the ability to fend for their families through being able to get vegetables from their garden instead of buying food. This has also led to an improvement of health through eating a balanced and healthy diet. The programme is clearly playing a crucial role in fighting poverty and malnutrition. These findings link with the study objective which investigated the role and prospects of smallholder agriculture as a strategy to promote food security in the Eastern Cape. The Siyazondla Programme has been effective in fighting poverty and food insecurity. Their strategy is to provide support, jobs and inputs to the community. The government is supporting small scale farmers with agricultural inputs, technical advice on the creation of agricultural projects and demonstrations on planting of various crops and vegetables.

Next, the study wanted to learn the extent to which subsistence farmers are equipped with knowledge, skills and other necessary support to implement projects. The findings demonstrated that the majority of the respondents did not have any farming experience except that of passed down knowledge from parents. However, they have acquired a lot of skills and knowledge from joining the programme, which mostly came from the extension officers who have a lot of experience and are trained to assist the members. This knowledge will enable members to use it on their own to sustain the programme.
and to pass it on to the next generation. This research question was also supported by the objective on the role of the government and its agencies in stimulating agricultural development in Nkwalini-Bafazi. Agencies such as the Tsolo Training College and the Mpofu Training Centre have helped in improving the skills of project members. The government should continue to assist communities to fight against poverty. The underlying meaning is that the Department of Agriculture played a crucial role in transferring skills and developing the beneficiaries of the Siyazondla Programme.

Then, the challenges faced in agricultural production to improve livelihoods were investigated. The results showed that members faced a few key challenges. It can be noted that in every project problems arise. The solutions are important to make contributions for future policy directions. In this study, the respondents offered solutions to the challenges they faced. Access to appropriate extension and research support availability, access to input and output markets and the quality of natural resources available can be important contributors to food production outcomes (Hart, 2009). The identification of challenges faced leads to improvement in the programme as shortcomings are met to enhance production. Also, policy recommendations based on the findings are that government plans to integrate food security as a way of increasing household production, improving nutrition and increasing capacity building. The government wants to make agriculture a priority in rural areas and provide the expertise, financial resources and inputs for the programmes to be a success. The issue of land reforms and title deeds is under consideration so that farmers may be able to get financial assistance from banks and be part of decision making. This means that new land policies may be put in place which will assist in bringing back land to the people. The Department developed three programmes which are Land Restitution whose objective was to restore land by means of compensation to the victims of forced removals, the Land Tenure Reform and the Land Redistribution Programme.

In addition the fourth action goes with the above challenges as it investigated the potential opportunities and challenges to agricultural development in the communal areas of the Mbashe Local Municipality. The programme was initiated by women from various locations giving others opportunity to make a living. A lot of youths have not
joined the programmes where they are needed for manpower. However, a few youths are found in some groups who help with ploughing, carrying manure and fetching water. Casual jobs are also available during harvesting and planting season and when older people need assistance. The opportunities are the jobs and the availability of the programme to everyone. The challenge that may arise is failing to understand the deeper ability of agriculture to make a difference in people’s lives. Job creation is one of the five priorities of the South African government so by giving odd jobs to the youths of the community, the programme is contributing towards achieving this priority.

Lastly, the fourth research question was on how the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and other similar organisations can assist rural communities. This research question was in line with the study objective which investigated the role of agriculture in improving livelihoods and the role of government and its agencies in stimulating agricultural development in Nkwalini–Bafazi Location. The community can be assisted by joining the programme and being encouraged to work as a group. The programme coordinator and extension officers work hand in hand in various wards to ensure that the programme is implemented effectively. The programme needs to be known by the whole community and be expanded to encompass everyone who needs it. Support from the top is always vital for effectiveness and efficiency. In addition, from the results it can be noted that this programme has improved the lives of the rural communities that are facing food insecurity. The results also show that agriculture has helped change their lifestyles; it has given them a sense of purpose, increased household income and enabled parents to feed their children and send them to school. It shows that it has contributed a great deal in making their lives easy and enabling them to make a living even if they were unemployed. This means agriculture is a strategy to fight poverty.
4.3.2 Relating the findings to the conceptual framework

The majority of people living in rural areas have access to land but lack the necessary skills and access to resources to farm sustainably (Sen, 1995). Now people are being given opportunities to improve their lives showing that they are capable (Sen, 1992). The capability approach looks at the set of life options available to a person, and to the things that person may actually do and achieve (Gasper, 2004a). Life options can be finding education or joining other programmes that help them make a living. Some people in rural areas are not educated and skilled; however, farming has been part of their lives; this is what they can actually do and succeed. The study showed that all respondents’ livelihoods have improved and they are dedicated to the programme as they have the knowledge of farming.

The government should continue to assist the community to fight poverty. This is in line with Sen (1995) who noted that development requires the removal of major sources of un-freedom: poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or over activity of a repressive state. The government has enforced agriculture as a way to fight poverty and for the rural people to be able to make a living. By adopting this approach the state embraces the notion that development is not merely about the accumulation of wealth or growth in the gross national product and that economic growth is not an end in itself. The focus is on making all members able to feed themselves no matter how agriculture accumulates wealth.

The empowerment of rural livelihoods is very complex, and according to the sustainable livelihood framework the vulnerability of rural households is caused by lack of access to livelihood which includes, natural capital, physical capital, financial capital, human and social capitals. The improvement of rural livelihoods is viewed by many researchers as being linked to agricultural extension. The view of rural households relying on agricultural activities has created an immense pressure to agricultural extension services to be responsive to ever growing food production challenges. Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme has explored the current state and prospects
of small scale farming as a livelihoods strategy in rural areas, where agriculture effectively remains the backbone of local economies.

4.4 Conclusion

This chapter focused on the presentation, analysis and discussion of findings as they relate to demographic characteristics and the role and effectiveness of the Siyazondla Programme. Discussion on the objectives and research questions were also explored which emphasized that agriculture has a pivotal role to play in improving household food security and the development of the community.
CHAPTER FIVE
Conclusions and recommendations

This study aimed to establish that the agriculture sector plays a fundamental role in household food security, since it provides not only food to different households but it also provides employment as well as the essential resources for local economic development. This chapter summarises the study, makes recommendations based on the findings of the study, draws insights from the study and concludes the study.

5.1. Summary

The study set out to investigate the role of rural agriculture in improving household food security. The study revealed that the Siyazondla Programme ignored the implementation of the gender equity policy which advocates equal distribution of household responsibilities between men and women. Men are responsible for land clearing, burning and ploughing while women are engaged in more time consuming activities which include caring for children and doing household chores. The study discovered that there was lack of people empowerment as the beneficiaries received limited training. This suggests ignorance of the people-centred approach which promotes active participation of beneficiaries and involvement in decision making in determining their destinies. There was not sufficient support from the Department of Agriculture; the study reveals the challenges faced by the project members. They struggle to get water and the only source was the river which is far away from their homes.

This study proposed a general approach to addressing food security through agriculture and rural development whilst opening up avenues to enhance self-sustainability and immediate access to food. The focus of this study was mainly motivated by the fact that for many years agriculture development under the jurisdiction of the Mbashë Local Municipality has failed to flourish due to several challenges. Some of these challenges include lack of adequate finances, unavailability of water as well as limited access to electricity, to mention but a few. Such an existing state of affairs led to the inevitable
escalating rates of poverty in Mbashe, resulting in people depending on government for grants for survival.

In order to curb such an existing predicament, the South African government implemented the Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme in order to increase food production by encouraging sustainability through household food security. Although this programme has been successfully initiated, from the data collected it is evident that some of the beneficiaries are still experiencing several challenges. Most of the beneficiaries’ challenges included lack of garden fences leading to livestock eating their crops, lack of adequate water supplies, as well as the lack of commitment of other group members who are only interested in getting paid at the end of the month and not participating actively in the agricultural programme. The research question and objectives were answered because of the implementation of the Siyazondla programme. This is evident as the members are growing vegetables in their gardens, making it possible for them to feed their families and thus improving household food security and also selling the surplus to increase their income.

5.2. Implications for further study

From the data obtained, it is evident that several recommendations can be deduced that are vital for the South African government to put into consideration. The first is that the government needs to ensure financial and institutional mechanisms that will assist the Mbashe Local Municipality in providing efficient and effective supplies of water in order for the beneficiaries of the programme to carry out their agricultural activities. The suggestion on this is the provision of water tanks to collect rain water during rainy days. There is also a need to ensure financial stability by securing more budget for funding and sustaining the projects, while skills transfer and development ensure institutional mechanisms where more skills training centres need to be established to equip farmers.

It is recommended that the Department of Agriculture ensures the availability of fences that will help prevent animals from eating the farmers’ crops. From the research, it is also advised that the government, through the programme, finds a way of penalising the group members who get involved in the programme with a money making motive and
no interest at all in the agriculture initiative. The extension officers should ensure that the programme is explained clearly to the farmers. This will enable the full participation and co-operation of all group members.

Concerning land, the study recommends that the state should establish an improved land redistribution programme whose implementation will be focused on achieving the objectives of the project. As for the issue of water, rural people should be empowered through workshops on water saving devices for dry seasons.

5.3. Insights from the study

The research question and the objectives of the study focused on the need to explore and investigate the role of agriculture as a strategy to improve the livelihoods of rural communities and also to equip farmers with necessary skills in order to promote agricultural productivity. The literature by scholars on rural livelihoods, and government and non-government agriculture development was reviewed. The programmes introduced by the South African government, including the Siyazondla Programme, were efforts aimed at improving livelihoods. The significance of the study was to identify the underlying causes of the factors affecting the sustainability of the projects and come up with recommendations that will improve such projects.

The implementation of the Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme gave the beneficiaries an opportunity to get involved in farming in order to curb the dependency syndrome and ensure sustainable development whilst at the same time reducing the poverty levels and creating employment. However, although this programme has been successfully initiated, from the data collected it is evident that some of the beneficiaries are still experiencing several challenges which include lack of garden fences, lack of water supplies, lack of water tanks and the lack of participation of other group members.

Due to these challenges being faced by the farmers, it is crucial that the South African government, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, implements mechanisms to ensure that the farmers obtain the various incentives necessary for
them to continue carrying out their farming activities in order to ensure the promotion of food security as well as rural local economic development.

The study also found that beneficiaries had learnt methods of planting vegetables so as to grow them throughout the year. These were found to be minimal when compared to the demands of the programme as the trainings were not accredited. James (1995) warns that undereducated women may become a burden to a family rather than an asset. Whilst the members showed their commitment to the programme, this commitment was not complimented with the necessary support from the Department of Agriculture (lack of tanks for water). The Department of Agriculture lacked the capacity to support the programme to achieve the set goals because of the inconsistent budget cuts allocation.

The study found that members had indigenous knowledge on farming practices. James (1995) states that, the indigenous knowledge of African farmers must be tapped in order to sustain agricultural development. The study discovered that the programme members advocated replacement with new technologies; they were waiting for the Department of Agriculture to issue water tanks, water engines and pipes to draw water from the river. According to Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (1999), the main aim of the new water legislation, the National Water Act (NWA) No.36 of 1998 is to address rural poverty and inequalities inherited from the past apartheid regime. Wenhold et al (2007) states that, ‘water is one of the most important resources and critical factor in food security. Inadequate water supply or the total absence of water is a discouraging factor in the implementation of food security programmes like Siyazondla Homestead Food Production Programme.
REFERENCES


Cohen, D. and Cabtree, B. 2006. *Qualitative Research Guidelines Project: Roxbury*


http://www.fao.org

http://www.foodsecurity.ac.uk

http://www.phuhlisani.com
My name is N.R. Solani and I am currently studying towards a Master’s Degree in Development Studies at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. I am undertaking a research study entitled - *The role of rural agriculture in improving household food security: the case of Nkwalini-Bafazi*, as part of the requirements of this degree. Therefore I kindly request your contribution in answering the questions in this interview guide. Your contribution to this academic endeavour will be highly appreciated as it will assist the researcher in achieving the objectives of this research study. This study will contribute towards exploring the role and prospects of smallholder agriculture as a strategy to promote food security in the Eastern Cape.

Please be fully assured that the information collected through this interview guide will **ONLY** be used for the purposes of this study. Your privacy, anonymity and confidentiality will be strictly observed, protected and guaranteed as you are not expected to reveal your names or any personal information that may identify you as a respondent in this study.

Please answer all the questions as clearly and honestly as possible.
Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences

Managing tomorrow

INTERVIEW GUIDE

THE ROLE OF RURAL AGRICULTURE IN IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY: CASE OF NKWALINI-BAFAZI

This research is conducted by Ms Solani N.R. in partial fulfilment for the requirements of Masters in Development Studies.

SECTION A

1. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Please tick with an X in the appropriate box

1.1 Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1.2 Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20-29</th>
<th>30-39</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>50-59</th>
<th>60+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1.3 To which racial group do you belong?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1.4 Marital status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Divorced</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

SECTION B

i) Project beneficiaries

1. How did you join the project?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

2. Who told you about it?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

3. What encouraged you to be part of the project?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

4. What are the requirements needed in order to qualify as a member of a Siyazondla group?

______________________________________________________________________
5. What farming experience did you have when you joined the project?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

6. What are the skills you acquired from joining the project?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

7. Tell me about the changes in your life because of this programme.

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

8. What challenges do you encounter in the project?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

9. How can the above challenges be minimized?

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______________________________________________________________________
10. What training have you received?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

11. Was the training accredited or not?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

12. Tell me about the relationship between you and the extension officer.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

ii) The role of the Siyazondla Programme in the Mbashe Local Municipality

13. Have you noticed any improvement in your community as a result of the Siyazondla Household Food Production Programme?

If yes, please explain/if no, give the reasons why

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

14. If the youth are part of the programme, what is their contribution?
15. What are job opportunities created by this programme in this community?

16. General comments

16.1 What are your views about the Siyazondla Household Food Production Programme?

16.2 What recommendations can you make concerning the programme?

iii) Extension Officer

17. How much experience do you have as an extension officer?
18. What form of capacitation do you receive from your employer if any?

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______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

19. How often do you visit the project?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

20. Do you have documents like the itinerary, project profile and project reports?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

21. How do you mobilize participation of community members in the programme?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

22. How is your relationship with project members?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

23. What are your views about the Nkwalini-Bafazi Siyazondla Programme?
iv) Siyazondla Household Food Production Programme Coordinator

24. How do you contribute to the upliftment of the programme?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

25. What are the achievements in terms of the set objectives of the programme?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

26. What are your perceptions and conclusions about the programme?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

END OF INTERVIEW

THANK YOU