Impact of Food Security Projects on Poverty Alleviation in Limpopo Province, South Africa

By

Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani

Student number: 11606588

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Institute for Rural Development

School of Agriculture

University of Venda

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Promoter : Dr. MJ Mudau

Co-promoter : Prof. VO Netshandama

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DECLARATION

I, Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani, hereby declare that the **Impact of Food Security Projects on Poverty Alleviation in Limpopo Province, South Africa** is my own work. I further declare that all other sources I have used or quoted have been acknowledged through references. This work has not been submitted for any other degree at any other institution of higher education.

Signature ..... **Date** 28/11/2015

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the following people:

My elder brother who, together with me was excelling in education, but unfortunately he was forced to drop out along the way because of pressure from his children who demanded more educational support from him.

My son, Pfarelo; daughters, Pfano, and twin daughters Rabelani and Thabelo for regarding me as their role model.

My wife Alice and my mother Johanna Morakana Raphadu, this one is for you!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I would like to thank the almighty God for giving me strength and courage to press on despite all discouragements.

I would like to give my special thanks to the following people:

My wife Alice and mother to my children, for supporting me and for having an inquisitive mind

My mother Johanna Morakana Raphadu for always asking me about my progress, this shows that you really care!

My son, Pfarelo; daughters Pfano, Rabelani and Thabelo for being so understanding, more especially when they need financial support but realized that it is being utilized in my education.

My promoters, Dr. M.J Mudau and Prof. V.O Netshandama for guiding, supporting, encouraging and for not giving up on me. To Prof. you always says, "I know you can do it!..."

The Director of the Institute for Rural Development, Prof. J. Francis for his tireless efforts in trying to make us feel wanted and for encouraging us more.

My congregation, Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa for the prayer meetings that are always there to keep our spirits up.

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ABSTRACT

Globally food security projects are initiated to feed the entire world population at a level adequate to ensure that everyone can be free of hunger and fear of starvation. South Africans are engaging themselves in community projects in order to fight against poverty. The aim is to ensure that no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequities. The existence of most food security projects in Limpopo Province was not known and most of them were not properly profiled. Currently, the food security projects are not properly profiled in Limpopo Province and therefore, there is little evidence of their contribution towards poverty alleviation.

Throughout the world, food security projects are introduced in order to combat hunger and fear of starvation. Since 1994, local, provincial and national government Departments, business and non-governmental organizations in South Africa have been introducing various types of food security projects. However, rarely have these projects been adequately evaluated or profiled to build an understanding of their performance. Thus, this study of food security projects in Limpopo Province was carried out to provide answers to these issues. Agro-based food security projects in Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Waterberg Districts were mapped out and profiled. A mixed methods approach was adopted. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 62 respondents. Stratified sampling was used to select the type of project such as vegetable production, livestock production, broiler production, and pig production in all the five districts of Limpopo Province, while purposive sampling was used to select the participants to represent each sampled project. Each project was 'audited', specifically focusing on the following components: economic, political, environmental, social, health and education. In Limpopo Province, seventy percent of the food security projects were government funded and thirty percent were self- financing. Most of the food security projects under this study were found to be nineteen years old. Various statistical tests were conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Out of the 361 projects studied, 345 were found to be functional. The Limpopo Departments of Agriculture, and Health and Social Development funded 138 of the food security projects. ANOVA was used to test if significant difference exists between the effects of functional and dysfunctional food security projects on members.

It was confirmed that the food security projects were alleviating poverty. Most of the projects enhanced access to food in surrounding communities, apart from creating temporary employment and providing space for youth to practice farming.

The findings of this study cannot be generalized as this study was conducted in Limpopo Province of South Africa. The findings may not necessarily produce the same results for other

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provinces in the republic of South Africa, therefore there is a need to conduct similar study in other provinces within the republic of South Africa.

Key words: Evaluation; food security; poverty; poverty alleviation; audit.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPEG	Centre for Poverty, Employment and Growth
DHSD	Department of Health and Social Development
FSP	Food Security Projects
FBSA	Food Bank South Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGP	Gross Geographic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IFSS	Integrated Food Security Strategy
LCS	Living Conditions Survey
LDA	Limpopo Department of Agriculture
MAFISA	Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NDP	National development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership For Africa's Development
NNSDP	National Nutrition and Social Development Program
NDA	National Development Agency

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NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SAFFS	South African Forum for Food Security
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SSA	Sub- Saharan Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Extreme poverty remains widespread in developing world despite the enforcement of the human rights laws, establishment of the developmental programmes and policy frameworks such as the Right to food authorized by United Nations (UN); Millennium Developmental Goals enforced by the (UN); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is a programme of the African Union in the Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and recently Sustainable Developmental Goals adopted by (UN) in 2015. Despite these initiatives, it is reported that still more than 1.9 billion people worldwide live on less than $1.25 per day in 1990 to 836 million in 2015 (MDG Report, 2015). Although, agriculture is predominant in Africa the major problem is that most of the agricultural sectors are underdeveloped, they are characterized by overreliance on primary agriculture while experiencing low soil fertility, minimal use of external farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant food crop loss both pre- and post-harvest; minimal value addition and product differentiation, environmental and climate change, inadequate food storage and preservation that result in significant commodity price fluctuation affect production of food by the producers (Mwaniki, 2009).

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). South Africa seems to be food secure at national level but the same cannot be said about households in rural areas. Food and Agricultural Organisations of the United Nations (FAO, 2011), highlights that food prices are now at their highest since the 2008 crisis. The global average price of food was 25% higher in December 2010 than in December 2009. The negative effect of climate change create water shortages that destroys crops, changing the onset of the seasons making harvesting and planting more difficult and increasing desertification thus reducing the amount of arable land available and further disrupt food supply. South Africa has launched the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) with the purpose of identifying and profiling poverty in the country (Stats SA LCS, 2014). The practice will give policy-makers information on "who is poor, where the poor are located and what it is that drives poverty in the country". This information will also update the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket of goods and services which is used to track inflation. The study on causes of food insecurity in Southern Africa conducted by

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projects especially for provinces such as Limpopo that have been identified as poverty nodes. Most of these projects are agricultural-based, according to the Policy brief (2013), agriculture is the majored source of income for the poor rural households and has a potential to reduce rural poverty. Several studies have been conducted on the establishment of these projects, the challenges that farmers have in farming and accessing the market and or generating profit but there is limited information on what FSPs were there in the communities; whether these programmes are functional or dysfunctional and to determine their effect on poverty reduction. The current study investigates the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation.

Policy Brief (2013) contends that agriculture is the major source of income for poor rural households. The present study sought to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province. The study verified the existence of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province, their contributions to poverty alleviation and policy directives.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Agricultural growth has traditionally been regarded as important for poverty reduction because rural poverty represents the major share of total poverty in most developing countries and agriculture is the major source of income for the poor rural households (Bresciani & Croppenstedt, 2006). Globally food security projects are initiated to feed the entire world population at a level adequate to ensure that everyone can be free of hunger and fear of starvation (DOA, 2002; Lunga, 2011).The study reiterates that food security depends to a large extent on the range of agricultural and non-agricultural activities that together furnish a variety of sources of food and income. The absence of nutritious food can lead to an individual to suffer from malnutrition and emotional scars

Currently, the food security projects are not properly profiled in Limpopo Province and therefore, there is little evidence of their contribution towards poverty alleviation. This study sought to fill the gap through determining the impact that these food security projects have on poverty alleviation in the districts of Limpopo Province and to make sure that they are properly mapped and profiled. It was presumed that the results of this study would lead to informed policy making and also help craft more viable strategies for supporting the food security projects so that they become more sustainable.

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1.3 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

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The South African government has committed itself to halving poverty between 2004 and 2014 which is one of the critical components in meeting the objective in household food security. Agriculture is a key to food security in many parts of the world as it contributes to poverty alleviation by reducing food prices, creating employment, improving farm income and increasing wages (DAFF, 2011). On the other hand (Lunga, 2011), maintains that globally food security projects are initiated to feed the entire population at a level adequate to ensure that everyone can be free of hunger and fear of starvation. South Africans are engaging themselves in community projects in order to fight against poverty. The aim is to ensure that no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequalities. The government has set aside a budget to fund food security projects especially for provinces such as Limpopo that have been identified as poverty nodes. Most of these projects are agricultural-based, according to the Policy brief (2013), agriculture is the majored source of income for the poor rural households and has a potential to reduce rural poverty.

Several studies have been conducted on the establishment of these projects, their impact to the communities and beneficiaries, the challenges that farmers have in farming and accessing the market and or generating profit but there is limited information on what FSPs are there in the communities; whether these programmes are functional or dysfunctional and to determine their effect on poverty reduction.

Because of the effect on food security that this lack of information is having, it seems urgent to remedy the situation by compiling a reliable database. This will enable both government and NGOs to formulate appropriate policies when attempting to remedy the Situation. The results of the present study will be presented to the Limpopo Provincial government with a set of evidence-based policy recommendations derived from the analysis of the results. It is hoped that the study will provide evidence based policy directives on how the impact of the projects can be supported, monitored and evaluated, and universities and governments will also benefit from this study.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of the study was to determine the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. First, all funded food security projects will be mapped and profiled. Secondly, the projects will be evaluated against the set criteria and measurable impact in the communities.

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The specific objectives of the study were:

- to map and profile the food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province
- to determine the contributions of food security projects towards poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province
- to scrutinize the policy directives on influencing positive effect on food security projects in the province.

This study was guided by the following main research questions:

- Which food security projects are registered in Limpopo Province?
- What are the contributions of food security projects towards poverty alleviation to the communities of Limpopo?
- How policy directives could be scrutinized to positively impact on the Food Security Projects in the province?

1.5 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

The present study sought to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province. The study adopted the following objectives: to map and profile the food security projects in the Limpopo district municipalities; to determine the contribution of food security projects towards poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province and to scrutinize the policy directives towards food security projects in the province. The communities where food security projects are found were analysed using the indicators (Social Audit: A Toolkit, 2005), namely:

a) **Economic components**

The study analysed indicators such as per capita income, wage rates, unemployment rate and percentage of families above poverty line in order to describe the economic and material characteristics of the community.

b) **Political components**

Measures of political setting in the community were analysed in order to provide a better idea in treating problems and finding solutions. Indicators such as informed citizenry, political activity, local government welfare programmes were considered.

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c) **Environmental components**

Aspects such as air quality, noise, visual pollution, water availability and recreational facilities which affect the quality of life was analysed within the communities.

d) **Health and education components**

Availability of health care, educational facilities and educational attainments were analysed because they provide a useful measure in determining the nature of the community.

e) **Social components**

The social relationships were measured and general living conditions of the communities were understood by the researcher. The establishment of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province was as a result of trying to address the mandate as stipulated in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa that says everyone has the right to access to food. Amartya Sen (2000), defined poverty as lack of freedom, inequality, discrimination, lack of economic opportunities, social exclusion and state policies that limit freedom. It was on this basis that the government of South Africa mandated the Limpopo Provincial government departments to assist in the establishment of food security projects.

1.6 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

1.6.1 Impact

Impact is the reportable, quantifiable difference or potential difference that the project or program is making in real people's lives. (Roche, 1999). In this study, impact was understood to mean the potential difference that the project if making in people's lives.

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1.6.2 Evaluation

A systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project, the aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability (UNODC,2015)

1.6.3 Food Security

Food security is defined as "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" (D'Haese et al., 2011: 11).

1.6.4 Poverty

Poverty is defined as "the inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption needs or the income required to satisfy them" (Budlender et al., 1998: 34).

In this study, poverty was understood to mean lack of income and assets to achieve basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and acceptable levels of health and education. It includes also social exclusion, vulnerability to adverse shocks (e.g. drought or flooding), and an inability to cope with them, and finally; lack of the means for purchasing food when it is available in the market.

1.6.5 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation is any process which seeks to reduce the level of poverty in a community or amongst a group of people or countries. Poverty alleviation programs may be aimed at either economic or non-economic poverty.

In this study, poverty alleviation was understood to mean reduction in the level of poverty amongst a group of individuals in a food security project.

1.6.6 Audit

Audit is understood to mean a review and assessment of the food security projects undertaken on specific aspects (Social Audit Toolkit, 2006).

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1.6.7 Project

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A project is a non-repetitive enterprise, characterized by a clear and logical sequence of events, with a beginning, middle, and end, focused on the accomplishment of a clear and defined objectives and a deadlines, with costs, resources and quality parameters specified (Lunga, 2011)

1.7 ORGANISATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis is made up of six chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the study, covering the introduction, statement of the problem, justification of the study, objectives and operational definitions of key concepts and terms.

Chapter 2 presents an overview of literature related to the impact of food security projects globally and within South Africa.

Chapter 3 outlines the methodology used in the study: the research design and methods employed in the study, the methods of data collection, analysis of data and ethical considerations.

Chapter 4 presents the results.

Chapter 5 presents the discussions of the study.

Chapter 6 presents synthesis, conclusions and recommendations arising from the results and discussion.

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2.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents reviewed relevant literature related to the research study. Related areas of research were explored to provide a background and present the array of research that is related to the proposed study. The review begins with an overview of food security in a global perspective, followed by food security in Africa. A review of literature took into consideration the concept of poverty and food security, food security status and food security initiatives in a global perspective, Sub-Saharan Africa food security status, the South African food and nutrition policy, poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and the effect of food security projects in rural households.

2.2. UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF POVERTY AND FOOD SECURITY

Poverty and food insecurity are two concepts that overlap to a large, but not complete, extent. Poverty is defined as "the inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption needs or the income required to satisfy them" (Budlender et al., 1998: 34). Poverty is undoubtedly the cause of hunger, but hunger can also be a cause of poverty. Hunger often deprives the poor of their strength and skill to seek employment or to seek more remunerative employment. Extreme poverty remains widespread in developing world despite the enforcement of the human rights laws, establishment of the development programmes and policy frameworks such as the Right to food authorized by the United Nations (UN); Millennium Development Goals and enforced by the (UN); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is a programme of the African Union in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the recently Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the (UN) in 2015. Despite these initiatives, it is reported that still more than 1.9 billion people worldwide live on less than $1.25 a day in 1990 to 836 million in 2015 (MDG Report, 2015).

In Africa, poverty may be attributed to the fact that most of the African states have suffered from severe macroeconomic disequilibria, foreign debts service burdens, over-valued Currencies, lack of trade finances, and a narrow tax base, with custom duties forming a substantial source of government revenue (Lungelo & Mbilinyi, 2009:3). Despite severe macroeconomic disequilibria, conflicts in Africa had become some of the causal effects of poverty.

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According to the MDG Report (2015), conflicts in Africa had forced almost 60 million people to abandon their homes. The Report further highlights that 42 000 people on average were forcibly displaced and compelled to seek protection due to conflicts.

Food security is defined as "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" (D'Haese et al., 2011: 11). Food security is categorized by its availability at national and household level. This distinction is crucial since the approach to assess food security in those levels are not the same. Food security at national level refers to the condition whereby the nation is able to manufacture, import, retain and sustain food needed to support its population with minimum per capita nutritional standards. At community level food security is defined as the condition whereby the residents in a community can obtain safe, culturally accepted, naturally adequate diets through a sustainable system that maximizes community self-reliance. At household level food security refers to the availability of food in one's home which one has access to. In this case, a household is regarded as food secure when the members of the family do not live in hunger or fear of starvation (DAFF, 2011)

Agricultural growth has traditionally been regarded as important for poverty reduction because rural poverty represents the major share of total poverty in most developing countries and agriculture is the major source of income for the poor rural households (Bresciani & Croppenstedt, 2006).

2.3. FOOD SECURITY STATUS AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES, A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) *State of Food Insecurity* for 2010 states that nearly 1 billion people are estimated to be undernourished, representing almost 16 percent of the population of developing countries. Although the strong commitment of international institutions and the efforts conducted to reach the objective to half poverty rate within year 2015, the number of people suffering from hunger, food insecurity still represents one of the biggest challenges for a big part of the world population and must be treated with the utmost urgency. It is generally recognized that food security, and therefore food insecurity, is a multidimensional phenomenon. Several indices measuring hunger and the progress in achieving hunger eradication helped understanding the issue and monitoring the progress in eliminating hunger as well as providing targets for national and international political action (Napoli, 2010).

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During the G20 meeting in September 2009 in Pittsburgh, USA, US$22 billion was pledged in support of food security (UN, 2009). This commitment by the G20 countries was intended to help most of the countries which are severely affected by climate change that affects food production. Despite this commitment, the number of undernourished people in the world remains unacceptably high at close to one billion in 2010, despite an expected decline. This decline is largely attributed to a more favourable economic environment in 2010, particularly in developing countries, and the fall in both international and domestic food prices since 2008 (FAO, 2010).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were initiated after convergence of the world leaders in 2000 who agreed on a bold vision for the future through the Millennium Declaration. The MDGs were a pledge to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity, and free the world from extreme poverty. The MDGs, with eight goals and a set of measurable time-bound targets, established a blueprint for tackling the most pressing development challenges of our time (MDG Report, 2014). The world has reduced the number of people living on less than $1.25 a day from 1.9 billion to 836 million in 2015. The poverty rate in the developing regions has plummeted from 47 percent in 1990 to 14 percent in 2015, a drop of more than two thirds. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been initiated to address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. The SDG build on the MDG's eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieve by 2015, in other words, the SDGs are committed to finish the job of the MDGs and ensure that no one is left behind (MDG Report, 2015).

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) was endorsed by African leaders in Maputo in 2003. The CAADP was meant to address widespread policy and capacity constraints limiting effectiveness of development assistance aimed at increasing agriculture growth rate of 6 percent in the SADC region.

The South African government has committed itself to halving poverty between 2004 and 2014 which is one of the critical components in meeting the objective in household food security. Agriculture is a key to food security in many parts of the world as it contributes to poverty alleviation by reducing food prices, creating employment, improving farm income and increasing wages (DAFF, 2011).

2.4. FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

The major challenge to food security in Africa is its underdeveloped agricultural sector that is characterized by over-reliance on primary agriculture, low fertile soils, minimal use of

external farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant food crop loss both pre-and post-harvest, minimal value addition and product differentiation, environmental and climate change, plus inadequate food storage and preservation. All these result in significant commodity price fluctuation thereby affecting production of food by the producers (Mwaniki, 2009). The prices of agricultural inputs are so high that farmers cannot afford them, which results in poor agricultural production.

Over seventy percent of the food-insecure population in Africa lives in rural areas. Ironically, smallholder farmers, the producers of over ninety percent of the continent's food supply, make up the majority of this population. The rest of the food-insecure population consists of the landless poor in the rural areas and the urban poor. Throughout the developing world, agriculture accounts for around nine percent of the GDP and more than half of total employment (Mwaniki, 2009).

Mozambique is one of the most impoverished countries in the world, having emerged from a long and destructive civil war that lasted 16 years and ended in 1992 (WFP, 2014). Subsequent significant economic growth, however, has not yet translated into the structural changes necessary to sustain the country's capacity to reduce poverty and foster human development.

Mozambique has some 24.5 million inhabitants and an average life expectancy of only 50 years (UNDP, 2014). One third of the population is chronically food-insecure, and half a million children aged 6-23 months are undernourished. One of the underlying causes is inadequate nutritional intake due to poor dietary diversity.

2.4.1. Sub-Saharan Africa Food Security Status

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. Average real per Capita income in 2010 was $688 compared to $1717 in the rest of the developing world. The GDP growth per Capita has averaged 0.16 percent per year. This failure of growth over a long term has resulted in high levels of poverty in the region (Chauvin, Mulangu and Porto, 2012).

In line with the 2015 deadline set for achieving the MDG's targets, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) made some progress towards halving the proportion of its population suffering from hunger. Overall, the prevalence of hunger in the region declined by 31 percent between the period (1990-1992) and 2015 (World Bank, 2015). The Report further highlighted that the number of poor people in SSA, living with less than $1.25 a day has declined by 23 percent between 1992 and 2015. This improvement follows a global poverty reduction trend of 59

percent during the same period. Many countries are on the course to meet the goal of halving the proportion of people living with less than $1.25 a day between 1990 and 2015. Specifically, poverty rates have decreased in most countries in the region, for example, South Africa has drastically reduced poverty rates from 26 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2011, exhibiting a 64 percent decline.

South Africa is presently able to boost a National food sufficiency through a combination of own production and food imports (FAO, 2015). The Report indicates that the government has placed high priority on several National policies and programmes, which contribute to the common goal of raising nutritional levels, especially for the more vulnerable sections of the population.

2.4.2. Food security in Namibia

The mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) in Namibia is to promote, develop, manage and utilize agricultural, water and forestry resources. According to Iita (2012), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in Namibia is guided by Vision 2030 a programme which commits the government of the Republic of Namibia to devise projects to ensure food security at national and household levels. The Ministry has been implementing development and other programmes and projects that are aimed at increasing food production in Namibia, and this one is aimed at encouraging the development of irrigation-based agronomic production. It constitutes a 'Green Scheme' established by the ministry and has a total land allocation of 9 429 hectares, of which 3 435 hectares are under production in the Karas, Kavango, Caprivi and Omusati regions. The programme makes provision for small-scale farmers, occupying a total of 825 hectares. Lita (2012), contends that small-scale farmers produce maize, wheat, rice, vegetables, bananas, dates and grapes for making sure that there is food security.

2.4.2.1. The Impact of the Food Security Programme in Namibia

The Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has developed 'National Strategic Reserves' that support the Green Scheme and dryland crop production programmes. The facilities are constructed to guarantee national food security during natural crises such as floods and drought as well as to stabilize food prices due to inflation, among other contributing factors. Silos with a total storage capacity of 14 000 metric tons have been constructed in five regions (Iita, 2012).

The crop assessment mission that was conducted in the crop growing regions revealed that:

- Current harvests may be sufficient for 50 percent of households in two regions.
- There were good harvests in two other regions; and
- Food relief was going to the remaining regions, targeting households that were affected by floods and excessive rains.

2.4.2.2. Causes of Food Insecurity in Namibia

Drought has been severe in Namibia, deeply affecting human food security. A National Emergency was declared by the state president in order to help the food insecure to access food via donor organizations and government-initiated organizations (AFSUN, 2012). The state president also stated that about 30 percent of the households have reduced the number of meals they consumed from two or three per day to one meal per day.

The report further noted that 46 percent of households have moderate to poor dietary diversity. In response to this situation, the government of Namibia decided to release N$207 million to address the problem by buying food commodities. Another cause of food insecurity is the high number of teenage pregnancies which has aggravated food insecurity in Namibia. Teenage mothers who have not reached physical maturity will be competing for nutrients with their babies, both having high nutrition needs.

2.4.3. Food security in Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, with a population of 12 million and with one of the highest population densities in Africa. The majority of the population lives in rural areas and the economy is predominantly agricultural. Agriculture accounts for about two-fifths of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and four-fifths of export revenues (Tafirenyika, 2013).

Malawi suffered a particularly severe food insecurity crisis during 2003/04. The main causes of which were both natural and man-made. Although poor rainfall resulted in low agricultural productivity, inefficient government policies exacerbated the crisis. The reduction in per capita food availability due to low production led to a dramatic increase in food prices. This rapid increase in prices, combined with the low purchasing power of a large section of the

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Malawian population, adversely affected household food access. The government's erroneous food price policies added to the crisis, thwarting the efficient functioning of food markets and resulting in starvation-related deaths in some districts (Tafirenyika, 2013).

Malawi was largely driven by external energy before president Bingu Wa Mutharika's intervention. Back in 2004, president Bingu Wa Mutharika, who died in office in early 2012, rode into power on a promise to increase farm subsidies as part of his 'Farm Input Subsidy Programme'. Under that plan, the government gave subsidies and vouchers to smallholders to buy small amounts of fertilizer and seed so that they could replenish the soil nutrients, take advantage of improved seed varieties and at least achieve a livable crop from their tiny farms.

2.4.3.1. Causes of Food Insecurity in Malawi

Tafirenyika (2013), maintain that about fifty per cent of smallholder farmers in Malawi cultivate less than one hectare of land. In a normal season, a farmer cultivating one hectare of maize will plant in October/November immediately after the first major rainfall. Maize is grown for the next five to six months and harvested in April/May.

In normal years maize yields depend on the technology used by farmers. A farmer growing local maize varieties without using chemical fertilizers will on average harvest 800-900 kilograms of grain per hectare. This harvest can rise to 1200 kilograms per hectare if adequate chemical fertilizers are applied on time.

Tafirenyika further maintained that because of population density, land availability for individual households has been shrinking over the years, and weather shocks during the cropping season make the ideal production scenario less likely. Late planting and inadequate use of chemical fertilizers, plus lack of improved varieties of seeds can result in low yields even in years of normal rainfall. As a result of the above food crisis, the Malawi government declared a 'National Food Crisis' and sought donor assistance.

2.4.4. Food security in Zimbabwe

The agricultural sector is the backbone of the Zimbabwean economy, contributing 15-20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Over the past decade there has been increased food and nutrition insecurity at the household and national levels, emanating from reduced productivity and production of the main crops. Moreover, the country still lacks a

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comprehensive agricultural policy framework. In order to promote food security at the household and national levels and assist Zimbabwe to achieve its development goals, the United Nations in Zimbabwe has articulated its support around one main outcome: the establishment of policy and action frameworks for enabling agricultural productivity and production

This outcome is intended to contribute to progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal, MDG 1: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. To address this challenge, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Zimbabwe will provide technical assistance to leading policy and research institutions for the provision of an enabling policy environment for increased crop and livestock productivity and production in support of the '2011-2015 Medium Term Plan'.

Support will also be provided by the UNCT to deal with poverty in rural areas, taking into consideration the four main components of food security: availability, accessibility, utilization and asset creation. All interventions will give special consideration to the needs of women (who represent sixty five percent of agricultural labour in the rural areas) and other vulnerable groups, with attention paid to environmental sustainability, sound use of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.

The United Nations will promote knowledge exchange and the sharing of experiences in agricultural productivity and production with other countries, especially those in SADC and COMESA, as they share similar climatic conditions. Resources estimated at US$ 300 million are required for the achievement of this outcome (United Nations Zimbabwe, 2014).

2.4.4.1. Causes of Food Insecurity in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a net importer of food, and with unemployment hovering at around 80 percent, many people cannot afford to buy food. They depend on hand-outs from donors and Zimbabwe's cash-strapped government. Before the turn of the century, Zimbabwe with its fertile farmlands was the bread-basket of Southern Africa, exporting wheat and maize to the rest of the continent and beyond. But the agriculture sector nose-dived in the early 2000s, a development which critics attribute to President Robert Mugabe's land reform program which targeted white farmers "as described by Mavhunga, (2013, p12)".

Food insecurity in Zimbabwe affects mostly women, because they are the ones that must resort to subsistence farming. The politicization of land ownership and food aid by the

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government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) alike have been major causes of women's struggle to produce enough food for their households. Another symptom of food insecurity is the number of women resorting to prostitution in order to raise money to buy food for their children.

2.4.5. Food security and the Nutritional Framework in Mozambique

The approach to food security issues in Mozambique is a product of the historical past of the country. In the early 1980s the Mozambican government recognized that food security issues needed an inter-sectoral approach if inroads were to be made into the difficult situation caused, in large part, by the war. This was neatly illustrated in 1988 when the World Bank required the government to carry out an analysis of the food security situation, and the government put together a multi-ministerial working group led by the Ministry of Commerce. The strongest elements in the group were the Ministry of Health (including Social Welfare) and the Ministry of Commerce, both of which had departments specifically designated to look at the food security situation. The role of the Ministry of Agriculture was much less evident. This bias was due to the war, which in practice minimized the part that agriculture could play in achieving food security for the population and gave much more power to the Ministry of Commerce as it was responsible for food aid management. Food security was therefore considered in terms of access to food and not only food production. The discourse was led by economists, nutritionists and social scientists and not agronomists. Debates centered on safety nets, basic social service provision and emergency planning. From this multi-disciplinary background joint information-gathering exercises were organized, a department was established in the Ministry of Planning and Finance, designated the Poverty Alleviation Unit, which had at its heart a food security bias – and a number of initiatives were launched that helped to cement these relationships.

At the end of the war, the pendulum swung in the direction of the agriculture sector and the food security impetus reached the agricultural sector. Post-war agricultural policy has had food security as its central tenet, with the emphasis on improving food production and the role of the small farm sector. Although the majority of the resources directed at improving food security now rest with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the bedrock of multi-sectoralism has resisted and is reflected in policy documents and the inter-sectoral bodies now in place in the formation of food security policy (Castro & Selvester, 2002).

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2.4.5.1. Sustainable Fishing Practices Improve Food Security

Agriculture continues to be the mainstay of Mozambique's economy, contributing more than a quarter of its GDP and employing 80 percent of its labour force. The overwhelming majority of producers are subsistence farmers. Chronic food insecurity in Mozambique is exacerbated by climate change and natural disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones (Suzanne, 2014).

The Report by Suzanne (2014), further confirms that Mozambique has vast potential to eventually become a major food producer in Southern Africa. Only 16 percent of land suitable for farming is currently cultivated, and its geographic location between landlocked countries to ocean ports raises Mozambique's potential to play a role in regional food security and international markets. Improving agricultural productivity and ensuring access to food are now top priorities for Mozambique's leaders.

Through **Feed the Future**, USAID is helping thousands of vulnerable households improve their food security by adopting more productive agriculture technologies, improving nutrition and health, and connecting farmers to markets. USAID is also developing and strengthening farmer associations and agribusinesses to improve business practices and increase sales.
To achieve the most impact, Feed the Future in Mozambique focuses agriculture and nutrition efforts in Zambezia and Nampula provinces based on need, potential for impact, and opportunities to leverage other public and private investments. These provinces also contain or are adjacent to the country's three main trade corridors. Together, the provinces are home to 44 percent of the country's poor, 43 percent of stunted children under 5 years of age, and 51 percent of underweight children under 5 years of age (370,000). Investments will focus on oilseed, cashew and fruit value chains, due to the income and nutritional benefits they offer.

In 2010, USAID worked closely with the Government of Mozambique to finalize a 10-year strategic development plan for the agriculture sector. USAID also reached over 20,000 small-scale farmers through a seed and fertilizer "smart subsidy" program, resulting in greater yields for rice and maize. USAID investments in research and technology have also resulted in several improved seed varieties for maize, sweet potatoes and soybeans.

2.5. CHALLENGES TO FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

Challenges to food security in Africa, as outlined by Mwaniki (2009), are as follows:

2.5.1. An Underdeveloped Agricultural Sector

The major challenge to food security in Africa is its underdeveloped agricultural sector characterized by an over-reliance on primary agriculture, low fertility soils, minimal use of

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farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant pre- and post-harvest food crop losses, minimal value addition and product differentiation, and inadequate food storage and preservation that result in significant commodity price fluctuations. Ninety percent of the food in sub-Saharan Africa is grown under rain-fed agriculture and food production is thus vulnerable to adverse weather conditions. There has been an overall decline in farm input investment which includes fertilizers, seeds, and the adoption of new and appropriate technologies.

Access to chemical fertilizers is constrained by market liberalization and trade policies that increase fertilizer price relative to commodity prices. Limited access to markets, poverty and cash constraints limit a farmer's ability to purchase fertilizer and other inputs. The soils continue to degrade, leading to a reduction in the productivity of farming. Some of the causes of soil fertility depletion in Africa include the limited adoption of nutrient replenishment strategies and soil and water conservation measures; the decline in the use and length of fallow periods; expansion of agricultural production into marginal and fragile areas; and the removal of vegetation through overgrazing, logging development and domestic use. Other causes include rapid population growth, limited access to agriculture-related technical assistance, and lack of knowledge about profitable soil fertility management practices which could facilitate expansion into less favorable areas.

2.5.2. Barriers to Market Access

Mwaniki (2009), further states that access to markets is the second hurdle that smallholders have to overcome. The problem is manifold: poor infrastructure and barriers to penetrating the market caused by a limited resource base, lack of information, lack of or inadequate support institutions, and poor policies in place. Mwaniki (2009) pointed out that poor infrastructure literally limits the markets to which farmers can profitably take their produce by increasing the cost of transportation, thus acting as a major barrier to market penetration. Other barriers include market standards, limited information, requirements for large initial capital investments, limited product differentiation, and handicapping policies. Handicapping policies are described in section 2.6.5 below. While almost any farms produce sells at the village level, consumers are quick to discriminate against produce that is comparatively inferior, so that farmers have, over time, adapted to producing only that which will sell.

2.5.3. The Effects of Globalization

Globalization is a concept that allows countries to benefit from capital flows, technology transfer, cheaper imports and larger export markets in the long term. However, the effect of

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globalization in any country depends on that country's level of economic development, the structures in place during the implementation stage, and the flexibility of its economy. Globalization has three dimensions:

- The first dimension refers to the multiplication and intensification of economic, political, social and cultural linkages among people, organizations and countries at the world level.
- The second dimension is the tendency towards the universal application of economic, institutional, legal, political and cultural practices.
- The third dimension is the emergence of significant spill-overs from the behavior of individual and societies to the rest of the world.

Due to the interrelation of the various dimensions, policies made in one country are bound to have effects on another. With globalization also should come the liberalization of markets.

The food security threat caused by liberalization is due to the dumping of heavily-subsidized produce in developing countries and the premature exposure of upcoming industries to genuine competition from producers in developing as well as developed countries.

2.5.4. Diseases and Infections

Diseases and infections continue to plague the African continent. Diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS reduce the man-hours available to agriculture and household food acquisition in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS is the leading cause of adult mortality and morbidity. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2010), estimated that by 2020 the epidemic will claim the lives of 20 percent or more of the population working in agriculture in many African countries. More than two-thirds of the total population of the 25 most affected countries resides in rural areas, affecting agricultural production through farm and domestic labour availability. The effect of malnutrition on food security is further exacerbated by the fact that individuals affected by diseases and infections, have greater nutritional requirements.

2.5.5. Handicapping Policies

Poor policies have greatly affected food security in Africa. The problem arises when the focus on policies, structures and institutions ignores the needs of the people themselves. When policies are not inclusive in their design, they tend to handicap the excluded by providing barriers, and one way in which this may happen is by means of uneven

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development within countries where certain regions are preferentially developed at the expense of others for political reasons. It can also happen, for instance, when policies which promote monopolistic competition for the large-scale industries hurt the cottage and small industries (Mwaniki, 2009).

2.6. FOOD INSECURITY IN AFRICA CURRENT TRENDS

Despite the general worldwide reduction in food insecurity, Africa food security and nutrition situation is growing worse. Africa has been experiencing several episodes of acute food insecurity causing an immense loss of life and livelihoods over the past decade (Folaranmi, 2012). The food security outlook in Africa is worrisome, as Africa's population is expected to increase from 1.01 billion in 2009 to 2 billion in 2015 if current demographic conditions remain constant. How will Africa be able to cope with its food security challenge?

The causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa are diverse, multi-factorial and interlinked. Poverty and food shortage are the main catalysts of food insecurity in the world, unfortunately, they occur in a vicious cycle. Over the past 30 years, Africa has become subject to erratic weather patterns and is often plagued by prolonged droughts followed by floods. These natural shocks trigger adverse consequences, including widespread food insecurity. Food security trends in Africa in terms of High, Medium and Low is shown in table 2.6.1 below.

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Table 2.6.1 Food security trends in Africa (Mwaniki, 2006)

Country	Status	Causes
Namibia		- Drought - High number of teenage pregnancies which results in competition for nutrients with babies - poor rainfall patterns
Malawi		- poor rainfall patterns - rapid price increases in food prices - shortage of land for cultivation purposes due to population density - shortage of agricultural inputs
Zimbabwe		- high unemployment rate contributing to lack of purchasing power by people - politicization of land ownership and food aid by government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
Mozambique		- inadequate nutritional intake due to poor dietary diversity - high poverty rate which results in lack of purchasing power.
South Africa		- high poverty rate - inadequate safety nets

High food insecure Medium food insecure

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2.7. FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The major challenge to food security in most of Africa is its underdeveloped agricultural sector characterized by over-reliance on primary agriculture, low fertile soils, minimal use of farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant pre-and post-harvest food crop losses, minimal value addition and product differentiation, environmental and climate change, inadequate food storage and preservation that result in significant commodity price fluctuation affect the production of food (Mwaniki, 2009).

Despite South Africa's comparatively unfavorable natural resource base, in most years it is a net exporter of agricultural commodities. Its per capita income is high for a developing country. South Africa has devised a National Integrated Food Security Strategy (IFSS) (Human Sciences Research Council, 2004) which declared its primary objective to be the overcoming of rural food insecurity by increasing the participation of food-insecure households in productive agriculture. This was to be done through sector activities, such as food security projects which were established after 1994 when the present government realized that there was a tremendous shortage of jobs in the country.

In trying to address food insecurity, food banks are being set up under Food Bank South Africa (FBSA), a non-profit organization formed by the South African Forum for Food Security (SAFFS), a partnership between government, civil society and the corporate sector. Each food bank acts on behalf of social services agencies by procuring food, which is mainly donated by the food and grocery industries, government agencies, individuals and other agencies.

In her speech during the launch of the Food Bank Partnership, the KZN MEC for Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Lydia Johnson (2011), said that the Agri-Food Bank partnership was a unique one aimed at securing quality food and redistributing it to the needy as well as securing sustainable funding for guaranteed off-take agreements for distributing food to the needy.

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2.7.1. Food Security Challenges in South Africa

South Africa still faces serious food security challenges (DAFF,2014), which are summarized as follows:

- there are inadequate safety nets and food emergency management systems to provide for all those who are unable to meet their immediate food needs or to mitigate the impact of natural and non-natural disasters on food security;

- citizens have inadequate access to knowledge and resources to make optimal choices for nutritious and safe diets;

- in cases where productive land is available, it is not always optimally utilized for food production, often for want of inputs (including finance, equipment and water), or skills; at the same time, there is a need to ensure that over-production does not drive down prices to the point that farming becomes unprofitable;

- There is limited access to processing facilities or markets for small-scale primary producers, including farmers, fishers and foresters;

- Climate change and altered patterns of land use pose a threat to domestic production;

- There is not adequate, timely and relevant information on food security.

- The impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and nutrition security

The impact of HIV/AIDS on food security is a serious problem for South Africa. The situation is even worse for poor rural and urban communities characterized by poverty and high inequalities. Thirty five percent of the population in South Africa is estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity. The prevalence of AIDS undermines food security through its impact on incomes and food-purchasing power, on people's ability to engage in agriculture for both food and cash crop production, and its effects on diverse livelihood strategies, including those that are essentially non-agricultural in nature.

HIV/AIDS also has an impact on household agricultural production. Studies conducted on the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa have focused on the farm-household level, where agricultural production at the subsistence or smallholder level is often embedded within

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multiple-livelihood strategies and systems. It has been revealed (NDA, 2013) that the impact of HIV/AIDS on agricultural production may include the following:

a) a decrease in the area of land under cultivation at the household level, due to lack of labour stemming from illness and death among household members;

b) a decline in crop yields due to delays in carrying out certain agricultural interventions such as weeding and other inter-cultivation practices;

c) declining yields which may also result from lack of sufficient inputs, e.g. fertilizers and seeds;

d) a loss of agricultural knowledge and farm management skills due to the loss of key household members due to AIDS;

e) decline in livestock production for affected households, as the need for cash and the loss of knowledge and skills may force some families to sell their animals.

2.8. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

The establishment of a food security policy is based on the Bill of Rights enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Section 27, 1 (b) of the Bill of Rights, states that every citizen has a right to access sufficient food and water and the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the realization of this right. Section 28,1 (b) further states that every child has a right to basic nutrition, shelter, basic care services and social services. The goal of a food security policy is to improve South Africa's adequacy and stability of access to safe and nutritious food at both national and household levels (DAFF, 2014).

There are three reasons why a food and nutrition security policy is urgently needed in South Africa (DAFF, 2014):

First of these is the need to have a common definition and measures of Food and Nutrition Security. There is a number of conceptual interpretations and definitions of Food Security which are used by key stakeholder, including government, the international community, research institutions and civil society. A Food and Nutrition policy is therefore needed to specify the key elements and scope of the concept and establish a common understanding which can be owned by all, in line with Vision 2030.

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Second, Food and Nutrition Security is a complex issue characterized by inter-disciplinary approaches. This policy seeks to provide an overarching guiding framework to maximize synergy between the different strategies and programmes of government and civil society.

Third, as a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South Africa contributes to Regional Food and Nutrition Security, and needs to play a leadership role in this regard. The Policy thus will create a platform to understand the parameters and boundaries of our international obligations.

The strategic goal of the South African Food and Nutrition Policy is to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels. Therefore the essence of this Policy is to build on existing initiatives and systems, and to put in place mechanisms that ensure stricter alignment, better coordination, and stronger oversight. Moreover, the Policy seeks to ensure that our response to food and nutrition insecurity ambitious, rigorous and dynamic.

2.8.1. Factors affecting food security

The national Policy on food and nutrition security used four measures to assess food and nutrition security (DAFF, 2014):

a) Availability of food

Food availability relies primarily on the overall performance of the agricultural sector, but is also dependent on the country's ability to import, store, process and distribute food domestic production is supplemented by food import options and food consumption patterns prescribe the production and distribution of certain food products. South Africa has always relied on imports to meet its wheat and meat requirements but is currently importing significantly more agricultural products than it did just five years ago.

b) Accessibility of food

The cost of food production has increased during the last decade. South Africa imports many of its production inputs, especially fuels and fertilizers, and the price of these affect the cost of food. In turn, food prices are one of the major contributors to consumer price inflation, particularly for poor households who spend a disproportionate amount of their income on food.

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c) Utilization of Food

The policy confirms that people make the best use of available food resources for their nutritional wellbeing. Food must be prepared and consumed in a proper way to ensure maximum nutrition.

d) Stability of Food Supply

Although the South African food situation is characterized by a state of sufficiency, factors with the potential to compromise the stability of food supply need urgent attention. As part of the global community, South Africa's food supply is affected by natural, market, political and economic forces, and by international agreements.

2.9. POVERTY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The twenty-third ordinary session of the African Union Assembly held in Malabo, Equitorial Guinea recommitted to the CAADP principles and goals and defined a set of targets and goals – referred to as the Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Goals 20125. In their Declaration, the heads of State recalled the progress made and noted the need for translating Africa's agricultural development goals into tangible results, into tools that will be used to track, monitor and report on the progress in meeting the Malabo Commitments (CAADP, 2015). The report further highlighted that the CAADP Results Framework was instituted in order to provide Africa and its partners with a set of goals and results to be pursued in the transformation of the agricultural sector.

In line with the 2015 deadline set for achieving the MDG's targets, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) made some progress towards halving the proportion of its population suffering from hunger (MDG 1.C target). Overall, the prevalence of hunger in the region declined by 31 percent between the period (1990-1992) and 2015 (MDG Report, 2015). The Report further conclude that the number of poor people in SSA, living with less than $1.25 a day, has declined by 23 percent between 1992 and 2015. This improvement follows a global poverty reduction trend of 59 percent during the same period. Specifically, poverty rates have decreased in most countries in the region, for example, South Africa has drastically reduced poverty rates from 26 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2011, exhibiting a 64 percent decline (World Bank, 2015).

Seventy-six million or about 40% of the approximately 244 million inhabitants of SADC live below the international poverty line of one US dollar per day (SADC, 2009). The level of poverty in SADC is thus very high, reflected in the prevalence of low incomes, growing

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unemployment and high levels of human deprivation. In addition, the region is characterized by the feminization of poverty, as women make up the majority of the poor. Female-headed households suffer the most from poverty compared to their male counterparts. Also, child-headed or orphaned households are most prone to poverty. Rural areas have the highest concentrations of the poor compared to urban areas (SADC, 2009).

People in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are vulnerable to several exigencies. Those that concern food insecurity are drought, floods and cyclones. Apart from natural exigencies, poverty also makes people vulnerable to food insecurity. The magnitude of this problem can be gauged from the fact that forty percent of the entire SADC population lives on less than US$1 per day. This implies that many people in the region cannot afford food or agricultural inputs, which they find expensive. Poverty can be defined as a result; not only of lack of income, but that it is a result of a cluster of deprivations, e.g. deprivations in health; employment; and a living environment (housing, sanitation, and electricity). The eradication of poverty and hunger has been the Millennium Development Goals' main priority; its number one target is to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day, and its second target is to reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (SADC, 2009; LP G, 2010; Poverty and Inequality in South Africa, 2010).

Despite the political and economic advances made since 1994, South Africa continues to experience the major challenges of poverty, unemployment and, more recently, steep increases in food and fuel prices, energy tariffs and interest rates. These adverse conditions have placed ordinary South Africans, already struggling to meet their basic household needs, in an ever more vulnerable situation (Labadarios, 2009; Altman, Hart & Jacobs, 2009).

Rising food prices, particularly of maize and wheat which from the staple diet of the poor in South Africa, pose serious problems for the rural and urban poor, as most are net buyers of food. The Centre for Poverty, Employment and Growth (CPEG) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) was established to identify approaches to halving unemployment and poverty between 2004 and 2014 on a sustainable basis. Achieving household and poverty reduction is a critical focus of this contribution (Altman et al., 2009).

2.10. THE EFFECT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS IN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

Globally food security projects are initiated to feed the entire world population at a level adequate to ensure that everyone can be free of hunger and fear of starvation (Lunga,

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2011). South Africans are engaging themselves in community projects in order to fight against poverty. The aim is to ensure that no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequities. As an attempt to counteract the poverty and food insecurity of the country, the South African government, using the mandate stated in the Constitution, Section 27 which states that everyone has the right to access to sufficient food and the state is obliged by the Constitution to provide legislation and other supportive measures to ensure that all citizens are enabled to meet their basic needs.

2.10.1. National Initiatives in Support of Food and Nutrition Security

The governments in the Sub-Saharan Africa are under pressure to improve performance in the fight against food insecurity. The governments have initiated a comprehensive and complementary approach to create an enabling environment (FAO, 2015). South Africa has developed a number of policies in order to contribute to the common goal of raising nutritional levels, especially for the more vulnerable sections of the population. According to FAO (2015), Policies developed are as follows:

a) National Development Plan (NDP)

The NDP has set out various methods and targets to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment, and eliminate inequality by 2030. It identifies food and nutrition security as a key element to reduce both poverty and inequality. The NDP outlines a number of actions to improve food security, including the expanded use of irrigation, security of land tenure, especially for women and the proportion of nutrition education.

b) The Food Security Production Intervention Programme

It was introduced in 2012 to provide smallholder farmers, communities and households the opportunity to increase production of basic food. The programme promotes self-sufficiency and food security by getting communities to plan their own food.

Fetsa Tlala ("Defeat Hunger"), South Africa's Zero Hunger programme, derives its mandate from various policies and documents including Constitution. The IFSS and the NDP, Vision 2030. The Zero Hunger programme seeks to link subsistence producers and smallholder producers to markets and government institutions such as schools, hospitals and prisons. It is a conduit through which food produced by the small holders can be used to meet the nutritional needs of low-income individuals and households.

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The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) aims at providing post-settlement support to the targeted beneficiaries of land reform and to other producers who have acquired land through private means and are engaged in value-adding enterprises for domestic markets or, for export. The programme benefits vulnerable, subsistence and households for food producers.

The Micro-Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (MAFISA) was developed in 2005 as a micro and retail agricultural financial scheme for economically active poor people. Its product and services include loans to target groups, individuals and farmers; and savings and banking facilities and approved financial institutions.

Integrated Food Production Programme aims to produce enough food to meet the population's needs. In 2013 the South African Government made available R2 billion to deal with structured problems of food insecurity. It intends to assist small scale and smallholder producers to put at least one million hectares of arable land under production by 2019.

2.10.2. Food Security in Limpopo Province

Limpopo Province is predominantly rural and is divided into five districts, namely; Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Waterberg. These are divided into twenty-five municipalities in total. Limpopo is the smallest provincial economy in the country after the Northern Cape and the poorest after Eastern Cape.

Despite South Africa's economic growth having been accelerated considerably, poverty levels in the country have not decreased as one would have expected. A total of 138 Food Security Projects were established to address poverty and unemployment amongst the unemployed citizens of South Africa.

The government of South Africa committed itself to halving poverty levels between 2004 and 2014 (D'Haese *et al*, 2013). In order to achieve this objective, it was crucial to achieve household food security. To achieve this, the government adopted the above-mentioned 'Integrated Food Security Strategy' (IFSS) in 2002. The vision was to "attain universal 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" (IFSS, 2002:5).

In her 2010 budget speech presented in Limpopo Legislature, the MEC for Agriculture in Limpopo Province, Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, indicated that the department had developed an infrastructure of 24 micro-enterprise projects by constructing poultry, broiler and piggery houses, plus storerooms, drilling and equipping boreholes, and installing irrigation systems.

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An earlier study was conducted in Vhembe District by Mudau (2001) in order to establish reasons why certain projects were established. And to ascertain whether the people were really involved in the establishment of their projects and to what extent they knew the motivation for them. The study revealed that 60% of the projects had been launched on the initiative of the National Nutrition and Social Development Program (NNSDP) and that very little was required on the part of the community members, except that they were told to get together and form a committee. Only 20% of the respondents believed that the projects had been established to contribute to the creation of employment for the people in the neighborhood, 15% believed the projects were there to alleviate poverty in the neighborhood and 5% believed that the project was merely there to generate income, particularly for those who were unemployed.

2.10.3. Characteristics of functional and dysfunctional food security projects in Limpopo province

Food security projects promote the unique opportunities and play a crucial role in creating a holistic, engaging educational atmosphere for today's youth: one that encourages hands on experiences, healthy eating and curiosity about the natural word. Food security projects brings neighbours together and empowers people to supplement their food supply by growing it themselves, food security projects stimulates social interaction, encourages self-reliance, truly beautifies neighborhood and produces nutritious foods, while reducing family food budgets (Gumede, 2013). Characteristics of a functional and a dysfunctional food security projects are shown in a table 2.10.3 below:

Table 2.10.3 Characteristics of a functional and dysfunctional food security projects

Functional food security projects	Dysfunctional food security projects
- Its structural system is functional - Proper records of sales are kept - Profit is used sparingly - Visibility of members on daily basis - Formal market - Always support local communities	- No record of sale is kept - No sign of farming activities on site - Neglected infrastructure - No access road - No structural system, every member not visible

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2.11. SUMMARY OF THE REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Extreme poverty remains widespread in development programmes and policy frameworks such as the Right to food authorized by the United Nations (UN); Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and enforced by the (UN); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is a programme of the AU in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the recently Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the (UN) in 2015. Despite these initiatives, it is reported that still more than 1.9 billion people worldwide live on less than $1.25 a day in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, therefore; poverty still prevails (MDG Report, 2015).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) state of Food Insecurity for 2010 assesses that nearly 1 billion people are estimated to be undernourished, representing almost 16 percent of the population of developing countries. Although the strong commitment of international institutions and the efforts conducted to reach the objective to half, within year 2015, the number of people suffering from hunger, food insecurity still represents one of the biggest challenges for a big part of the world population and must be treated with the utmost urgency. It is generally recognized that food security, and therefore food insecurity, is a multidimensional phenomenon. Several indices measuring hunger and the progress in achieving hunger eradication helped understanding the issue and monitoring the progress in eliminating hunger as well as providing targets for national and international political action (Napoli, 2010).

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. Average per capita income in 2010 was $688 compared to $1717 in the rest of the developing world. The GDP growth per capita has averaged 0.16 percent per year. This failure of growth over a long term has resulted in high levels of poverty in the region (Chauvin et al., 2012). In line with the 2015 deadline set for achieving MDG's targets, SSA made some progress towards halving the proportion of its people suffering from hunger. Overall, the prevalence of hunger in the region declined by 31 percent between the period (1990 – 1992) and 2015 (World Bank, 2015).the major challenge to food security in Africa is its underdeveloped agricultural sector that is characterised by over-reliance on primary agriculture, low fertile soils, minimal use of external farm inputs, environmental degradation, significant food crop loss both pre- and post- harvest, minimal value addition and product differentiation, environmental and climate change, plus inadequate food storage and preservation (Mwaniki, 2009). In South Africa food security challenges included inadequate safety nets. Food security in Africa is characterised by challenges and food Emergency Management Services, inadequate access to knowledge and resources to make optimal choices for nutrition and fat diets; limited

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access to processing facilities or markets for small-scale primary producers, including farmers, fishers and foresters, climate change and altered patterns of land use that poses a threat to domestic production, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and nutrition security.

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CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the setting in which the study was conducted; the research design, sampling method employed in the study, population selected, data collection methods, research instruments used for data collection and data analysis.

3.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in all five districts of Limpopo Province, i.e. Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Waterberg and Sekhukhune as presented in the Figure 3.2.1. Limpopo Province covers an area of 125 755 square kilometers, representing 10.2% of the total area of the Republic of South Africa. (Statistics South Africa. GHS, 2009). Agriculture contributed 15.7 percent of the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) in Limpopo Province. In Limpopo Province, 89 percent of the population is classified as rural and agriculture plays a major role in the economic development (Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural development, 2015). Limpopo province shares its borders with Mozambique in the east, Zimbabwe in the north and Botswana in the north-west. The poor households in the Province are characterized by low levels of education. Many households in the province are headed by women and the elderly and there are high dependency ratios (number of people relying on those who are working). Approximately, 47.6 percent of households in the province have access to social grants, which is the highest when compared to other provinces in the country (Wanka, 2014).

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Fig. 3.2.1. Limpopo Provincial map indicating the five districts and their municipalities

The statistics based on the 2014 estimates provided by Statistics South Africa revealed that Limpopo Province had a population of 5 726 800. This also makes Limpopo the fourth largest province in South Africa in terms of population (Statistics South Africa, 2015).

The percentage of the population of Limpopo Province is characterized by the following group of people: Black African = 96.7 percent, White = 2.6 percent, Indian or Asian = 0.3 percent and Coloured = 0.3 percent. The unemployment rate in Limpopo province is currently at 37.2 percent (StatsSA, 2015) and it has severely affected the black Africans because they are in majority in the province.

3.3. RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design is a plan or blueprint of how one intend conducting the research. It is also a plan according to which relevant data is collected. (Creswell, 1994; Babbie & Mouton, 2002; Polit & Beck, 2010:259). Mouton (1996:107), describes it as a set of guidelines and instructions followed in addressing the problem.

This study employed what De Vos et al., (2011:442) refer to as a triangulation mixed methods design, meaning a "one-phase" design that uses both quantitative and qualitative methods (or procedures and techniques) during the same time frame with equal weight to understand the phenomenon of interest. Semi-structured interviews with 62 participants were conducted which interview guides were used to collect data from different categories of participants who were broadly beneficiaries of food security projects, government officials

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and community representatives, documents and policies were reviewed and the obtained data being subjected to quantitative and qualitative analysis. Through the use of these semi-structured interviews, the researcher was able to get closer to the study participants and interact with them on a one-to-one basis. The advantage of this is that voices and interpretations as well as gestures and emotions could be captured, and this could provide valuable information in interpreting the data (Mouton, 2002).

This is a desktop study where food security projects reports were reviewed and audited using the Social Audit Toolkit. A field study was then conducted where dysfunctional and functional food security projects were selected. A case study of dysfunctional and functional food security projects was done through the use of semi-structured interviews, because case study approach according to Baxter and Jack (2008), can be considered when; (a) focus of the study is to answer "how" and "why" questions; (b) you cannot manipulate the behavior of those involved in the study; (c) you want to cover contextual conditions because you believe they are relevant to the phenomenon under study; or (d) the boundaries are not clear between the phenomenon and context. Zainal (2007) contends that case study in their true essence, explore and investigate contemporary real life phenomenon through detailed analysis of a limited number of events or conditions, and their relationships, whereas Baxter et al., (2008), hinted that the exploratory case study is used to explore those situations in which the intervention being evaluated has no clear, single set of outcomes. This field study was complemented by the key informants who were mainly extension officers, and the tribal council representatives within the districts, and officials from the department of Health and Social development and department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Provincial level.

3.3.1. Methodologies used when conducting the audit of projects

The study adopted the following audit components: economic, political, environmental, health and education, and social components. These components were analysed in order to describe the economic and material characteristics of the communities where food security projects are found. Boyd et al., (1998) contends that a social audit refers to a process for measuring, understanding and improving the social performance of an activity of an organization. He further hinted that social audit is a way of measuring the extent to which an organization lives up to the shared values and objectives it has committed itself to. It requires the involvement of stakeholders, defined as those persons or organizations which have an interest in, or which have invested resources in, in this case communities and local governments within the area where food security projects are found.

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According to Social Audit Toolkit (2005), the audit of projects should include the indicators as presented in table 3.3.1 as follows:

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Table 3.2 Indicators used to audit communities and projects

Audit Components	Description
Economic	Indicators measured the income generated by food security projects to its members, income status of the community (Remittances, social grants and hawking) and unemployment rate in the communities in the districts of Limpopo Province.
Political	Measured structural/organizational and local government and tribal council support in all the FSPs and communities in the districts of Limpopo province
Environmental	Measured the environmental factors of the FSPs and how waste products were managed in the districts of Limpopo Province
Health & Educational	Health and education indicators measured the availability of health care support to the communities within which the FSPs are operating from in the districts of Limpopo Province.
Social	This will measure the social relationships within the communities, temporal employment created by the FSPs and practical facilities offered to students doing agriculture in the districts of Limpopo Province.

Social Audit: A Tool Kit, 2006

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3.4.1. Population

Smith (1999), asserts that population is the entire set of data from which a sample is selected and about which the auditor wishes to draw conclusions on, whereas De Vos *et al.*, (2011), in supporting the same view, explained that 'population' refers to the totality of persons, events, organizations units, case records, or other sampling units with which a research problem is concerned.

The population in this study consisted of the total of 138 food security projects in Limpopo Province that received funding from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Limpopo Department of Health and Social Development with the aim of alleviating poverty in the province.

3.4.2. Sampling

Sampling refers to the process of selecting a portion of the population to represent the entire population. A sample is actually a subset of the population. It includes groups of people, events, behaviours or other elements on which to conduct a study. Researchers usually work with samples rather than working with the total population because it is more economical and practical to do so, and it is possible to obtain reasonably good information from a sample (Burns & Grove, 2009:343; Polit & Beck, 2010:307).

In this study sampling was done in two phases, namely; first selecting a sample of the projects, and then selecting a sample of the participants in each sampled project. Stratified sampling was used to select the type of project, such as vegetable production, Cattle improvement scheme, broiler production, egg production and pig production in all the 5 districts, being; Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Waterberg. The reason why stratification was used the researcher believed that the different responses of the participants, as they produce different commodities, would affect the results of the study. When sub-populations vary considerably, it is advantageous to sample each sub-population, or stratum, independently. In this context, stratification is the process of grouping members of a population into relatively homogeneous sub-groups before sampling (Welman, Kruger & Mitchell, 2006:61).

A total of 10 project members needed to be chosen for each district (i.e. 1 member from each project). The reason why 10 projects were selected per district is because some districts have more projects than the others and that the information which will be obtained

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from one project will be generalized with that of other projects. 5 extension officers (i.e. 1 extension officer from each district) were also selected. Purposive sampling was used to select the participants to represent each sampled project because purposive sampling, also known as 'judgemental sampling', is based on the belief that a researcher's knowledge about the population can be used to hand pick the participants to be included in the sample, in this case chairpersons or secretaries of projects were purposefully selected. Members selected in this sample were based on the different production type and the purpose was to get aggregate answers.

One way of selecting the subjects when using this method is to include those who are known to be particularly knowledgeable about the issue under study (Burns & Grove, 2009:355; Polit & Beck, 2010:319), and this was the purpose used for sampling individuals to participate in the present study. Purposive sampling was likewise also used to select the two officials from, respectively, the provincial departments of Agriculture and Health and Social Development, and also the five tribal council representatives from each of the five districts.

3.4.2.1. Sampling Structure

The focus of the study was to verify the existence of food security projects in Limpopo Province, to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation and to contribute to an improved policy directive on food security projects in Limpopo province. For the above objectives to be met:

a) Stratified sampling:

Stratified sampling (by type of project) was carried out on the following variables: vegetable production, Broiler production, Egg production, Pig production and Livestock (Cattle improvement scheme and dairy). A total of 10 projects per district were sampled.

b) Purposive sampling (particularly knowledgeable):

Purposive sampling was used to select the participants from the sampled projects because purposive sampling, also known as judgmental sampling is based on the belief that a researcher's knowledge about the population can be used to handpick the participants to be included in the sample, in this case 50 chairpersons of projects, 2 officials from the Provincial Department of Health and Social Development and Department of Agriculture respectively, 5 Tribal council representatives and 5 Extension Officers at district level.

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These participants were selected based on the following characteristics:

- Extensive knowledge about the food security projects;
- Chairpersons should be full time at the food security projects;
- A local person was preferred over an outsider;
- Tribal council should have knowledge about community developmental issues;
- Provincial officials should be working directly with projects in the province;
- Extension officers should be based at district office where they are tasked with food security projects in all municipalities.

The sampling structure, with all the participants have been listed in a tabular form below:

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Table 3.4.2.1 Sampling Structure

Sampling type	*Variable*	*No. of projects*	*Total no. of project members*	*Projects sampled*	*Persons interviewed*
Stratified (by type of project)	Vegetable production	70	111	20	Project chairperson
	Broiler production	26	116	19	Project chairperson
	Egg production	17	109	3	Project chairperson
	Pig production	15	76	5	Project chairperson
	Livestock (Cattle improvement scheme and dairy)	10	88	3	Project chairperson
Purposive (particularly knowledgeable)	DHSD	1	1	1	Official working with FSP at provincial level
	LDA	1	1	1	Official working with FSP at provincial level
	Tribal council*	5	1	5	Rep of tribal council entrusted with allocation of land
	Extension Officers*	5	1	5	E.O at district level

* As there were only 5, and all 5 were interviewed, sampling was not applied in this instance.

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3.5. DATA COLLECTION

Holloway (1997), indicates that data collection in qualitative research involves the gathering of information for a research project through a variety of data such as interviews and an observation schedule. In this study, the researcher used the structured interviews as the primary data-gathering technique. Terreblanche *et al* (2010) maintain that a structured interview is the most rigorous and the least flexible form of interview in the way it is set up, because predetermined questions are put to each interviewee in a specific order and the responses are logged and notes taken or recorded electronically.

Marshall and Rossman (1999) suggests that data collection methods in qualitative research could be categorized into four types, namely; participation in the setting, direct observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis. For the purpose of this research, records review was conducted in order to check the documentation and classification of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province, auditing tools were used, namely; economic components, Political components, environmental components, health and education components and social components, structured interviews, key informants interviews and policy reviews on food security policies were done.

a) Request for participation

The selection process followed a letter sent out to request participation of participants at the ward and district level, the letter included a consent form (Appendix B) that was hand delivered to the district senior managers to request the participation of chairpersons of food security projects and extension officers. Additionally, the letters (Appendix D and E) were sent to the Provincial department of Health and Social Development, the department of Agriculture and tribal council offices respectively seeking the participation of the officials working directly with food security projects. An initial meeting place, time and date was established for the convenience of the researcher and participants. Interviews took place at offices of officials and at the yard where food security projects are found with consideration for minimizing distractions.

b) Establishing Contacts

The establishment of contact for the interview was very imperative for the interviews to proceed properly. The meeting place with adequate space with necessary equipments such as table, chairs and writing pads were verified to be in order prior to the set interview date.

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The establishment of contact began with the initial interview. The researcher introduced himself, orally reviewed the purpose of the study and read the consent form to the participants in order to verify willingness to participate by interviewee. The interview then proceeded with the collection of demographics; the reason for creating participant profiles was explained.

c) In-depth individual interviews

These interviews lasted about one hour. The purpose was to gain detailed understanding of participants' perspectives relating to the existence of food security projects in Limpopo Province, impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation and their influence towards policy directives of the government.

Firstly, individual interviews were meant to verify the existence of food security projects in Limpopo Province. A meeting was arranged where the officials at provincial departments of health and social development, agriculture and rural development and tribal council representatives were asked to bring out documents for the purpose of analysis, it was discovered that not all the projects were on database, hence the development of a database (Appendix A).

Secondly, individual interviews meant for project participants and extension officers' questions were arranged from general to specific following themes such as; (a) Economic components: What motivates you to continue working in the food security project? What support is your food security project giving to you as a beneficiary? How do you handle the employment problems for other community members? What challenges do you experience in running the food security projects? (b) Political components: What impact does your project have on the daily lives of the community members? What support does your project give to the local youth who are interested in farming? What do you suggest should be done by the local government to support your food security project? (c) Environmental components: How does your daily project activity contribute to pollution of the environment? What measures are in place to address pollution caused by daily food security projects? Where do you get water for your projects from? (d) Health and education components: what health care support does your food security project provide to the community? How do you educate community members about the health care issues? How often do you provide community members with health care education? (e) Social components: What kind of support does your project provides to the local communities? What motivates you to provide support to local communities? What challenges do you experience when providing support to the local communities?

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Thirdly, individual interviews with participants included those that sought participants to contribute to the policy directives of the government; (a) What do you think the government should do to promote your projects? (b) What kind of support do you want the government to provide you with? (c) How would you like the government to provide such support? (d) What do you suggest the government should do to make sure that food security projects are sustainable? (e) Who do you think the government, as principal funder of projects, should include as beneficiaries in order to make projects sustainable? (f) What training needs and support do you think is essential for project beneficiaries? (g) Who do you think should form part of the training? (h) How can food security project policy directives be improved? Policy review was also done at the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Once data was collected through individual interviews, interview transcripts were organized according to themes, complete with quotations in support of those themes. Fourthly; documents review was analysed, also included was the list of food security projects and the funding agencies. Lastly; Likert scale to determine the level of relations that which existing was used in the following scale; unsatisfactory, average, above average, and very much above average.

The final decision for the techniques utilized in the study was made according to the results of data reduction. According to Miles and Huberman (1994) in Alexander (2004), form follows function - meaning that particular techniques must be dictated by the research questions and emergent concepts. Once the appropriate technique was identified, data displays were created within each case or for each individual, as well as across each case, to demonstrate findings across all available sources of information.

d) Participants' profiles

After meeting with interview participants and collected demographic data, a profile of each participant was constructed. These profiles included general information about their experiences, backgrounds, personality characteristics and highest educational qualifications in order to develop an image for each individual. The reason for doing that was to introduce the participant and to facilitate a characterization to be associated with each individual. After providing a description of the sampling procedures utilized in the study, a detailed description of the data collection and analysis process that facilitated the qualitative exploration of this research topic will be provided.

3.6. DATA ANALYSIS

The aim of the data analysis in this study was to obtain both thematic and statistical information. Data analysis is conducted to reduce, organize, and give meaning to data; it is the systematic organization and synthesis of research data, and the testing of research

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hypotheses using that data (Burns & Grove, 2009:695; Polit & Beck, 2010:463). In this study content analysis was used (Lah Das and Bhaskaran, 2008) maintains that content analysis is the analysis of what is contained in the message. Broadly, content analysis may be seen as a method where the content of the message forms the basis for drawing inferences and conclusions about the content. Further, content analysis falls in the interface of observation and document analysis.

Data analysis in qualitative research has a two-fold purpose: (a) to understand the participants' perspectives and (b) to answer the research question. Marshall and Rossman (1999) in Alexander (2004) defined qualitative analysis in terms of organizing meaning of data. To accomplish this tasks, the three-phase procedure described by Miles and Huberman (1994) in Alexander (2004) which includes: (a) data reduction, (b) data display, and (c) conclusion drawing and verification were followed:

a) Data reduction

According to Miles & Huberman (1994) in Alexander (2004), data reduction is the first phase of qualitative data analysis. Data reduction involved the process of selecting, simplifying, and extracting themes and patterns from written field notes, transcripts, and other available resources. To accomplish this task, interviews transcripts were read and re-read while searching for similarities and differences in themes. Code names were assigned to those themes that were detected and then organized into categories of related topics, patterns, concepts, and ideas that emerged from participants' perspectives.

b) Data display

Data displays are tools for presenting the results of data reduction (Miles and Huberman (1994) in Alexander (2004). Displays are used to incorporate information into an accessible summary to facilitate later conclusion drawing. Matrices and networks are techniques used. Matrices are rows and columns of data that have been extracted from coded transcripts and are organized according to themes, complete with supporting quotations in support of the themes, whereas networks are charts that summarize information by providing a picture of reduced data, as it exists within the context of participants' perspectives. Once the appropriate techniques were identified, data displays were created within each case or for each individual, as well as across each case, to demonstrate findings across all available sources of information.

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c) Conclusion drawing and verification

Miles et al (1994) in Alexander (2004) maintains that the final phase of data analysis, consists of drawing initial conclusions based on cross-case data displays and then subjecting these initial conclusions to verification procedures. These procedures are intended to verify that findings are appropriate before they are labeled as conclusive results. In qualitative research, results are verified and deemed appropriate by evaluating their trustworthiness. Lastly; ANOVA was used to test if significant difference exists between the effects of functional and dysfunctional food security projects on members.

3.7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Conducting scientific research requires honesty and integrity and starts with the identification of the topic and continues through to the publication of the results (Burns & Grove, 2009:184).

The researcher in this study ensured that the ethical considerations listed below were satisfied before embarking on the study.

3.7.1. Informed Consent

According to Schulze (2002:17), participants should be given enough information pertaining to a study before data is collected. Williams *et al.* (1995:30) argue that obtaining informed consent implies that all possible or adequate information about the goal of the investigation, the procedures which will be followed during the investigation, the possible advantages, disadvantages and dangers to which respondents may be exposed, as well as the credibility of the researcher, be rendered to potential subjects or their legal representatives. Informed consent means that the participants have adequate information regarding the research, comprehend the information, and have the power of free choice. This information enables participants either to consent or to decline to participate in the study (Polit & Beck, 2010:127).

In this study, the participants were given adequate information about the aims of the research and voluntary participation, the procedures that were being followed, possible advantages and disadvantages for the participants, the credibility of the researcher and how the results were used, all so that they could make an informed decision about whether or not

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to participate in the research. Participants were assured of confidentiality, privacy, the right to self-respect and dignity, the right to self-determination and informed consent. Permission and ethical clearance was sought from the University of Venda Ethics committee.

3.7.2. Confidentiality and Anonymity

McMillan and Schumacher (1997:194), state that information on subjects should be regarded as confidential unless otherwise agreed upon through informed consent.

In this study only the researcher had access to names and data. The results were presented without names, the researcher having used a system to link names to data that was destroyed once the research was completed so that any information obtained was not linked to a particular individual. The researcher sought permission from the University of Venda Ethics Committee to destroy the data after completion of the study. Further to ensure confidentiality of information, audio and video tapes were not used.

3.7.3. Permission to Conduct Research

Most universities are equipped with the appropriate committees to judge the ethical dimensions of any research conducted in the name of their university, and permission to conduct any research should be granted by such a committee at the proposal stage, before research is undertaken (McMillan & Schumacher, 1993:195). In addition, permission to use their information should be obtained from the participants in any study, after the study has been fully explained to them and they are willing to volunteer (Polit & Hungler, 1991, Seaman, 1987)

Permission to conduct this study was granted after the research proposal was presented to the Institute for Rural development at the University of Venda. Ethical clearance was received from the University of Venda Ethics Committee. The individual participants gave their written consent and the issue of voluntary participation was explained.

3.7.4. Informing Subjects about the Findings

Schulze (2002:17-20), indicates that, as a mark of the researcher's gratitude for their participation, subjects must be informed about the findings of the study.

Concerning this study, this was done carefully and objectively. Unnecessary details were not supplied and the principle of confidentiality as per University of Venda ethics was not

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violated. The findings were disseminated during Food Security Project meetings through the chairpersons and secretaries of the projects, and to the extension officers working in the wards where the food security projects are found. A copy of the report was also made available to each of the Food Security Projects and at the University of Venda, where everyone will have access to it through the libraries.

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CHAPTER 4: RESULTS OF THE STUDY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

The first section in this chapter presents the findings, namely; mapping and profiling of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province, to determine the contribution of food security projects on poverty alleviation in the districts of Limpopo province, and to scrutinize the policy directives on food security.

4.2. DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

This study was conducted in all five districts of Limpopo Province, i.e. Mopani, Vhembe, Capricorn, Waterberg and Sekhukhune. Food security projects that participated in the study were variously engaged in the following; vegetable production, broiler production, pig production, egg production, and livestock production, and 10 projects per district were selected. This study revealed that 75 percent of members of the food security projects are between the ages of 46-60 years, followed by 20 percent of members who are in the age group of 31-45 years and 5 percent are those who are 61 years and above. The study found that 40 percent of members of food security projects have the lowest grade in school, the lowest being grade 9. In Limpopo province, the food security projects are mostly run by 75 percent of women as is in their households, and 25 percent are men. The unemployment rate in the province is currently at 37.2 percent. The study revealed that in Limpopo province, most of the poor people derive their income from farming, although in small-scale but they are able to secure food out of farming. The poor people in Limpopo depend on social grants and remittances from the migrant workers and in most households there are five or more members.

4.3. MAPPING AND PROFILING THE FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICTS OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

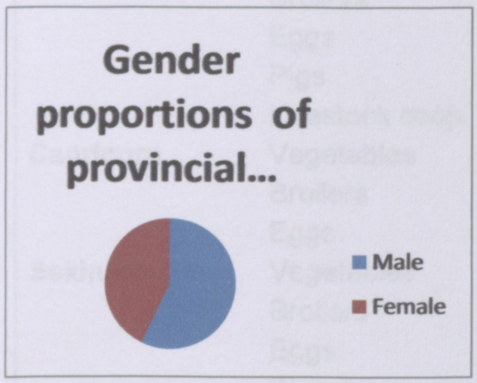
To map and profile the food security projects, the researcher conducted interviews with officials of the Provincial Department of Health and Social Development, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Tribal Council representatives at district level.

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4.3.1. Gender proportions and number of service of provincial officials and leaders

Regarding the gender of informants that formed part of the study, 75% of them were male while 25% of them were females. The respondents interviewed were the officials from the Department of Health and Social Development, Department of Agriculture and representatives of tribal council in all the districts of Limpopo Province. With regards to the years of service of provincial officials and leaders, the study revealed that 80% of them have 11-15 years of service while 20% have 6-10 years of service.



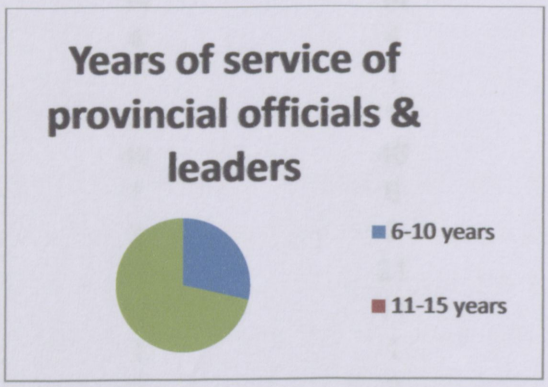


Figure 4.3.1 ***Gender proportions and number of service of provincial officials and leaders***

4.3.2. Types of food security projects per district

Vegetable gardens were the most dominating food security projects in all the districts; although in Waterberg and Sekhukhune, there were 14 and 23 vegetable gardens respectively. Mopani district was the most active with 132 vegetable gardens.

There were many food security projects in certain districts, while in some there were not. In Mopani district alone there were 174 food security projects, followed by Vhembe district with 57, Capricorn 55, Sekhukhune 34 and the least was Waterberg with 24 food security projects as presented in Table 4.3.2.

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Table 4.3.2 Types of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province

District	*Type of Food Security Project*	*Total number*	*Functional*	*Dysfunctional*
Waterberg	Vegetables	14	12	2
	Broilers	5	5	0
	Dairy	2	2	0
	Livestock coop	1	0	1
Vhembe	Vegetables	35	35	0
	Broilers	14	14	0
	Eggs	4	4	0
	Pigs	1	1	0
	Livestock coop	3	1	2
Capricorn	Vegetables	46	46	0
	Broilers	7	6	1
	Eggs	2	2	0
Sekhukhune	Vegetables	23	21	2
	Broilers	12	11	1
	Eggs	1	1	0
	Pigs	3	2	1
Mopani	Vegetables	132	132	0
	Eggs	5	5	0
	Broilers	36	35	1
	Pigs	1	1	0
Excel totals		347	336	11

4.3.3. Functional and dysfunctional Food Security Projects

There were many food Security Projects in the districts of Limpopo Province that were in existence despite the fact that they were not in a database of the departments. It also emerged that, among these food security projects, there were those that function as well as those that were dysfunctional. Most of the Food Security Projects – specifically in Mopani district where food security projects were in abundance – were found not to be in the database of the departments, although they were operating in wards where extension officers are working.

In table 4.3.3.1 it is shown that the mean rank of the effects of functional and dysfunctional food security projects in terms of how members were affected by the state of the food security projects in Limpopo province was not showing any significant change (P>0.1100) which means that there was no significant effects.

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Table 4.3.3.1 ANOVA summary table showing the effects of functional and dysfunctional food security projects to members

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	Sum of squares	*df*	*mean square*	*f value*	*sig.*
Functional food security projects	7512.43333	5	1502.48667	2.130	.1100
Dysfunctional food security projects	7.16666667	14	0.51190476		

a) Functional food security projects

It was confirmed that 347 food security projects were in existence with 338 declared functional; the main problem was that they are not in a database that can be traced from the funding departments. During the visits to those sites, the members of the food security projects were mostly women, aged between 46-60 years old and have low educational background. Food Security Projects were generally found to be functional, some to the point where they needed additional space to increase their operations. The reason for their functionality was that members were skillful. The officials from the provincial Department of Health and Social Development confirmed that a number of food security projects that are improving in terms of production. Some need space to extend their farming operations while others are operating productively in the limited space allocated to them by the Tribal Council"

The officials from the Provincial Department of Agriculture have also confirmed that they have on record many food security projects that are doing well. It is against this background that the NDA (2013) concludes that subsistence and smallholder farming is important for many South African households as a means towards food security. Some are operating in a dry land area and depend on rainfall, but the harvest is big. Some are operating near rivers, and although they are functional, the problem that they have is high electricity costs. If they do not manage their Food Security Projects very well, soon they will close down due to high electricity bills".

The functionality of the Food Security Projects have got nothing to do with whether or not they were in a database of funders or not, but was a result of their hard work and proper planning. Some may be known to the officials of the departments but remain unproductive.

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The fact remains that being functional was as a result of dedication by the beneficiaries, Figure 4.3.3 (a) below shows the functional food security projects in Limpopo Province.

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b) Dysfunctional food security projects

During the visit to the districts, the key informants have pointed out that some food security projects were not functional, they are just in the list of district offices and tribal council offices but on the ground they are not functional. The records showed that there were 11 that were dysfunctional. Their dysfunctionality was as a result of lack of skills and the mismanagement of funds meant for inputs and other logistics by the members of the food security projects. The supposed beneficiaries of such projects tend to mismanage funds mainly because: they paid each other at the end of the months using funds not allocated for salaries. Instead of investing in profit-raising strategies, they use the available money for paying salaries.

A tribal council representative who responded to the question raised on why the food security projects collapsed had said that he had learnt that the beneficiaries of food security projects were not capacitated enough to manage the resources meant for making food security projects sustainable; they do not consider making any profit so that at the end they took it in the form of salaries".

An official of the provincial department of Health and Social development also confirmed the reasons why food security projects were dysfunctional; he said that among other things, shortage of water, lack of skills, lack of reliable markets and theft of stock by villagers. All these caused beneficiaries to abandon the food security project.

The structural operation between the functional and dysfunctional food security projects were the same. When members got together to start a food security project, extension officers encourage them to form committees that would assist in the day to day running of the food security projects. Their capacity to run the food security projects would then be determined by how capacitated they are in terms of how food security projects are run. The structural operations of those that are functional are in no other way different from those that became dysfunctional, but the causal factors remained mismanagement of the resources allocated to them. Brand, Du Preez, and Schutte (2007), postulates that the money management training is essential to assist facilitators to teach small scale entrepreneurs how to use their numeracy skills in improving their businesses by using simple business management techniques. The project participants would thus improve the skills such as the importance of book-keeping, the use of symbols in book-keeping, income and expenditure,

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the use of the cash book, profit and loss, how to use the profit, buying and selling on credit, the credit book, costing and pricing, business planning, and business management.

The study has discovered that the dysfunctionality of a food security project affect the households because most of them depended on these food security projects for supplementary income and food security. Against this background the DOA (2002), highlighted that the poor households are characterized by few income earners and many dependents. Many such households are often primarily dependent on migrant remittances and social security grants, making them vulnerable to food insecurity.

The Food Security Projects that were found to be dysfunctional were affected by mismanagement of funds, theft of stock, lack of reliable markets, low quality produce, lack of relevant skills and shortage of water. All these contributed to the dysfunctionality of such Food Security Projects. Figure 4.3.3 (b) below shows the number of dysfunctional projects in all the districts of Limpopo province.

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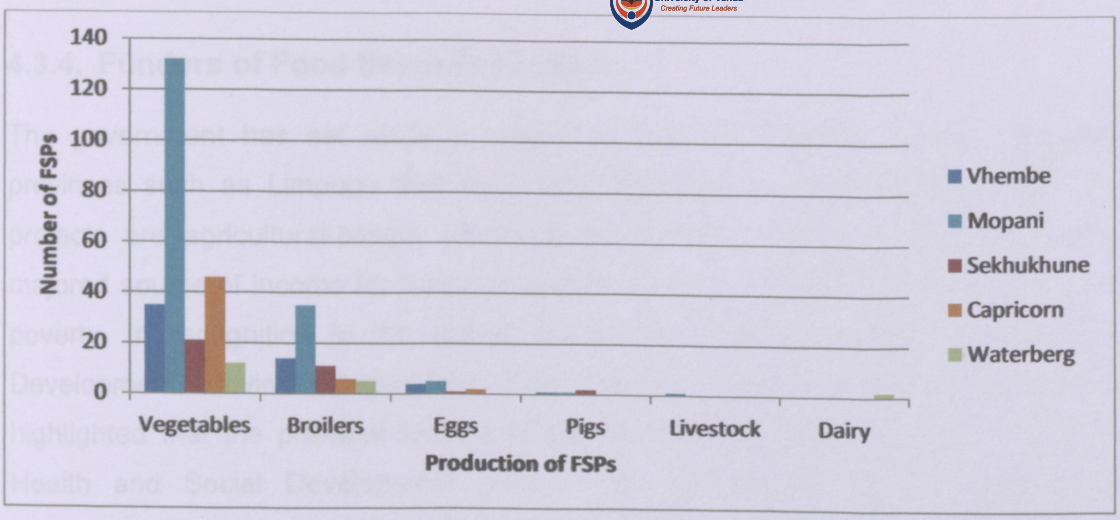


Figure 4.3.3 (a) Existing and functional food security projects in Limpopo Province

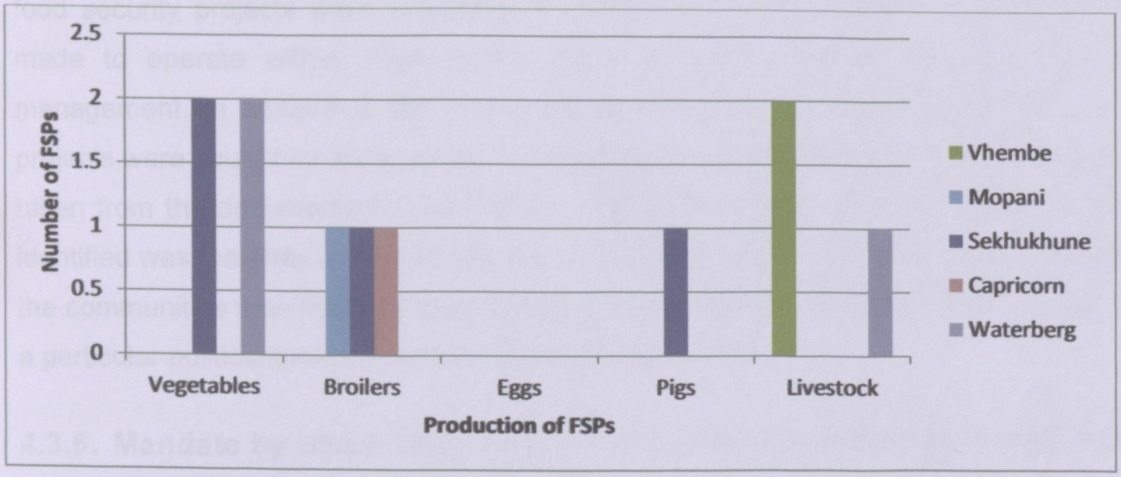


Figure 4.3.3 (b) Dysfunctional food security projects in Limpopo Province

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4.3.4. Funders of Food Security Projec

The government has set aside a budget to fund food security projects especially for provinces such as Limpopo that have been identified as poverty nodes. Most of these projects are agricultural-based, according to the Policy brief (2013), agriculture is the majored source of income for the poor rural households and has a potential to reduce rural poverty. In recognition to the above, the Provincial Department of Health and Social Development, Provincial Department of Agriculture and Tribal Council representatives, have highlighted that the principal funders of the food security projects are the Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD), the Department of Agriculture (LDA), the Independent Development Trust (IDT), the Amalgamated Banks of South Africa (ABSA) and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program (CASP). It appeared that the government departments were the sole funders of the food security projects. The study revealed that the food security projects were struggling to operate within the mandate in which they were made to operate within. That is why most of them collapsed due to poor financial management. In addition to the interviews, available documents and evidence of existing projects were sought for the purpose of preparing for the verification on site. Notes were thus taken from the documents for verification. The disadvantage of donor funding which were identified was that they interfered with the local political set up in that they are more visible to the communities than the local government, they infiltrate local political set up and sided with a particular political group, therefore, the tension is created.

4.3.5. Mandate by which Food Security Projects were made to operate within

As an attempt to counteract the poverty and food insecurity of the country the South African government using the mandate stated in the Constitution Section 27(1) states clearly that "everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water and the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of each of these rights (Constitution, 1996:12). During the interviews with informants, the reasons why the food security projects were established and for which mandate was discovered. Fifteen percent of the informants said the food security projects are providing food for its beneficiaries and for the community. Chief among all was that food security projects have created employment to its members; this became eminent when 85% of informants again confirmed it. During interviews it emerged that the food security projects have had some impact to the lives of the community members, they provide whatever the communities wanted to get every time they are in need of something.

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4.3.6. Contributions to the livelihood of the project beneficiaries

The government of South Africa initiated the **Fetsa Tlala** ("Defeat Hunger"), South Africa's Zero Hunger programme which derived its mandate from various policies and documents including Constitution. The IFSS and the NDP, Vision 2030. The Zero Hunger programme sought to link subsistence producers and smallholder producers to markets and government institutions such as schools, hospitals and prisons. It is a conduit through which food produced by the small holders can be used to meet the nutritional needs of low-income individuals and households.it is against this background that the projects beneficiaries and communities started these projects with the aim of producing more in order to contribute to the nutritional needs of the poor people. During the interviews with key informants it emerged that the Food Security Projects contributed to the livelihood of beneficiaries in one way; that is to provide food for members and support to their families.

4.3.7. Relationships between Food Security Project beneficiaries and community members

The relationship between the food security project beneficiaries and the community members was rated based on the Likert scale to determine the level of relations that is existing. As a general test the study has employed to measure the relationship between food security project beneficiaries and community members, a Likert scale was used to determine the relationship that exists in the following scale:

A total of 14.5% rated the relationship as unsatisfactory
A total of 42.4% rated the relationship as average
A total of 28.6% rated the relationship as above average
A total of 14.5% rated the relationship as very much above average

4.3.8. Support by Government and Tribal Councils

It is interesting to note that the government and tribal council were ready to support the Food Security Projects. During the interviews the 57.1% of informants have said that the tribal council representatives would give extra land to food security projects if they promise to increase their production. While 14.3% of informants' believed the government will assist in funding of projects, link them with markets and give encouragement to the food security projects to produce more. It was against this background that the government has set aside a budget to fund food security projects especially for provinces such as Limpopo that have

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been identified as poverty nodes. Most of these projects are agricultural-based. Policy brief (2013), strongly acknowledge that agriculture in Limpopo Province is the major source of income for the poor rural households and has a potential to reduce rural poverty by creating jobs and providing food for beneficiaries and the communities at large.

4.4. THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE DISTRICTS OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

In rural development literature, agriculture is considered as the vehicle to reduce poverty. In most developing countries, agriculture and agriculture-related activities provide most of the employment in rural areas (Chilonda, Machethe, and Minde, 2007; Mudau, 2012). The studies further indicated that agriculture contributed to poverty alleviation at rural, urban and national levels in three ways; a) reducing food prices, b) employment creation, c) increasing real wages, and d) improving farm income. With regard to food security, agricultural sector is the primary channel for achieving household food security.it is on this background that food security projects were distributed all over the districts of Limpopo Province and during their establishment the government had hoped that they would help in job creation and poverty alleviation. The purpose of this objective is to determine the contributions of these food security projects and find out if indeed they are fulfilling their mandate. In order to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo, audit components were used to analyze the community situation in order to get information.

4.4.1. Audit Components

The study adopted the following audit components to analyze the economic and material characteristics of the communities and Projects in the districts of Limpopo Province: namely; economic component, political component, environmental component, health and education component, and social component (Social Audit: A Toolkit, 2006).

4.4.1.1. Economic components

Although clearly what was most important was the capacity of the project to generate an income for its beneficiaries, the direct access to the food which it also provides was also important to beneficiaries. The food security projects which were visited never specified the stable salaries which the members received. In most cases they would say that they were in the process of generating profits so that in the long run they will have enough for their salaries. It also emerged that the members received 80 percent of their wages in monetary form and 20 percent in kind. The informants saw the project as being something of a last resort; the income generated representing hope rather than sufficiency. On the other hand,

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the economic status of the communities in which food security projects are found was characterized by poor households whose source of income depended upon the remittances of migrant workers and social grants. During the interviews it was discovered that 76% of respondents believed that beneficiaries were motivated to continue working in the food security projects by getting a salary. While 2% of respondents believed that beneficiaries were motivated by doing farming activities. Figure 4.4.1.1 (a) below shows motivation to continue working in FSP.

In this case the beneficiaries clearly saw themselves as employees of the FSP, whereas the informants saw them as shareholders. 60% of informants have said the food security projects were giving beneficiaries support because they get a share after sale of stock, 59% of respondents said the food security projects are providing them with employment while only 20% of informants believed that food security projects supported them financially. 4% of respondents said the food security projects develop knowledge and skills. Figure 4.4.1.1 (b) below shows the support the food security projects are giving to their beneficiaries.

It is clear that the project beneficiaries do not feel that they can be responsible for the employment problems of the community, and that the informants agree, although at harvest time the relevant projects were willing to employ temporary labour to get the work done on time. Figure 4.4.1.1 (c) below shows the handling of employment problems of other community members

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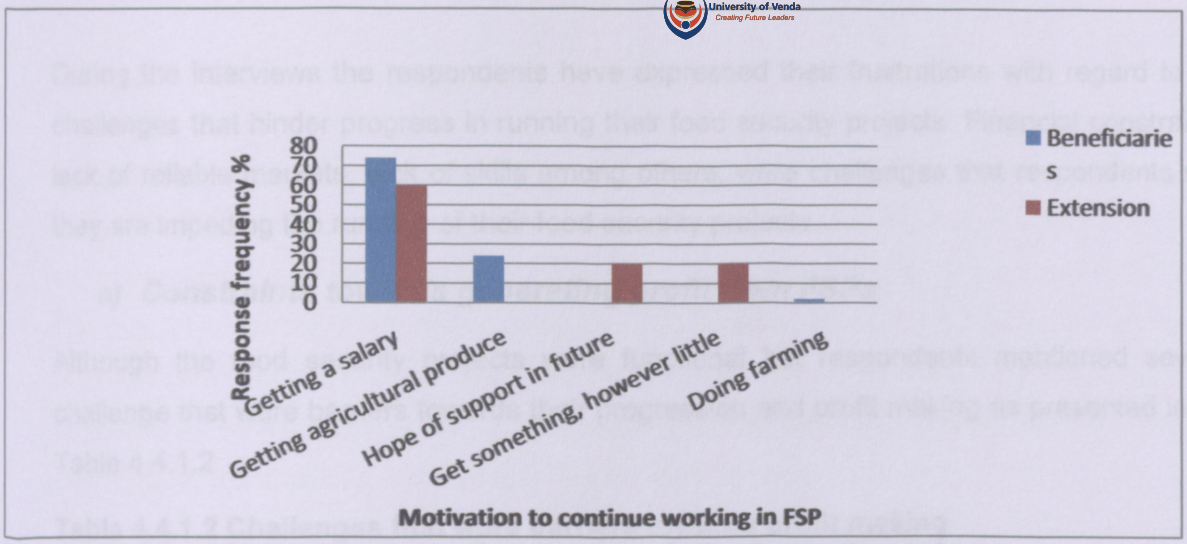


Figure 4.4.1.1 (a) Motivation to continue working in food security projects

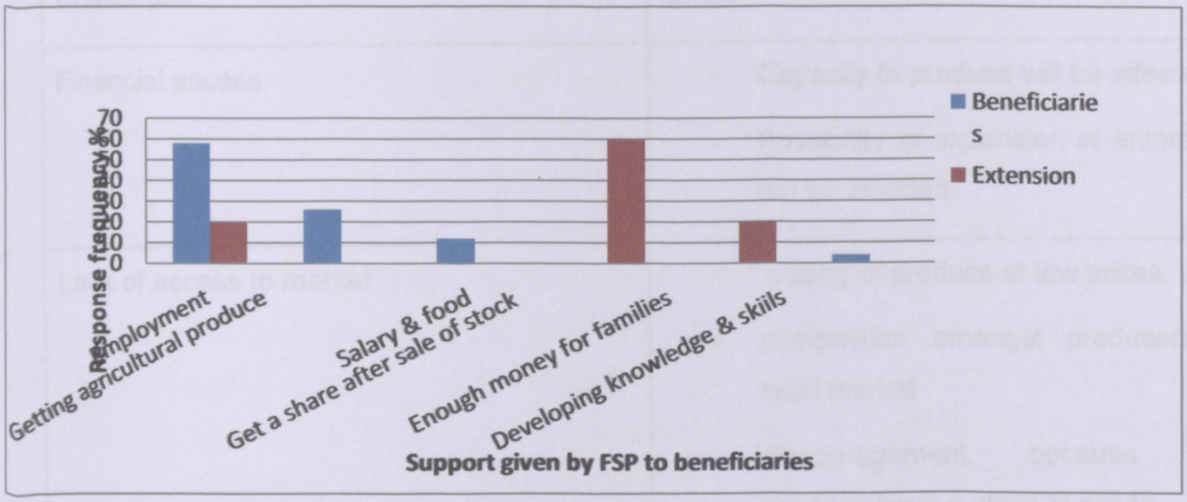


Figure 4.4.1.1 (b) Support given by food security projects to beneficiaries

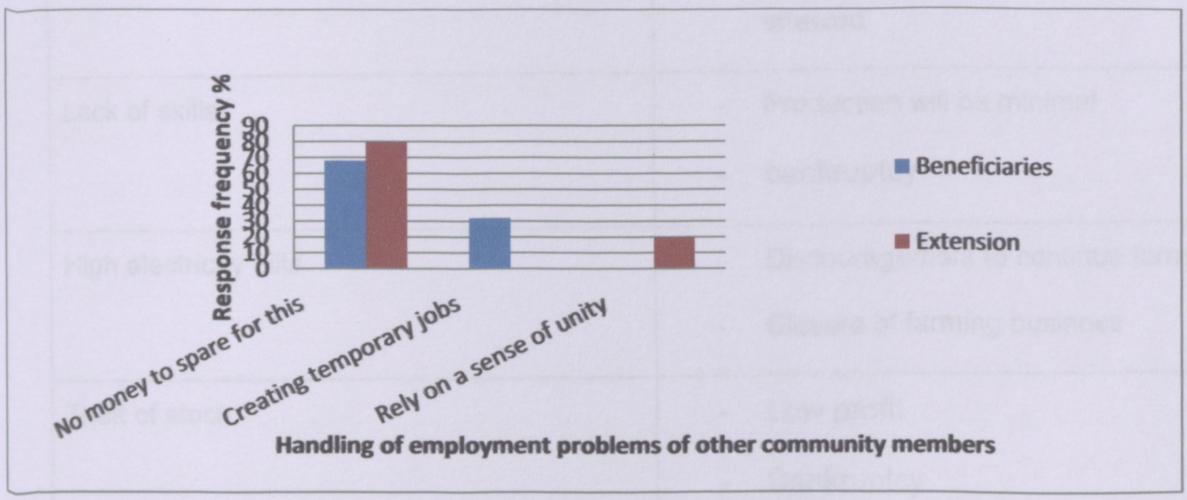


Figure 4.4.1.1 (C) Handling of employment problems of other community members

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During the interviews the respondents have expressed their frustrations with regard to the challenges that hinder progress in running their food security projects. Financial constraints, lack of reliable markets, lack of skills among others, were challenges that respondents said they are impeding the running of their food security projects.

a) Constraints towards generating profit from FSPs

Although the food security projects were functional but respondents mentioned several challenge that were barriers towards their progression and profit making as presented in the Table 4.4.1.2.

Table 4.4.1.2 Challenges that were barriers towards profit making

Challenges	Effect
Financial access	- Capacity to produce will be affected - Possibility of expansion of enterprise will be affected
Lack of access to market	- selling of produce at low prices - competition amongst producers at local market - discouragement, because they wouldn't have a place to sell to - exposure to external clients will be affected
Lack of skills	- Production will be minimal - bankruptcy
High electricity bills	- Discouragement to continue farming - Closure of farming business
Theft of stock	- Low profit - Bankruptcy

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4.4.1.2. Political Components

Analyses to measure the political setting within the community, the impact of projects on the daily lives of community members, the support that the food security project gave to the youth interested in farming and the support and intervention by local government were done. The respondents and informants agreed that the food security projects have had an impact to the lives of the community. The food security projects provided fresh produce, learning opportunities for students studying agriculture and farmers, sold livestock for funerals and weddings and the service was brought nearer to the communities.

It is clear that the food security projects gave support to the local youth interested in farming because they gave them part-time jobs during school holidays and they provided practical space to youth studying agriculture.

During the encounter with respondents it emerged that 48% of respondents have said they wanted the local government to support the projects by subsidizing electricity and agreed that the committees of the food security projects and community structures are working hand in hand to ensure that the local ward councilor was looking into the matter and discussions were underway and 60% of informants (extension officers) have supported the call made by beneficiaries to subsidize electricity and have indicated that they were part of the meetings held with local government Local Economic Development about issues of supporting the food security projects. While 22% of respondents said food security projects should be assisted with finance and facilitation, and 20% of informants have supported the call made by beneficiaries for support in terms of electricity subsidy.

4.4.1.3. Environmental component

During the interviews it emerged that the Food Security Projects did not contributed to pollution of any kind. Project members said that they have been taught by the extension officers not to contribute to pollution because it affects the lives of the people. They also believed that pollution affects air quality, and that noise and visual pollution affects egg production and workers as well.

The respondents, who are the beneficiaries of food security projects, said that there is no pollution of the environment caused by the day to day project activities and wastes caused by activities of the projects, while the informants have said there is no pollution because members were educated about it. They have no system in place to control wastes from the day to day activities of the food security projects. Figure 4.4.1.3 (a) below shows how daily project activities contribute to pollution of the environment.

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With regard to the question on measures put in place to address pollution caused by the day to day activities of the food security projects, the respondents have claimed that there are no measures employed to address pollution of the environment except that they were trained to prevent pollution before it occurred. This was echoed by extension officers who said there are no measures because there is no pollution, 20% of informants believed that beneficiaries were able to control pollution if it occurs. Figure 4.4.1.3 (b) below shows the measures put in place to address pollution caused by daily food security projects.

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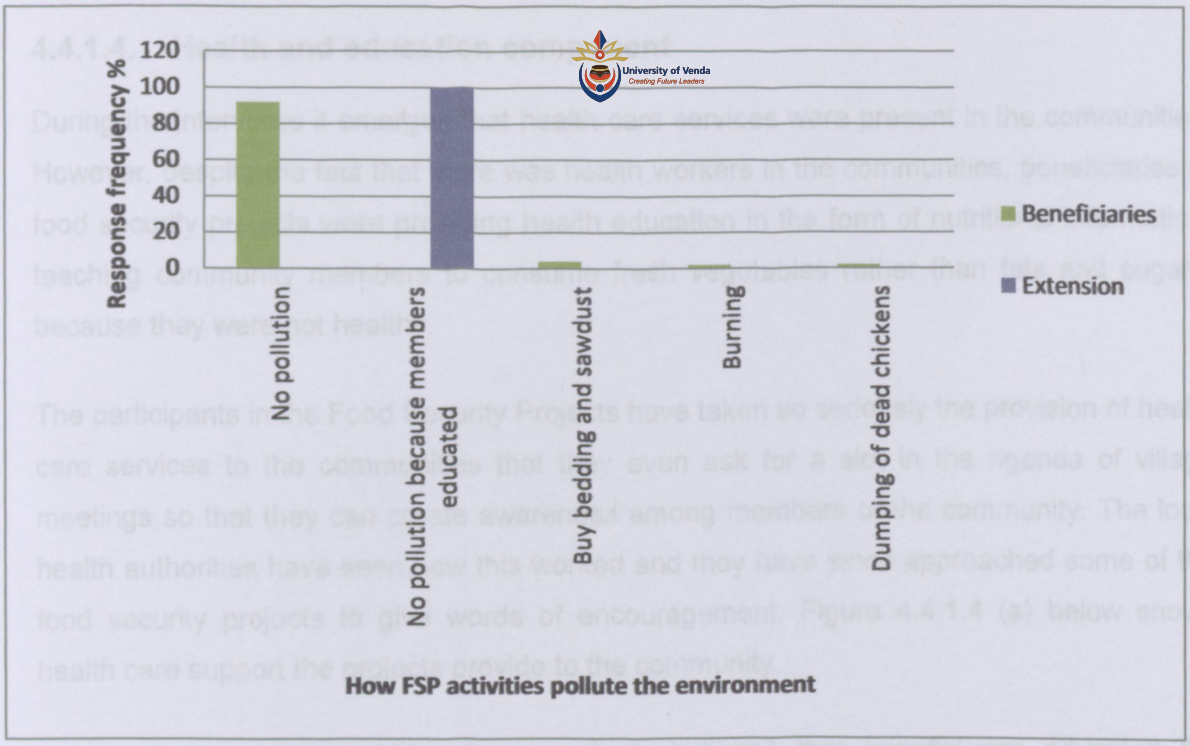


Figure 4.4.1.3 (a) how does FSP activity pollute the environment?

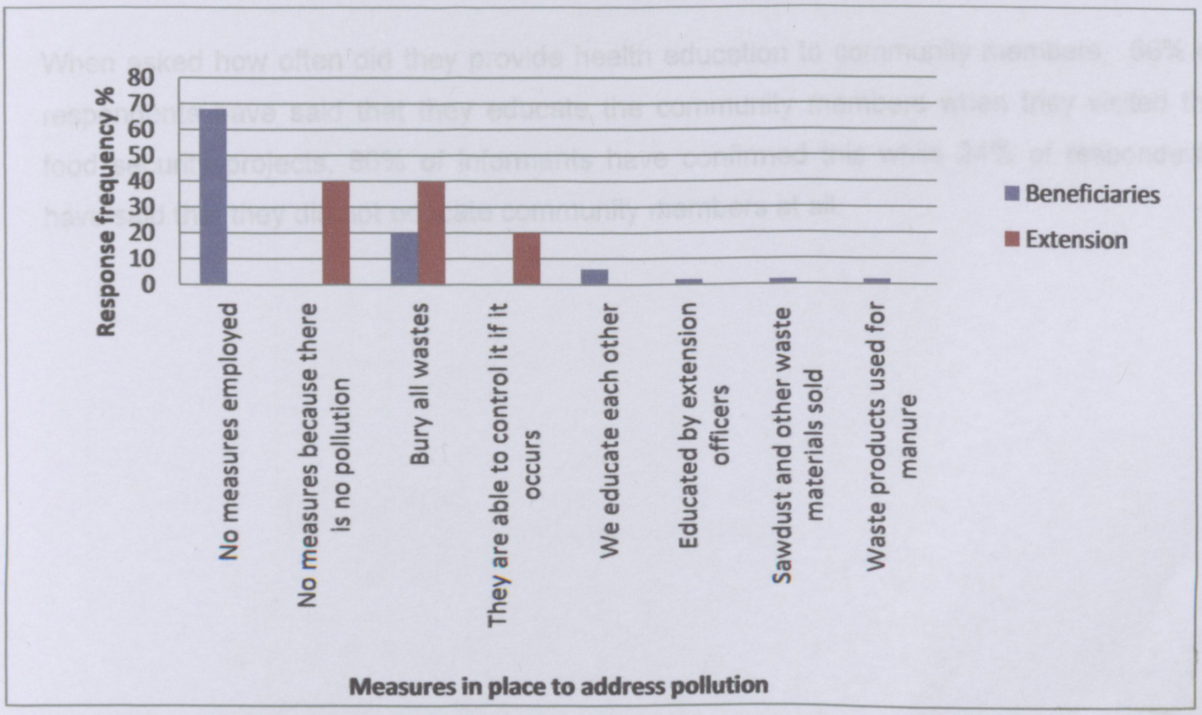


Figure 4.4.1.3 (b) Measures in place to address pollution

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4.4.1.4. Health and education component

During the interviews it emerged that health care services were present in the communities. However, despite the fact that there was health workers in the communities, beneficiaries of food security projects were providing health education in the form of nutritional information, teaching community members to consume fresh vegetables rather than fats and sugars, because they were not healthy.

The participants in the Food Security Projects have taken so seriously the provision of health care services to the communities that they even ask for a slot in the agenda of village meetings so that they can create awareness among members of the community. The local health authorities have seen how this worked and they have since approached some of the food security projects to give words of encouragement. Figure 4.4.1.4 (a) below shows health care support the projects provide to the community.

It was discovered that 60% of respondents believed that beneficiaries educated the community members when they came to the food security projects. This was also confirmed by 80% of extension officers. 22% of respondents have said that beneficiaries did not educate them while some 8% of respondents believed that beneficiaries educated community members at meetings, stokvels and payout points.

When asked how often did they provide health education to community members, 66% of respondents have said that they educate the community members when they visited the food security projects, 80% of informants have confirmed this while 24% of respondents have said that they did not educate community members at all.

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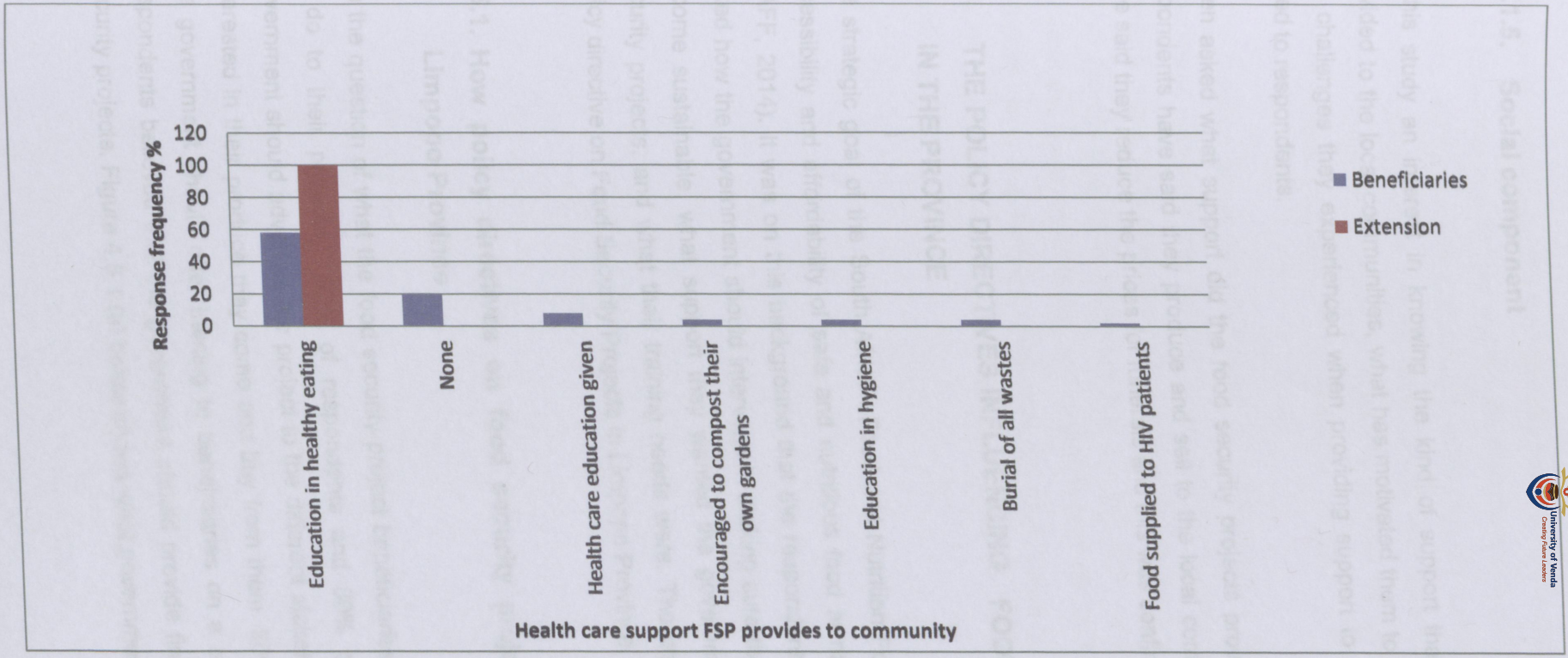


Figure 4.4.1.4 Health care support FSP provides to community

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4.4.1.5. Social component

In this study an interest in knowing the kind of support that the food security projects provided to the local communities, what has motivated them to provide such kind of support and challenges they experienced when providing support to the local communities were asked to respondents.

When asked what support did the food security projects provide to beneficiaries, 60% of respondents have said they produce and sell to the local communities while 16% of them have said they reduce the prices for funerals and this was confirmed by 20% of informants.

4.5. THE POLICY DIRECTIVES INFLUENCING FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCE

The strategic goal of the South African Food and Nutrition Policy is to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels (DAFF, 2014). It was on this background that the respondents during the interviews were asked how the government should intervene in making sure that their food security projects become sustainable, what support they wanted the government to provide to their food security projects, and what their training needs were. The objective was to scrutinize the policy directive on Food Security Projects in Limpopo Province.

4.5.1. How policy directives on food security projects were scrutinized in Limpopo Province

On the question of what the food security project beneficiaries had wanted the government to do to their projects, 92% of respondents and 80% of informants have said the government should advertise the project to the different stakeholders so that those who are interested in their produce may come and buy from them. 20% of informants believed that the government should offer training to beneficiaries on a continuous basis. Only 4% of respondents believed that the government should provide financial assistance to the food security projects. Figure 4.5.1 (a) below shows what government does to promote the FSP.

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About the kind of support the food security projects had wanted the government to provide, 90% of respondents said they wanted the government to provide financial support. 80% of informants said the government should provide capacity building because it is necessary for proper management of the project, while 20% of other informants have said they prefer the government to provide aftercare services. Figure 4.5.1 (b) below shows the kind of support government should provide to the food security projects.

On the question about how they liked the government to provide such support, 46% of respondents have said they wanted the government to make more funds available to food security projects, 40% of respondents further said that the government should plan forward for food security projects to be sustainable. On the other hand 60% of informants have said they want the government to link and negotiate markets for food security projects. 20% of informants have also said that they want the government to listen to people and provide skills transfer. Figure 4.5.1 (c) below shows how beneficiaries would like the government to provide support.

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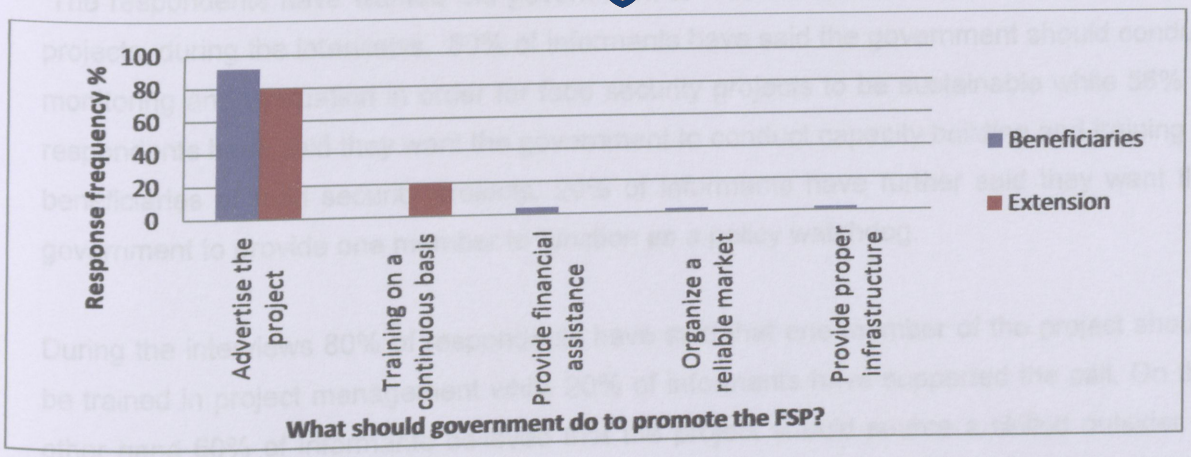


Figure 4.5.1(a) what government should do to promote the FSP

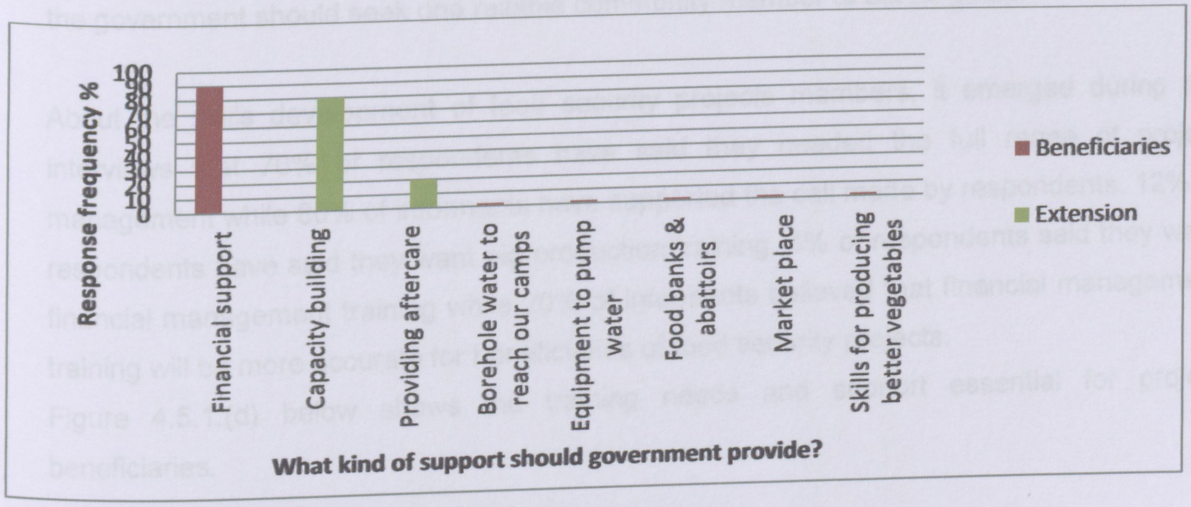


Figure 4.5.1 (b) Kind of support government provides

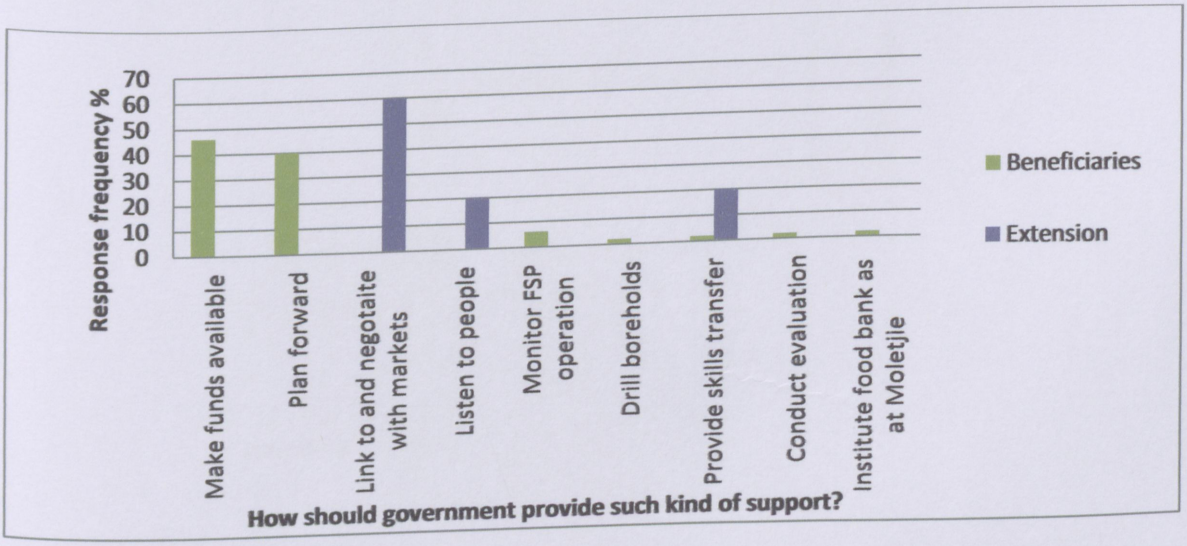


Figure 4.5.1 (c) Ways government provides support

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The respondents have wanted the government to monitor and evaluate their food security projects, during the interviews, 80% of informants have said the government should conduct monitoring and evaluation in order for food security projects to be sustainable while 56% of respondents have said they want the government to conduct capacity building and training to beneficiaries of food security projects. 20% of informants have further said they want the government to provide one member to function as a policy watchdog.

During the interviews 80% of respondents have said that one member of the project should be trained in project management while 20% of informants have supported the call. On the other hand 60% of informants believed that the project should source a skilled outsider to assist with day to day operations while 8% of the respondents have said that they believe the government should seek one reliable community member to act as guide.

About the skills development of food security projects members, it emerged during the interviews that 76% of respondents have said they needed the full range of project management while 60% of informants have supported the call made by respondents. 12% of respondents have said they want pig production training, 4% of respondents said they want financial management training while 20% of informants believed that financial management training will be more accurate for beneficiaries of food security projects.
Figure 4.5.1.(d) below shows the training needs and support essential for project beneficiaries.

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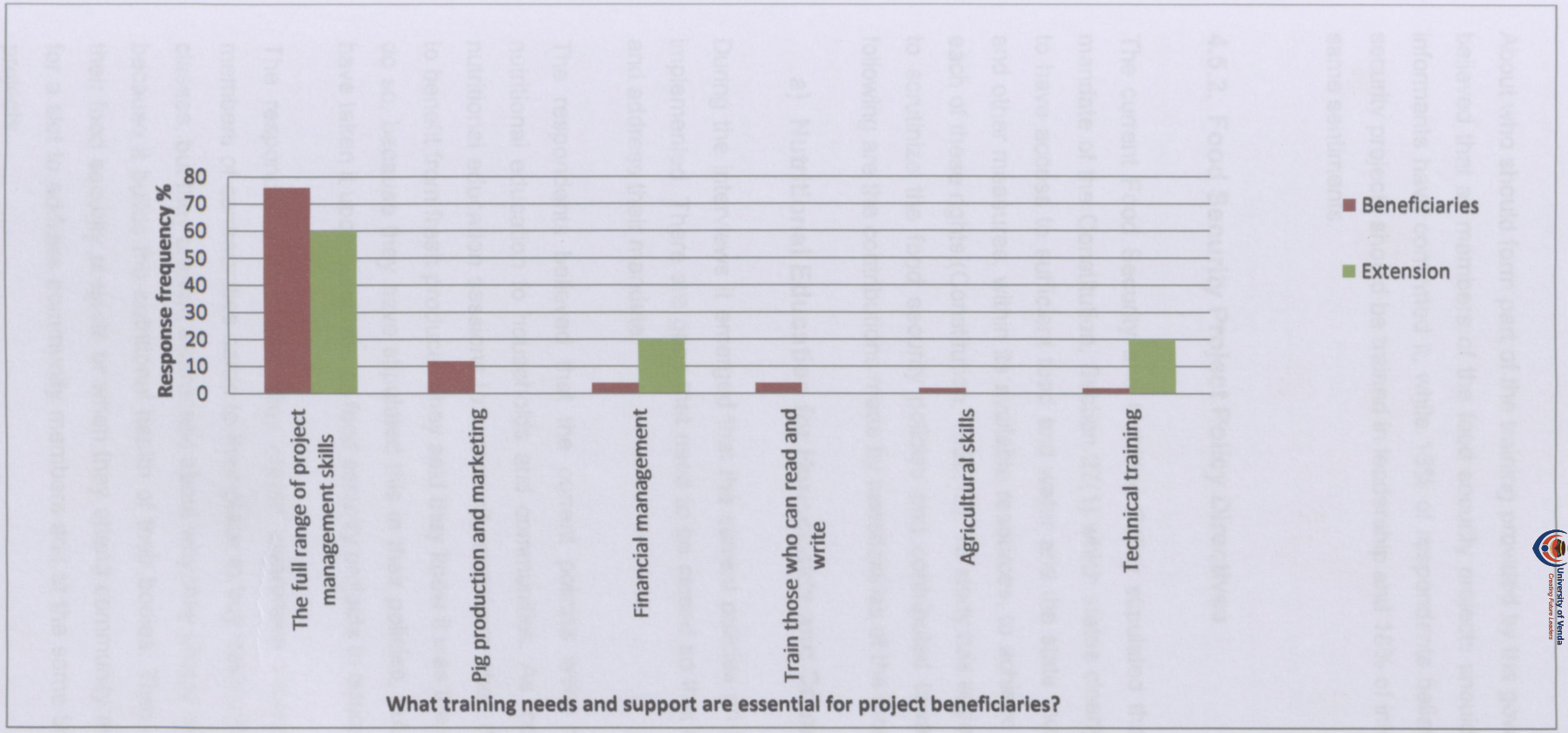


Figure 4.5.1 (d) Training needs and support essential for project beneficiaries

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About who should form part of the training provided by the government, 72% of respondents believed that all members of the food security projects should receive training and 80% of informants have confirmed it, while 18% of respondents believed that beneficiaries of food security projects should be trained in leadership and 18% of informants have also shared the same sentiments.

4.5.2. Food Security Project Policy Directives

The current Food Security and Nutrition Policy stipulated that it was operating under the mandate of the Constitution, Section 27(1) which states clearly that "everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water and the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of each of these rights (Constitution, 1996:12). To study has engaged the food security projects to scrutinize the food security policies and contributed towards their improvements. The following are the contributions made by beneficiaries of the food security projects:

a) Nutritional Education for Households and Communities

During the interviews it emerged that the current policies on food security are not properly implemented. There are gaps that need to be closed so that they can begin to be effective and address their mandate.

The respondents believed that the current policies were not doing enough to provide nutritional education to households and communities. As food security projects they offer nutritional education sessions to community members when they visit their projects on how to benefit from fresh produce. They said they knew it was the mandate of the government to do so, because they have stipulated this in their policies, but they are not doing it, so they have taken it upon ourselves as food security projects to educate community members.

The respondents have said they create awareness among community members when members of communities came to their place to buy fresh produce. They don't usually have classes, but they created awareness about why they should eat fresh vegetables and eggs – because it builds the nutritional health of their bodies. They did that either when they visit their food security projects or when they attend community meetings where they would ask for a slot to address community members and at the same time promote their food security projects.

A total of 50 respondents from the Food Security Projects shared the same sentiments with regard to the issue of nutritional education to the households and the communities. Most of the Food Security Projects supply good quality produce. For example, one egg production project in Vhembe District produces good quality eggs and has among its customers the top retail stores. During the interviews it emerged that Food Security Project community members were not taught to eat nutritious food. The government has inscribed in its food security policy that households and communities need to be taught, but it is not done properly. The respondents have taken it upon themselves to make sure that these people are now being taught. They have also recommended it as a contribution to the policy directive for improvement by the policy leadership.

b) Implementation of food security monitoring systems at local, provincial and national level

From the interviews it emerged that the food security monitoring systems that were stipulated in the food security policies are not properly implemented. The local, provincial and national government offices do not have proper records of Food Security Projects. Most such projects are not properly monitored; some have collapsed because no one bothered to check since they were established if they were progressing well or not, thereby failing to take corrective action in time.

About financial assistance the respondents have said that the government has assisted them with money for the establishment of their food security project. The government supported them during the first phase, but after they realized that they were progressing well they never came back to monitor their activities there. They believed that if they monitor the food security project they will be able take corrective action before things got out of hand.

During the interviews have said that the extension officers used to come in the past, but because we were funded by the Department of Health and Social Development, they were told not come any longer. After the Department of Health and Social Development withdrew from monitoring the Food Security Projects to give way to the Department of Agriculture, that was when we started to see the activities of the extension officers again.

The beneficiaries of the Food Security Projects agreed that the government is not doing enough for such projects. They agreed that food security policies were developed, but there is no enforcement of them. They reached a consensus that food security monitoring systems

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at local, provincial and national spheres should be incorporated into food security policies so that the problems encountered by Food Security Projects should be identified at their earliest stages and solved.

c) Development of Registers for Food Security Projects

From the interviews it emerged that Food Security Projects were not properly recorded. Upon a visit to the district and provincial offices it was discovered that very few Food Security Projects were on a database, but the visits to the communities proved otherwise. There were 70% the number against those on database. The existing food security policies stipulate that registers need to be kept for food Security Projects and food-insecure households, but it is understood that not all officers in charge are doing what is expected of them.

The respondents have said that they don't think the government was doing enough when it came to creating a database their food security projects. In the past, they were approached to by the government to establish food security projects; they were informed that the percentage of food-insecure households was going up. Establishing food security projects was in response to the Millennium Development Goal which aims at halving poverty and hunger by 2015.

During the interviews the respondents have said that they have heard that there are people going around collecting data in order to determine who the food-insecure families are. They were happy because they thought that was how the government would establish more food security projects and give support to the struggling ones. But that was not to be; those who collected data never showed up again, let alone provided feedback to the families concerned.

The government, through the food security policies that were developed, should make sure that they are properly implemented. During the interviews it emerged that some stipulations within the policies were not being properly implemented.

A database of all the food security projects and food-insecure families was not properly kept. Even if it was kept, it did not reflect all food security projects in Limpopo Province. That was the reason why the beneficiaries of food security projects have reached the point of identifying issues that must be included in the food security policies.

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d) Capacity Building

During the interviews it emerged that there was a need for training food security project beneficiaries. They argued that the Food Security Projects are characterized by unskilled labour, hence the levels of low production and tendency to waste resources.

The respondents have said that they want the policy-makers to create a clause within the policy that stipulates that all food security project beneficiaries should undergo training before the commencement of farming operations. These training sessions should continue until such time that authorities are very sure that the Food Security Projects are on their feet.

The College of Agriculture used to come and train us on different skills, but it doesn't help since not all beneficiaries are involved in training. The respondents said, *"The college trainers do not want to conduct training on site; they prefer that we should all go to the college and sleep in their hostel while our chickens are dying because no one is taking care of them. Their training is good but the problem is that we are required to travel to their college. When we said to them, come and conduct training here, they refuse and say they don't have transport to take them to and from the college on a daily basis".*

When asked how they prefer to be trained they said they preferred the chairpersons and secretaries to go first to be trained because they are the only beneficiaries who are literate.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSIONS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

The study focused on the Impact of food security on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Beneficiaries of food security projects participated in this study. This is in line with the view that beneficiaries of food security projects have first-hand information regarding the operation of the projects. In this chapter, the major results are discussed in order to make a basis for making conclusions and recommendations on the fundamental dimensions of the study.

5.2. DISCUSSIONS

The primary research questions used in this study were as follows; which food security projects are registered in Limpopo Province? What is the contribution of food security projects towards poverty alleviation to the communities of Limpopo? How policy directives could be scrutinized to positively impact on the Food Security Projects in the province? The study conducted by Love and Sayed (2001) states that the economic empowerment programs such as projects serve as a means to help the communities to be financially stable. Income generating programs transfer resources and skills to members of the local community, this enhances the quality of life for the local residents as well as the ability of the community to care for vulnerable community members such as HIV/AIDS infected people, disabled and the aged. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Food Crisis (2008), in response to the poverty and hunger situations which people face on a daily basis, the food security projects were initiated to alleviate hunger, and to provide a source of income for those families affected by HIV/AIDS crisis. The DOA (2011) supported that by encouraging people to establish the food security projects to contribute to food security. 347 food security projects were established in all the districts of Limpopo Province, Mopani district being the one with many projects than the others.

The following research objectives were used in this study; to map and profile food security projects in Limpopo Province; to investigate the contribution of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province; and to scrutinize the policy directives of food security projects in Limpopo Province. The study also adopted the following audit components in analyzing the communities under which food security projects are operating from: economic, political, environmental, health and education, and social components.

Food security projects in Limpopo Province were established with the aim of alleviating poverty as cited by DOA (2011). Zwane (2012), stresses that successful food security and

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poverty-oriented programmes do not only assist poor rural populations to produce more and diversified products, but to produce a surplus that can be marketed and thereby generate income for the purposes of improving quality of life through improved diet and nutrition. The study further revealed that the food security projects which were initiated by the government of South Africa were aimed at poverty reduction (Bresciani & Croppenstedt, 2006). According to Policy brief (2013) agriculture is the major source of income for poor rural households. The study highlighted that the mandate by which food security projects were made to operate within was achieved, this was confirmed by the fact that 82% of informants have said that the establishment of food security projects have helped the beneficiaries in terms of job creation and contributed to their livelihoods.

Poverty and food insecurity in South Africa is the result of several centuries of colonial and apartheid policies, designed specifically to create general conditions unfavorable to the well-being of black people in all its aspects, especially in the former homelands (DOA, 2011). This study indicated that the government has looked down upon the food security projects in Limpopo province. The department of health and social development and the department of agriculture documents in Limpopo province show that there were 138 food security projects in all the districts of Limpopo Province. However; after this study it was discovered that there are 347 food security projects in the province, of which 338 were declared functional.

Mopani district was found to be the only district in Limpopo Province with 184 food security projects, Vhembe district came second with 57 and Capricorn 55, Sekhukhune and Waterberg with 39 and 23 food security projects respectively. Mudau and Netshandama (2012) hinted that food security projects were established to achieve among other things the following:

- Increased household food production and trading;
- Improved income generation and job creation opportunities;
- Improved nutrition and food safety;
- Increased safety nets and food emergency management systems;
- Provide capacity building.

In Mopani district people saw the establishment of food security projects as an answer to job creation and food security challenges. Bernstein (1994) contends that food security creates adequate and secure entitlements as the core concern of development strategy which requires a wide-range of public support.

The study has shown that South Africa has developed a Food Security Strategy and Nutrition Policy (DAFF, 2014), its strategic goal being to ensure the availability, accessibility

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and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels. This means that the food security projects are by any means part of the strategy to make sure that food is available, accessible and affordable to the vulnerable.

Although clearly what was most important was the capacity of the project to generate an income for its beneficiaries, the direct access to the food which it also provides was also important to beneficiaries. In a study by Mudau & Netshandama (2012), they conclude that growing the agricultural sector is the primary channel for achieving household food security. Food security projects generated income for its members because they get salaries from the profit made after the sale of stock. Lunga (2011) postulates that food security projects have a great impact in the local communities in terms of job creation.

The economic empowerment programs such as food security projects serve as a means to help communities to financially support themselves (Love & Sayed, 2001). However; World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Food crisis (2008) contends that poverty and hunger situations which people face on a daily basis becomes a stumbling block for development, the food security projects were initiated to alleviate hunger and provide a source of income.

The food security projects transfer resources and skills to members of the local communities (Love & Sayed, 2001), the food security projects have been in the fore front in terms of providing health care education to members of the communities, they do that despite the presence of health care services which is there in the communities. The study also highlighted some challenges that food security project members experienced during their daily operations. Financial constraints, lack of reliable markets and lack of financial management skills. Brand et al (2007), postulates that in order to help people change their lives through improved income-generating, it may be essential to develop their money management skills.

The fact that most customers are community members has prompted project members to plough back to the communities, youths who are studying agriculture are given the opportunity to practice farming skills at the projects for free. Spark (2007), maintains that projects provide children with a tool for survival at times of food shortages, they also familiarize children with methods of sustainable production of food that are applicable to their homestead of farms and important for household food security.

The food security policy beneficiaries have influenced the policy directives through their contributions. The objective of a food security policy in South Africa was to eradicate hunger and poverty. The goal of a food security policy was to improve South Africa's adequacy and stability of access to safe and nutritious food at both national and household

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level. The beneficiaries of food security projects gave suggestions of improvement towards the policy directives. They want the government to start implementing the national education for the households and communities, the government policies have stated that this initiative should be implemented but they are failing to implement. The food security monitoring systems at local, provincial and national level must be implemented because the policy has been developed to that effect. Registers for food security projects must be established. The government does not have a complete register of food security projects, only 70% of food security projects were registered on the government database.

5.3. CONCLUSION

Currently there are 347 Food Security projects across Limpopo Province (Dept. of Health and Welfare, Poverty Alleviation Projects, 2002); see Appendix A and Figure 4.3.3(a) The majority of these food security projects were funded by departments or donors; a small fraction of them were started by the members themselves with the hope that one day they would receive funding. These projects range from vegetable, dairy to broiler production. Some managed to start pig production projects out of their own contributions. Those Food Security Projects that were started with member contributions are struggling because the contributions were inadequate to enable a project to get up and running. The Food Security Projects that are running well are those that did not tamper with profits: beneficiaries either share the left-overs from sales or they do not share at all.

The results of this research conducted in the districts of Limpopo Province are very clear and call for urgent intervention by the government because the same government has encouraged the community members to start food security projects in order to curb hunger and malnutrition in rural communities. The results suggest that somehow food security projects have shown an impact, although this is not to suggest that food security projects are the only way to go in terms of addressing the unemployment challenge. Generally, Food Security Projects are employment providers, as became evident during interviews when the food security project beneficiaries mentioned that, when they wake up every day they tell themselves that they are going to work and they do the abnormal hours that others cannot do in other employment.

The management of an enterprise or business leadership is the process directing human activities in an enterprise in an attempt to utilize human and other resources as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to satisfy specific needs in the market and so reach the objectives of the enterprise. Stated more succinctly: a manager does his or her work by

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getting other people to do theirs, which contributes towards the attainment of enterprise goals and objectives (Marx, Van Rooyen, Bosch, & Reynders, 2001).

The survival of an enterprise thus depends to a large extent on the way in which those mandated to run it are getting other people to do their job; they must delegate where possible and also monitor the work accordingly. The executive committees running these Food Security Projects do not have the necessary skills to run projects; they still lack bookkeeping and financial management skills. This is why most of these Food Security Projects are collapsing.

The information gathered from the different Food Security Projects suggests that most of the executive members are clinging to power; when it is time for them to be voted out, they refuse to let go of their positions.

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CHAPTER 6: SYNTHESIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter begins with a restatement of the purpose of this study and a review of the methodological issues. Presentation of major findings of the study is provided. Conclusions and recommendations to the University and the Provincial government and suggestions for future research and knowledge are included.

6.2. METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

The study reiterates that food security depends to a large extent on the range of agricultural and non-agricultural activities that together furnish a variety of sources of food and income. The absence of nutritious food can lead to an individual to suffer from malnutrition and emotional scars. The existence of most food security projects in Limpopo Province was not known and most of them were not properly profiled. Currently, the food security projects are not properly profiled in Limpopo Province and therefore, currently, there is little or no evidence of their contribution towards poverty alleviation. This study sought to fill the gap through determining the impact that these food security projects have on poverty alleviation in the districts of Limpopo Province. It was presumed that the results of this study would lead to informed policy making and also help craft more viable strategies for supporting the food security projects so that they become more sustainable.

In-depth individual interviews were conducted with chairpersons of food security projects and extension officers working with food security at district level. Furthermore; individual interviews were conducted with officials from the provincial department of Health and Social Development and Department of Agriculture as well as the tribal council representative at district level. The interviews were recorded on notebooks and later transcribed. The three phase procedure, which includes: a), data reduction, b) data display, and c) conclusion drawing and verifications were followed.

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6.3. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

6.3.1. Introduction

The following research objectives were employed: a) Mapping and profiling of food security projects in Limpopo Province; b) determining the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province, and c) scrutinizing the policy directives on influencing positive effect on food security projects in the province.

6.3.2. Mapping and profiling of food security projects in Limpopo Province

The study has shown that in the districts of Limpopo Province there are 347 food security projects (Appendix A), out of those only 11 of them are dysfunctional the reason of their dysfunctionality was as a result of poor management and lack of relevant skills. During the interviews it emerged that the food security projects were funded by the Limpopo Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD), Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA), the Independent Development Trust (IDT), the Amalgamated Banks of South Africa (ABSA), and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program (CASP).

6.3.3. The contribution of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province

The food security projects were established in order to operate within the government mandate as stated in the constitution section 27(1) states clearly that "everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water and the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of each of these rights (Constitution, 1996:12). Poverty is undoubtedly the cause of hunger, but hunger can also be a cause of poverty. Extreme poverty remains widespread in developing world despite the enforcement of the human rights laws, establishment of the development programmes and policy frameworks such as the Right to food authorized by the (UN); Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which a programme of the African Union in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Despite these initiatives, it is reported that 1.9 billion people worldwide live on less than US$1.25 a day. Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. Average per capita income in 2010 was $688 compared to $1717 in the rest of the developing world. The GDP growth per capita has averaged 0.16 percent per year. On the other hand, food security is categorized by its availability at national and household level. Poverty and food security complements

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each other in the sense that where there is no food security there is poverty. In view of the above, food security projects were established to also create employment for the community members and to provide for food security, this in part was done in order to halve poverty within the communities as the it was reported that 1.9 billion people worldwide still live on less than US$1.25 a day, a rate which the MDG itself failed to decrease. The food security projects also have a very good relationship with the communities in which they are operating from; this relationship has created trust within communities so much that the theft of produce was minimized. This also creates a situation where each parties trust one another so much that the spirit of theft of commodities becomes minimized. The food security projects were given the assurance by the government and tribal council that they will get financial assistance and extra land of farming if their farming operations became successful. The Food banks have been set up under the Food Bank South Africa (FBSA), a non-profit organization formed by the South African Forum for Food Security (SAFFS), a partnership between government, civil society and corporate sector. Each food bank acts by procuring food, which is mainly donated by the food and grocery industries, government agencies, individual and other agencies. But in this study beneficiaries indicated that they did not know about the food bank in South Africa

In this study the beneficiaries were motivated to continue working in the food security projects because they get wages, i.e. eighty percent from their proceeds, and twenty percent in kind, i.e. a share of stock after sales. The food security projects are providing support to the beneficiaries because they develop skills. Besides the support that beneficiaries receive, they also provide support to the community members in terms of temporary jobs when their harvest was huge. In view of the above, the food security projects does experience challenges in running their projects, namely; financial constraints, lack of reliable markets, lack of relevant skills among others.

During the interviews it emerged that the food security projects have impact on the lives of the community. Fresh produce, learning opportunities for students studying agriculture and farmers, livestock sales for funerals and wedding ceremonies is brought nearer to the community.

The environment in which the food security projects are operating from does not cause any harm to the live of the community members and to the commodities which are produced there. Beneficiaries of these projects were taught not to contribute to the pollution of the environment. In this study beneficiaries were asked if there are measures in place to address the pollution of the environment, it became clear that there were no measures to address pollution of the environment because the food security projects do not contribute to pollution of the environment.

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The food security projects provided health care education to the members of the communities. They provide education in healthy eating, which mean that community members must always make sure that they eat fresh vegetables which are coming from the food security projects. These community members receive health care education only when they visit the site of the food security projects. In general, food security projects are assisting in poverty alleviation especially on those foods security projects that are functional.

The study also revealed that there was social cohesion amongst the food security. Members did not stay in the food security projects because of money alone, also for food parcels and to strengthen their relationships.

6.3.4. Scrutinizing the policy directives on food security projects in the province

This study has proved that beneficiaries of food security projects have scrutinized the policy directives; this was after they have realized that the government policies are not being implemented to their benefit. The study further indicated that beneficiaries wanted the government to advertise their food security projects to the different stakeholder so that those who are interested in their produce may come and buy from them; food security policies were promoting food security but were silent with regard to the support the producers should get from the government. The study further indicated that they wanted the government to provide financial support because they cannot operate successfully because of lack of finance. In addition to this, the study has indicated that beneficiaries had wanted the government to support their food security projects in order for them to be sustainable. The government should conduct capacity building and training to beneficiaries of food security projects.

The study further highlighted that the beneficiaries' contribution towards the development of policy directives need to be taken into account. Their contribution were in the form of the nutritional education for the households and communities, implementation of food security monitoring systems at local, provincial and national level, development of registers for food security projects, and capacity building. The food security policies scrutinized by beneficiaries were found to have loopholes; less was said about the food security projects, even though they were contributing towards food security of the country, policy makers tended to disregard them.

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6.4. CONCLUSIONS

The study adopted the following research objectives: mapping and profiling of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo Province; determining the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province; and scrutinizing the policy directives on influencing positive effect on food security projects in the province The study also adopted the audit components when analyzing the economic and material characteristics of the communities and food security projects. The findings of this study were that in Limpopo Province there are 347 food security projects. The study further revealed that 70% of the food security projects were on department database while 30% of them were not in database. It was after the research was conducted that more and more food security projects were uncovered in the districts. The key findings of this study are that food security projects have had an impact to the lives of beneficiaries and community members. Some beneficiaries have even said they felt as if they are employed just like any other person who wakes up in the morning and go to work.

This food security projects were serving a specific mandate, namely; that of creating jobs and providing for food security in the communities. Although not in a large scale, food security projects were generating income to their beneficiaries. The study also proved that the skills and resources were transferred to members of the local communities. Members of the local communities visit the food security project sites to learn farming skills. The study confirmed that the food security projects had also ploughed back to the communities by giving youths studying agriculture an opportunity to practice farming skills at the project free of charge.

The findings of the study further highlighted that food security project beneficiaries have influenced the development of improved policy directives on food security. The study highlighted the following issues that need to be taken into account by policy makers: Nutritional education for households and communities; implementation of food security monitoring systems at local, provincial and national level; development of registers for food security projects; and capacity building.

6.5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

The study has yielded several important recommendations for additional research regarding food security projects in Limpopo Province as addressed in Chapter 4 concerning the following objectives, namely; mapping and profiling of food security projects in the districts of Limpopo, determining the contributions of food security projects towards poverty alleviation,

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and scrutinizing the policy directives on food security projects in the province. The recommendations that emanated from the study could be broadly categorized as follows:

For Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The following are recommendations to DAFF as a caretaker of all the food security projects in the republic of South Africa:

a) There is a need for further mapping and profiling of food security projects in other provinces of the Republic of South Africa so that a single database could be kept.

Presently there are few studies that prove that food security projects in the country are registered in the database. In Limpopo Province, only 70% of the food security projects are on database. The same cannot be said about other provinces.

b) The local government and department of Agriculture must organize market for the commodities produced in the food security projects, not only in Limpopo Province but countrywide

c) There is a need to negotiate with traditional authorities to make a provision of extra land to food security projects that need to expand their farming operations.

Policy makers and reviewers

a) There is a need to review the policies on food security in the Republic of South Africa because they are partially addressing the needs of the organized food security projects which were established with the aim of creating employment and providing for food security.

b) Political commitment is needed to ensure the implementation of the South Africa's food and nutrition policy especially targeting the food security projects.

c) Monitoring and evaluation of implementation plan of food and nutrition policy will assist policy makers and various program implementers to assess progress towards established goals and outcomes.

For researchers

a) There is a need for further research that includes the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation. Jobs benefitting the members of projects and local community members were created. Skills and resources were transferred to members of the local communities. Youths studying agriculture were given an opportunity to practice farming skills, in view of all these, the food security and nutrition policy is silent about the contribution of food security projects in the country.

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b) The study will contribute to the body of knowledge and increase the empirical evidence reported in the literature about the phenomenon understudy.

In achieving the objectives of the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province of South Africa", this study did not produce very conclusive results. It has therefore opened up the following avenues for further investigation: The findings of this study cannot be generalized as this study was conducted in Limpopo Province of South Africa. The findings may not necessarily produce the same results for other provinces in the Republic of South Africa, therefore; there is a need to conduct similar study in other provinces within the Republic of South Africa and beyond in order to determine the impact of food security projects on poverty so that the Sustainable Development Goals number 1 and number 2 can be addressed.

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8. APPENDICES

Appendix A

District	Type of Food Security Project	Total number	Functional	Dysfunctional
Waterberg	Vegetable	14	12	2
	Broilers	5	5	0
	Dairy	2	2	0
	Livestock	1	0	1
Vhembe	Vegetables	35	35	0
	Broilers	14	14	0
	Eggs	4	4	0
	Pigs	1	1	0
	Livestock coop	3	1	2
Capricorn	Vegetables	46	46	0
	Broilers	7	6	1
	Eggs	2	2	0
	Vegetables	23	21	2
Sekhukhune	Broilers	12	11	1
	Eggs	1	1	0
	Pigs	3	2	1
	Vegetables	132	132	0
Mopani	Eggs	5	5	0
	Broilers	36	35	1
	Pigs	1	1	0
Excel totals		347	336	11

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Appendix B Consent Form

INFORMED CONSENT

RE : IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The above matter refers:

1. **Researcher :** I, Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani am a Doctoral candidate at the University of Venda. I am presently engaged in a research study entitled: **IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

   This study is conducted under the supervision of: Dr. M.J Mudau, Center for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation and Professor V.O Netshandama, Director of Community Engagements.

   The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo province, South Africa. The objectives of this study are as follows:

   - to conduct the audit of all Food Security Projects in order to develop a database;
   - to investigate the impact of Food Security Projects on poverty alleviation to the communities in Limpopo province;
   - to assess the components of poverty alleviation success rate.
   - to develop an improved policy directives on Food Security Projects in the Limpopo province.

   To achieve the above purpose and objectives, I need to conduct interviews with you (Beneficiary of a food security project, Extension Officer, Tribal council representative, official from Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Social Development), regarding your experiences on food security project issues. The interviews will be transcribed verbatim and verified with you and the independent expert. Your anonymity will be safeguarded by omitting the use of names. The information related to the

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Appendix C Research Approval

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NAME OF RESEARCHER/INVESTIGATOR :
NESENGANI TJ

Student No. 11606588

PROJECT TITLE: Impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province of South Africa.

PROJECT NO: SARDF/12/CRD/03/E12 01

SUPERVISORS/ CO-RESEARCHERS/ CO-INVESTIGATORS

NAME	INSTITUTION & DEPARTMENT	ROLE
Dr. MJ Mudau	University of Venda	Supervisor
Dr VC Netshandama	University of Venda	Co-supervisor
Mr TJ Nesengani	University of Venda.	Investigator - Student

ISSUED BY:
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA, HEALTH, SAFETY AND RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Considered: January 2012
Decision by Ethical Clearance Committee Granted
Signature of Chairperson of the Committee: .....
Name of the Chairperson of the Committee: Prof. C.V. Nikodem

University of Venda
PRIVATE BAG X5050, THOHOYANDOU, 0950, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA
TELEPHONE (015) 962 8504/8484 /8313 FAX (015) 962 8439
"A quality driven financially sustainable, rural-based Comprehensive University"

© University of Venda

04 June 2012

The Head of Department
Limpopo Department of Health & Social Development
P/Bag X9485
POLOKWANE
0700

REQUEST TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS ON OFFICIALS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AND BENEFICIARIES OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

I hereby request permission for ***Mr. Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani*** (Student Number: 11606588) who is our PhD candidate in the Centre For Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation at the University of Venda, to conduct interviews for his research from officials of your department as well as from beneficiaries of projects in all the districts of Limpopo Province. His research topic is ***"The Impact of Food Security Projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province, South Africa."***

The research topic calls for intense one-on-one interviews with beneficiaries and officials who are directly involved in the funded Food Security Projects across Limpopo Province.

Would you kindly grant him permission to conduct interviews with the above mentioned respondents.

Thanking you in advance for accepting my request

Dr. MJ Mudau
Promoter: Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

University of Venda

© University of Venda

04 June 2012

The Head of Department
Limpopo Department of Agriculture
P/Bag X9487
POLOKWANE
0700

REQUEST TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS ON OFFICIALS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AND BENEFICIARIES OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

I hereby request permission for ***Mr. Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani*** (Student Number: 11606588) who is our PhD candidate in the Centre For Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation at the University of Venda, to conduct interviews for his research from officials of your department as well as from beneficiaries of projects in all the districts of Limpopo Province. His research topic is "***The Impact of Food Security Projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province, South Africa***."

The research topic calls for intense one-on-one interviews with beneficiaries and officials who are directly involved in the funded Food Security Projects across Limpopo Province.

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Thanking you in advance for accepting my request

Dr. MJ Mudau
Promoter: Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

University of Venda

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RE: IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The above matter refers:

1. **Researcher:** I, Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani am a Doctoral candidate at the University of Venda. I am presently engaged in a research study entitled: **IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

   This study is conducted under the supervision of: Dr. M.J Mudau, Center for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation and Professor V.O Netshandama, Director of Community Engagements.

   The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo province, South Africa. The objectives of this study are as follows:

   - to verify the existence of all food security projects in order to develop a database;
   - to investigate the impact of Food Security Projects on poverty alleviation to the communities in Limpopo province;
   - to develop an improved policy directives on Food Security Projects in the Limpopo province.

   To achieve the above purpose and objectives, I need to conduct interviews with you (Beneficiary of a food security project, Extension Officer, Tribal council representative, official from Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Social Development), regarding your experiences on food security project issues. The interviews will be transcribed verbatim and verified with you and the independent expert. Your anonymity will be safeguarded by omitting the use of names. The information related to the interviews will only be accessible to me and the promoters. No data will be linked to your name.

   I invite you to participate in this study. You are of course under obligation to participate in this study, but if you do so, you have the right to withdraw at any given moment during the stage of the research.

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In view of the above, you are hereby requested to participate in this project.

2. Participant:.....give my consent to be interviewed by Thinandavha Johannes Nesengani.

It has been explained to me that my name and dignity as a participant is preserved by me through observing the following ethical standards throughout the research process:

- Voluntary participation and freedom to withdraw without a penalty;
- Making the decision based on thorough information given to me;
- My name and my community will not be mentioned during discussions;
- Raw materials is kept under lock and key to ensure confidentiality;
- Information related to the interviews will only be accessible to my supervisors and the independent coder;
- Field notes is destroyed and erased as soon as possible; and
- A summary of the research study is made available to me if I wish.

Participant's signature: .....Date: .....

Researcher's signature: .....Date: .....

Thank you

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TITLE: IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Case study structured interview tool for tribal council representative and officials at Provincial level

Questionnaire number | |

Study objectives: to map and profile food security projects in Limpopo Province

Name of the tribal council/ Organisation: .....

	Name	Signature	Date
Field enumerator			
Supervisor			
Data captured			

Instructions: semi-structured interviews will center on the themes listed below:

Section A: Profile of respondents

1. Gender (please tick)

Male	
Female	

2. How long have you been working in this section?

Less than five years	
6-10 years	
11-15 years	
16 years and above	

Section B: Mapping and profiling of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province

1. How many food security projects do you have in your records per village/district? Please provide a list of such projects.

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2. What effects do the functional and dysfunctional food security projects have to its members?
3. How many of these food security projects are functional and how many are dysfunctional? Please provide a list of such projects.

Village/District	Type of food security projects	Number of Functional	Number of Dysfunctional

Section C: Contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation

4. Who funded the food security projects in your village/ districts of Limpopo province and for how much each funded? Provide a list

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. How was the mandate by which the food security projects were made to operate within achieved?

.....
.....
.....
.....

6. How the food security projects do contributes to the livelihood of the project beneficiaries? Please explain

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

7. Does the mandate within which food security project are made to operate from achieved?

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.....

.....

.....

.....

8. Please rate the relationship between the food security project members and the community in the following scale:

Unsatisfactory	Average	Above average	Very much above average	Outstanding

9. As tribal council/government, what support are you anticipating to provide to the food security projects in future.

.....

.....

.....

.....

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TITLE: IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS FOR FSP BENEFICIARIES

Questionnaire number

Study objectives:

- to determine the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province of South Africa
- to scrutinize policy directives on food security projects in Limpopo Province

Name of Food Security Project visited: .....

Name of District: .....

Municipality: .....

	Name	signature	Date
Field enumerator			
Supervisor			
Data captured			

Project operational	
Project not operational	

Structured interviews will center on the themes listed below:

Section A: Profile of Respondents of the Food Security Projects

1. Age (please tick)

1. Below 30	
2. 31 - 45	

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3. 46 - 60	
4. 61 and above	

2. Gender

1. Male	
2. Female	

3. Marital status

1. Never married	
2. Married	
3. Single	
4. Divorced	
5. Widow	
6. Widower	

4. Highest standard passed

1. No formal education	
2. Grade 1-7	
3. Grade 8-10	
4. Grade 11-12	
5. University	
6. Other (specify)..... ...	

5. State your position in the food security project

.....

.....

.....

.....

Section B: To determine the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation to the communities of Limpopo province

1. **Economic impact of food security projects**
   - What motivates you to continue working in the food security projects?
   - What support is your food security project giving to you as a beneficiary?
   - How do you handle the employment problems for other community members?
   - What challenges do you experience in running the food security project?

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2. **Political impact of food security projects**
    - What impact does your project have on the daily lives of the community members?
    - What support does your project give to the local youth who are interested in farming?
    - What do you suggest should be done by the local government to support your food security project?

3. **Environmental impact of food security projects**
    - How does your daily project activity contribute to pollution of the environment?
    - What measures are in place to address pollution caused by daily food security project activities?
    - Where do you get water for your project from?

4. **Health and education impact of food security projects**
    - What health care support does your food security project provide to the community?
    - How do you educate community members about the health care issues?
    - How often do you provide community members with health care education?

5. **Social impact of food security projects**
    - What kind of support does your project provides to the local communities?
    - What motivates you to provide support to local communities?
    - What challenges do you experience when providing support to the local communities?

Section C: To scrutinize policy directives on food security projects in Limpopo Province

- What do you think government should do to promote your project?
- What kind of support do you want the government to provide you with?
- How would you like the government to provide such support?
- What do you suggest the government should do to make sure that food security projects are sustainable?

- Who do you think the government, as a principal funder of projects, should include as beneficiaries in order to make projects sustainable?
- What training needs and support do you think is essential for project beneficiaries?
- Who do you think should form part of the training?
- How can food security project policy directives be scrutinized?

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Creating Future Leaders

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TOPIC: IMPACT OF FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS FOR EXTENSION OFFICERS

Questionnaire number: ☐

Study objective:

- to determine the contributions of food security projects on poverty alleviation in Limpopo Province of South Africa;
- to scrutinize improved policy directives on food security projects in Limpopo Province.

Name of Food Security Project: .....

Name of District: .....

Municipality: .....

	Name	signature	Date
Field enumerator			
Supervisor			
Data captured			

Structured interviews will center on the themes listed below:

Section A: Profile of Respondents

1. Gender (please tick)

2. Male	
3. Female	

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3. How long have you been working on Extension section?

Less than 5 years	
6 – 10 years	
11 – 15 years	
16 ears and above	

4. How many projects are under your ward?

Less than 5	
6 - 10	
11 - 15	
16 and above	

Section B: Economic Impact of Food Security Projects

4. Economic impact of food security projects

- What motivates beneficiaries to continue working in the food security projects?
- What support is food security project giving to the beneficiaries?
- How do beneficiaries handle the employment problems for other community members?
- What challenges do you think beneficiaries are experiencing in running the food security project?

5. Political impact of food security projects

- What impact does the project have on the daily lives of other community members?
- What support does the project give to the local youths who are interested in farming?
- What do you suggest should be done by the local government to support the food security project?

6. Environmental impact of food security projects

- How does the daily project activity contribute to pollution of the environment?
- What measures are put in place to address pollution caused by daily food security project activities?
- Where does the beneficiary get water for their project from?

7. Health and education impact of food security projects

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- What health care support do the food security project provide to the community?
- How do the beneficiaries educate community members about the health care issues?
- How often beneficiaries do provides community members with health care education?

8. **Social impact of food security projects**
    - What kind of support does the project provides to the local communities?
    - What motivates beneficiaries to provide support to local communities?
    - What challenges does beneficiaries experience when providing support to the local communities?

Section C: To scrutinize policy directives on food security projects in Limpopo Province

- What do you think government should do to promote food security project?
- What kind of support do you want the government to provide food security projects with?
- How would you like the government to provide such support?
- What do you suggest the government should do to make sure that food security projects are sustainable?
- Who do you think the government, as a principal funder of projects, should include in a list of beneficiaries in order to make projects sustainable?
- What training needs and support do you think is essential for project beneficiaries?
- Who do you think should form part of the training?
- How can food security project policy directives be scrutinized.

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