

**Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition  
Strategy (PLAS) in Mopani District area, Limpopo Province**

**By**

**THABISO LUCKY MALATJI**

**Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree  
Master of Public Administration (MPA)**

**In the**

**Faculty of Management and Law**

**(Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership)**

**At the**

**University of Limpopo**

**Supervisor: Prof. G. Makombe**

**Co- Supervisor: Prof. K. Phago**

**2017**

## **Dedications**

This study is dedicated to my parents: my late father Ngwako William Malatji and my mother Makoma Maria Malatji. My mother could neither read nor write, but today I am able to do both all because of her. She has never been to school but she knows how important education is. I thank you mom for believing not only in me but in education.

To my wife Shirley Rabotata Malatji, you have been such a blessing to me. Thank you very much for always being there for me even in difficult times. I thank you for believing in me and encouraging me in this academic journey.

## Declarations

I declare that the mini-dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Public Administration in the Graduate School of Leadership, Faculty of Management and Law, *Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District area, Limpopo Province* is my own work and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any institution.

---

T. L. Malatji

---

Date

## Acknowledgments

I would like to give thanks to the following people for their great contribution in the preparation and write-up of this dissertation:

- ✓ My supervisor Professor G. Makombe for his criticism, advices and teachings. I thank you for teaching me that critics are necessary in research; they are there not to discourage, but to build you and make you stronger.
- ✓ My Co - Supervisor Professor K. Phago.
- ✓ My brother Moses Malatji, who has been a father, a brother, an educator, and a role model to me. I thank you a million times, brother. May the good Lord continue to bless you. Petrus Ngwako Malatji for all the sacrifices he has made since 2002 when I started my 1<sup>st</sup> year at the University of Venda, thank you.
- ✓ I thank both Provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and Department of Agriculture. (DoA)
- ✓ I thank all the farmers from Mopani District who participated in the study; the study was a success because of all of you.
- ✓ My former mentor at Human Science Research Council (HSRC) Professor Bongani Bantwini and Dr Jean Pierre Missago from Wits University.
- ✓ Many thanks to my former teachers at Senopelwa Primary School and Mokoep Secondary School, thank you for teaching me how to read and write.
- ✓ To God Almighty, I am eternally grateful.

## **Abstract**

The aim of the study was to investigate elements that compromise the success of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) in Mopani District, Limpopo Province. There is a general view that PLAS intended to fast track the land reform process. The emerging farmers as soon as they get the land through PLAS are expected to use the land for production so as to improve their socio- economic status and contribute to the local economic growth. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform proactively acquires the land and redistributes it to the previously disadvantaged people in a lease contract. Emerging farmers do not need to own the land and have title deeds as the land belongs to the government. PLAS is state driven because only the government can proactively acquire the land and lease it out to prospective productive emerging farmers from previously disadvantaged groups.

Qualitative research design was used to collect data. The target group in this study were direct beneficiaries of PLAS or emerging farmers. Data was collected using focus group discussions with emerging farmers and one-on-one interviews in all three local municipalities: Ba-Phalaborwa, Tzaneen and Maruleng. One- on- one interviews were conducted with the key participants from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture.

The results of the study show that the emerging farmers are not effectively using the land as expected. They do not have the necessary support from government or Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. It was also revealed in the study that the Limpopo Department of Agriculture is expected to support the emerging farmers with technical support. In practice there is no visible form of support from the provincial department and farmers are left to fend for themselves. Emerging farmers usually lack farming skills and need regular training and support to be able to continue with their farming and businesses. The findings further reveal that the emerging farmers face serious challenges such as a lack of funding, water shortage, and lack of access to markets and their recapitalisation is reduced.

These findings show that the strategy is not responsive enough because of lack of resources from the government. While there are instances where the white farmers are willing to sell their land, the government do not always have resources to acquire such lands. Also most of these land prices are often inflated and it is where these sellers are taking advantage of the government.

This study recommends that the government should support the emerging farmers by all means possible. That will lead to profitable farming and the lives of the people will change qualitatively, leading to social and economic development. It is recommended further that the emerging farmers be given appropriate training so that they can be equipped with skills and be able to run and manage their farms

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Dedication.....	i
Declaration.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
<b>Chapter 1</b>	
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1.2 Objectives of South Africa's land reform.....	2
1.1.3 Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy.....	3
1.2 Rationale.....	4
1.3 Research Problem.....	5
1.4 Aim of the Study.....	6
1.5 Objectives.....	6
1.6 Research Question.....	6
1.7 Significance of the Proposed Research.....	7
1.8 Definition of the Concepts.....	7
1.8.1 Black Economic Empowerment .....	7
1.8.2 Emerging Farmers.....	7
1.8.3 Land Reform.....	8
1.8.4 PLAS.....	8

1.8.5 Public Participation.....	8
1.8.6 Redistribution.....	9
1.9 Outline of the Research Study.....	9

## **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

2.1 Introduction.....	11
2.2 International Experience.....	12
2.2.1 Local officials as land administrators.....	13
2.2.2 The roles and responsibilities of government in land lease.....	14
2.2.3 Lessons drawn from the Zimbabwean experience .....	15
2.3 Land Reform in South Africa.....	16
2.4 PLAS, State driven (controlled by state) .....	17
2.5 Proactive Land Acquisition in Mpumalanga.....	18
2.6 The Role of Land in Rural Livelihood.....	19
2.7 Factors that lead to underperformances of emerging farmers.....	20
2.7.1 Procurement systems in supermarkets.....	20
2.7.2 Low performance.....	20
2.7.3 Lack of funding from the government.....	21
2.7.4 Lack of skills by the emerging farmers.....	21
2.7.5 Access to the agricultural market.....	24
2.7.6 Failing to secure finances from financial institutions.....	25
2.9 The kind of assistance the emerging farmers need.....	25



2.10 Conclusion.....	27
----------------------	----

### **Chapter 3: Methodology**

3.1 Introduction.....	28
3.2 Research Design.....	28
3.3 Study Area.....	30
3.4 Target Population.....	30
3.5 Sampling and Sample Size.....	30
3.6 Data Collection.....	30
3.7 Focus Group Discussions.....	32
3.8 One-on-one interviews.....	33
3.9 key informant interview .....	33
3.10 Data Analysis.....	33
3.11 Ethical Considerations.....	34
3.12 Conclusion.....	34

### **Chapter 4: Data analysis and interpretations**

4.1 Introduction.....	35
4.1.1 Biographical information of respondents.....	35
4.2 Theme based presentation of findings from the emerging farmer's interviews...36	
4.2.1 Theme 1: Farming skills and training.....	36
4.2.2 Theme 2: Assistance received from the Department of Rural Development and Land reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture.....	37

4.2.3 Theme 3: The kind of Assistance the emerging farmers need.....	39
4.2.4 Theme 4: Land usage by the emerging farmers.....	40
4.2.5 Theme 5: Challenges faced by the emerging farmers.....	41
4.2.5.1 Water Shortage.....	41
4.2.5.2 Title deeds.....	42
4.2.5.3 Paying the lease amount as stipulated in the contract.....	42
4.2.5.4 Market Access.....	43
4.3 Theme 6: Delayed recapitalisation and reduction of requested funding.....	43
4.4 Theme based presentation of Insights from Key Informants (KI).....	44
4.4.1 Theme 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture.....	44
4.4.2 Theme 2: Identification of beneficiaries.....	45
4.4.3Theme 3: Training offered to the emerging farmers.....	46
4.4.4 Theme 4: Monitoring and Evaluation.....	46
4.4.5Theme 5: Success or failure of the strategy.....	47
4.4.6 Theme 6: The effectiveness of the strategy.....	47
4.5 Conclusion .....	48

## **Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations**

5.1 Introduction.....	50
5.2 Achieving Study Objectives.....	50
5.2.1 Objective 1.....	50

5.2.2 Objective 2.....51

5.2.3 Objective 3.....51

5.3 Conclusion.....52

5.4 Recommendations.....55

5.5 Recommendations for Future Research.....57

5.6 References .....58

**Annexures**

**Informed Consent Form for the Emerging Farmers.....66**

**Informed Consent Form for the KIs.....69**

**Interview Guide for the Emerging Farmers.....71**

**Interview Guide for the KI.....74**

## Chapter 1

### 1. Introduction

During the apartheid regime in South Africa, the government used land as a way of economic and social oppression of black South Africans, where land became the main instrument for segregation (Dlamini 2014). Land reform is a necessary condition in South Africa if the country wants to have a balanced society. It is important for the previously disadvantaged people to have access to land and use it effectively to reduce poverty and unemployment (Dlamini 2014).

As early as 1994, the South African government under the leadership of the ruling party, the ANC, has made attempts to correct the atrocities committed by the apartheid regime. One of these interventions was through redistributing the land from the white minority in order to alleviate rural poverty through the creation of employment opportunities and economic development in these rural areas (Lahiff & Rugege 2009).

Lahiff and Rugege further state that land redistribution seeks to ensure that poor people have access to land for residential as well as productive use. The beneficiaries or previously disadvantaged people are encouraged by the government to use the land they obtain under the land reform policies in a productive way. This use of land is necessary so they can move from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

According to Barlow and Dijk (2013) black emerging farmers lack opportunities to get involved in the market and they cannot invest in their farming activities because they sometimes do not produce. It is important that the emerging farmers become so active in their farming to be able to improve their socio-economic status, create jobs and alleviate poverty. One of the advantages as indicated in the implementation plan for Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy 2006 is to ensure that there is maximum use of land acquired. It simply means that the beneficiaries will have to use the land for production and thus ensure that farming activities are ongoing, and that will help

improve their lives, provided they farm actively (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Implementation Plan for Proactive land acquisition strategy 2006).

According to Hall (2009) identifying the needs of beneficiaries is important and that will assist in determining if the farmer is achieving the goals as required and expected by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (this was previously referred to as the Department of Land Affairs). In most cases community members often visit the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and enquire about the processes of acquiring land for farming; after having been given land they start their farming activities (Blumberg 2007).

### **1.1.2 Objectives of South Africa's Land Reform**

Previously disadvantaged people in South Africa need land for different purpose. Some want to do farming business whereas some need it for housing. The advantaged of using land for production is that it will reduce a number of unemployment rate in the country.

The South African land reform objectives include the following:

- To redress the injustices caused by the previous land reform policies i.e. the Native land Act of 1913;
- To supply residential and productive land for the poorest section of the rural population;
- Generating large scale employment and increasing rural income (Nxumalo, 2014)
- To ensure that all South Africans, especially the poor, women, youth have a reasonable opportunity to gain access to land with secure rights, in order to fulfil their basic needs for housing and productive livelihoods;
- To ensure that there is effective land use planning and regulation system which promotes land utilisation in all areas; and
- To promote rural production (ANC, Land Reform Policy Discussion Document 2012).

### **1.1.3 Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy**

In 2006, after the failure of Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme, the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) was launched and adopted by the national government. The aim of PLAS is to support the local sphere of government in developing the area based planning and also improve and encourage coordination among the institutions which are responsible for land reform, and this will include, among others, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR). Some of the objectives of the strategy include ensuring that there is maximum productive land use acquired, improving identification and selection of beneficiaries and accelerating the land redistribution process (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Implementation Plan for Proactive Land Acquisition 2006).

According to the strategy, the State purchases land directly from the current owners, who happen to be white farmers, and that land then becomes state land. The State then allocates the land to the beneficiaries on a leasehold basis for a period of five years with an option of buying. The target is black people (Africans, Coloureds, and Indians) or black people with the necessary farming skills (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Implementation Plan for Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy 2006)

Section 40 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act No. 13 of 2005, indicates that an effective implementation and execution of the strategy will require an extra effort from the local sphere of government, which is the municipality, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Provincial Department of Housing and Provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. All these institutions are expected to play a critical role in terms of monitoring and evaluation of the strategy. Because of the Intergovernmental Relation Act, the local government can actively identify land and beneficiaries and approach the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform for funding assistance.

The present study is of public interest because it would inform the members of the public, especially those interested in farming, and it would inform the stakeholders

involved in the implementation of the strategy in identifying the challenges experienced by the emerging farmers. It would also inform the municipalities when they conduct public participation programmes and planning of the integrated development planning (IDP).

PLAS was expected to make a significant contribution to higher path of growth, employment and equity by the year 2014. There are two approaches which PLAS is dealing with and those are the need base approach as well as the supply led approach, essentially focussing on the state as the lead driver in land redistribution. The following are the advantages of PLAS:

- To accelerate the land redistribution process;
- To ensure that the DRDLR can acquire land in the nodal areas and in the identified agricultural corridors and other areas of high agricultural potential to meet the objectives of Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) which is to reduce poverty and unemployment;
- To improve the identification and selection of beneficiaries and the planning of land on which people would be settled; and
- To making sure the land acquired is used (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Implementation plan for proactive land acquisition strategy, 2006).

## **1.2 Rationale**

Due to a slow pace of land reform from other interventions, the South African government further considered implementing PLAS in 2006 (Watcher 2012). Nxumalo and Antwi (2010) state that the land reform programme through PLAS is aiming at improving the livelihood of the previously disadvantaged South Africans or beneficiaries, for the creation of employment, improved standard of living and general economic growth. PLAS is intended to ensure that there is maximum production use of agricultural land. The productive use of land means more production for the market (Nxumalo & Antwi 2010).

There is a serious concern at the failure of the beneficiaries or black emerging farmers of PLAS to use the land effectively and access to market (Woodhouse 2012). Claassen *et al.* (2014) Regardless of the little support that the emerging farmers receive from different organisations, there is still lack of production in their farms. Some of the factors that lead to lack of land use and production include amongst others, lack of supervision, too often farmers are absent from their farms. Since there is a high failure rate of the beneficiaries to use the land effectively, this necessitated the researcher to investigate on the challenges in the implementation of PLAS in Mopani District in Limpopo Province. The study is imperative because there is a need to understand the implementation of PLAS within Mopani District.

### **1.3 Research Problem**

According to Mfuywa (2012) there is a lack of production by the emerging farmers under the PLAS programme. However, immediately after taking over the land, the beneficiaries are expected to use the land in an effective way and produce agricultural goods either for their household consumption or for commercial purposes.

In some cases farmers are only producing seasonal products because they have not gone to the stage of diversifying their products, and this makes it very difficult for the emerging farmers to graduate from emerging to commercial farmers. Ikenous (2009) stated that in the Mopani District area of Limpopo, there were many land reform projects which were struggling as there were no farming activities taking place. Some farmers find it very difficult to pay the rent because they were not producing anything. There was a lack of mass production by the emerging farmers (Blumberg 2007).

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture at the district level, local sphere of government and the Provincial Department of Rural development and Land Reform were expected to play a critical role and support the implementation of the strategy by ensuring that the beneficiaries are equipped as far as machines, farming skills, good planning and management skills are concerned (Williams & van Zyl 2008).



In 2006, the strategy was adopted as a policy (Cousins 2013). PLAS implied that the state purchases the land without knowing the beneficiaries of the land. The most important thing was how the strategy was going to be implemented and how it would benefit the emerging black farmers, how it would reduce poverty and create jobs, and how it would improve the local economy and ensure that land is available for residential purpose (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, implementation plan for proactive land acquisition strategy 2006)

#### **1.4 Aim of the Study**

The aim of the study was to identify and analyse the challenges that compromise the implementation of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) in the Mopani District area of Limpopo province.

#### **1.5 Objectives**

1. To describe the roles and responsibilities of Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture in the implementation of the PLAS programme.
2. To determine factors responsible for under performance by emerging farmers.
3. To determine the kind of assistance the emerging farmers need.

#### **1.6 Research Question**

The proposed study is guided by the following research question: What are the factors that compromise the success of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) in Mopani District?

The following are sub-research questions:

1. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform & Limpopo Department of Agriculture?
2. What are the factors responsible for underperformance of emerging farmers?
3. What kind of assistance do the farmers need?

## **1.7 Significance of Proposed Research**

On the policy level this study is imperative because it interrogated why, since the dawn of democracy in 1994 and amidst many land reform programmes that have been implemented by the government, a large number of beneficiaries continue to struggle in their pursuit of commercial farming enterprise. The study focuses on PLAS as a policy document of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Implementation plan for proactive land acquisition strategy of 2006). This study undertook to investigate how much support is provided to the emerging farmers or beneficiaries under the PLAS strategy so that they can gradually move from being emerging or subsistence farmers to commercial farmers.

The study contributes to the body of knowledge and future research could be conducted to consider policy developments or lack of implementation. It informs the government in policy implementation and helps identify policy challenges either at the administration level or at the decision making stage. Policy implementation in the public sector is crucial. It also contributes to the body of knowledge in the field of Public Administration. Other researchers who are interested in research could benefit in their literature review on the same subject. Furthermore, the study could help inform the provincial government and the departments concerned on the implementation of PLAS and the role and responsibilities played by each department.

## **1.8 Definition of Concepts**

### **1.8.1 Black Economic Empowerment**

It is defined as an attempt by the South African government under the leadership since 1994 to link the redistributive and neo liberal economic policies with the focus on increasing black ownership of shares in major corporations (Ponte & Sittert 2007).

### **1.8.2 Emerging farmers**

Emerging farmers refers to the new/underprivileged farmers who are determined to enter into commercial farming. The majority of them are producing for household

consumption and find it very difficult to penetrate the established market (Louw *et al.*2007).

### **1.8.3 Land Reform**

Land reform in South Africa refers to the transfer of land to the previously disadvantaged people (blacks) in order to fulfil the government's goals and objectives of addressing the past injustice of land dispossession while trying to promote Black Economic Empowerment (Nxumalo & Antwi 2013).

### **1.8.4 Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS)**

It is a state driven programme where the State proactively targets land while matches this with demand for land from the community/ previously disadvantaged community. It is a government initiative aimed at accelerating land redistribution and in the process ensuring that the DRDLR acquires land in the nodal areas and in the identified agricultural areas. The target is not a group of people, but individuals/ emerging farmers (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Implementation plan for Proactive land acquisition 2006).

Lahiff (2008) states that proactive land acquisition strategy can be defined as a policy which was adopted in 2006. In this policy the state become the willing buyer of the land for redistribution by actively using market opportunities where they arise in order to accelerate the land redistribution process, and at some stage they approach the land owners to sell their land to the State.

### **1.8.5 Public Participation**

Creighton (2005) defines public participation as a process in which the needs, values and concerns of members of the public are incorporated into government and corporate decision making. It is a two-way communication and interaction with the main goal of making good and better decisions supported by the members of the public.

### **1.8.6 Redistribution**

Watcher (2010) defines redistribution as one of the South African reform programmes which aims at providing previously disadvantaged people/blacks with land for residential and production purposes for their livelihood. According to Lahiff (2012), redistribution is the process of acquiring land for certain categories of people (blacks) through a purchase on the open market.

## **1.9 Outline of the Study**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction/ Background/ Overview**

Chapter 1 of the study provides a background context and at the same time introduces the study. This first chapter also provides the justification of the study as to why the study is done, the problem statement, research question and the objectives of the study. Different concepts used in the study are also defined in this chapter.

### **Chapter 2: Literature Review on the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy**

Chapter 2 deals with the conceptual framework. In this chapter relevant literature regarding PLAS is reviewed and analysed, using books, journals, and articles related to the study. The fundamental focus on this chapter is on the literature which is closely related to the implementation of the PLAS programme.

### **Chapter 3: Research Methodology**

The methodology responds to the issue of data collection and the instruments used during the interview process. The chapter addresses how the researcher collected the data at the same time it highlights the issue of the research design used for this research project. It is more about how the data is gathered, analysed and used for validity and reliability purposes.

### **Chapter 4: Data analysis and Interpretations**

Chapter 4 provide data analysis from the interviews conducted. Factors which compromise the success of PLAS are presented in this chapter. The findings are presented according to the themes identified.

### **Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendation**

This concluding chapter is based on the findings and interpretations from the data collected and the literature reviewed. Recommendations are made on those areas which need specific attention with the aim of improving the implementation process of PLAS.

## **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

### **2.1 Introduction**

As indicated in the chapter outline, chapter 1 introduces the study and highlights the problem statement, or problem to be investigated as well as the objectives of the study. The present chapter is very critical in the study as it provides the theoretical concepts on the implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS), which was introduced in 2006 in South Africa. The literature chapter starts first by indicating the importance of land reform in South Africa and introduce some of the programmes which the South African government implemented in the past. It then explore the international experience as far as land lease is concerned.

It is important to note that the land reform question is about redressing past injustices. The issue of land ownership and land reform has always been a struggle for black people. A number of programmes such as willing buyer, willing seller (WBWS) and Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) were introduced and failed to be effective as expected. These programmes did not make a positive impact on the community, particularly for black South Africans. PLAS was introduced in 2006 by the South African government to fast track the land reform process. The strategy was introduced after it was realised that land reform was moving at a slow pace. According to PLAS, the government is required to buy land for the beneficiaries without identifying them and the beneficiaries are expected to lease the land from the government and pay lease money as agreed and use the land effectively (Lahiff 2008).

The strategy deals with the following approaches which are as follows: the need based approach as well as the supply based approach, with the government taking the lead (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, implementation plan for proactive land acquisition strategy, 2007). The challenges with regard to the strategy are that the majority of the emerging farmers or the beneficiaries do not always have the necessary and required skills and experience to be able to manage their farms. A large number of emerging farmers do not have mentors who work close with them will so that they can

use that as an advantage to successfully run their agricultural projects (Van Niekerk, Groenewald & Zwane 2014).

One of the fundamental aims of the South African government regarding land policy is to ensure that the emerging black farmers become commercial farmers, create jobs, alleviate poverty, contribute to the local economic growth, and for emerging black farmers to be commercial farmers. The agricultural sector is experiencing low performance on agricultural activities and this affects the livelihood communities, at the same time posing a threat of food security and production capacity of the natural resources (Nxumalo & Oladele 2013).

## **2.2 International experience**

Zhang and Pearlman (2004) state that rural land reform was introduced in China and it began with the initiation of the Household Responsibility System (HRS), and new rural land tenure system was established and it allowed allocation of land use rights to individual households. The village collectively owned the land and distributed it to individuals, taking into consideration the issue of population and the size of that particular household. The household leases the land for a period of 15 years under this programme.

Marsh and MacAulay (2002) demonstrate that the allocation of land rights in Vietnam is the sole responsibility of the General Department of Land and Administration. The District People's Council is responsible for the issuing of certificates of title for agricultural land. Practically it is the state that allocates land through people's committees and districts.

The land law in Vietnam was introduced in 1988 with the aim of modifying the agricultural sector. According to this law, Resolution 10 consisted of transferring control and cash flow rights from cooperatives to individual households in all the provinces of Vietnam. Land was allocated to household with 10-15 years of secure tenure but there was no fairness; individual households were given land use rights, but they were not allowed to trade their rights. There was a high rate of corruption and favouritism in the

process and some of the beneficiaries complained that they had received small land (Do & Iyer 2007).

Marsh and MacAulay (2002) further highlight that the land use rights were granted for 20 years for land used for annual crops and 50 years for those who are into perennial farming. Perennial farming refers to the plants like apple which can be harvested in two years period. Farmers in multiple year crops like coffee, rubber, tea, black paper cashew and fruit crops which include citrus, pineapple, bananas and mangoes had an advantage also of getting a long term lease.

According to McPherson (2012) the Vietnam government is also facing a challenge on land policy and land management; they find it very difficult to ensure that the Vietnamese use the land efficiently and equitably so as to promote their socioeconomic development. McPherson further demonstrates that according to the Constitution of Vietnam, it is a responsibility of government to manage all the land.

### **2.2.1 Local Officials as land administrators**

Ding and Lichtenberg (2008) demonstrate that that the local officials play a critical role. Land in the rural village is administered by the village collectives/ village leaders as a whole and they have full authority to allocate land for rural housing and ensure that the community or local people are housed or such land can also be used for some public works, be it in the form of road constructions or any other local business. Local officials took the responsibility of land developers and use their control over the primary land allocation to promote local economic growth and to also meet the financial obligations of municipal/ local sphere of governments (Ding & Lichtenberg 2008). Liu *et al.* (2014) believe that local government on the other hand had to behave as entrepreneurs so as to achieve the goal of growing the local economy through agriculture. The Chinese government at the central level or national level took a decision to allow the local officials to take charge of land allocation that also assisted in terms of investments. The Chinese government at the local level started to experience what they termed “local developmental state” and the local government was then in a good position of



promoting public and private investment aimed at achieving Chinese economic growth (Ding & Lichtenberg 2008).

Zhang (2000) further states that even if the local sphere of government was or is in charge of the local land, the revenue collected from the lessees is still to be shared between the central government and the local government. The local government was not satisfied with the arrangements and sharing of money with the central government as they claim to be the ones investing more money on rural land development before the land is leased, and still a large proportion of money is still taken to the central government. Zhang and Donaldson (2010) state that in Siamo municipality under Yunnan Province in China, the local government plays a fundamental role by providing the infrastructure as well as market connection for the commercial farmers and that also assists in terms of shaping the growth of commercial farming in this area.

The land lease started around 1980 in China and it had an impact on policy, and the policy of land supply changed from administrative allocation to market disposal by a means of land lease but at the same time advocating the issue of strengthening the management of state owned land which was so critical (Liu et al. 2014). Liu et al. further demonstrate that for the land policy to be as effective as expected, it will depend also on the appropriateness of measures within the society, the economic issues, political as well as the history of that location.

### **2.2.2 The Roles and Responsibilities of Government in Land Lease**

The Chinese government should ensure that there is enough and effective supervision of land use (Tian & Ma 2009). The national and provincial governments have different objectives as far as land supply is concerned. In China the local government has got more powers in controlling land than any other sphere of government. For the local government in China to increase its revenue, more land had to be leased to the local people. The Chinese government was giving much support on land lease because it was the responsibility of the municipality to spend money on agricultural food supply programme. Toulmin (2005) states that government can also expropriate land for public

purposes and public works, and such a land may be utilised for road construction or housing the communities.

Deng (2005) demonstrates that around the 1980s the Chinese government took a decision to do away with the traditional way of land administration and allocation, and adopted the new strategy of public land lease. The municipalities or local government in China became the driving force behind China's urban land reform. They were advocating for public land lease and in most cases they were taking a lead in central government when it came to land reform process. Ding and Lichtenberg (2008) state that a long term lease was introduced in 1987, in Shenzhen, China. Because the land belongs to the State, the local officials are the ones who lease out the use rights to private entities on a period of 40 to 70 years.

Governments have a legitimate role and responsibilities of regulating and administering land rights because of their significance to the economy, the livelihoods of the community as well as employment and poverty alleviation. Liu *et al.* (2014) state that government should rectify potentially ineffective land allocation while promoting economic efficiency, try also to fulfil a number of social objectives, for example allocating land to the local community. There are different procedures that will enable land to be acquired and distributed or allocated for the public purpose (Toulmin 2005).

Different governments use different strategies for promoting the ownership of land. In Tanzania the rights of ownership belong to the president in the name of the citizens. In Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia the government claim the ownership of land with the long term use rights by the citizens or communities (Toulmin 2005).

### **2.2.3 Lessons drawn from the Zimbabwean Experience**

According to Nmoma (2008) in Zimbabwe by the year 2005, the Zimbabwean government through the constitution as amended made all the agricultural land to be under the State, the land became State property and it was not just any land but the farmable land, the land suitable for farming and any other agricultural activity.

New farmers in Zimbabwe are also known as settlers after taking over the commercial lands which used to belong to white farmers (Sachikonye 2003). The government of Zimbabwe allocated them a large portion of land which was formerly used by the white commercial farmers. The settlers or emerging farmers came from communal areas to take over the land though it was claimed by the government of Zimbabwe that 300 000 households were given the land. Some farmers did not even use the land, less than 5 percent of the so called settlers were farm workers (Sachikonye 2003).

According to Makombe and Sampath (1999) for the government to develop the communal areas, it is vital that infrastructure be there and such infrastructure should be able to support the agricultural production in the country. In Masvingo and Mashonaland, most of the new farmers did not even have any experience of farming and they all had a common problem which was inadequate infrastructure that would enable them to use their land effectively. Most of the farm workers lost their jobs because of lack of land use by the new or emerging farmers (Sachikonye 2003).

The issue of water was also a serious challenge to them and all of them were not able to afford the irrigation facilities (Sachikonye 2003). Makombe and Sampath (1999) demonstrate that the development of irrigation infrastructure, which is one of the major constraints to the emerging farmers in Zimbabwe, is fundamental in the development of agriculture, especially for the upcoming or new farmers.

### **2.3 Land Reform in South Africa**

The government of South Africa took a decision to adopt the land reform policy and the aim was to redress the injustices of the past. While the land reform policy was adopted, it meant also to foster national reconciliation and stability, underpinning economic growth, to improve household welfare, and alleviate poverty (Deninger 1999). Large numbers of beneficiaries in South Africa are of the view that an efficient agricultural production is only possible on a large farm. It is the responsibility of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and provincial government to see to it that land reform becomes a reality, and they should also determine how and where the complementary services are provided (Deninger 1999). This is the land which was

unjustly taken from black people by the minority white farmers, and it should be used for improving the livelihood of the local people (McCusker 2004)

According to Groenewald (2004), for the government to be able to deal with the problem of threat of food security, there is a serious need for agricultural development, and that will assist in terms of improving agricultural produce and ensuring that previously disadvantaged people have access to land and provided with some agricultural skills. So when formulating land policy, evidence plays a critical role but it is also important that the government consider the following for an effective policy formulation: good planning, infrastructure, training and education, support to the potential farmers, as well as the involvement of private and public bodies (Groenewald 2004)

According to McCusker (2004) the reform in South Africa was divided in to three programmes which are as follows:

- Restitution – the restitution programme was specifically designed to restore land to back to the people who lost it through racial discrimination legislation and practice;
- Redistribution – Redistribution was very critical in the sense that it has to provide land to the previously disadvantage poor community for the residential as well as productive purpose so that the poor people can improve their livelihood and contribute also to rural development; and
- Land tenure reform – the tenure programme was established to look at the land rights issue.

#### **2.4 PLAS, State driven (Controlled by government)**

During the apartheid era, the government used land as a way of economic and social oppression of black South Africans and land became a central issue and that is why the land question remains critical in South Africa today (Dlamini 2014). Dlamini further notes that land reform is a necessary condition in South Africa if the country wants to have a balanced society. It is important for the poor or previously disadvantaged people to have access to land and use it effectively to reduce poverty and unemployment.

The majority of emerging farmers under the PLAS programme are not in full production and there are those who are not producing at all as a result of lack of support from the departments concerned, lack of training and finance. The South African agricultural economy has little or no room for the emerging Black farmers (Chikazunga &Paradza 2012).

According to Henning (2010) PLAS and its implementation process is expected to make a contribution to the improvement of the socio-economic status of the emerging farmers, employment and equity. According to Kloppers (2012) it should be noted also that until the beneficiaries are selected to acquire the land, the Department of Land Affairs must ensure that the land identified is good for farming. According to the strategy, if you are a beneficiary and acquire the land and you do not use it, the department has full authority to take the land back (Kloppers 2012). It is important that the farmers are equipped with skills so that they can diversify and concentrate also on other farming activities rather than seasonal production. Skills development plays a vital role for the successful functioning of a farm.

Henning (2010) states that PLAS should be implemented at the local or district level, and must be included in the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process. Cousins (2013) further indicates that the State purchase the land or farms and allocate them to the identified beneficiaries on the basis of 3-5 years leasehold agreement and later on the lessee will then be offered the opportunity to purchase the farm. The emerging farmers are black South Africans and they are defined in the following categories:

- They should be small scale farmers who are farming for a living and also selling their agricultural produce at the local market.
- Emerging farmers who are already in farming but on a small scale, but are constrained by land and as well as other resources.

## **2.5 Proactive Land Acquisition in Mpumalanga**

In the local municipality of Ermelo in Gert Sibande District, for example, the Proactive land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) was applied to acquire land, mostly for labour tenants as a way of empowering them (Hall 2003). According to Kgosiemang and Oladele

(2012) in Mkhondo municipality farmers agree that participation in agricultural programmes will enhance access to land as currently subsistence farmers are able to access land through PLAS. The potential farmers under this municipality have access to lease state land and that enable them to continue with their agricultural activities within the leased portion of land. The farmers complain about a shortage of extension officers in the Department Rural development and Land Reform and that affect their farming activities, some staff members are under qualified and are unable to render services to the community.

## **2.6 The role of land in rural livelihood**

According to Chitonge (2013) the role of land reform in South Africa is not only directed in agriculture in general, but also on promoting rural livelihood more. It is expected that land reform in the rural areas will improve the rural economy and create employment opportunity for the rural unemployed community members. Some of the community members in the rural areas are faced with the social and economic challenges.

Chitonge (2013) demonstrates that South African land reform has been associated with failure and a decline in agricultural production. In some parts of the rural areas of South Africa, the majority of the households are using their land to produce different crops and livestock products for home consumption and for sale in order to generate income.

Tao *et al.* (2010) demonstrates that in China the local government leases land to commercial users for the sake of local economic development. When the commercial users use the land they generate more taxes for local governments. This means that the local government is in charge of the local land and that contributes to the local economic growth.

According to Chitonge (2013) land reform in South Africa has the potential to make some significant improvement in the rural income and employment. Most of the beneficiaries of land reform rely heavily on social grants. Chitonge (2013) points out that the majority of the beneficiaries, more particularly in the rural areas do not have that aspiration and the capacity to produce at a commercial scale. Most of them are only

producing for their household consumption rather than for commercial reasons (Chitonge 2013).

## **2.7 Factors that lead to underperformance of the emerging farmers**

The majority of the emerging farmers who are allocated land find it difficult to use the land effectively. There are a number of factors that lead to the underperformance of the emerging farmers such as lack of farming skills, shortage of funding, theft and drought. There is no strong support from the government supporting the emerging farmers and that discouraged them. However, there are existing efforts within the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to develop black farmers.

### **2.7.1 Procurement systems in supermarkets**

Louw *et al.*(2008) mention that the emerging farmers who are still new or entering the commercial agriculture are still excluded and marginalised as the supermarkets and big wholesalers favour well established farmers who can comply with their requirements and that makes it very difficult for the emerging farmers to supply the supermarkets. The procurement decisions are at times influenced by the costs prices and a long term trust based relationship between the supermarkets and the farmers.

### **2.7.2 Low performance**

The low performance in the agricultural sector threaten the livelihood of the community and also has a negative impact on the production capacity of natural resources while fail to alleviate poverty as one of the millennium development goal. It also fails to address the issue of malnutrition. Farming is very critical in the South African economic growth and it is playing fundamental role in poverty reduction and employment in the rural areas (Nxumalo & Oladele 2013).

McIntire (2014) states that African continent has long been confronted by the problem of agricultural growth and food security. Food security is a threat to the Africa as a whole (Femi and Schalkwyk 2006). After 1994 in the new democratic South Africa, the agricultural policy has encouraged the expansion of black ownership in agricultural

production and promotes the progression of black farmers to commercial status (Rother, Hall & London 2008).

According to Chitonge (2013), the majority of the emerging farmers are not using the land to full capacity and all they do is to use the land they have to produce different crops and livestock products for their household consumption and too little for sale; what they are doing is to ensure that they have something to eat at home rather than produce for the sake of generating income. Land reform in South Africa is associated with failure and declining production (Chitonge 2013).

### **2.7.3 Lack of funding from the government**

Femi and Schalkwyk (2006) demonstrate that the South African government is doing its best to provide access to land to the previously disadvantaged people in the agricultural sector, but at the same time the government does not have enough funds to support the emerging farmers; and this leads to their failure because the majority of them are struggling to sustain their farms because they do not have enough funds to undertake their farming activities. They tend to rely on government for funding and any other form of support.

The previous government and donor support programmes in South Africa (SA) that provided subsidised credit to small-scale farmers, emerging agribusinesses and micro-entrepreneurs to try and stimulate economic growth have had limited success. The main intention was to eradicate poverty through agriculture and stimulate economic growth, and such initiative has failed (Kuhn *et al.* 2000). The South African government is providing the agricultural land for the beneficiaries, but still there is a lack of sufficient funds and institutional infrastructure to provide support to the settled emerging farmers (Femi & Schalkwyk 2006)

### **2.7.4 Lack of skills by the emerging farmers**

According to Manyevere *et al.* (2014) there are a number of agricultural projects which continue to fail today because of a lack of knowledge by the emerging farmers, and this often leads to a general decline in agricultural production. Some of the reasons



emerging farmers fail to succeed in their agricultural activities include the following: lack of assets for agricultural production, diminishing farms size, poor health and education and limited availability of suitable land.

Mmbengwa *et al.* (2011) state that it is very important that the emerging farmers are trained so that they will be able to deal with the challenges that will enable them to curb poor production planning, managerial ability, coordination and low level of technical knowledge. Farming business, which is run by poorly trained/ untrained farmers, is not immune to unsustainable practices and they often collapse and fail to fulfil their set objectives. The emerging farmers who received training are likely to make progress and generate more profit as compared to those who are not trained.

According to Kilpatrick (2000) training has a serious impact on farming; the majority of emerging farmers who did not attend any business training often struggle to make profit as compared to those who attended training. Training does have a serious impact on farm business outcomes such as profit making and the sustainability of the farm or farming activities, which is critical to the commercial farmers. It is then very vital for one to understand exactly how training impacts on the farm management decisions and the day-to-day running of the farm.

According to Mmbengwa *et al.* (2011) the emerging farmers' perception is that once there is enough training, they will be in a good position of increasing their profit. The skills development through training could build the capacity of the emerging farmers so they can succeed in their business. However, there are those farmers who do not take training seriously, the reason being that they do not see training as that fundamental to their success (Mmbengwa *et al.* 2011). Farmers have the same learning needs and they all have a wide set of needs based on prior knowledge and experience (Lioutas and Charatsari 2011).

Some of the reasons which lead to the failure of emerging farmers also include:

- Failure to access credit - Emerging farmers find it difficult to access credit from the financial institutions and one of the contributing factors to their failure to access credit is because they do not have title deeds.

- High costs of farming inputs- Farming inputs are expensive and emerging farmers do not have funds to procure the inputs;
- Low quality produce- Some of the emerging farmers produce is of a low quality.
- Lack of support or appropriate services geared to emerging farmers' needs- Support from the government is insufficient and it is a worrying factor to the emerging farmers;
- Insufficient land, insecure tenure or access to only degraded land-The ha of land acquired are at times not enough, in other farms you find that only half of the farm is good for farming and the other half is degraded;
- Theft- Emerging farmers experience a serious challenge of theft in their farms. Criminals do come to the farms and steal electric cables, machinery and steal the produce.
- Lack of insurance- The emerging farmers could not insure the farms or land because the land still belongs to the government. Farmers do not have title deeds.
- Lack of knowledge of risk management- farmers lack management skills and do not know how to manage the risks involved on their farms.
- Lack of market information, volatile markets, as well as pressure on prices- Emerging farmers do not have information about marketing, they do not market their produce since they do not know how to access the market(Rother, Hall & London 2008).
- Lack of water-Emerging farmers often struggle with water for irrigation; they do not have water rights and that makes it difficult for them to perform their farming activities, more particularly those who are in to crop and citrus farming;
- Lack of technological use—the majority of the emerging farmers cannot use technology on their farms; and
- Lack of farming interest and expertise- lack of farming interests sometimes is a result of shortage of funds (Manyevere *et al.* 2014).

Because of unavailability of machinery, which the emerging farmers cannot afford, soil degradation and low rainfall, the emerging farmers end up abandoning their land. There

is also a serious shortage of labourers/employees on some farms, and lack of farming interests and expertise (Manyevere *et al.* 2014).

### **2.7.5 Access to the agricultural Market**

Magingxa and Kamara (2003) consider emerging farmers in the rural areas all over Africa, especially the poor, advocating that one reason they are struggling to improve their standard of living is that they are faced with difficulties of accessing the market. They can obtain the agricultural inputs and consumer goods while selling their own products which they grow themselves. Because of a lack of access to market, most of the emerging farmers who produce surplus are still trapped in poverty, and it is difficult for the farmers because they end up selling their products not with the prices dictated by the consumer or buyer.

Some of the local farmers sell their products through informal channels like neighbours and local shops (Ortmann & King 2007). The market is usually favouring those who are well established farmers who can ensure high volumes, have consistency and are able to supply their produce and sustain it in the long run. This criterion works for the capitalised commercial sector and disadvantages the emerging farmers. The emerging farmers find themselves in a very difficult situation because they are excluded from the mainstream of agricultural economy. The dominant supermarkets and processors prefer suppliers who are able to deliver quality goods and be consistent and in that way they can engage in a long term contracts (Louw, Vermuelen & Madevu 2006).

Antwi and Seahlodi (2011) acknowledge that emerging farmers complain about the issue of a lack of information as one of the constraints they are facing. A high percentage of the South African population is in the rural areas and dissemination of information to the rural community members is often poor. In many respects the rural farmers are of the view that there are no methods used to receive information about the prices of the agricultural produce, lacking access to existing high value market.

### **2.7.6 Failing to secure finances from financial institutions**

Lack of capital for the emerging farmers or small businesses is another major constraint for the rural development the emerging farmers rely on borrowing money from friends, family and rural or township lenders in order to meet their financial needs. The commercial banks are hesitant to lend money to the emerging farmers due to the high risks associated with the lending of money to small businesses (Ortmann & King 2007).

According to Greenberg (2010), during the Apartheid era it was easier for the farmers to borrow money from the government through parastatals. The interests' rates were so low and affordable. The Land Bank, Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) and cooperatives were actively involved in the financing of the farmers. The cooperatives played a much bigger role when coming to the storage of the crops for future use, and that made it easier for the farmers to continue with their businesses, but now with the cooperatives not effective, it is not easy to store the crops or any produce.

Jera and Ajayi (2008) point out that in Africa; there are a large number of smallholder farmers who are involved in livestock production as part of their farming system.

### **2.8 The kind of assistance the emerging farmers need**

- Farmers need to have partnership with agri-businesses

According to Fanadzo (2012) emerging farmers do not have access to a formal market where they can sell their produce, and this makes it difficult for the farmers to progress in their businesses. They rely much on the local people or hawkers who come to their farmland to buy their produce. If the emerging farmers can secure contracts with agribusinesses that control the market value food chain that will be a good step into the global business. The challenge is that they are always excluded because of white farmers who are dominating. The emerging farmers need access to the markets, but it should also be considered that to have access to the market, you must be able to produce and have capital and inputs to enhance production.

Al Hasaan *et al.* (2006) note that farmers' organisations have a critical role to play in terms of ensuring that the farmers access the market. These organisations can also

assist the farmers by providing them with the necessary training and skills to sustain their farms.

- Farmer to Farmer mentorship

It will be of fundamentally importance if in the future mentors are assigned to emerging farmers in order to improve their farming skills; that could work to their advantage. The South African government is well aware of the shortage of skills, more particularly in the field of agriculture and that is why the government is in the process of promoting the mentorship programme by means of National Skills Development Strategy. This can be seen as a future success on land reform and sustainability in South Africa because of the impact it will have on the emerging farmers (Femi & Schalkwyk 2006).

Farmer to farmer mentoring increased throughout the mentoring programme because the emerging farmers who were partaking in the soil moisture programme started sharing the new knowledge and experience with the other farmers (Hilton, Barnhill & Hill 2012). Although the emerging farmers might have the mentors, they should also take into consideration that the availability of the mentors does not necessarily guarantee any success. The most critical part is the skills that the mentors possess and share with the emerging farmers (Hilton, Barnhill & Hill 2012). The mentor is not necessarily a teacher, a boss, or a trainer but needs to be seen as an individual who is willing and ready to nurture the relationship of mutual trust and openness (Van Niekerk, Groenewald & Zwane 2014).

Van Niekerk, Groenewald and Zwane (2014) demonstrate that the mentors should be able to capacitate the beneficiaries in such a way that they will be able to manage and run their businesses after a period of three years. Greenberg (2010) argues that it is the responsibility of the Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) to ensure that the farmers are equipped with agricultural skills through training.

## **2.9 Conclusion**

This chapter has reviewed relevant literature on land lease in SADC/African continent, BRICS countries and others like Vietnam. The chapter considered much on how the land lease is administered in different countries and how effective it is. Most importantly how the emerging farmers access the land and use it as expected. Some of the black emerging farmers in South Africa find it difficult to succeed in commercial farming because of several factors which are outlined. The following chapter describes the methodology used in the study.

## **CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter explains the research methodology which was used by the researcher. Included in this chapter is the research design which is critical in the research project, the study area, the target population as well as the data collection process. The importance of ethics in research is also highlighted in this chapter three.

### **3.2 Research design**

A research design is regarded as a blueprint for the conduct of a study undertaken, and it maximises control over factors that could in anyway interfere with the desired outcomes of the study. It is about scientific planning designed with the intention of finding out something new and not known (Burns & Grove 1997). When the overall design of the research is carefully planned, the research endeavours are likely to be successful. The chosen designed helped the researcher to achieve the goal and purpose of the study (Burns & Grove 1997).

Qualitative study was used to gather relevant data through the phenomenological approach. Research methodology is critical in the research process to be undertaken. It is defined and understood as the systematic way of solving a particular problem. The methodology can, at the same time, be understood as a science of studying how a scientific research is conducted. The qualitative method was used because the researcher did not want to generalise the findings of the study, but to have an in-depth understanding and be able to interpret the meaning and behaviour of human actions regarding land reform issues in the context of PLAS in Mopani District (Kothari 2014)

The research methodology helped to understand why such a study has been undertaken, how the research problem is defined, the use of data and the method used. It is important also to understand why particular methods or techniques were utilised during data analysis (Kothari 2004).

There are two research designs, namely qualitative and quantitative methods which the researchers may choose to use in their research projects. There is also what is called a mixed method in which both methods are used in one project. The quantitative approach includes the use of variables that can be characterised in numeric terms (Jarbandhan & Schutte 2006). Quantitative research also involves complex experiments with many variables and treatments. The qualitative approach includes open-ended questions; this latter method is used mostly by social science researchers (Jarbandhan & Schutte 2006).

According to Kothari (2004) research design is a conceptual structure in which a research is conducted. It constitutes a well-designed plan for the collection of data, measurement as well as data analysis.

The present researcher used a qualitative research design because it is concerned with understanding the context in which behaviours occur. The qualitative design deals with primarily verbal and derives meaning from the participants (Jarbandhan & Schutte, 2006). According to De Vos *et al.* (2011) qualitative research is more about understanding than explanation with realistic observation. Neuman (2005) states that qualitative researchers, which in most cases happens to be social science researchers, are more concerned with texture or feeling of raw data. Here the reason is that their approaches emphasise the development and generalisations from the data collected.

The present researcher collected raw data, transcribed it and analysed the data. Interviews were conducted with direct beneficiaries of PLAS, the officials of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture and officials from Mopani District Municipality. The reason why the researcher chose these officials was because of the fact that they are the policy implementing agencies in the public sector. The researcher was engaged in face-to-face semi-structured interviews. Interview guide was used by the researcher to ask questions and respondents were recorded while responding to the questions asked.



### **3.3 Study area**

The study was conducted in Mopani District in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Mopani District is located in the east of Limpopo Province. It consists of five (5) local municipalities namely, Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba, Greater Tzaneen and Maruleng. The majority of the beneficiaries are located in Maruleng and Tzaneen local municipalities, followed by Ba-Phalaborwa.

### **3.4 Target Population**

A population or target population may be described as a set of elements that the researcher focuses upon and to which the results obtained by testing the sample should then be generalised (Bless, Smith & Kagee 2006). Kgwefane (2014) defines population as a set of groups or individuals from which a sample is drawn or taken in order to learn or study them. Included in the target group are officials from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture as the Key informant. Only Proactive Land Acquisitions Strategy (PLAS) beneficiaries from Mopani District participated in the study. At the time of the study there were 18 PLAS beneficiaries in Mopani District.

### **3.5 Sampling and sample size**

The study used a census sampling method. The census method is applied when the whole population, every unit and everyone is taken into account when the researcher is collecting data ([www.bhanusigdel.wordpress.com](http://www.bhanusigdel.wordpress.com)). Therefore; all 18 PLAS beneficiaries were included in the study. The reason why the census method was used is that it was the most suitable for this kind of study because the population is small. Two government officials were included in the study, one from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the other one from Limpopo Department of Agriculture as key informants.

### **3.6 Data Collection**

Polkinghorne (2005) states that the main purpose of data collection is to provide evidence for the experience the researcher is investigating. It is derived from exploration

with the participant or interviewee. Data also serves as the ground on which the findings are based. The researcher used a data collection instrument in the form of questionnaire developed to collect data on the challenges in the implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District. The participants were asked one question at a time and were allowed to respond and express themselves the way they felt comfortable. These participants were also allowed to use their own language so that they could be free and in this way give more and relevant information.

According to Majchrzak (1984) the research questions play a significant role in qualitative research, so the manner in which the research questions are formulated should be undertaken with great care. One of the data collection tool used in the study was the tape recorder, which the researcher used to record the participants. The researcher listened to the recordings when transcribing data so as to include all the necessary facts from the participants. Participants signed a consent form and agreed to tape recording after the researcher explained the purpose and the nature of the study.

Because the researcher understands the local languages spoken in all the local municipalities of Mopani District, he designed the instrument or interview guide in such a way that it would be easy for the respondents to give answers and that made it easy for the researcher to probe or make follow up questions.

Out of the 18 beneficiaries only 16 managed to participate in the study. One focus group interview was conducted in each municipality. In Ba-Phalaborwa municipality 4 farmers participated in the focus group, in Tzaneen 5 farmers participated and in Maruleng there are only 3 beneficiaries and they took part in the study. The other emerging farmers were interviewed individually as they preferred.

The following questions relevant to the objectives of the study were asked using the interview guide.

- i. As a farmer, what skills do you possess?
- ii. What are you doing to ensure that you use allocated land effectively?
- iii. What kind of challenges do you often experience?
- iv. What kind of assistance do you get from the government?

- v. What is the role of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in implementing Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy?

All the interviews were conducted on the farms and the respondents felt much free to interact with the interviewer. Though the issue of English language was problematic for these farmers, the researcher allowed the participants to respond in their own language so that they can express themselves better.

### **3.7. Focus group discussion**

Focus group discussions with the beneficiaries were conducted to collect data using a semi-structured interview guide. Three focus groups discussions with participants were conducted. According to Fatemeh (2004) focus group is a technique which involves the use of in-depth group interviews in which participants are selected because they are purposive. In this kind of interviews, participants are selected in the sense that they would have something to say on the topic, they have the similar characteristics and would be comfortable talking to the interviewer (Fatemeh 2004).

Kitzinger (1994) defines focus groups as groups which are organised with the intention to explore particular set of issues; it is about the people's views regarding certain fundamental issues. These groups are focused in the sense that they involve some kind of collective activity. Group methods are used within communication research and such methods are also popular in studies designed to explore people's experiences of different services.

Based on the location, focus group discussions were conducted as follows: one focus group interview with emerging farmers from Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality with four beneficiaries. The second focus group interviews was conducted with emerging farmers from Tzaneen Local Municipality, with five beneficiaries and the third focus group was of emerging farmers from Maruleng Municipality, with only two beneficiaries of PLAS the programme.

### **3.8 One – on – one interview**

Some of the farmers were interviewed individually because they were located far away from those who participated in groups. A similar semi-structured interview guide as for the focus groups was used. Five farmers were interviewed individually.

### **3.9 Key informant interviews (KII)**

The two key informant interviews are officials from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform at the provincial level and official from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture in Mopani District. The KII provides an understanding of the role which is played by the departments concerned in terms of the implementation of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture is required to play a fundamental role in the implementation of the strategy because of the technical advices it provides.

### **3.10 Data analysis**

According to Brockopp and Hastings-Tolsma (1995) data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. It is a time consuming and fascinating process, but it is important when conducting research. The data collected was analysed by organising it according to the themes. This is data collected through the various respondents where the questions were structured in a similar approach to allow for consistency. In this way, a thematic analysis was used to analyse the raw data from these two key respondent categories (namely, focus groups, and key informant interviews). Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data collected. It minimally organises and describes your data set in detail (Braun & Clarke 2006).

Because the study is qualitative in nature, constant interaction with the data was done. After collecting all the data, the analysis began and in order to analyse the data, it was organised and arranged as a way of preparing it for interpretation.

### **3.11 Ethical considerations**

The researcher targeted the beneficiaries of PLAS in Mopani District. For ethical reasons, the Mopani District Municipality, the provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the provincial Department of Agriculture were formally made aware of the study. All the participants were also informed about how they were selected to participate in the study and what exactly the researcher was doing and why he was conducting the study.

Research participants were not exposed to any physical or psychological harm. The participants were told the nature of the study to be conducted and given the choice of either to participate or not, and those who agreed were provided with a consent form to sign. The researcher promised the respondents to keep the nature and quality of participants' performance strictly confidential. The right to remain anonymous was also guaranteed. The researcher organised for a report back session with the beneficiaries. Full acknowledgements of all used materials belonging to others were done.

### **3.12 Conclusion**

This chapter outlined the research design and methodology as well as sampling carried out in this research project. The methodology chapter further indicated all the steps taken when collecting raw data on the challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District. The researcher used a qualitative design to collect raw data. Semi-structured interviews which involved both focus groups and one-on-one discussions were conducted and regarded as the relevant data collection method for this study. Before the collection of data, the researcher explained the ethical considerations to the participants where a consent form was also completed.

In the next chapter, a detailed analysis and interpretation of data collected will be dealt with.

## **Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter discussed the choice of research method. This chapter presents analysis of data and interpretation of findings generated from the focus group interviews and individual interviews. Key themes associated with the response from the participants are presented and analysed in detail. The researcher made use of interview guide to come up with the themes.

#### **4.1.1 Biographical information of respondents**

Most of the respondents in this study were males where two females comprise this gender mix from 16 respondents. This gender bias aspect of respondents suggests that males are dominant when it comes to emerging farming in Mopani District. In terms of age, most of these emerging farmers are above 50, and six are between 35 and 50 with only two who are below 35 years. Within this area of study where PLAS are concerned, there are various farming activities with crop farming being the dominant one. There are nine farmers who are engaged in only crop farming, four are in both crop farming and animal farming, while the other three are in citrus, plantation and orchard. Usually, farming experience plays a significant role in the farming business. Of these 16 emerging farmers who participated in this study, 10 of them indicated that they have been in the farming undertaking for a period longer than 11 years and six mentioned that they had between five and ten years' experience in farming. Ten (10) emerging farmers mentioned that they had enrolled at the tertiary level but they did not study Agriculture, it is only one female farmer who did BSc in Agriculture up to postgraduate level. Another female farmer indicated that she held a Master's degree in Public Health. The other remaining farmers only studied up to secondary level.

The two officials who participated in the study are at the director level. From the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform was a male respondent who is a Director in the Recapitalisation section. Respondent from Limpopo Department of Agriculture was a female who is acting Director in the rural development and extension

section. The officials were sampled because of their influence in the implementation of policies in their respective departments.

## **4.2 Theme based presentation of findings from the emerging farmers' interviews**

The following analysis and interpretations of data obtained from the interviews are discussed. The themes are derived from key questions which were raised with the participants.

### **4.2.1 Theme 1: Farming skills and training**

Respondents from Tzaneen focus group indicated that most of the farmers in Tzaneen grew up in farming families where farming has always been part of their daily lives. They do not really have skills, but there are those who were enrolled with Tombiseleka College of Agriculture to gain knowledge on farming and they manage to share the information with the other farmers upon completion of their studies. These were just two weeks' training arranged by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture. Some of the farmers were extremely surprised during the focus group discussion when one farmer mentioned that they went to Tombiseleka for a two-week training programme. Some of the farmers were not aware of this opportunity.

The female respondent with a Master's degree in Public Health indicated that she only has little knowledge and skills she acquired through reading and consulting. She also indicated that she has passion for farming and that is why she is still in it. Below is a response from a male participant in the Maruleng group:

I was born and raised on a farm; we were disadvantaged by the rules and laws of apartheid, but with the new government, we have been taken back to what we were meant to do, and that is farming. We used to do chickens, goats, cattle, and crops, and the market was there. I am actually against the word "Emerging farmer" because I was a farmer before, then I was disadvantaged, I am now re-emerging"

The reference to being disadvantaged is confirmation that emerging farmers lack skills. The findings are also supported by the views of Kilpatrick (2000) who posits that it is important for emerging farmers to understand how lack of training impacts on farm

management decisions and the day-to-day running of a farm. Majority of the farmers in Mopani District do not really have farming skills and they do not see it as a problem. They grew up doing farming in their homes and they apply the same farming methods exposed to them when they were young. This is a serious problem because decision making is based on scale. The scale at which they are operating now requires certain knowledge which they could not have acquired from the disadvantaged farming which the participant mentions. There were only two female respondents one from Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality and another one from Tzaneen Local Municipality who went to school and studied up to postgraduate level but not in agriculture. Some have been in farming for over 20 years but as small scale farmers. They did not enrol for educational programmes to study farming or agriculture. As much as they do not have the skills or did not study agriculture, the respondents talked much about the passion that they have for farming and that keeps them going. One member indicated that even though he attended the two weeks' training, it did not help him at all. The views were that two weeks training was not effective. The farmers who went to university even though they did not study farming seem to be able to run their farms and those who have never been to school find it very difficult to cope. Sachikonye (2003) also supported the findings that some of the farmers do not have any farming skills or experience. The findings are also in agreement with Manyevere et al. (2014) who maintain that there are a number of agricultural projects which continue to fail today because of lack of knowledge and skills by the emerging farmers. This really shows that lack of skills by the emerging farmers in Mopani District results in low performance of the farmers or even collapse.

#### **4.2.2 Theme 2: Assistance received from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture**

Questions related to assistance (in cash or in kind) given to farmers by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture were asked during the interviews.

A respondent highlighted that when they received the farm it was no longer a going concern and it did not have any equipment. She further indicated that she did not



receive any assistance from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture except that they brought visitors and coming to do exposure on some of their produce. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture also brought a green book to her to sign possibly so that they could compile their reports. She recalls:

Only to lease the farm, that's how they assisted me but it was misleading because I am struggling with this farm on my own. I was expecting help from them, like money. I appreciate and acknowledge the lease but I am losing more money; negative outweighs the positive contributions

Overall, the respondents indicate that they did not receive any assistance from the Department of Rural development and Land Reform. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture also did not assist the emerging farmers according to the respondents, but one respondent who was a member of the group mentioned that the Limpopo Department of Agriculture only assisted him with the construction of a bridge. Those involved in crop farming received fertilizer and chemicals for their crops from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture. However, when they gave them the fertilizer or chemicals, they did not consider the size of the cropped area in order to give sufficient amounts of these inputs.

A respondent reported that the Limpopo Department of Agriculture officials "will just call and ask you how far are you with spring programme because they can help you also with loose products, they call when they do not know where to take the products so they give you in order to clear their store room. This way they will just throw the products at you."

**Another respondent reported:**

Agriculture officials promise a lot of things, but nothing is done. Last time they came and asked me what problems I have, and I told them that I have water shortage and nothing has been done.

One respondent stated that since he took over the farm he is still waiting to be recapped and that he has waited for too long. According to some of the respondents, they received assistance from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform but they are not happy because the kind of assistance they got was not what they expected.

A respondent mentioned that out of 100% the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform assisted him with 2%. The respondent mentioned that they do not negotiate with you they just give you whatever they want to give you and it will be up to you to decide if you take it or not.

#### **4.2.3 Theme 3: The kind of Assistance the emerging farmers need**

When asked about what kind of assistance the emerging farmers need from the government departments, the participants mentioned that they need training so much because the trends from other parts of the world are different every time. One respondent mentioned that issues of market access like global gap are things that black farmers especially do not always have. Global gap, SA gaps, organic certifications are aspects they do not have and because they do not have trademarks it becomes difficult for them to access lucrative markets. The majority of the farmers need training and periodically, to be able to run and manage their farming businesses. They need different kinds of training and the department has failed to offer them training as they were expecting. This finding is also supported by Mmbengwa *et al.* (2011) when he indicates that often farmers have similar learning needs as exemplified by one respondent:

You find that people come and say we want oranges but the oranges must be in a certain way that we do not always know. I mean we need training more than ever. As an individual I need financial management training so I can be able to understand my bank statement and accounting information, to be able to read my balance sheets and understand income, input, and profit. The other aspect that I want to understand more is that everywhere I go to sell, I am being told that without land care/ not knowing how to look after your land or to take care of it you cannot have agriculture. In essence I want to have improvement of information, so that I know what people mean when they talk about land care. I cannot say when I am weeding that is land care. I want to learn about land care and how it relates to agriculture and what the benefits are in terms of policy.

As part of the training, the respondents, particularly those who are doing crop farming and mango production, indicated that they need training on the use of chemicals and how to treat seedlings. One farmer who is involved in citrus farming indicated that he needs a pack house because he finds it difficult during the pick period since he does not

have a pack house and he relies on other peoples pack houses. He further indicated that the previous year he was not able to export because he had to hire a pack house from a white farmer who is also in a similar farming business and he only gave him the pack house when he was done with his own packaging and by that time it was late because the markets were closing. He had to sell to Russian markets which were still open but the prices were not as good as from the European markets which were already closed. He lamented:

It causes my income to be low. Renting a pack house and transporting to the pack house are all expensive. If I have my own pack house I could save half the money I am using now.

It is an obvious case that without a pack house this farmer will mostly wait for the white owner of the pack house to finish.

The respondents spoke about different items that they need the government to assist them with. The most important consideration was the issue or recapitalisation, the recapitalisation needed to consider issues including boreholes, water, fence, seeds, plants, renovation of tunnels; fix the irrigation pipes and chemicals. The other issue which confuses the farmers is that the officials and fieldworkers themselves do not even understand what kind of assistance they can offer to the emerging farmers. As far as recapitalisation is concerned, the respondents reported that they would be happy if another feasibility study could be done on their farms so that they could get the money they requested in the business plans which they have submitted to the department.

#### **4.2.4 Theme 4: Land usage by the emerging farmers**

When asked about effective land use, the respondents agreed that their land is not effectively and efficiently used. A respondent in Tzaneen Local Municipality mentioned that he has got 31 ha and only uses 21 for mangoes of which some died. The remaining ones are drying up because of water shortage.

Another respondent from Tzaneen Local Municipality mentioned that she has got 21 ha but only uses 13 ha, the other part is having infrastructure and dams that are dried up.

The other respondent indicated that he has got 250 ha of which 220 is used for gum tree farming.

Another respondent said that he is using 15 ha out of 21 because of lack of water. Another respondent mentioned that he is using 20 ha and due to water shortage even the 20 that he is using at times it becomes too much for him. Another male respondent indicated that he has got 86 ha of land and uses 36 ha for mango plantation.

Sachikonye (2003) reports that some of the new farmers could not use their land. The findings are also supported by Chitonge (2013) who notes that the majority of farmers are failing to use the land to full capacity, and that they produce too little for sale.

#### **4.2.5 Theme 5: Challenges faced by the emerging farmers**

Farmers reported that they face a range of challenges which preclude them from performing well and from utilising all the land available to them. Ensuing is a discussion of the challenges faced by the emerging farmers.

##### **4.2.5.1 Water Shortage**

Respondents reported that they face a number of challenges but water shortage is the major one. It was reported that emerging farmers do not have water rights and it is difficult when they apply for the water rights. The respondents reported that they are asked to bring ownership documents for the farm because the Department of Water and Sanitation requires such documents. Without ownership documents these farmers cannot apply for water rights. Other respondents mentioned that have tried to apply for water rights but could not complete the forms the form requires a title deeds number which they do not have.

All the respondents reported that they have a water problem which is a serious threat and concern to their farms. Some of the beneficiaries, when they first occupied the farms were informed that there were boreholes with enough water on their farms. However, a respondent indicated that she only used the water from 5 boreholes on the farm for 2 weeks and the water dried up. The findings are in line with the views of Manyevere *et al.* (2014) who state that emerging farmers end up not using the land

because of challenges of water, low rainfall as one of the factors that lead to the failure of the farmers to progress. Sachikonye (2003) also emphasises that the issue of water is a problem for the emerging farmers who are not able to afford the installation of irrigation facilities by themselves.

#### **4.2.5.2 Title deeds**

“Not having a title deed gives me sleepless nights”. These are the words of a farmer during a focus group discussion. Respondents reported that they do not know where their future lies because they do not have title deeds. They indicated that it is difficult to develop a farm which does not belong to you because the government might come back and repossess it any time. Since there is no ownership, the farmers feel like they are temporarily settling on somebody else’s property. They indicated that you cannot even go to the bank and ask for a loan because you do not have the title deed. One farmer lamented:

I think that (title deed) is something that the government must look at because one cannot use that property to raise money and invest. So if they provide us with title deeds we could afford to take a bond and even develop our own infrastructure.

#### **4.2.5.3 Paying the lease amount as stipulated in the contract**

According to the PLAS programme, the beneficiaries should pay a lease amount because they do not own the land. The respondents reported currently that they do not pay any lease amount as agreed with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. They further reported that they do not want to lease the land; they want to own it. The government released a circular which indicated that farmers on the PLAS programme must not pay the lease amount until they get recapitalisation/funding. The respondents further stated that how can they pay the lease if the government and leadership of the country is considering land redistribution. Farmers are not keen with renting charges even though they are currently not paying.

Emerging farmers are required to sign a five-year lease contract with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform under the PLAS programme. That has a negative

impact on their lives because by the end of five years they start to worry and panic about their future in this programme.

This is a clear indication that the PLAS programme in the current circumstances would not be able to achieve its objectives. An exit strategy for successful beneficiaries should be devised so that they are able to be independent; where they could get their own farms and develop further as commercial farmers.

#### **4.2.5.4 Market access**

Respondents highlighted that they are using agents to market their farm produce. They are not assisted by the government on the issue of market access. The agent sends them market information and they send back to the agent information about their farm produce. Another respondent indicated that they chose to supply their produce to the companies which are close to their farms. This is considered an advantage for this farmer because he saves money on packaging expenses.

Another respondent indicated that they utilise Google search engine on the Internet to obtain market information, but sometimes the information is not easily available for small scale farmers. This respondent further said it is difficult to penetrate the market due to strict requirements.

Zhang and Donaldson (2010) report that local sphere of government in China provides the market the required connection for the farmers. This is evidence that the government can intervene in terms of supporting farmers to connect them with markets.

### **4.3. Theme 6: Delayed recapitalisation and reduction of requested funding**

The respondents reported that when they submit their business plans after a feasibility study, the initial amount they requested according to the plan is not paid out. No explanation from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is given as to why the requested funds (which were justified and explained in the business plan) were reduced. In some cases the amounts were reduced by 50%. The recapitalisation or funding also takes time, sometimes up to 3 to 5 years. One of the respondents had not received funds for years after submitting the business plan. Usually by the time the

funds are distributed, a farm that was purchased as a going concern will no longer be functional, making the disbursed funds even less effective.

The respondents said that there is a problem in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of funding the farmers. They mentioned that there is no equal treatment of the farmers by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. A respondent mentioned that it does not make sense for a farmer who was given a farm in 2012 to be given funding/recapitalisation money before the one who was given the farm in 2010. It suggests that there might be an element of nepotism in the process. One farmer mentioned that it depends on who you are or who you know in the department.

Respondents went on to tell the story of a certain farmer who came from another province and was given a farm in Limpopo just because he was a friend to one of the senior government officials. That person quickly got recapitalisation funding, but instead of farming that person decided to take the money and buy an expensive German car and return back to his province of origin. Such activities need to be investigated as they hinder the achievement of the programme's objectives. The findings are in agreement with the views of Awosola & Schalkwyk (2006) who confirm that the government does not have funds to support the emerging farmers and this leads to their failure.

#### **4.4 Theme based presentation of insights from Key informants (KI)**

Insights from key informants are very important in policy implementation because in the case of this study the key informants plan, implement and evaluate the plans.

##### **4.4.1 Theme 1: Roles and responsibilities of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture**

The KIs were asked about the role and responsibilities of the respective departments in the implementation of the PLAS strategy. The whole responsibility of the strategy is in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The role of the department is to make sure that the strategy is implemented by way of acquiring and redistributing the farms or land and managing the farms in the form of a lease contract. The KI from the

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform indicated that they get support from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture.

The KI from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture reported that their role starts once a farm has been allocated to a farmer. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform also invites the Limpopo Department of Agriculture officials during interviews of PLAS applicants because they are experts in the field of agriculture.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture also offers technical support in terms of advising what needs to be done for a farm to function well. However, The Limpopo Department of Agriculture cannot continue with its responsibilities until the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has provided the necessary approval.

The findings can be linked to the views of Zhang and Donaldson (2010) and Tia and Ma (2009) who report that in China the local government is the one which has the responsibility of land reform. In South Africa the approach is different from that of China. The local government in China is not only responsible for the land lease, but farmers are given more support and this might be the reason why Chinese farmers are doing better.

#### **4.4.2 Theme 2: Identification of beneficiaries**

The respondent from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform mentioned that the process of identification of beneficiaries is complex in the sense that on a daily basis the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is confronted by people who are in need of land for farming. This situation is the single most important with regard to challenges of farming land needs and subsequently, the department often ends up having a high volume of demand with minimal supply of land.

The annual budget is not sufficient to acquire the land that is available at the market value in order to allocate for the people that are in need. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is experiencing a huge backlog with a database of more than 4500 people that have made applications for accessing agricultural land while the allocated budget to proactively acquire land can usually afford to buy less than 26



farms per year. In other words, the demand for agricultural land is high, whereas the supply of resources to acquire land is often low.

#### **4.4.3 Theme 3: Training offered to the emerging farmers**

The KI from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform indicated that the programme of PLAS requires that there should be a partnership between the emerging farmers and skilled people and companies who are able to transfer to the emerging farmers the basic agricultural technical skills and business skills.

The respondent mentioned that they also work with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture which assists in skills training for the farmers. It was further eluded that Agricultural Sector Education Training and Authority (AgriSETA) on the ground assist with skills development. There are diverse support programmes that farmers can tap into if they want to develop their own skills set like management skills, land care and other farming related skills.

#### **4.4.4 Theme 4: Monitoring and evaluation**

The KI from the Department of Rural development and Land Reform states that they set target annually and five-year targets. It is part of the plan to achieve the targets and they are supposed to get monthly reports on activities on the farms belonging to the emerging farmers. There are project officers who are required to visit the farms to inspect the farm activities. This respondent further indicated: “We also expect the beneficiaries to send the reports as and when we need them”.

The KI from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture mentioned that they do monitoring and make follow ups to check on the progress after providing farmers with technical advice. The engineers also make follow ups after the setting up of infrastructure. However, some of the emerging farmers are not farming since they got the land in 2010/2012 and never received funding from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, so they do not send reports because there is no production on their farms. Government does not have resources and that is why some of the emerging farmers are still without funds, so they end up not using their land. These findings are in

agreement with the views of Tian & Ma (2009) that the government should ensure that there is effective supervision of land use. However, from the farmer's sentiments, it appears as if there is a poor supervision of the emerging farmers. Farmers reported that they take up to six months without being visited by the officials.

According to the KI from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, there is a need for performing impact assessment of the PLAS programme. However, currently the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform carries out the impact assessment. Yet for objectivity purposes this is an activity that should be outsourced.

#### **4.4.5 Theme 5: Success or failure of the strategy**

The KI from the Department of Rural development and Land Reform reported that the process of PLAS is moving at a slow pace. According to the respondents, contributing factors to the slow pace of the PLAS programme are the bureaucracy in the department and that the sellers always inflate the prices of their properties. The sellers are taking advantage of the loophole which exists, knowing that the government is desperate to achieve the target which gives sellers the opportunity to take advantage of the system. One respondent stated:

One can argue that the state is failing to get its priorities correct. If you know what is your priority you will focus on it but as government if you want to focus on everything, and you end up not achieving anything at all.

#### **4.4.6 Theme 6: The effectiveness of the strategy**

The KI from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform mentions that there are a lot of committees that each transaction (farm purchase) must go through. Before a property can be acquired it must be presented to at least six committees in government. There are six structures/committees chaired by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform for each and every piece of land the department wants to acquire. Because of the inefficient operation of the various committees, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform ends up taking periods as long as six months to acquire a property, yet the acquisition time could be much shorter, say

two months. This is because some committee sittings are postponed for various reasons, for instance, if the chairperson is absent the meeting can be postponed to the following month. Therefore, there are departmental systems and requirements that seem to work against that ability of the PLAS programme to achieve its objectives.

The KI from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform mentioned that it may be much better if the department can consider centralising (Pretoria office) and the decision making process for land acquisition to enable the achievement of the targets.

#### **4.7 Conclusion**

The researcher sought to investigate the challenges in the implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District in Limpopo Province. The findings of the study include some of the following: emerging farmers in Mopani District are not given support by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Department of Agriculture; emerging farmers are unable to use the land they have to full capacity; emerging farmers do not have title deeds, and emerging farmers are unable to apply for water rights because they do not own the farms. The purpose of land reform is to correct the past injustices. Land is critical to the people of South Africa and in particular to previously disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, the important idea is that emerging farmers should use the land to alleviate poverty and create jobs and contribute to the local economic growth. The emerging farmers often struggle to utilise the land effectively, resulting in their inability to create employment. They lack funds to enable them to farm continuously or according to the different seasons. The emerging farmers need support from the government so that they use the land for production and improve their socio economic status.

The emerging farmers are often embattled to have access to markets. In many cases, their farm produce are sold locally and do not make good profits as compared to commercial farmers who are producing the same produce. The funds allocated to the emerging farmers are to sustain their farms. At times the emerging farmers receive government subventions after a long waiting period and subsequently they are left without option but to put on hold their farming activities. While they are waiting for the

government to support them, they suffer from theft because criminals come and steal from their farms.

Shortage of water is also a serious concern for the emerging farmers because the majority of them are engaged in crop farming where more water to sustain crops are required. No training is provided to the emerging farmers and because of lack of skills, the government or Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture are expected to provide the emerging farmers with training and other necessary technical advice. With the slow pace in which the emerging farmers are developing, it will be difficult for them to move from subsistence farming to commercial farming. In the absence of support from the government be it technical or financial, there is no way in which the emerging farmers can succeed, no matter how many hectares of land they have been allocated. Emerging farmers become poorer because they end up using their own or family money to take care of the land they are leasing because of the required maintenance.

Previous studies more especially in China reflect that the Local government in China is the one taking a lead in land lease unlike in South Africa where the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is the one in control of land issues. Some authors indicated that the emerging farmers experience a challenge of water shortage, management skills, and farming skills which is not different from the findings of this study. The only different is that in this study, the emerging farmers do not own land, they lease it and they are expected to pay a lease amount every month. The other findings which was not mentioned by the previous studies is the issue of title deeds which is a very serious challenge to the farmers because they feel threatened since they don't own the land but lease it.

## **Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter focused on analysis of data and interpretation of the findings. This chapter provides a summary of the research and draws the conclusions from the research findings and results. Recommendations are made based on the analysis and results from the study in chapter 4.

### **5.2 Achieving study Objectives**

This study was undertaken to achieve the following three study objectives as outlined in chapter one:

1. To describe the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture in the implementation of PLAS programme.
2. To determine factors responsible for under performance by emerging farmers.
3. To determine the kind of assistance the emerging farmers need.

#### **5.2.1 Objective 1**

Objective one sought to describe the role and responsibilities of the Department of Rural development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture in the implementation of PLAS. In chapter two of the study, the aspect regarding the role and responsibility of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Limpopo Department of Agriculture are highlighted. The findings from the study in chapter four indicate that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has the responsibility to ensure that land is proactively acquired and leased to the beneficiaries. It is also reflected in the findings that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform identify beneficiaries and is expected to support emerging farmers with training and funding, but the government does not have sufficient funds to do so. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture has a responsibility to offer technical support to the emerging farmers, but the farmers indicated that they are offered no technical support. The study

further reveals in chapter four that monitoring and supervision should be done by both departments with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform taking the lead.

### **5.2.2 Objective 2**

Objective two aimed at determining factors responsible for underperformance by emerging farmers. The findings from the research in chapter four indicate that emerging farmers in Mopani District area underperform in their farming businesses because of numerous challenges such as lack of farming skills, shortage of water and lack of funds. Farmers reported that they could not access the market. Shortage of funds seems to be the major problem because without funds it is impossible to farm; this is one of the reasons why some emerging farmers are not using their land. Farmers do not have water rights and the majority of them are in crop farming, and without water they cannot engage in productive farming activities. A serious challenge regarding water rights issue is that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry requires the farmers to apply for the water rights and the application process requires the title deed of the property.

### **5.2.3 Objective 3**

This objective intended to determine the kind of assistance emerging farmers often need. According to the findings in chapter four, the emerging farmers indicated that they needed support from both Department of Rural development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture; they further indicated that funding was the major support they needed from the departments. One of the issues raised during the discussion with the emerging farmers was that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform did not grant the farmers the funding as stipulated in the feasibility study and this created a serious confusion.

## 5.3 Conclusions

The following conclusions are drawn from the analysis

### 5.3.1 Training and farming skills

It can be concluded that the emerging farmers were not provided with the necessary training on farming and business management. The government had made several promises to train these farmers, but this has yet to be implemented. Usually, these farmers find it very difficult to sustain their farms because of lack of required farming skills. Some of the farmers have been raised in farming for household consumption. Since they are not generating an income, they are not in a position to afford training fees on their own without support from the government.

### 5.3.2 Assistance received from the two departments: the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Department of Agriculture

After receiving land from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in a lease agreement, some farmers were recapitalised, whereas others did not receive subsequent support. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform provided the emerging farmers with land and funding so that they can continue with production. Once the department does so, they expect the farmers to start producing, not taking into consideration that the farmers still need further support to be able to produce.

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture makes provision for basic support such as manure, seeds and chemicals when they no longer have use of these. They often distribute these items to farmers after keeping them in their offices for a long time. There is no proper communication medium between the farmers and the Department of Agriculture because a situation often arises whereby the department gives crop chemicals and manure to a farmer who is in animal farming or gives vegetable seeds to a farmer who does citrus farming. When the department allocates the farmers manures or chemicals, they do not even seek to determine the size of the land in order to provide subsequent professional support to these farmers.

### 5.3.3 Assistance emerging farmers need

Emerging farmers are struggling with water because majority of them rely on water for their production. Getting water rights is as a major challenge to them. They do not have water rights because they do not have title deeds. As a result, their crops die.

Some of the citrus farmers do not have storage/pack house for their productions. Animal farmers do not have an abattoir.

In most cases they cannot access the market in time because their produces often late and that affects their production because they have to rent a storage or pack house and sell the produce at a later stage when it is not needed. In that case they are unable to make the necessary profits to sustain their farming activities.

### 5.3.4 The use of land by the emerging farmers

The beneficiaries are not using the land effectively as they should be. There are a number of reasons why the land is not effectively used. These reasons include lack of funds to enable farmers to use all their farm hactres, no water for irrigation and land unfit for farming. To be able to farm, farmers must have starting capital and use it for production. Many farmers do not have sufficient capital; they always require government support for grants so they can use the land, a situation which is untenable.

### 5.3.5 Challenges emerging farmers face

There are numerous challenges which emerging farmers are facing and these include the following:

- The issue of title deeds; without them they cannot have water rights.
- They do not have money for their production;
- They do not receive sufficient support from the relevant departments;
- There is no communications between emerging farmers and the departments;
- No training programmes for farmers on land care or farm management; and
- Lack of farming skills.



Farmers also have a challenge with the department because the funds they request in their business plan after having carried out a feasibility study is often not provided in full. The recapitalisation is often delayed, which has a negative impact on their production. The contract requires farmers to pay a lease amount. However, since profit margins are low, farmers are liable to pay their lease amount.

### 5.3.6 The role and responsibility of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform

The responsibility of land lease lies with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The department ensures that the land acquired is allocated to beneficiaries and is used effectively on a lease hold, but that is not what is happening in Mopani District. The local government is not playing any active role in terms of effective policy implementation. Farmers are not given enough support and the department expects them to perform miracles after been given the land. There is also no serious monitoring from the department to ensure that the farmers are effectively using the land. Equally no necessary guidance is provided.

### 5.3.7 Effectiveness of the strategy

The strategy is a necessary intervention to land inequalities in South Africa. The farmers are not able to make progress on their own because they remain emerging and that has a negative impact on government. It means the farmers must be supported until they are able to take care of their production and not depend on the government. The reason they are not growing is that they are not given enough support to be able to grow and become commercial farmers. If there is no growth, the farmers will keep coming back to the government to ask for funds.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

The study highlights the challenges and factors which lead to the failure of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy. Land issues are very critical in the development of the economy and it is important that land is made available to the previously disadvantaged communities. Because land is a means of production, it is critical that it is used to contribute to the local economic development and it should impact positively on the lives of the beneficiaries.

The study reveals that the local sphere of government/municipalities in South Africa do not fully play their role in the implementation of the PLAS programme. It is only the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform which is actively involved in proactively acquiring land for the previously disadvantaged people. It is recommended that local government play active role in the implementation of the strategy by supporting the direct beneficiaries of land or emerging farmers; and identify the needs of the local community. It is further recommended that local government includes issue of land reform in their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) initiatives.

There are several recommendations that can be derived from the findings of the study. The study reveals that the emerging farmers are not provided support by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture at the district level as was expected. It is recommended that the two departments work together and share the responsibilities and needs that emerging farmers require. If the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform provided land to the beneficiaries, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture should provide training to the farmers. The government should support the emerging farmer by all means possible. That will lead to profitable farming and the lives of the people will change qualitatively, leading to social and economic development.

The study reveals that there is no proper communication channel between the three parties: the beneficiaries, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture. It is recommended that the departments should consult the emerging farmers to find out what they require instead of distributing to them

resources they do not need. It is recommended further that the emerging farmers be given appropriate training so that they can be equipped with skills and be able to run and manage their farms. That will stop them relying heavily on the government. It is also recommended that the government assist the emerging farmers to access the market so that they can supply their produce not only at the local level but also beyond. For the farmers to do well in their farming business, they need support from the government.

The government keeps on buying land from minority groups just to achieve the target and the goals set. It is recommended that instead of buying more land for the previously disadvantaged people and failing to sustain them, the government should buy fewer lands and make sure that it supports the few beneficiaries up until they are economically viable before going further and acquiring more land. Government must not worry about how much land it buys for the emerging farmers, but it should be more concerned about land usage by the emerging farmers after leasing it to them.

The study further reveals that there is a lack of monitoring on the part of departments, so it is recommended that there should be an effective monitoring or supervision process; for example field workers can visit one farmer monthly to determine progress made and provide assistance. That will help the departments to know and understand where there farmers experience problems and how best to support them further.

It is revealed in the study that the department is doing impact assessment on the programmes of its own, PLAS. Chances are that that they will always provide positive feedback about the emerging farmers or strategy as a whole. It is therefore recommended that the department uses external sources to conduct impact assessment on the strategy; that will help the government when developing policies and be able to make evidence-based assessment and decisions.

## **5.5 Recommendations for Future Research**

**The following are areas for further studies:**

5.5.1 Land reform is supposed to benefit all the farm workers and the direct beneficiaries by creating more jobs for farm workers and for the direct beneficiaries to generate income. It is important that future researchers look at the impact of PLAS on the farm workers under the new management.

5.5.2 Because of bureaucracy in government, it is also critical that a study is conducted to consider how bureaucracies affect or compromise service delivery in our communities.

5.5.3 The impact assessment of PLAS farms on the lives of direct beneficiaries.

## References

- African National Congress, 2012. Land Reform Policy Discussion Document, 2012. Available online dated 6 February 2016 <http://www.anc.org.za>
- Al-Hassan, R.M., Sarpond, D.B. & Mensah-Bonsu, A.2006. Linking smallholders to markets. A draft report submitted to the International Food Policy Research Institute Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP). Background paper number GSSP 0001.
- Antwi, M. & Seahlodi, P., 2011.*Marketing constraints facing Emerging Small Scale Pig Farmers in Gauteng Province, South Africa*. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension. North-West University, Mmabatho, South Africa.
- Barlow L. & van Dijk N., 2013. Market Investigation of Black Emerging Farmers in South African Horticulture. A study conducted by ICCO Cooperation, in collaboration with BoP Inc.
- Bhanu Sigdel, Census and Sampling Method. Available online dated 24 September 2016 <http://www.bhanusigdel.wordpress.com>
- Bless C. Smith, C. H. & Kagee, A., 2006. *Fundamentals of Social Research Methods: An African Perspective*, 4<sup>th</sup>ed. Cape Town, South Africa: Juta.
- Blumberg, S., 2007.*Lessons from LRAD.Fighting poverty with accelerated land redistribution*. Cape Town, South Africa: University of Cape Town.
- Braun, V. and Clarke, V., 2006. Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative research in psychology*, 3(2), pp.77-101.
- Brockopp, D.Y& Hastings-Tolsman, M.T., 1995. *Fundamentals of Nursing Research*. CITY: Jones & Bartlett learning.
- Burns, N. & Grove, S.K., 1997.*ThePractice of Nursing Research: Conduct, Critique and Utilization*. Philadelphia: Saunders

Chikazunga, D. & Paradza, G., 2012. Can smallholder farmers find a home in South Africa's food-system? Lessons from Limpopo Province. *The Institute for Poverty, Land and Agriculture Studies (PLAAS) Blog*. <http://www.plaas.org.za/blog/can-smallholder-farmers-find-home-south-africa's-food-system-lessons-limpopo-province>.

Chitonge, H. 2013. Land use and rural livelihoods in South Africa: Emerging evidence from the Eastern Cape. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 2(1), pp.1-40.

Claassen, H., Mukwada, G., Naidoo, M. and Mahasa, P., 2014. Land Reform and Grain Production: The Case of Emerging Farmers in Qwaqwa, South Africa. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 46(2), pp.223-234.

Collis, J. & Hussey, R., 2009. Business Research, a practical guide for undergraduate and graduate students, 3<sup>rd</sup>ed. New York: Macmillan.

Cousins, B. 2013. Land redistribution, populism and elite capture: New land reform policy proposals under the microscope. *The Journal of the Helen Suzman Foundation*, 70:11- 19.

Creighton, J.L., 2005. *The Public Participation handbook*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.

Dlamini, R. A., 2014. Taking land seriously: From willing seller-willing buyer to expropriation. Department of Law. Cape Town, South Africa University of Cape Town.

Deng, F. F., 2005. *Public land leasing and the challenging roles of local government in Urban China*. Department of Real Estate, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore. *The Annals of Regional Science*.

Deninger, K., 1998, *Making negotiated land reform work: Initial experience from Colombia, Brazil and South Africa*. *World Development* 27 (4):1-3.

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. 2009. *Strategic Plan*. Pretoria: National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform: Government Printers.

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2006, *Implementation plan for the Proactive land acquisition strategy*, Pretoria. National Department of rural development and Land Reform.

De Vos, A.S., Delpont, C.S.L., Fouche, C.B., & Strydom, H., 2011. *Research at Grass Roots: For the Social Sciences and Human Service Professions*, 4<sup>th</sup>ed. Pretoria, South Africa: Van Schaik Publishers.

Díaz-Pichardo, R., Cantú-González, C., López-Hernández, P. & McElwee, G., 2012. From farmers to entrepreneurs: The Importance of collaborative behaviour. *Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 21(1):91-116.

Ding, C. & Lichtenberg, E., 2008. *Local officials as land developers: Urban Spatial Expansion in China*. Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The University of Maryland, College Park.

Dlamini, R. A., 2014, *Taking land seriously: From willing seller- willing buyer to expropriation*. Cape Town, South Africa: University of Cape Town

Do Q.T. & Iyer, L., 2008. Land titling and rural transition in Vietnam. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 56(3).531-579.

Fanadzo, M. 2012. Revitalisation of smallholder irrigation schemes for poverty alleviation and household food security in South Africa: A review. *African journal of agricultural research*, 7(13), pp.1956-1969.

Fatemeh, R., 2004. *Focus group interview and data analysis*. Birmingham, University of Central England.

Femi, O.A. & Van Schalkwyk, H.D., 2006, August. Mentorship Alliance between South African Farmers: Implication for Sustainable Agriculture Sector Reform. In *IAAE Conference, Gold Coast, Australia*.

Greenberg, S., 2010. *Status Report on Land and Agricultural Policy in South Africa*. Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. Cape Town, South Africa: University of the Western Cape.

- Groenewald, J.A., 2004. *Conditions for Successful Land Reform in Africa*. Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Free State, South Africa. *Sajem* NS 7(4): 673-682
- Hall, R., 2003. *Countryside? Policy options for Land and Agrarian Reform in South Africa*. Institute for poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. Cape Town, South Africa: University of the Western Cape.
- Hilton, K., Barnhill, J. & Hill, R.W., 2012. *Strengthening Armenian Irrigation Capability through Extension Education and Mentoring*.
- Henning, I., 2010. *Implications of Land Reform on Spatial Planning and Development in the Tzaneen Local Municipality*. Unpublished MA dissertation North-West University Mafikeng, South Africa.
- Ikenous, S., 2009. *How successful are land reform farms in Limpopo Province?* Available online dated 18 August 2014 <http://www.saeon.ac>
- Jera, R., Ajayi, O.C., 2008. Logic modelling of smallholder livestock farmer's adoption of tree based fodder technology in Zimbabwe. *Agrekon*, 47(3): pp. 379- 392
- Jarbandhan, D.B., & Schutte, D.W., 2006. Using the survey procedure and interview data collection technique. *Journal of Public Administration*, 41(3):669-681.
- Kgwefane, N. G., 2014. *Effects of the Performance Management System on Service Delivery in the Mbombela Local Municipality: Mpumalanga Province*. Unpublished MA dissertation. University of Limpopo, Polokwane, South Africa.
- Kgosiemang, D.T. and Oladele, O.I., 2012. Factors Affecting Farmers' Participation in Agricultural Projects in Mkhondo Municipality of Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 37(1), pp.19-27.
- Kilpatrick, S., 2000. *Education and training: Impacts on farm management practice*. Centre for Research and Learning in Regional Australia. University of Tasmania, Australia.



Kitzinger, J., 1994. The methodology of focus groups: The importance of interaction between research participants. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 16 (1):103-121.

Kothari, C.R., 2004. *Research Methodology. Methods and Techniques*. Second Revised Edition. New Delhi, India: Age International Publishers.

Kuhn, M.E., Darroch, M.A., Ortmann, G.F. & Graham, D.H., 2000. Improving the provision of financial services to micro-entrepreneurs, emerging farmers and agribusiness: Lessons from KwaZulu-Natal. *Agrekon*, 39 (1):68-81.

Kloppers, H.J., 2012. *Improving Land Reform through CSR: A Legal Framework Analysis*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Lahiff, E., & Rugege, S., 2009. *A Critical Assessment of Land Redistribution Policy in the Light of Grootboom Judgement*. Cape Town, South Africa: University of the Western Cape.

Lahiff, E., & Guo Li. 2012. *Land redistribution in South Africa: Land administration in sub-Saharan Africa*. World Bank. Available online dated 25 June 2014 <http://www.worldbank.com>

Lahiff, E. 2008. *Land Reform in South Africa: A Status Report 2008*. Cape Town: Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape.

Lioutas, D.E., & Charatsari, C., 2011. Who is the customer of public agricultural extension/ education service? *International Journal of Rural Management*, INCOMPLETE

Liu, Y. S., Yang, R., Long, H. L., Gao, J. & Wang, J. Y., 2014. Implications of land-use change in rural China: a case study of Yucheng, Shandong province. *Land Use Policy*, 40, 111e118.

Louw, A., Madevu, H., Jordaan, D. & Vermuelen, H., 2007. *Regoverning Markets: A place for small- scale producers in modern Agrifood chains?* CITY: Gover Publishing.

Louw, A., Vermuelen, H. & Madevu, H., 2006. *Integrating small- scale fresh producers into the main stream agro-food systems in South Africa: The case of a retailer in Venda and local farmers*. Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development. University of Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa.

Louw, A., Jordaan, D., Ndanga, L. & Kirstin, J.F., 2008. Alternative market options for small scale farmers in the wake of changing agri supply chains in South Africa. *Agrekon*, 47(3):287- 308.

Magingxa, L.L., & Kamara, A.B., 2003. *Institutional Perspectives of enhancing smallholder market access in South Africa*. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual conference of Agricultural Economic Association of South Africa (AEASA), Pretoria, South Africa.

Majchrzak, A., 1984. *Methods for Policy Research Applied Social Research Methods Study*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Makombe, G. & Sampath, R. K., 1999. *A benefit- cost analysis of smallholder irrigated farms in Zimbabwe*. Department of Agricultural and Resource. Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Manyevere, A., Muchaonyerwa, P., Laker, M.C. & Mneki, P.N.S., 2014. Farmers' perspectives with regard to crop production: An analysis of Nkonkobe municipality, South Africa. *Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Tropics and Subtropics*, 115(1)42-53.

Marsh, S.P., & MacAulay, T.G., 2002. Land reform and the development of commercial agriculture in Vietnam: Policy and issues. *Agribusiness Review*, 10:1-19.

McCusker, B. 2004. Land use change on recently redistributed farms in the Limpopo Province, South Africa. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 32 (1): 49–75.

McIntire, J.M. 2014. Transforming African Agriculture. *Global Journal of Emerging Market Economies*, 6(2):145-179.

McPherson, M.F. 2012. Land Policy in Vietnam: Challenges and prospects for constructive change. *Journal of Macromarketing*, 32:137-146.

Mfuywa, S. O., 2012. *Factors affecting the functioning of the Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy in the Buffalo City Municipal Area*. Masters of Public Administration, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa.

Mmbengwa, V.M., Ramukumba, T., Groenewald, J.A., Schalkwyk, H.D., Gundidza, M.B. & Maiwashe, A.N. 2011. *Factors that influence the success and failure of land bank supported farming small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMES) in South Africa*. School of Natural Resources Management. Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), George Campus, Republic of South Africa. University of Free State

Neuman, W. L., 2005. *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative approaches*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Allyn & Bacon

Nmoma, V. 2008. *Son of the soil: Reclaiming the land in Zimbabwe*. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, New Delhi, India: Sage Publications.

Nxumalo, K.K.S. & Oladele, O.L. 2013. *Factors affecting Farmer's Participation in Agricultural program in Zululand District, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa*. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, North-West University, Mmabatho, South Africa.

Nxumalo, K. K. S. & Antwi, M. A., 2013. *Impact of Pro Active Land Acquisition Strategy on Physical Capital Livelihood of Beneficiaries in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, South Africa*. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of North-West, Mmabatho, South Africa.

Ortmann, G.F. & R.P. King (2007): 'Agricultural cooperatives II: can they facilitate access of small-scale farmers in South Africa to input and product markets?' *Agrekon*, Vol.46, No.2, pp. 219-244.

Polkinghorne, D. E. 2005. *Language and meaning: Data collection in qualitative research*. *Journal of Counselling Psychology*, 2:137- 245.

- Ponte, S., & Van Sittert, L., 2007. The chimera of redistribution in post-apartheid South Africa: 'Black Economic Empowerment' (BEE) in industrial fisheries. *African Affairs*, 106(424):.437-462.
- Rother, H.A., Hall, R. & London, L., 2008. Pesticide use among emerging farmers in South Africa: contributing factors and stakeholder perspectives. *Development Southern Africa*, 25(4):399-424.
- Sachikonye, L.M., 2003. *The situation of Commercial Farm Workers after Land Reform in Zimbabwe*. A report prepared for the Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe.
- Tao, R., Su, F., Liu, M. & Cao, G., 2010. Land leasing and local public finance in China's regional development: Evidence from prefecture-level cities. *Urban Studies*.
- Tian, L., & Ma, W., 2009. Government intervention in city development of China: A tool of land supply. *Land Use Policy*, 26(3):599-609.
- Toulmin, C., 2005. Securing land and Property rights in Sub-Saharan Africa: The role of local institutions. Improving the investment climate Global competitive report. London, UK: International institute for environment & Development (IIED)
- Van Niekerk, J.A., Groenewald, I.B. & Zwane, E.M., 2014. Mentorship by commercial farmers in the land reform programme in the Free State Province. *South African Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 42(1):62-70.
- Wachter, F., 2010. *An Investigation of the South African Land Reform Process, from a Conflict Resolution perspective* (Doctoral dissertation, M Phil Dissertation, Unpublished, Port Elizabeth: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University).
- Williams, C., & Van Zyl, N., 2008. *The Rural Action Committee*. Capital and Market access constraints in Land Reform Projects. Three case studies from Mpumalanga (incomplete draft).
- Woodhouse, P. 2012. Reforming land and water rights in South Africa. *Development and Change*, 43(4), pp.847-868.

Zhang, Q.F. and Donaldson, J.A., 2010. From peasants to farmers: Peasant differentiation, labor regimes, and land-rights institutions in China's agrarian transition. *Politics & Society*, 38(4), pp.458-489.

Zhang, T., 2000. *Land market forces and government's role in Sprawl*. The case of China. Urban Planning and Policy Programme, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago.

Zhang, S., & Pearlman, K., 2004. China's land use reforms: A review of journal literature. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 19(1): 16-61.

## **Consent Form**

(Group/Individual respondent)

Dear respondent, my name is Thabiso Malatji. I am a Master's student at Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo. I am conducting a study/research on the challenges in the implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy. Given your knowledge and involvement in this strategy I would like to ask you a few questions.

I kindly request you to participate in this research project and would like to explain this consent form to you and let you decide if you would like to participate in this study.

**The formal title of the study is: Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District area: A Case Study of Limpopo Province.**

### **Study Purpose**

The aim of this research project is to identify and analyse the elements that compromise the success of the strategy and make recommendations for its improvement.

### **Study Procedure**

I will be conducting focus group interviews with you as the beneficiaries of PLAS. I will use a tape recorder for the interviews. I would like to record the conversation so that your responses are adequately captured. The recording will be kept safe by the researcher to use only for the purpose of analysing the data collected for the study.

### **Possible Risks**

Kindly note that there will be no risks as a result of your participation in this study. Your identity will be kept strictly confidential. Your names will not be attributed to any of the comments made in the final report.

### **Possible Benefits**

It is critical to note that there will be no direct benefits to you from this research. But I hope that the research findings will assist the departments responsible for PLAS in enhancing the support they provide to beneficiaries.

**Alternative and Voluntary Participation**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may choose to withdraw your participation at any time. If you choose not to participate in this study your decision will be respected.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and will remain confidential. I hereby agree to the digital recording of my participation in the study and to keeping of a permanent record of this interview with the understanding that my name and other identifying information will be removed to ensure confidentiality.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## **Consent Form**

### **Key Informant Interview (KI)**

Dear respondent, my name is Thabiso Malatji. I am a Master's student at Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo. I am conducting a study/research on the challenges in the implementation of Proactive land acquisition strategy. Given your knowledge and involvement in this strategy I would like to ask you a few questions.

I kindly request you to participate in this research project and would like to explain this consent form to you and let you decide if you would like to participate in this study.

**The formal title of the study is: Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District: A Case Study of Limpopo Province**

#### **Study Purpose**

The aim of this research project is to Identify and analyse the elements that compromise the success of the strategy and make recommendations for its improvement.

#### **Study Procedure**

I will be doing one on one interview with you as the key informant in the department. I will record the interviews. I would like to record you when we have the conversation so that your responses are adequately captured. The recording will be kept safe by the researcher for the use only for the purpose of analysing the data collected for the study.

#### **Possible Risks**

Kindly note that there will be no risks as a result of your participation in this study. Your identity will be kept strictly confidential. Your names will not be attributed to any of the comments made in the final report.

#### **Possible Benefits**



It is critically to note that there will be no direct benefits to you from this research. But I hope that the research findings will assist the departments responsible for PLAS in enhancing the support they provide to participants/ beneficiaries.

### **Alternative and Voluntary Participation**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may choose to withdraw your participation at any time. If you choose not to participate in this study your decision will be respected.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and will remain confidential. I hereby agree to the digital recording of my participation in the study and to keeping of a permanent record of this interview with the understanding that my name and other identifying information will be removed to ensure confidentiality.

---

Signature of participant

---

Date

**Interview guide for the Emerging Farmers/ Beneficiaries**

**Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Mopani District: A Case Study of Limpopo Province**

**Direct Beneficiaries/ Emerging farmers**

**SECTION A**

**Biographical Information Sheet**

*N.B. Please tick the relevant option*

1. Age

0 - 35	35 - 50	50 & above
--------	---------	------------

2. Gender

Male	Female
------	--------

3. Type of farming

Crop Farming	Animal Farming	Citrus	Plantation
Orchard	Both	None	

4. Experience in Farming

0 - 5 yrs	5 – 10 yrs	11&above
-----------	------------	----------

5. Level of education

None	Primary	Secondary	Post secondary
------	---------	-----------	----------------

## **SECTION B**

### **1.1 Farming and Management Skills**

- 1.1.1. Do you have any farming skills?
- 1.1.2. Did you receive any training on farming and land use?
- 1.1.3. Who manages the day-to-day activities on the farm?
- 1.1.4. What kind of training do you need?
- 1.1.5 Has any department ever contacted you about training?
- 1.1.6 How many employees do you have?
- 1.1.7. Is the market information readily available for you?
- 1.1.8. Do you pay the lease amount as agreed?
- 1.1.9. How easy or difficult it is to pay the lease amount?

### **General Questions**

1. Please describe physical characteristics of your farm.
2. What is your level of education?
3. When was your farming business established?
4. Could you describe the farming activities being carried out on your farm?
5. Why and how did you select these farming activities?
6. Do you think the land available to you is effectively used?
7. What are the marketing tools that you use to promote and market your produce?
8. Has the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform assisted you in any way? What further assistance would you require from them?
9. Has the Limpopo Department of Agriculture assisted you in any way? What further assistance would you require from them?
10. Are you facing any challenges in your business? If yes, what kind?
11. Have you been contacted by government officials about any assistance related to farming?

12. How does farming and agriculture improve your socio-economic status as well as alleviating poverty?
13. Is there any farmers' forum where issues related to farming are discussed and information shared?
14. If farmers' forum exists, what kind of challenges do you experience in this forum?
15. How was your life like before owning the land?
16. Did you have any conversation with the previous owner?
17. Did you get any records of the production activities from the previous owner?
18. Are any of your production activities based on irrigation? If yes, do you have water rights?
19. Do you have title deeds to your land?
20. Is there anything else that you would like to share with me?

***Thank you for your time and participation in the study***

## **INTERVIEW GUIDE**

### **Challenges in the Implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) in Mopani District: A Case Study of Limpopo Province**

#### **Key Informant Interview (KI)**

#### **Questions for Key informants in the Provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture and Local government**

#### **Section A: General Questions**

1. What do you understand by Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy and what is its aim?
2. Who do you think are the target group of PLAS?
3. Can you tell me about the process of identifying direct beneficiaries of PLAS?
4. What is your understanding of emerging farmers?
5. Are the emerging farmers doing well as expected, and if not, what do you think are the constraints?
6. In your position, what are you doing to ensure that the emerging farmers perform at the level they are expected to perform?
7. Have you consulted the beneficiaries to consider the kind of assistance they require? If no, why?
8. Have you been consulted by beneficiaries to raise the constraints they face? If yes, explain the type of constraints.
9. Do you provide the emerging farmers with farming skills?
10. What do you do if the emerging farmer fails to pay the lease amount as agreed?
11. Do you consider the PLAS projects sustainable?

## **Section B: Policy Implementation**

1. Could you describe the roles and responsibilities of your department in the implementation of Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy?
2. How effective is Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy?
3. According to the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (Act No 13 of 2005), the implementation of the policy requires a concerted effort from both local and provincial level, are all parties working together to ensure the success of the strategy?
4. What challenges do your department experience when implementing the policy?
5. How does your department overcome these challenges?
6. What is your department doing to assist the emerging farmers to succeed in implementing PLAS?
7. Does your department train project officers in terms of policy implementation?
8. Is there any training offered to emerging farmers?
9. How does your department monitor and evaluate the strategy?
10. Was the impact assessment done on the direct beneficiaries after five years as stipulated in the implementation plan? If no, why? If yes, what kind of impact did the policy have on the emerging farmers?
11. What are the constraints that may hinder the process of policy implementation for your department?
12. From your experience, are there any policy changes you would recommend to make the role of your department in PLAS more effective?
13. Is there anything else that you would like to share with me?

***Thank you for your time and participation in the study***