

Analysis of the constraints faced by small-scale irrigation farmers in achieving household food security: A case study of Masholomoshe and Makwe irrigation schemes in Gwanda District, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe.

A mini-dissertation submitted by

Ndlovu Langelihle (11585391)

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Masters of Science in  
Agricultural Economics (MSCAEC)

To the

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, School of Agriculture,  
University of Venda.



University of Venda

Supervisor:

Dr. P. K. Chauke

Co- Supervisor:

Mr. T. K. Pfumayaramba

November, 2013

UNIVEN LIBRARY

Library Item : 20141413



## Abstract

The study analysed the constraints faced by small-scale irrigation farmers on household food security in drought prone agro-ecological region 5, Gwanda district. The study conducted a case study of Masholomoshe and Makwe irrigation schemes in Gwanda district of Matabeleland south province in Zimbabwe. The main objective was to analyse the impact of the constraints faced by small-scale irrigation farmers on household food security. The study looked at the socio-economic factors, production levels, role of supporting institutions and the constraints faced by farmers. Primary data was collected using interview questionnaires with open and closed ended questions. Questionnaires were designed based on objectives and research questions. Key informant interviews were also carried out with the extension officers. The data was captured and analyzed using statistical package for social scientist (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, gross margin, multiple linear and binary logistic regression models were all used to analyse the data.

The study established the dominance of women and the elderly who are less educated farmers, use of rented land and farming as the main source of income. The study also revealed that farmers were not able to grow crops throughout the year and they obtained very small net farm incomes. The main supporting service that the farmers were getting was the assistance from the extension workers and their main constraints were high water costs, shortage of water, lack of access to credit, lack of inputs and output markets, lack of relevant training and information and damage to irrigation infrastructure. Inferential statistical analyses detected a negative impact of household size, area cultivated, total yield, and quantity sold to household food security while total income, land tenure, access to credit and extension services had a positive impact. Amongst others the study recommended financial assistance to farmers in form of subsidies on input prices, low interest loans, and skills transfers. Farmers could also be assisted to construct water storage facilities such as dams and water tanks.