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**AN ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF LAND REFORM
PROGRAMME IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA: SUCCESSES AND
FAILURES**

Master's Thesis

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R u l e s f o r e l a b o r a t i o n :

The objectives of this study is to assess progress in the implementation of land reform, analyse the current and potential impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods. The secondary data will be performed to review government and NGO reports. For impact assessment study, case studies will be used to substantiate the status of current land reform in Limpopo Province. Case studies will be selected from success stories (bright spots), medium performance stories and failure stories (improvement spots/dark spots) so that critical learning points can be identified.

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Declaration

I, **Sekgobela Sello Floyed** solemnly declare that I have written the presented thesis titled “An Analysis of the Evolution of Land Reform Programme in Limpopo Province, South Africa: Successes and Failures”. Also to declare that this work has not previously been submitted by me or any person at any university and all bibliographical references and quotations has been duly acknowledged.

Surname & Initials (Title)

Date

Dedication

This piece of work is devoted to my late uncle **Mmutle Gideon Phasha**, My late Grandparents **Miriam Mashianoke** and **Oupa Frank Mashianoke**. You have played a crucial role to shape me to be the person I am today.

To you my lovely mother, **Ntlhapi Catherine Sekgobela**, thank you for the support, love and care you have displayed when things were tough and I wanted to quit this study.

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Abstract

The advent of democracy in 1994 has necessitated South African government to develop policies and legislations in order to redress the historical imbalances created by the colonial regime. The new government embarked on a consultative process pertaining to establishment and introduction of land reform programme seeking to restore land to majority of black people. The objective of this study was to (i) assess progress in the implementation of land reform; (ii) examine land use under different land reform schemes, (iii) document successful land tenure, redistribution and restitution experiences and (iv) analyzing the current and potential impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods.

The study adopted qualitative research method and was based more on theoretical knowledge in the field of investigated study, from a wide source of literature. Document analysis and case studies were used to gather and analyze information to reach a more complete understanding of the land reform and its impact on structure of farms. Data were mainly obtained from various department and NGOs who are directly involved with the facilitation and implementation of land reform programmes. The findings disclose that the South African government has redistributed lands but failed to reach the target (30% by 2014) which was set. The study further reveals that lack of post settlement support, weak institutional arrangements, lack of finance, lack of access to market and credit facilities are amongst others factors which make the land reform projects to be unsustainable. Some case studies presented have demonstrated that post-settlement support and strong institutional arrangements plays a role in maximizing the production of the farm. Recommendation/strategies to address the above mentioned findings suggest that (i) strong partnerships between all

stakeholders (government, private sector & civil society) needs to be established to accelerate the pace of land delivery to land reform beneficiaries; (ii) enhance institutional structures at project level which are transparent and participative to address mismanagement and misuse of resources

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List of Abbreviations & Acronyms

ANC	African national Congress
CPA	Communal Property Association
DLA	Department of Land Affairs
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land reform
ESTA	Extension of Security of Tenure Act
LCC	Land Claims Commission
LDA	Limpopo Department of Agriculture
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development
LRRP	Land Redistribution and Resettlement Programme
LTA	Labor Tenants Act
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLA	Native Land Act
PLAS	Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy
RLCC	Regional Land Claims Commission
RADP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Communities
SLAG	Settlement Land Acquisition Grant

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aim of this Chapter

The purpose of this Chapter seeks to introduce, outline and provide a perspective and historical background of land reform programme in South Africa. The chapter further gives out a clear context on problem statement, research objectives, research questions, and definition of concepts.

1.2 Background of the Study

South Africa suffered a long history of depression where majority of black communities (Africans, Coloured and Indians) were restricted in leasing, owning and renting any form of land in white dominated areas. The dispossession of land was formalised with the adoption and implementation of Native Land Act of 1913. As a result, black South Africans owned only 13% of agricultural land (Van der Westhuizen, 2005) and a total of 3.5 million blacks were relocated from their homes to the homelands (Thwala, 2003). The application of these discriminatory laws and practices resulted in extreme inequalities in relation to land ownership and land use (Kloppers & Pienaar, 2014).

The African National Congress (ANC) led government in 1994 ushered in new pieces of legislations aimed at addressing the past injustices which were created by the apartheid government. The aim is to implement land reform legislations in such a way as to provide support to the vital process of reconciliation, reconstruction and development, as well as restoration of the land from which claimants were dispossessed (Land Claims Commission, 2003). The implementation of land reform programme post 1994 was guided by the Freedom Charter (adopted in 1955), which stipulates that:

- i. Freedom of movement and association shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land
- ii. Restrictions of land ownership based on racial system shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger
- iii. All the land shall be shared among those who work on it
- iv. All shall have the right to occupy the land wherever they choose
- v. The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors and dams to preserve the soil and assist tillers
- vi. Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended (SA, 2010)

1.3 CONTEXTUALISING LAND REFORM

Both the government and private sectors developed a strategy in order to redress excessive historical inequalities that associated with land ownership and redistribution. The successful implementation of the land reform programme is important to the South African economy and is concerned not only with giving people back their land, but also reducing poverty, unemployment, increasing economic growth, and generally improving people's quality life (Groenewald, 2003). The increase of economic growth enables the marginalized communities to participate in the mainstream economy and as a result addresses the triple challenges (poverty, unemployment and inequality) the country is currently facing.

However, there is no consensus among scholars on the definition of the term 'land reform'. In a study conducted by Lipton (2009), he provided a useful starting point when he defined land reform as "legislation intended and likely to directly redistribute ownership of, claims on, or rights to current farmland, and thus benefit the poor by

raising their absolute relative status, power, and/or income. The interpretation highlights the focus of land reform – that of the redistribution of land to the poor of the poorest. Ghimire (2001) takes the definition further by indicating that it involves a significant change in the agrarian structure resulting in increased access to land by the rural poor and security of land rights and titles

1.3.1 Three pillars of Land Reform

The inception of a new democracy necessitated the ANC led government to draw up plans addressing the historical balances in the context of addressing or reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality created by the previous regime. South Africa's land policy has three distinct components and these components seek to cater to varying land needs, from historical and ancestral links to land to the economic needs of small-scale and emerging farmers:

- Land redistribution programme
- Land restitution programme
- The tenure reform programme

i. Land Redistribution

The programme of land redistribution was created to broaden access to land among the country's black majority. This was to provide for residential and agricultural purposes for the poor in order to improve their socio-economic conditions (Land

Claims Commission, 2003). Land redistribution may have proved to be a success in different countries in the world, but it seems to be a problem in South Africa. The process of land redistribution entails legislation making land available for:

- Agricultural production, which aims to provide land to people for the purpose of farming
- Settlement, which aims to give people land for residential purposes
- Non-agriculture enterprise, which aims to give people land for non-agricultural purpose

For the government to achieve their objective of redistributing land to the poor, a grant mechanism was then formulated to assist the poor. Land redistribution took several forms i.e. group settlement with some production, group production, common schemes, on-farm settlement of farm workers and farm worker equity schemes.

ii. Restitution:

A land restitution programme seeks to deal with the restoration of land or provide alternative compensation to individuals/ communities dispossessed as a result of racially discriminatory laws and practices since 1913 (Land Claims Commission, 2003).

According to Land Claims Commission (2003), Restitution can be implemented in various ways and these includes: (i) restoration of the land from which the claimants were dispossessed (ii) the acquisition and transfer of alternative land to the claimants, (iii) Financial Compensation, (iv) Alternative relief comprising a combination of the above or placing claimant/s in housing and land development programmes or other developments in the area they were removed or in an alternative area

iii. Tenure Reform

A tenure reform programme seeks to address a wide range of problems associated with land rights (SA, 2010). Land Tenure reform is aiming at reviewing the land policies, administration and legislation to protect and improve the existing rights of labor tenure (security) in South Africa (Land Claims Commission, 2003).

Given the importance and objective of Land programme where 30% of agricultural land should be transferred to the marginalized group by 2030, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) further acknowledges that the existing land reform plan is not able to achieve the intended and desired results, and that a new plan has been developed to primarily looking at a four-tier system as mentioned in the Green Paper: (i) Firstly, state and public land on leasehold; (ii) Private owned land on freehold with limited extent; (iii) foreign ownership on freehold but with precarious tenure; (iv) communally land on communal tenure (SA, 2011). Estimates indicate that only 8% of commercial farm land was redistributed over 18 years, as compared to 30% over 5 years initially targeted.

The research therefore seeks to assess progress in the implementation of land reform; examine land use under different land reform schemes; document successful land tenure, redistribution and restitution experiences; and analyze the current and potential impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods. Land reform thus forms the foundation and core of this study.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to analyze the evolution of Land Reform in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

This research study 's objectives were as follows:

- i. To assess progress in the implementation of land reform in South Africa;
- ii. To document and learn from case studies of successful land tenure, redistribution and restitution experiences
- iii. To examine land-use under the different land reform schemes;
- iv. To analyze the current impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods

1.6 Central Theoretical Statements

Land reform is a system used by government to give back land to people who have lost it since 1913 due to unfair political interventions by the then apartheid government. This is mainly done help people to own the land and through analyzing land reform. A conclusion and recommendation can be made to understand the process of land reform in South Africa better.

1.7 Research Questions

This study will be guided by the following research questions:

- To what extent has the land reform program achieved its intended objectives?
- What are the challenges faced by both implementers and beneficiaries of the land reform programme and to what extent do these affect the progress and impact of land reform programme?
- Can strategies be developed to address the challenges?
- What has been the current impact of land reform on sustainable livelihoods?

1.8 Statement of the research problem

Although the government has been implementing redistributive land reform since 1994, the exercise is not yet completed. Consequently the government has acknowledged that the pace of land reform has been slow. Several studies have reported that only about 8 per cent of commercial farmland was redistributed over 18 years, as compared to 30 per cent over 5 years initially targeted (Lahiff, 2007; Aliber & Cousins, 2013). A major issue revolves around the economic viability of most of the farms under new owners. There are also some serious concerns about what is widely perceived to be poor performance in terms of not only the hectares redistributed or claimed, but in the failure to effectively use the programme to address poverty and unemployment and to significantly improve livelihoods and production outcomes on the land which has thus far been redistributed.

1.9 Definition of key concepts

i. Sustainable Development:

Novacek (2011) mentions that sustainable development means different things to different people. However, the most prevalent definition of sustainable agriculture is one that is economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially humane. Sustainable development should be capable of sustaining the livelihoods of the present without compromising the livelihood of the future generations.

ii. Post Settlement Support:

An element of providing the new owners/beneficiaries with capacity building (mentorship, enterprise development and training). Amongst other things, post settlement support involves access to markets, access to credits, production inputs and mechanization

iii. **Impact:**

Hall (2003) defines impact as a force of collision or the influence of something. A study conducted by Chauke (2006) defines impact as an influence or results that emanate from an intended engagement in a certain activity. The concept of impact can bring programme results or intermediate improvements that can be witnessed on beneficiaries.

iv. **Success:**

It is envisaged that acquisition of land will have a positive impact on the beneficiaries. The South African land reform programme has suggested that the outcomes or the success of land reform will lead to the following:

- Improved food security: access to nutritional foods arising from self-provisioning will lead to address the food security as members will income to support their families
- High level of Income: High yields production helps the beneficiaries to have more income, wage employment and more egalitarian distribution of income
- Improved well-being: improved access to land ownership, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved housing and improved access to social infrastructure will develop a sustainable mobility

v. **Community:**

According to Mckay (1999), community can be defined as a group of people who have certain things in common.

vi. **Beneficiaries**

Beneficiary refers to individuals or group of people that have been verified from the verification list of claims lodged with the government and who were found to be entitled to benefit from the land reform programme (Hall, 2003)

1.10 Organization of the Study

The study is divided into five (5) chapters and summarised as follows;

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter one seeks to introduce, outline and provide a historical background of the research topic. The chapter further gives a clear perspective and context of research problem statement, research objectives, research questions and definition of concepts.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

This chapter put more emphasis on reviewing fundamentals of land reform through a critical review of literatures. The Chapter further describes different forms and approaches undertaken to implement land reform and review of some international experiences. The focus will then fall on the legislation and funding framework in the form of grants established by the democratic government after 1994 and its aims and purposes of reversing the past injustices committed by the previous government/regime.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

This chapter explains the techniques and the methodology employed in this study

Chapter Four: Presentation and Findings of Case Studies

This chapter will give perspective and context on six selected case studies. Background information about the selected case studies and their locality is also presented in this chapter.

Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations for Land Reform

This Chapter will draw up conclusions and assumptions after analysing land reform policies, acts and current development of land reform in South Africa particularly in

Limpopo Province. Sound management strategies and recommendations will be provided for future reference.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Aim of this Chapter

The previous chapter introduced and provided historical background of land reform in South Africa and also outlining the research problem, research objectives. This chapter attempts to put more emphasis on reviewing fundamentals of land reform through a critical analysis of literatures. This section provides a current state of land reform in respect to its implementation and challenges encountered. The central emphasis is put on current and new development employed or directed since the inception and advent of democratic government in 1994. The selected literature is important for the discussion, not only in this chapter, but throughout the entire document. In the end this will provide clarification on why actions were taken at a certain point in time. The additional literature will as well outline the land reform activities, which were researched and/or documented by other scholars.

Land reform encompasses a process of transferring land to the marginalised group, and the process itself is guided by the legislations. Land reform in South Africa as well as in many other previously colonized countries, is greatly influenced by a predominant perspective which claims that 'all the land whites own, they stole it from blacks' (Du Toit, 2004). Various laws or legislations were used to remove and restricting majority of black individuals to own and lease any land located in white dominated areas. As a result, this has led to increase of land inequality, poverty and unemployment. The programme of Land reform is seen by many as the ultimate test for attaining radical socio-economic transformation amongst the marginalised group particularly in Limpopo Province. However, Land reform Programme is one of the most challenging and demanding domestic policy issues to be dealt with during the post-apartheid era.

However, it is envisaged that the programme of land reform will improve the living conditions of the poor and maximize their production through the support of the government. According to De Villiers (2003), the land reform programme extends way beyond land use, it also has an impact on labour and entrepreneurial skills, employment, social structure, poverty and economic growth.

After 21 years of democracy, there is still discontent and dissatisfaction about the pace of land reform. Evidence on benefits derived from land reform has produced mixed results. A report released by Lahiff (2008) indicates that the programme has been criticized for failing to reach its targets or deliver on its multiple objectives of historical redress, redistribution of wealth and opportunities, and economic growth. South Africa's approach to land issues now appears to have reached a crossroads. The Centre for Development and Enterprise (2008) asserts that the pace of land redistribution is far too slow to meet the expectations raised by the government's target that black should own 30 percent of commercial agricultural land by 2014. Many land reform projects comprising of a large number of people had a limited impact and this may be attributed to internal conflicts among the beneficiaries, lack of post-settlement support, access to finance, access to market and mechanization

On the other hand, several studies (Carter and May, 1999; Haddad, Hoddinott & Mukherjee, 2000; Gobien & Vollan, 2013) have been carried out and it was found that there is a strong link between access to land and income and as a result the income level of land reform beneficiaries have improved compared to when they did not own the land.

2.2 The contribution of Land reform in other countries

The renewed attention on land reform in the 1990s was introduced by the World Bank (Deininger and Binswanger, 1999), which had broadly reviewed its philosophy towards addressing land policy issues, and experimented in formulating and implementing new policies and approaches which favours access to land for the rural masses. Land reform has been one of the most historical issue globally. From an international perspective, Land reform arose Russia, due to the Russian Revolution and socialization was a prerequisite for attaining communism (Ghonemy, 1984). The socialization of agriculture entails “collective ownership of all land partly through state farming, but mainly through collective farming under state control (Ghonemy, 1984). Both the success and failures of land reform is dependent upon the amount of post-settlement support provided to the project beneficiaries.

The Taiwan land reform strategy could serve as a good success story because when the Taiwanese inherited their land from the Japanese, the Taiwan Government rented out and later sold the land to the tillers (Ghimire, 2001). Some of the major obstacles for the land reform projects to be sustainable were lack of access to credits in order to purchase inputs and also lack of access to market. Access to marketing and credits proved to be the stumbling block for the farmers who inherited skewed land. The Taiwan Government came up with an intervention mechanism of providing inputs and also assisted farmers with access to local and international marketing (El-Gohemy, 2001). The money generated from what the farmers produced were then invested into the development of industrial economy and that also played a role in increasing the economy of Taiwan.

In the international arena, land reform was propelled on to the development agenda in order to destroy the undemocratic concentrations of power which was based on skewed patterns of land ownership. After the Second World War, land reform in the international setting, particularly Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, was executed in the model of land-to-the-tiller (Bruce: 1993). In this model, tenants became owners of the land that they had previously farmed as tenants. Griffin; Khan and Ickowitz (2002) argue that these countries had common characteristic of scarcity of land, high incidence of tenancy and unequal distribution of land, therefore land scarcity became the basis for land distribution rather than shunning away from land redistribution.

2.3 Land Reform in Southern Africa

Most of the Southern African Development Communities (SADC) has shifted their attention on using land reform as a vehicle to securing property rights for growth and prosperity as a way of taking out people from abject poverty. Land has always been a contentious issue in Southern Africa and it has been found that many African nations upon attaining their independence most of them have inherited dualistic land tenure and management systems consisting of customary land tenure managed by traditional leaders and modern land tenure system which is controlled by organs of central governments. Given the dual agrarian structure inherited by most post-colonial states in Africa, particularly in Southern Africa, land reform remain an emotive issue in most of these countries today and thus necessitate speedy actions from policy makers, government, non-government organizations and civil society at large.

Land reform in countries such as Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi and Malawi was somewhat no different from South Africa in terms of its purposes and land use particularly for agricultural purposes. In some parts of the region where the land reform

was implemented in most case it was not successful due to poor post-settlement support in terms of capacity building (training, enterprise development and mentorship). Several circumstantial factors have also played an important role to this political resurgence of land reform policies in southern Africa, namely Zimbabwe's new radical land reform approach and the collapse of the apartheid system in South Africa and Namibia.

2.4 Land Reform in South Africa

With the dawn of democracy in 1994, Land reform in South Africa received much top priority on the government's policy agenda. The new government under the dispensation of democracy undertook a consultation process with both the public and NGO's regarding the introduction and establishment of Land reform programme. The Green Paper on Land Policy that was based on Reconstruction and Development Plan (RDP) was published in February 1996. The Green Paper on Land Policy it was a political tool developed to bring about both the direct benefits to beneficiaries and indirect benefits to the rural economy.

At the inception of South Africa's democratic transition in 1994, the new democratic government under the African National Congress (ANC) emerged and Land Reform Programme was prioritized as a strategy to address historical imbalances and inequities surrounding the black people. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (2000) further point out that eliminating poverty has become the most important development objective. In spite of the ANC being in power for 20 years now, there has been a slow progress in achieving the targets of land reform which are more to address the socio-economic conditions that majority of black South Africans are facing. Many of the socio-economic distortions that were implemented by the previous regime are still in place.

2.5 Breaking with the Past with the Green Paper on Land Reform

One of the outstanding features of South African land control is that there has always been some kind of official state interference and this has led the state to promulgate some piece of legislations and policies dealing with land reform. The establishment of Green Paper on land reform presented itself as an intervention mechanism towards guiding, facilitating the implementation of land reform.

The Green Paper on land reform is guided by the principles which are, (i) to deracialize the rural economy, (ii) democratic and equitable land allocation and use across race, gender and class, and (iii) a sustained production discipline for food security (Department of Rural Development & Land Reform, 2011). In this context, it is clear that majority of poor people live in rural regions and the principle of Green Paper on Land Reform is an indication that the government has prioritized rural development as a driver for economic take-off particularly in areas where agriculture has been practiced. This is perceived to address a massive level of poverty which majority of black people are confronted with. The Green Paper is aiming to create a new trajectory for land reform which attempts to break from the past without significantly disrupting agricultural production and food security.

It is well argued that the vision of the Land reform is working towards building an inclusive economy which advances the equitable opportunities for marginalized black people to participate in the mainstream economy. Land reform is the most basic of all economic resources, fundamental to the form that economic development takes.

2.6 Current Challenges and weaknesses: Rationale for Change

The implementation phase of land reform programme has been very slow due to the pro-market approach (willing buyer, willing seller principle) established by the post-apartheid government. The market-led approach received lots of criticism from marginalized black people as it allows the land owners an absolute power to decide whether they want to sell the land, to who shall the land is sold to, at what price. This has resulted in some of the political parties advocating and proposing for expropriation of land without compensation where the state take total control of the land and distribute it accordingly to the marginalized black people. South Africa has one of the most unequal distributions of income in the world, with differences in income and in quality of life being strongly correlated with race, location and gender (May, 2000).

With regards to the overall achievements, independent studies points out that the pace of South African land reform (restitution, redistribution & tenure reform) has fallen behind in terms of reaching its target of redistributing the land by 30% by 2014 (Lahiff & Guo Li, 2012). A slow rate of land reform has forced various stakeholders involved in the land reform to initiate more radical approach and scrap a principle of willing-buyer-willing seller. In terms of market-led land reform, beneficiaries should not rely exclusively on the state for post-settlement services, but should be able to access services from a range of public and private providers (Lahiff, 2007). Recent studies have demonstrated that majority of land reform beneficiaries continues to face massive problems particularly in accessing credits, production inputs, training and mentorship services, infrastructure, markets availability. Table 2.1 below presents the challenges associated with the implementation of a successful land reform programme.

Table 2.1 Challenges associated with the implementation of land reform programme

Land Reform Programme	Challenges
Redistribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exorbitant land prices from land owners (willing buyer willing seller) - Failure of the willing buyer willing seller - Minimal involvement of private sector - Lack of technical knowledge - Weak Institutional and governance from land reform beneficiaries - Weak Monitoring & Evaluation of land policies & land reform - Lack of post-settlement support
Restitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak Institutional arrangements dealing with pre & post settlement - Continuous conflicts among the beneficiaries (Communal Property Associations) - Weak institutional and governance from land reform beneficiaries - Lack of technical knowledge - Minimal involvement of private sector

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital to ensure and promote sustainable development - Lack of post-settlement support - Exorbitant land prices, which makes land reform costly and unaffordable - Weak Monitoring & Evaluation of land policies and land reform
Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender inequalities - Poor legal representation of farm dwellers - Failure to comply with legislations dealing with tenure reform

Source: Own Development, 2017

2.7 Current development and Progress made on Land Reform Programme

Various policies and legislations were developed to advance and serve as guiding documents towards implementation of land reform in South Africa. However, the implementation and redistribution of land has sparked lots of criticism due to its slow rate. This is attributed to the fact that stakeholders involved do not understand the land reform programmes and as a result cause the delay.

2.7.1 Land Redistribution

Land redistribution forms a part of the land reform programme alongside land restitution and land tenure. The annual report released by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, (2013), indicate that 243 farms totaling 157 556 hectares of land were acquired. A total of 200 farms were placed under Recapitalization and Development Programme during the year of 2013.

Both the civil society and governments acknowledged and expressed their dissatisfactions with regards to the slow pace of land redistribution. According to a report released by the Parliament of Republic of South Africa (2013), the government called for a summit involving various stakeholders who amongst others discussed the land issue and reviewing the willing buyer-willing seller principle. Political opposition parties have argued that land reform programme has failed and this study shares a different view that land reform in South Africa has not failed but rather the pace has been slow and the government has been incapable to provide post settlement support to the beneficiaries. The National Land Summit of 2005 saw a need to introduce Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) to ensure that land and agrarian reform moves to the new trajectory that will contribute to the higher path of growth (Department of Land Affairs, 2007)

4.4.2 Land restitution

The primary aim of Land Restitution is to compensate or returning the land to the marginalized group of people who have been dispossessed through discriminatory laws since the year of 1913. The Land Restitution is guided Restitution of Land Rights Act, 22 of 1994 where all the claims are processed by persons or communities dispossessed their properties as a result of racially discriminatory laws. A report released by the parliament of the Republic of South Africa (2013) in respect to progress made, highlighted that by the end of January 2013, 77,979 claims have been settled which makes 97% of the total claims, translating to 1.443 million hectares benefiting 13,968 female headed households and 672 persons with disability.

4.4.3 Land Tenure

In South African context, land tenure reform forms part of national land reform programme which also embraces the restitution of land, particularly to dispossessed individuals due to discriminatory practices and land redistribution to the poor. A tenure reform programme seeks to address a wide range of problems associated with land rights (SA, 2010). It was established to transfer land, but more importantly intended to secure the rights of communities and people living under insecure arrangements on land owned by others (Land Claims Commission, 2003).

Of the three pillars of land reform programme, land tenure has not done well with regards to meeting the expected results. The main achievements have been the enactment of laws, namely, (i) Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA), (ii) Land Tenants Act (LTA), (iii) Communal Property Association Act (CPA) (Parliament of South Africa, 2013).

In summarizing this chapter, it has been proved that the policies established by the state government have made the implementation of land reform very difficult. This chapter has highlighted that majority of land reform project fails to achieve the desired results due to various reasons like, (i) weak institutional arrangement dealing with pre and post settlement support, (ii) conflicts among land reform beneficiaries, (iii) exorbitant land prices from land owners (iv) technical knowledge/farming experience from land reform beneficiaries. Despite the complexities and challenges associated with land reform programme, it is still possible to develop more radical and sustainable reform programme which will enhance smooth facilitation and implementation of land reform programme. The government, civil society and private partners will have to renew their interest and commitment to move forward and develop policies which are more inclusive and easy to implement. The next chapter will introduce the selected land reform case studies in Limpopo Province and how they have progressed in sustaining the livelihoods of beneficiaries.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology, clearly stipulating the rationale and methods that will be used. It especially describes important demographic, research design, data collection procedures. This study employed qualitative research methods towards the objectives of this study which are:

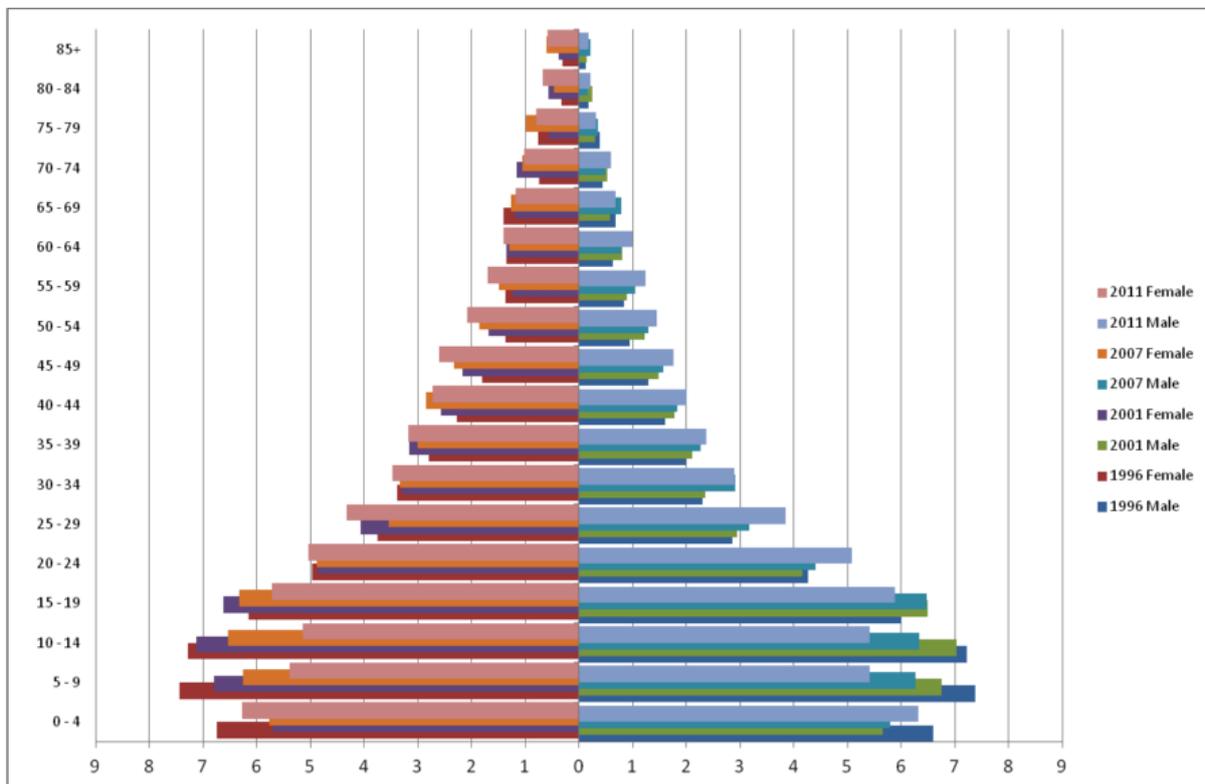
- i. To assess progress in the implementation of land reform in Limpopo Province,
- ii. To document and learnt from case studies of successful land tenure, redistribution and restitution experiences,
- iii. To examine land-use under the different land reform schemes
- iv. To analyze the current impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods. The last part of this chapter will therefore present a summary.

3.2 Description of the Study Area and Population

The area of study is located in the Limpopo Province in South Africa. The Province comprises of five municipal districts, namely, Capricorn District Municipality, Mopani District, Waterberg district, Sekhukhune District and Vhembe District served as the case. Limpopo is the Northern most Province, bordering the neighboring countries of Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (see figure 1). The Province is the fifth-largest of nine provinces of the country, covering about 10.3% of whole country's land area. It has a population of 5.4 million with around 2.9 million female, and 2.4 million male. The whole population is diverse and it comprises of more than 97% indigenous native Africans, 0.2% Indian or Asians, 2.4% white and 0.2% colored.

Population diversity, in addition to, history of land redistribution and agrarian reform activities were the basis for choice of this study locality. The province shows an extremely skewed distribution of land ownership arising from homeland system of total area of Limpopo. Furthermore, Limpopo Province is one of the most ethnically diverse provinces of South Africa, with different groupings which includes amongst others, the Sotho, Ndebele, Tswanas, Swazis, Venda and Shangaan

Graph 3.1: Limpopo: percentage distribution of population by five-year age groups and sex – Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and Community Survey 2007



Source: Statistics South Africa, 2011

Table 3.1 Total number of persons in Limpopo by District council and population group, Census 2011

Municipality	Black African	Colored	Indian/Asian	White	Other	Total
Mopani	1 059 732	1 781	2 730	26 912	1 352	1 092 507
Greater Giyani	242 942	169	614	334	159	244 217
Greater Letaba	210 215	168	181	1 799	339	212 701
Greater Tzaneen	375 904	674	1 409	11 561	546	390 095
Ba-Phalaborwa	140 081	477	309	9 629	142	150 637
Maruleng	90 590	293	217	3 591	166	94 857
Vhembe	1 271 709	1 833	5 267	14 600	1 314	1 294 722
Mutale	91 222	86	69	416	77	91 870
Thulamela	614 079	403	3 050	442	489	618 462
Musina	64 285	229	329	3 285	231	68 359
Makhado	502 123	1 114	1 819	10 458	518	516 031
Capricorn	1 211 874	6 271	5 234	35 470	2 613	1 261 463
Blouberg	161 075	65	151	1 006	332	162 629
Aganang	130 638	76	107	84	259	131 164
Molemole	106 545	139	134	1 210	293	108 321
Polokwane	584 153	5 820	4 633	32 862	1 530	628 999
Lepelle-Nkumpi	229 464	171	209	308	199	230 350
Waterburg	619 889	3 298	2 929	51 362	1 858	679 336
Thabazimbi	71 845	527	205	12 309	347	85 234
Lephalale	104 964	1 023	344	9 120	317	115 767
Mokgoophong	30 509	131	70	4 721	209	35 640
Modimolle	60 373	249	285	7 379	227	68 513
Bela Bela	56 401	965	379	8 560	196	66 500

Mogalakwena	295 797	403	1 646	9 274	563	307 682
Greater Sekhukhune	1 061 550	1 232	1 721	11 015	1 322	1 076 840
Ephraim Mogale	120 881	112	292	2 029	335	123 648
Elias Motsoaledi	244 083	339	502	4 042	398	249 363
Makhuduthamaga	273 565	107	329	153	204	274 358
Fetakgomo	93 212	31	61	383	107	93 795
Greater Tubatse	329 810	643	538	4 409	277	335 676
Limpopo	5 224 754	14 415	17 881	139 359	8 459	5 404 868

Source: Statistics South Africa, 2011



Source: www.places.co.za

Figure 3.2 Map of Limpopo Province



Source: www.nationsonline.org

Figure 3.3 Map of South Africa (indicating Province location)

3.3 Research questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. To what extent has the land reform program achieved its intended objectives?
- ii. What are the challenges faced by both implementers and beneficiaries of the land reform programme and to what extent do these affect the progress and impact of land reform programme?
- iii. Can strategies be developed to address the challenges?
- iv. What has been the current impact of land reform on sustainable livelihoods?

3.5 Research Methodology

The methodology of this research was primarily based more on theoretical knowledge in the field of the investigated study, from a wide source of literature, e.g. domestic and foreign literature. The methods of comparison, examination and analysis were dominantly used. This research methodology required relevant data collection from specific documents and compiling databases and later to analyze information to reach a more complete understanding of the land reform and its impact on structure of farms. Data were mainly obtained from the various department and NGOs who are directly involved with the facilitation and implementation of land reform programmes.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

3.6.1 Document Analysis

Land reform records, Government documents, Official Statistics, Technical reports, scholarly Journals, Review Articles, Reference Books, Research Institutions, Universities and relevant policy documents obtained from the Department of Rural development and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture, Land Claims Commission (provincial) and various NGOs directly involved with land reform were reviewed. The above documents were used in identifying and later in discussing common trends in land acquisition in order to point out their implications to empowerment. The relevancy of the information is based on the fact that it represents the context of the case study location. In addition, various government newsletters were consulted to get updated information on the progress of the land reform process.

The official documents such as policies and acts played an important role in laying a foundation for the researcher as most activities are carried out based on what the

national policies on land reform dictated. Previous studies done on land reform and post-settlement support were also very helpful as they provided information of “where” the Government of South Africa stands with regard to the concept of land reform. Literature review on provincial, national documents or international literature on land reform, gave an idea of current land reform. The above category of information constituted knowledge on the existing empirical research on land reform locally and internationally. These included text books, journals and Internet sources. This helped in collating information and arguments from other scholarly studies to support the claims analytical stance of the study.

3.6.2 Case Studies

Six (6) case studies were selected to substantiate the status of current land reform in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Zaidah (2007) defines a case study as a technique that explores and investigate contemporary real-life phenomenon through detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions, and their relationships. Case studies were selected from success stories (bright spots), medium performance stories (improvement spots) and failure stories (dark spots) so that critical learning points can be identified. Case studies were purposively selected and studied extensively in each of the three categories of land reform. These case studies provided the learning spots from which immediate recommendations to improve the performance of land reform can be drawn.

3.7 Rationale for Methodologies used for Data Collection

This is a qualitative study analysing the evolution of land reform programme in Limpopo Province. The central focus is directed in analysing its successes and failures in the context of effective implementation in achieving its intended objectives of

sustainable livelihoods. Qualitative methodology has been employed- for instance the secondary literature reviews were carried out.

The following is the rationale for using qualitative approach in this study:

- i. There is ongoing series of debate on the effectiveness of land reform in sustainable livelihoods
- ii. Little or nothing is written on case studies. Much of the information on case studies comes from the interviews with community members hence the usage of qualitative method is useful where there is an exploration of substantive areas about which little is known.

3.8 Sources

The study adopted a qualitative method in the form of secondary data. The literature included in the study has been sourced from individual researchers, South African think-tanks, Electronic Information Resources (EIR), government publications, legislative documents like, the promotion of the Bantu Self-Governing Act of 1959, The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, The Group Areas Act of 1950, The Native Land Act of 1913, The Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 and Communal Land Rights Act 11 of 2004. Scholarly and non-scholarly documents formed part of the literatures in order to gather views so that critical learning and recommendations can be drawn on the given topic. The study uses different documents to analyse the current status of land reform in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

3.10 Limitations

Ideally, this study should have covered all the Land Reform Projects in the Limpopo Province, however, due to time and financial constraints, only 6 Projects were selected as case studies.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Beste (2011) emphasized the importance of maintaining highest level of research standards by using updated and relevant literature. This study as well has maintained the highest possible research standards as proposed. Due to the importance of ethics in research, this study adopted five (5) ethical responsibilities as outlined in the American Psychological Association Ethics code:

- i. Researchers must be qualified and competent to undertake a particular research project.
- ii. Integrity is an important characteristic of a researcher.
- iii. Researchers must uphold the standard of their profession.
- iv. Researchers must respect the rights and dignity of others.
- v. The welfare of others should be of major concern to researchers.

3.12 Summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology used in collecting and analyzing the secondary data as the main source of information for the study. The chapter started by highlighting and describing the geographical area of the study, the research design, the population and the research methodology and method of data collection used in this study. The next chapter will look into the current development and progress made towards the implementation of Land reform.

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS OF CASE STUDIES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter will give perspective and context on six selected case studies. Background information about the selected case studies and their locality is also presented in this chapter. The Chapter will therefore provide overview of selected case studies with regards to project planning, implementation as well as challenges encountered. The chapter will conclude with recommendations and provides policy options in order to improve the status of land reform programme in the province.

The main criteria for selecting case studies were based on the following:

- i. Cases with a group of land reform beneficiaries who are farming collectively or cooperatively towards achieving a common goal of addressing household poverty
- ii. Cases of land reform projects involved in a partnership or joint ventures with a purpose of acquiring skills, benefit and knowledge etc.
- iii. Cases of land reform projects who are using their own resources to maximize production, skills, benefit and improve their knowledge on business/farm management
- iv. Mixed (Crop & Livestock) based farming enterprise
- v. Cases with individuals or group leasing the land for agricultural production purpose

Table 5.1 provides a summary and descriptions of six selected case studies

Table 5.1 Summary and Descriptions of six selected case studies

Case No.	Name of Group & Area of operation	Total number of beneficiaries and size of the land	Nature of Enterprises involved (e.g. Crops/Livestock)	Nature of land ownership (e.g. lease/joint venture/strategic partnership etc.)
1	Morebeng Communal Property Association (CPA), Molemole Local Municipality (Capricorn District)	590 beneficiaries with a total of 6,715 hectares	Both Livestock, Game and Crop Production	Communal Property Association consisting of its beneficiaries
2	Mashishimale Communal Property Association (CPA), Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality (Mopani District)	1,885 households with 35,350 hectares	Livestock, Small stock, Dryland and Crop Production	Communal Property Association existing with executive committee
3	Maiwashe Estate, Molemole Municipality	916 hectares with a total of 12 beneficiaries	Livestock & Vegetables Farming	LRAD consisting of existing committee structure
4	Levhubu Restitution Project, Makhado Municipality (Vhembe District)	8,000 hectares with total of 1,200 households	Subtropical fruits, Forestry and Vegetables	Strategic Partnership

5	Manaileng Communal Property Association (CPA), Polokwane Municipality	1715.5099ha	Livestock Farming	Communal Property Association with its committee members
6	Ntjie CPA, Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality	3633.6078 ha with 120 households	Livestock, Crop and Fodder production	

Source: Own Development, 2017

5.2 Case Study 1: Morebene Community Property Association (CPA)

5.2.1 Historical Background

Morebene CPA is a farm acquired through a land restitution programme and is constituted by a group of people from Morebene tribal area who were previously dispossessed their land due to discriminatory laws and practices discharged by the apartheid government (Rathaha, 2013). Majority of the claimants live 25 or more kilometers away from the land and none of the claimant households has returned back to the land as they are still residing in Ga-Ramokgopa and Matoks (Botlokwa). Having finally secured their land, the Morebene Community was too divided to agree on anything like a coherent approach particularly on the farm usage/utilisation, thus causing another blockage for sustainable land use (Aliber, Maluleke, Manenzhe,Paradza & Cousins, 2013).

Morebene CPA is situated right inside Soekmekaar serviced by Molemole Municipality. The project is located 90km from Polokwane town and 64.96km away from Tzaneen (Polokwane Town is under Polokwane Municipality & Tzaneen is under Greater Tzaneen municipality in terms of demarcation). The land has a high potential in economic development especially agricultural development, game farming, forestry mineral scanning, and tourism (along N1 corridor and tropic of Capricorn needle). The CPA does not have a business structure due to internal conflicts which are manifesting within the CPA. The committee members functions as the business structure hence it can be difficult to run the farm if the beneficiaries does not have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the farm.

Initially, when the transfer of land for 6,715 hectares was made, Morebene CPA had a total number of 590 beneficiaries but due to internal conflicts and uncoordinated

informal lease agreement together with a serious lack of leadership, the number of beneficiaries declined (Rathaha, 2013). At the moment the beneficiaries have allocated themselves some hectares so that the land can be productive and useful to its own members. The primary enterprise within the farm is Livestock, Game and Crop Farming. However, most of the beneficiaries have lost hope and trust with the executive committee and as a result decided to move away from the activities of the farm. Despite the efforts made by the Department of Agriculture in Molemole Municipality to resuscitate the farm, internal conflicts intensified and the farm is not functioning the way it was planned (Aliber *et al*, 2013).

Following the restoration of the land to the dispossessed community, relatives of the community's traditional leaders sold some hectares of land and timbers to private companies. Currently most of the land lies fallow and no production is taking place due to lack of resources, lack of plan, lack of consensus and effective leadership.

Table 5.2 Farms claimed by Morebene Community

Farm names	Portions Claimed
Fourieskolk 1174 LS	3 portions
Minnaarsdraai 117 LS	3 portions
Witransd 336 LT	2 portions
Driefontein 777 LS	10 portions
Goedgedaght 1179 LS	3 portions
Grobler 77 LS	4 portions
Modderfontein 517 LS	5 portions
Nooyesfontein 780 LS	4 portions

Soekmekaar 778 LS	76 portions
Geluk 783 LS	2 portions
Hasbult 518 LS	10 portions
Middagson 524 LS	8 portions
Oog van Driefontein 522 LS	2 portions
Boshkopje 519 LS	4 portions

Source: Rathaha, 2013

5.2.2 Aspirations and Needs of Claimants from Morebeng Community

The desire to regain their land was driven with the attitude and aspirations to address challenges of food security and improve the level on income on a household level. Some of the victims of dispossession from Morebeng expressed their happiness to receive their land back because they were returning back to their original fore-fathers land. Morebeng community is one area characterized by a massive level of poverty, unemployment and food insecurity. The objective of the CPA was to operate a viable business which brings more income for the beneficiaries. The business strategy revolves around the need to provide quality products to various target clients/customers, in the process satisfying their needs (Rathaha, 2013).

5.2.3 Organizational/Institutional Arrangements

Currently there are two groups/executive committees formed within the CPA and this makes the farm not to function well. The internal conflicts among the beneficiaries play a massive and negative role towards realizing the mission and vision of the farm. The farm itself has a potential to address poverty and increase their household income if the beneficiaries can join hands and work together towards a common vision.

Clarification of roles and responsibilities, conflict resolution and application of basic principles of business management is required in the farm (Aliber *et al.*, 2013).

Table 5.3 shows potential crops that can be grown in the area in rotation

Fruit Crops	Vegetable crops	Field Crops	Other crops
Grapes	Beetroot	Beans	Herbs
Citrus	Butternut	Cowpeas	Spices
Peaches	Cabbage	Maize	Flowers
Strawberry	Cucumber	Wheat	Trees
Squash	Onions	Sorghum	
Water melon	Potatoes	Soybeans	
	Tomatoes		

Source: Own development, 2017

5.2.4 Existing Challenges encountered by Morebeng CPA

Most of the small-scale farming business fails to be sustainable due to a various number of challenges. Morebeng CPA is faced with a serious number of challenges and amongst others includes lack of technical knowledge and farm management skills, dedicated beneficiaries in the project, lack of sufficient government support (Pre & Post settlement) and lack of adequate funding. Below is a brief explanation of these problems.

5.2.4.1 Technical Knowledge and Farm Management skills

Mckay & Gelderblom (2000) share the view that lack of management skills and technical knowledge particularly in rural areas projects not realizing their objectives of sustainable livelihoods. The development of new technology in agriculture is an

important factor determining the sustainability of the farm. However, low level of literacy skills among the beneficiaries results in poor dissemination of information on new farming methods. Production can only be maximized if all the stakeholders (civil society, government & Private sector) can address the question of low literacy among beneficiaries. Kahan (2008) from Food and Agriculture Organization concedes that farmers need to acquire more professional skills, not only basic production but also in farm business management. Among these are risk management skills.

5.2.4.2 Lack of Government sufficient support and dedication of beneficiaries in the project

Subsistence and small scale farmers in rural communities are mostly challenged by food insecurity, limited alternative resource of livelihood and poverty. And for increased production to take place in Morebeng CPA, it means the both the government and the beneficiaries should join hands to find a way of working together. Lack of government support has been regarded as one of the challenge which makes the farm not to realize its potential. Mandiwana (2014) pointed out that the local Municipality does not provide support to the beneficiaries. He further stated that the Local Economic Development (LED) within the local municipality should take a lead in providing support to the local farmers. For increased performance of the farm, beneficiaries need to take full responsibility and ownership of the farm by committing more of their time to maximize their production. In most cases beneficiaries are always fighting amongst themselves and these attitudes thus creates a serious problem.

5.3 Case study 2: Levubu Restitution Project

5.3.1 Historical background

The claim for Levubu Restitution project was lodged during the 1990s like many other claims. A report released by the Commission on Restitution of Land Right (2007-2008) states that between the period of 2005 and 2008 seven communities under the jurisdiction of Makhado Municipality (Vhembe District) received back their land constituting about 7,314 hectares with 1,121 households. According to Regional Land Claim Commission (RLCC) report (2008), Levubu Restitution Project remains one of the complex claims they had to process and facilitate due to the magnitude and number of communities involved in this claim from different tribes contributed to the challenges that resulted in the slow pace of settlement. The communities involved are: Ravele, Tshakuma, Tshivhazwaulu, Masakona, Tshitwani, Ratombo, and Shigalo. The total amount approved for the claim was totaling to R 230 million and the main products produced include subtropical fruits (banana, macadamia, avocado, citrus, litchi and mangos) (Commission on Restitution of Land Rights Report, 2007-2008).

Due to the complexity of agricultural businesses, the RLCC together with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) facilitated the introduction of strategic partners to help the beneficiaries with management skills i.e. financial management, access to market and long-term sustainable development. This was seen as move to ensure long-term sustainability of the restored land since the communities does not have managerial and farm experience. The RLCC reports states that each community out of seven had strategic partners in order to transfer skills and empower the beneficiaries. Table 5.3 shows the land claimant communities in Levubu area

Table 5.4 Land Claimant communities in Levubu

Name of Community	Size of the restored land (ha)	Number of households	Total value of claim (Rand million)
Ravele	344	324	52.5
Tshakuma	861	144	65.5
Ratombo	1,330	52	44.2
Shigalo	715	120	45
Tshivazwaulu	651	57	4.5
Masakona	860	148	60.5
Tshitwani	621	78	36.9

Source: Commission on Restitution of Land Rights Section 42D memorandum (no date) and Commission on Restitution of Land Rights Section 42C Memorandum, dated 6th August 2007

5.3.2 Beneficiaries/Claimants Aspirations and needs

It was envisaged that Levubu Restitution Projects will play a pivotal role in contributing towards economic growth of the country. Food security on a household was also put on the agenda because majority of these communities have previously had a challenge in accessing nutritious and quality food (Commission on restitution of land right, Annual report, 2007-2008).

5.3.3 Institutional Arrangements

All the stakeholders involved (LDA, RLCC, community members) took pride to what happened with regards to the appointment of two strategic partners namely; South African Farm Management (SAFM) and MAVU Management Services (MMS).

Strategic partners were running the farm and impart technical and farm management skills to the seven communities. However, the strategic partnership did not produce the desired, anticipated results and eventually resulted in the strategic partners being liquidated due to internal conflicts and mismanagement of funds (Regional Land Claims Commission Report, 2006).

5.3.4 Specific Problems in Projects

From various reports it has been established that beneficiaries of Levubu Restitution Projects were not able to realize and achieve the objectives of sustaining their farms. Amongst others, the following could be attributed to be the causes.

5.3.4.1 Level of participation

Although participation of land reform processes, including the development of the business plans, seems to be generally high, on closer examination, participation generally meant attending and voice out their concerns in meeting. Various constraints prevented community members generally and women specifically for participating. These include apathy among the members and conflicts and tensions in the community.

5.3.4.2 Development and implementation of Production, business plans and difficulty to raise finance

A wide range of groups were responsible for the development of production and business plans, and where elected committees participated, they saw their roles as being secondary and as being recipients of decisions and information rather than being the drivers of the process. Generally speaking, communities are struggling to implement the business and production plans. In fact, the actual time spent on specific project or activity is greater than the planned time. Some communities have secured

finances to implement the activities in their farms by utilization of the balance of the settlement grant or assistance from financial institutions (Fraser, 2006)

5.3.4.3 Insufficient explanation of options and inaccurate valuation and assessment

The land reform processes and housing options were not always fully explained to potential beneficiaries. There were also serious problems in the assessment of the farm and financial viability of some of the schemes, which has seriously prejudiced their success (Fraser, 2006).

5.4. Case Study 3: Manaileng CPA

5.4.1 Historical Background

Beneficiaries of Manaileng CPA has successfully acquired the claimed property through the process of Land restitution as provided by the Restitution of Land Right Act, 1994 (Act no 22 of 1994). Initially the 4 portions claims were submitted and out of 4 properties settled only Groothoek 99 KS Portion 0 (R/E) was restored back to the community. As part of post-settlement support, Manaileng CPA presented their wish to continue with the activities of the previous farmer. Through the process of transparency and proper communication among the stakeholders involved (Government, Beneficiaries & previous farmer), the CPA beneficiaries managed to buy 159 cattle's from their balance of Restitution Development Grant. The farm is 1715.5099 hectares in extends and is divided into 13 camps.

Currently the farm is operational and managed by two farm managers employed by the beneficiaries. The main enterprise is Livestock with a carrying capacity of 8ha/LSU. To date there are a total of 205 cattle's (117 cows, 20 heifers, 63 calves, 3 bullock and

2 bulls) on the farm which is acceptable number in relation to the grazing capacity/stocking rate of 8.37/LSU.

5.4.2 Aspirations and needs of claimants

The rate of Unemployment, poverty and inequality continues to escalate which in turn affect majority of people who are living in rural areas. When the claim was submitted the beneficiaries made a commitment and assurance that they want to contribute towards the economic growth of Limpopo Province. The desire to regain their land back was guided by the motive to solve problem of food insecurity and also to improve the level of income among the beneficiaries. The farm is now viable and sustainable and brings income for the beneficiaries. The household income has improved and most of the beneficiaries are able to pay hospital bills, school fees and other related household matters with the income from the farm (Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, 2007).

5.4.3 Institutional Arrangements from Manaileng CPA

There is a clear business management plan of the enterprise. The beneficiaries have appointed 2 Project managers to assist with the operations of the farm. The activities involve routine practices such as farm management, marketing and financial management, dipping vaccination, dehorning with the help of the CPA committee. Customized record keeping is being implemented through the assistance of Agricultural Research Council (ARC) which the CPA has registered to participate wherein the ARC provide advice and technical assistance.

5.4.4 Specific Problems encountered by Manaileng CPA

5.4.4.1 Lack of operating material

Access and affordability of farm equipment's enhances sustainable food production and poverty reduction. It has been noted that the beneficiaries are struggling to raise money to purchase some of the operating material and amongst others this affect the smooth running of the farm.

5.4.4.2 Lack of farming experience from the beneficiaries

Lack of experience and inability to access valuable information by rural farmers makes it difficult for the farm to cope with the latest development particularly in farming. Information and knowledge are important for in agricultural development.

5.5 Case Study 4: Maiwashe Estate (Goedgedacht LS 1179)

5.5.1 Historical Background

Goedgedacht LS 1179 is situated approximately 5 km North East of Morebeng under the jurisdiction of Molemole Local Municipality in Limpopo Province. The project is legally registered as Maiwashe Estate. The farm was acquired through Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD). The project is owned by a family and the far is approximately 916 hectares. The project is already involved in vegetable and livestock with activities production partly under irrigation, with water drawn from boreholes. The farm has access to water through boreholes and has a sizeable cement dam which is in good condition.

The technical farming skills and knowledge through training and practical experience gained by the owners and workers thus far are an added advantage in producing the identified enterprise. To ensure sustainable growth and competency in farm management Maiwashe Estate has been linked with Mr. Emmanuel Ratsaka in a

mentorship programme. The project is constantly getting assistance with regards to technical assistance, financial management advisory, procurement of inputs and marketing of produce.

With the help of the mentor and other relevant stakeholders, the project aims to become a leading farming operation in the province offering the best vegetables into the market and contribute to the growing demand of vegetable products locally. It is in this context that the values of the company are enshrined within capacity building through on the job training, coaching, mentorship, skills training and supervision of all farm workers. Maiwashe Estate endeavors to nurture a sustainable business by empowering employees who have a strong interest in farming.

5.5.2 Aspirations and needs of the project

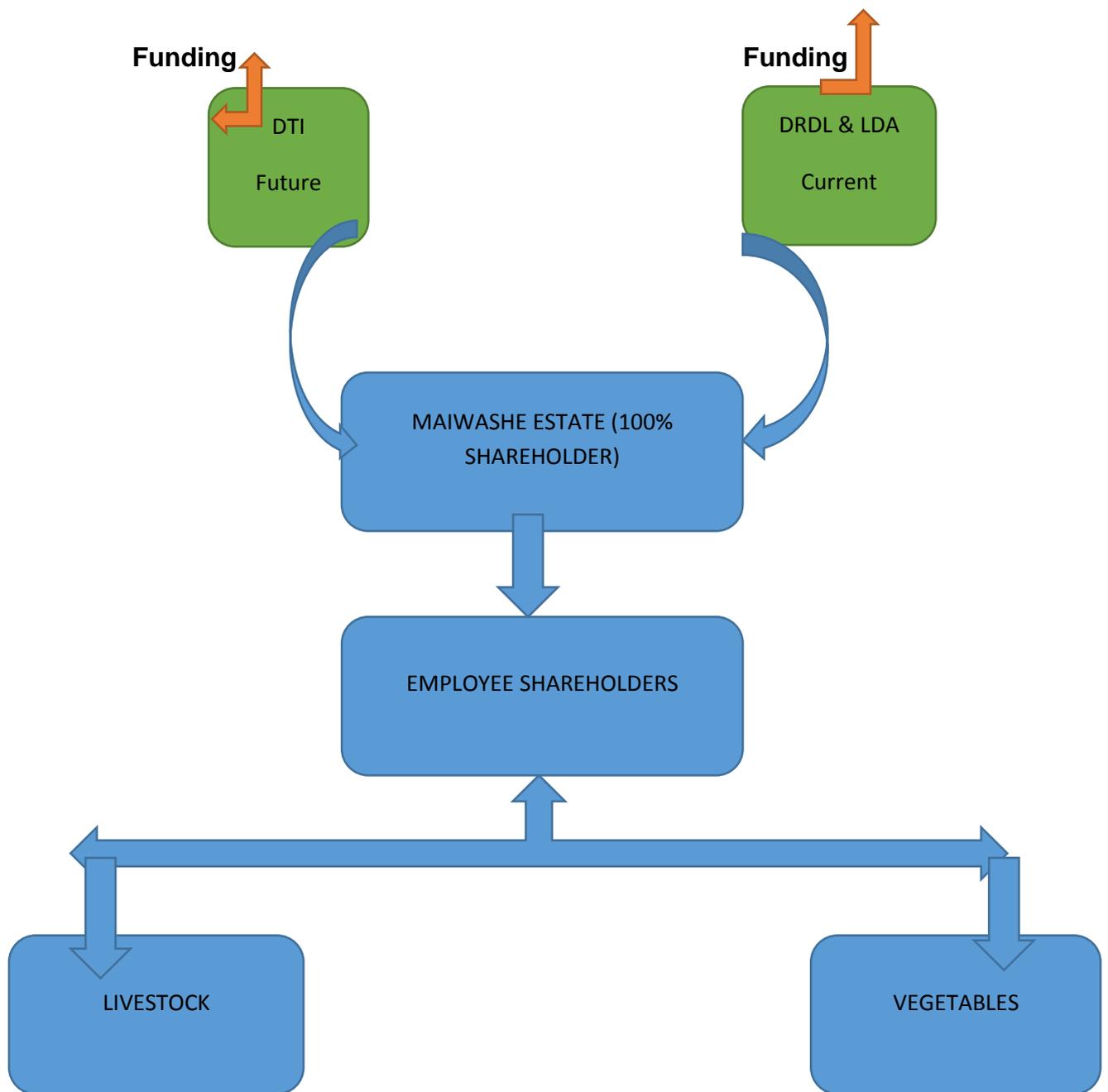
The business strategy of the beneficiaries will revolve around the need to provide quality products to their various target clients/customers, in the process satisfying their needs. The production of good quality products shall be done with the help of Limpopo Department of Agriculture through the office of Molemole Local Municipality. The project were guided by the intention of establishing a good rapport with all the relevant government agencies and private institutions that may in turn refer them as aspiring entrepreneurs

5.5.3 Institutional Arrangements

The project is steered by a management of team consisting of the Board of Directors, Employee as shareholders of the business. This active, self-employed group started their project through hard-work, driven by passion for farming business. They are gradually gaining experience, skills and knowledge in crop and livestock through

practical involvement, training and mentorship interventions. Figure 5.1 describes the organizational/institutional arrangements within the farm

Figure 5.1 Institutional/organizational arrangements for Maiwashe Estate



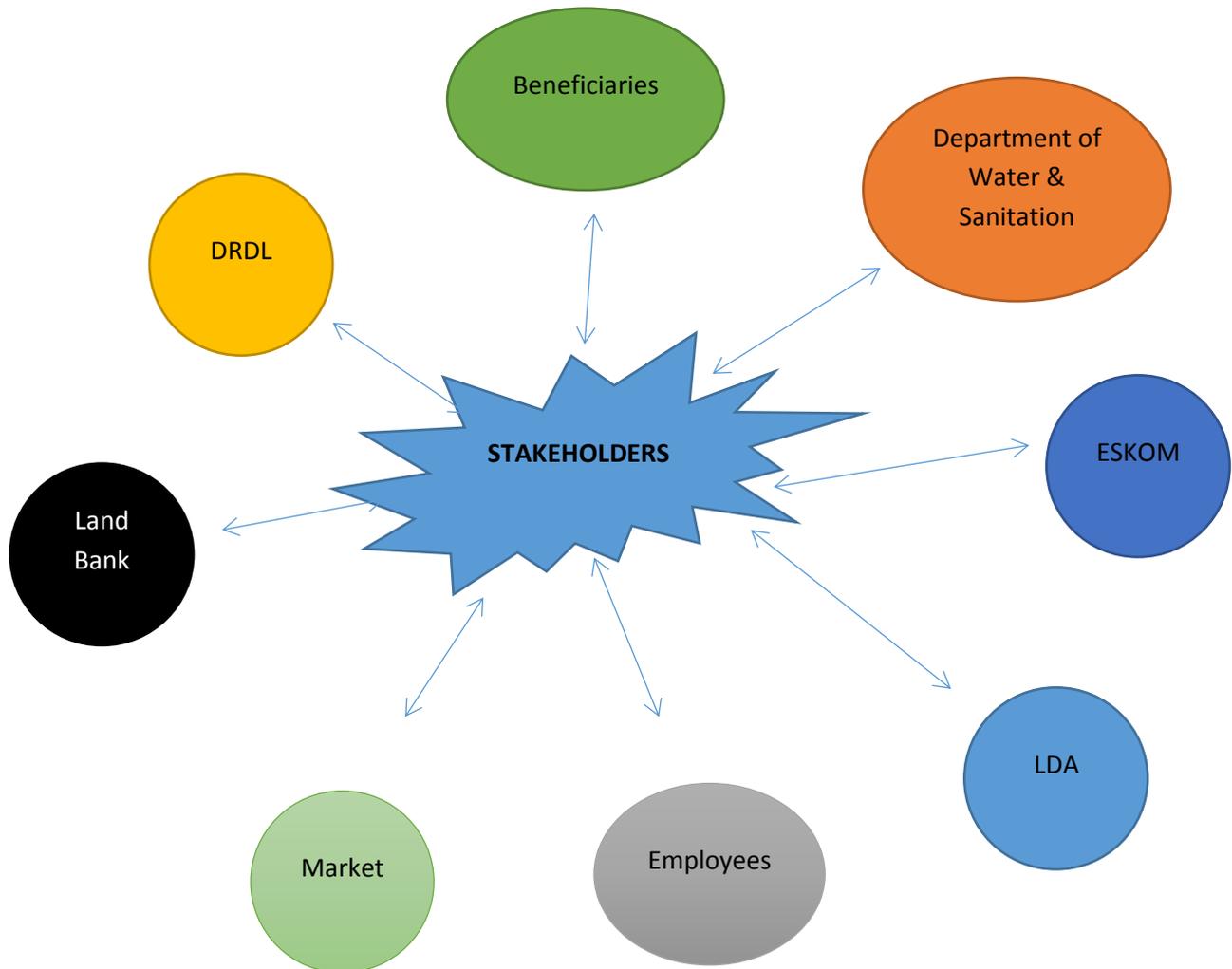
Source: own development (2017)

5.5.4 Challenges faced by Maiwashe estate

- i. Production inputs- high inputs cost, e.g. fertilizers, seeds
- ii. Markets- the farm operates mainly in the informal market and also posting some of its produce to the Johannesburg Market. The challenge with the informal markets is that they are not stable as they lack of stringent contractual obligations between customers and the supplier result in the customers being able to purchase produce from whomever is selling at the lowest price. Also entrance into the formal markets is difficult, as the players within the formal market require that their suppliers meet certain agricultural practices.

5.5.5 Stakeholder Analysis

Figure 5.2 Stakeholder analyses for Maiwashe Estate



Source: own development (2017)

The stakeholders mentioned above work together to ensure that Maiwashe estate becomes a success and sustainable. The stakeholders provide both financial and non-financial support to the project. Currently the stakeholder that holds the PIN CODE for the survival and expansion of Maiwashe estate are Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDL)

5.6 Case study 5: Mashishimale CPA

5.6.1 Historical background

Mashishimale CPA it's a local community farm founded by members and residents of Mashishimale village situated at Ba-Phalaborwa municipality in Limpopo Province. Mashishimale village is located approximately twenty kilometers from Phalaborwa town and it is adjacent to the most popular internationally known Kruger national Park (UP & SRS-SA, 2008). The claimant community was comprised of approximately 1,885 households with total hectares of 35,350 (SRS-SA, 2008). The community submitted their claim to the Land Claims Commission in order to get their land back during the 1990s. The beneficiaries or members of the CPA acquired the farm in 2004 with the primary aim of farming productively.

5.6.2 Institutional Arrangements

The community is under the leadership of the executive committee which is elected by the beneficiaries during their Annual General meeting (AGM). The committee then appoints the steering committee to oversee the activities in communities (Terblanche, Stephen & Sekgota, 2014). The function of the steering committee is also to manage the finances of the farms and report back to the CPA.

5.6.3 Specific Problems

Most of the communities have failed to reach their target and objectives due to variety of issues related to management

5.6.3.1 Poor Governance

Continuous infighting among beneficiaries, lack of capacity building, technical skills, lack of organizational skills are some of the attributes or factors which made the CPA not to function properly. Some of the beneficiaries have resigned due to infighting and lack of trust among the beneficiaries

5.6.3.2 Little or no post settlement support

Number of land reform farms have collapsed and failed to achieve the intended objectives of alleviating poverty and redressing the past injustices due to lack of post settlement support from the government. The government tried to introduce programmes aimed at supporting land reform projects on capital or infrastructure but at times the problem lie with beneficiaries accessing information and skills (Terblanche *et al*, 2014)

5.6.3.3 Beneficiary participation

Participation generally means attending and voicing out concerns in a formal platform like meeting. Numerous restrictions have prevented members to participate. Kirsten and Machethe (2005) cited by Binsswanger-Mkhize (2014) found that compilation of business plans is done by beneficiaries in only 11% of cases- the plans were mainly drawn up by officials of the Department of Agriculture (39%), service providers (20%) or DRDL officials (16%), and therefore beneficiaries were not aware of the contents in 50% of the cases. To improve the status of land reform projects, there should be a radical socio-economic transformation based on the aspirations and needs of the beneficiaries.

5.7 Case Study 6: Ntjie Communal Property Association

5.7.1 Historical background

Ntjie CPA known as Letsoalo is a previously partly state owned farm and partly privately owned land. It is situated within Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, Capricorn District of Limpopo province. It is composed of the farms Mimosa 218KS, the farm Mizpah 214KS and Morgendal 216KS. The total Extent of the three farms measures approximately 3633.6078 ha. The land was dispossessed from the Letsoalo community in the 19th century. The Letsoalo community originated in Wolkeberg Mountain where they stayed as part of the Mammahlola tribe. In the 18th they broke away from Mammahlola from the mountain to the farms Mizpah, Mimosa and Morgendal where they lived peacefully until the arrival of the white's people in the 19th century. The whites arrived and forced Letsoalo community to work for them without pay because they were staying at their farm. They provided labor in return of the right of residence, land grazing and cultivation for a limited number of livestock. However they were removed gradually from the farms through the Prevention of Illegal Squatting ACT, 1951 (Act No 52 of 1951) (LDA, Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality, 2012).

The farms were transferred to Letsoalo community under Ntjie Communal Property Association from The State and the other portion was bought from the private owner in terms of Section 42D of the Restitution of Land Rights Acts 1994. The Letsoalo community consists of 120 households, whereby 76 are female headed (LDA, 2009).

Ntjie CPA has a very positive impact to the local area. It has already employed 20 people on a permanent basis and more are employed during peak (harvesting, spraying, planting etc.) seasons. The community of Letsoalo and the surrounding area benefit more from the farm. With the possibility of extension more people will be

employed at the farm which will improve the livelihoods of the people. There will be increased house hold income and thus assisting in reducing poverty within the area. The farm also sells their produce to the local market during weddings, funerals and also there are cash sales where the communities buy vegetables at a cheaper price. The business buys their inputs from the local suppliers. This clearly shows that the farm contribute positively to the local economy by both forward and backward linkages. Furthermore, there is a high unemployment rate in the area and the farm assist in creating job opportunities for the community and other people living in the area.

5.7.2 Aspirations and needs of the CPA

The CPA was guided by their need to be the best and most successful farm which produces high quality agricultural products. To be the most attractive tourist spot in the Limpopo Province and uplift the livelihood of its communities and neighboring communities through job creation.

5.7.3 Factors considered not making the farm sustainable

5.7.3.1 Lack of access to financial services & production inputs

Like any other land reform, the production within the farm remains low because the project lack access to financial service and production inputs. Despite agriculture's importance, it has performed below its potential for generations, neglected by government policies and held back by low farm productivity.

5.7.3.2 Dilapidated farming infrastructure

There is a general consensus among the beneficiaries that the land reform programme is a good initiative by the government, however, the programme is not correctly implemented as it does not address the needs of the beneficiaries. Most of the land

reform projects complain about lack of appropriate infrastructure (e.g. boreholes, fencing etc.) which is critical for sustainable food production.

5.8 Conclusion

The advent of democracy has enabled communities to lodge their land claims in accordance to the legislations and policies developed post-apartheid 1994. The establishment of those policies played a crucial role in respect to human development particularly those who were previously marginalized. The six case studies demonstrated that the programme of land reform is having a limited impact on the livelihood of beneficiaries. Various issues which proved to be having negative impact on sustainability of land reform projects were uncovered. The case studies have shown that lack of leadership; lack of access to finance; lack of access to market and information, beneficiary participation are some of the problems associated with making the land reform programme to be ineffective. Mandiwana (2014) concedes that some of the challenges raised are genuine and should these problems be attended then the land reform programme in Limpopo could make impact on the livelihoods of people in Limpopo Province. This chapter concludes that with proper coordination amongst all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of land reform programme and post-settlement support from the government success is achievable.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter (Chapter 4) provided a clear perspective and context on six selected case studies. Background information, size of the land and locality of selected case studies were presented as well. The central focus of this chapter will be the presentation of summary and findings emerging from the study, including the challenges found across the six selected case studies from Limpopo Province. The chapter will then conclude with the delivery of recommendations to ensure effectiveness of land reform programme in Limpopo Province.

The main research questions answered were:

- i. To what extent has the land reform program achieved its intended objectives?
- ii. What are the challenges faced by both implementers and beneficiaries of the land reform programme and to what extent do these affect the progress and impact of land reform
- iii. Can strategies be developed to address the challenges
- iv. What has been the current impact of land reform on sustainable livelihoods?

Regardless of the determinations and commitment taken by the government to make land reform viable and sustainable, these endeavours are faced with enormous challenges such as, economic sustainability, skills development, high illiteracy levels and high rate of unemployment in the area under study. The issue of land and rural poverty cannot be fully addressed in the absence of land redistribution. These challenges, faced by both implementers and beneficiaries of land reform, served as a strong motivation for the researcher to conduct this study. With recommendations

provided in this study, the researcher is hopeful and positive that together the government, civil society and private sector would advance and improve support instruments and methods of intervention.

5.2 Summary of Chapter outcomes

The main aim of the study was to analyse the evolution of Land Reform programme in Limpopo Province, South Africa. The central focus of the study was on the successes and failures of land reform programme. The following is a brief framework on the structure of the study:

- i. Chapter one** introduced; outlined and provided a historical background of the research topic. The chapter further gave a clear perspective and context of research problem statement, research objectives, research questions and definition of key concept for the study.
- ii. Chapter two** put more emphasis on reviewing fundamentals of land reform through critical review of literatures. The chapter further described different forms and approaches undertaken to implement land reform and review some international experiences. The focus was also given to the legislations and funding framework in the form of grants established by the democratic government after 1994 with the purpose of reversing the past injustices committed by the previous apartheid regime.
- iii. Chapter Three** explained the techniques and methodology employed in this study
- iv. Chapter Four** gave a clear perspective and context on six selected case studies. Background information, localities and challenges associated with successful implementation of the projects were also highlighted

v. **Chapter Five** draw up conclusions and findings after analysing the selected case studies, land reform policies, Acts and current development of land reform in Limpopo Province. Sound management strategies and recommendations are provided for future references or further research

5.3 Research Objectives

The following objectives of the study were used to contextualize and operationalize the study:

5.3.1 To assess progress in the implementation of land reform in South Africa

In order to address and answer the first objective of the study, a question was asked in Chapter One as to what extent has the land reform programme achieved its intended objectives. To contextualise the objective and answer the question, Chapter 2 dealt with reviewing the literature and current development and progress made on land reform program. The explanation was narrowed down to the fact that the implementation of and redistribution of land has sparked lots of criticism due to its slow pace. This can be attributed to the fact that stakeholder involved do not understand the land reform programmes and as a result causes the delay.

5.3.2 To document and learnt from case studies of successful land redistribution and restitution experiences

In order to achieve the second objective of the study, a question was asked in Chapter One, what are the challenges faced by both the implementers and beneficiaries of land reform and to what extent do these affect the progress and impact of land reform. Chapter 4 provided perspective and context of selected case studies and also looked at the challenges which the land reform projects are faced with which hampers progress and sustainable livelihoods.

5.3.3 To examine land-use under different land reform schemes

To achieve the third objective of the study, a question was asked in Chapter one, can strategies be developed to address the challenges. The question is answered in this chapter by providing an approaches/strategies which can be employed to improve and sustain the land reform scheme.

5.3.4 To analyze the current impacts of land reform on sustainable livelihoods

A question was posed in Chapter One as to what has been the current impact of land reform on sustainable livelihoods. Both Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 addressed this question and it was pointed out that majority of land reform projects fails to achieve the desired result due to (i) weak institutional arrangement dealing with pre and post settlement support; (ii) conflicts among land reform beneficiaries; (iii) exorbitant land prices from land owners; (iv) technical knowledge/farming experience from land reform beneficiaries. The government, civil society and private sector will have to renew their interest and commitment to move forward and develop strategies which are more inclusive and easy to implement.

5.4 Findings

Despite the lessons learnt from international perspective on the design and implementation of land reform programme in South Africa, there has been a very slow progress of redistributing land. Given the importance and objective of Land reform programme where 30% of agricultural land were supposed to be redistributed by the end of 2014, the government failed to reach its target which in turn compromises the integrity and credibility of it. The DRDL further acknowledges that the existing land reform plan is not able to achieve the intended and desired results. The case studies

presented in this study have demonstrated that most of the projects fail to be sustainable due to the following reasons:

5.4.1 Lack of Post-settlement support is impeding sustainability of land reform projects

Post-settlement support in the context of South African land reform programme refers to post transfer support or settlement support given to land reform beneficiaries after they have received back their land (Rungasamy, 2011). The support could be in the form of infrastructural support services, financial support, facilitation to access to market and information, capacity building (mentorship, training & enterprise development) and agricultural extension services.

South African land reform beneficiaries have faced a variety of challenges and some of the challenges include lack of access to production inputs, appropriate infrastructure for sustainable use of the land, lack of access to farm credit, lack of training, mentorship and enterprise development. The advent of democracy has played a crucial role in providing majority of black people with access to land but the sustainability of land reform programme is questioned as most of the farmers are unable to utilize the land to maximize production and increase their household level of income.

Post-settlement support if properly designed, managed and implemented well could be a success and as a result may be able to reduce the poverty, inequality and unemployment rate affecting the country considering the fact that South Africa is of the countries with high poverty, unemployment and inequality. For example, with the case study of Maiwashe Estate it has demonstrated that when post-settlement support and strong institutional arrangements put in place, the project is able to produce more

for the community and as a result improve the income level of beneficiaries and communities at large.

5.4.2 A wide range of constituencies are accessing LRAD

The case studies presented in this study have demonstrated that majority of black people venture access and acquire land with different motives, aspirations and entrepreneurial agenda. Part of the reason why most of the land reform projects fails to achieve the desired results is inability of the beneficiaries to manage and control group dynamics. Group dynamic challenges amongst the project beneficiaries are still a problem. Ideological differences will always arise because people are coming from different background. Internal conflicts are one of the reasons which make the projects to collapse. Morebeng CPA and Mashishimale CPA have also demonstrated that internal conflicts and lack of cohesion amongst project beneficiaries serves as an impeding factor towards the success of the project.

5.4.3 The difficulty of Land reform projects to raise/access finance and production inputs is still a problem

Access and affordability of farm equipment's and production inputs enhances sustainable food production and poverty reduction. It has been noted that the beneficiaries are struggling to raise money to purchase some of the operating material and amongst others this affect the smooth running of the farm.

5.4.4 Poor planning, co-ordination and implementation of projects

Involvement of project beneficiaries on project planning is minimal and as a result stakeholders involved are forced to implement what has been designed and planned by the authorities. Such acts compromises the sustainability issue as farmer do not have a total control and ownership of their project. Proper planning generally means

project beneficiaries attending plannery meetings and make inputs on how the project can be implemented. Numerous restrictions have prevented members to participate.

5.4.5 Lack of technical knowledge and Farm management skills/experience from the beneficiaries

Farmers need to be provided with adequate capacity building (training, Mentorship & enterprise development) programmes which will enable them to effectively utilize the farm without relying on the government for information. The value of agricultural research and technological change and innovation in transforming economies is uncontested. The history of delivering agricultural and information services to smallholder farmers is one of approaches and capacities that has worked well

5.4.6 Access to markets and credit facilities

Both accesses to market and credit facilities in South Africa remain some of the problem which affects the sustainability of small scale farmers. In South Africa, it is estimated that the majority of rural population most of whom rely on agriculture for their livelihood, still has no access to formal credit. Availability of credit and access to market has proved to play a crucial role in improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries. Masoka (2014) argues that regular interactions between farmers and extension officers must be encouraged to ensure participation of farmers in markets.

5.4.7 Ineffective Monitoring and Evaluation tool in all the programmes

The monitoring and evaluation tool designed by the government does not provide a space to track the challenges and anticipate the threats associated with the implementation of land reform programme. Developing effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tool is very much important for tracking and measuring the results and analyzing the impact of development intervention.

The above mentioned challenges have proved to play a significant role towards unsustainability of land reform programme in Limpopo Province. Based on the findings the next section will provide strategies on how to deal with the above mentioned challenges moving forward.

5.5 Strategies/Recommendations

While land reform was regarded as a vehicle to advance the process of national reconciliation, global economic integration, de-racialization and creating inclusive platform for economic participation. This study has demonstrated that despite the fact that much of the land were redistributed to the majority of black of people to redress the past injustices created by the colonial regime, the government failed to reach its target of 30% and more importantly the sustainability of land reform projects is in question. Strategies are required to improve the status quo of land reform projects. The following general recommendations/strategies can be made for improvement of land reform programme:

- i. Establish strong partnerships with civil society and private sector to accelerate the pace of land delivery to land reform beneficiaries.
- ii. Effective implementation of programmes like CASP, Recapitalization and Development Programme, Letsema to improve productivity of land reform projects
- iii. Small-scale farmers requires more than land if they are to make a living. They also need a supportive policy environment, including access to credit on reasonable terms, fair prices for their products, and access to infrastructure and social services;
- iv. Establishment of project implementation team consisting of RLCC, DRDLR, Extension Officers, LDA

v. Enhance institutional structures at project level which are transparent and participative which will curb the problem of group dynamics and mismanagement and misuse of resources.

5.5.1 Further research needs to be taken on the following issues:

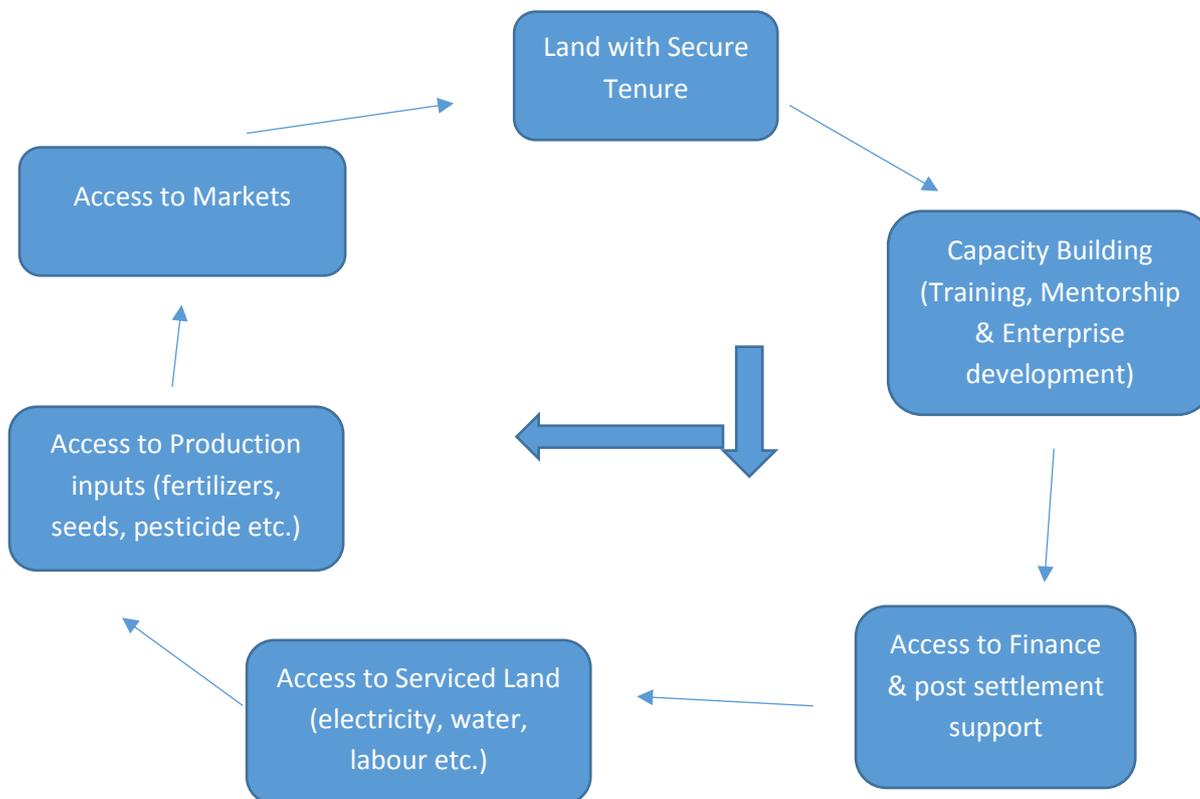
- i. The impact of post-settlement support on the performance of land reform projects
- ii. Evaluation into effectiveness of land reform project in poverty reduction
- iii. Assessment of internal conflicts on the sustainability of land reform projects

5.6 Conclusion

The study was aimed at analyzing the evolution of land reform programme in Limpopo Province, South Africa. The central focus of the study was to look at the successes and failures of the programme as well as to suggest possible strategies or recommendations which can be employed in improving the land reform programme towards achieving the objective of addressing the triple challenges (Poverty, Unemployment & Inequality) the country is faced with.

The study have demonstrated that Land reform cannot be perceived as to have achieved its intended objectives and as a result failed to reach the target of redistributing 30% of land by 2014.

5.6.1 Components necessary to deliver successful land reform projects



Source: Own Development, 2017

The study uncovered number of factors which made the redistributed land not to be sustainable and have less impact on improving the livelihood of the rural poor. Amongst other factors include lack post-settlement support; access to market and credit facilities; poor planning, co-ordination and implementation of projects; exorbitant land prices from land owners; ineffective monitoring and evaluation tool; lack of access to finance and weak institutional and governance structure from the land reform projects. The study concurs with arguments from other scholars that some of the problems identified are the responsibility of government but the beneficiaries as well should take up the responsibility for not relying on government for services and take control and ownership of their business.

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