



Rural development and land reform



**SOUTH
AFRICA**
YEARBOOK
2011/12

Rural development is a critical intervention as it calls for the establishment of meaningful economic development capacity in rural areas.

The implementation of rural development is expected to result in vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all. The essence of such a community would be measured through:

- food security
- rapid and sustained economic growth
- intellectual development
- environmental sustainability
- healthy rural communities
- political maturity
- social stability and growth
- self-reliant and confident communities
- fairness in line with the Bill of Rights
- social cohesion.

With the introduction of government's outcomes-based approach, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has revised its 2010/13 Strategic Plan to take into account the need to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities (Outcome 7), including food security. The outcome is linked to five outputs, which are all pertinent to the department's work and which have been integrated into its strategic goals. These are: sustainable agrarian reform with a thriving small and large farming sector (Output 1); improved access to affordable and diverse food (Output 2); improved rural services to support sustainable livelihoods (Output 3); rural job creation linked to skills training and promoting economic livelihoods (Output 4); and an enabling institutional environment for sustainable and improved growth (Output 5).

It has developed strategic goals, which address the outcome and its five related outputs. These strategic goals are:

- sound corporate governance and service excellence
- a reformed policy, legislative and institutional environment by 2014
- effective land planning and administration that promotes rural development
- institutional arrangements for effective co-operative governance and stakeholder participation
- increased access to land and its productive use
- improved access to affordable and diverse food
- improved rural services to support sustainable livelihoods

- improved access to sustainable employment and skills-development opportunities.

Rural development

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's purpose is to initiate, facilitate, co-ordinate and catalyse the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) that leads to sustainable and vibrant rural communities. The department has two branches, namely Social, Technical, Rural Livelihoods and Institutional Facilitation (STRIF); and Rural Infrastructure Development (RID).

In 2010/11, STRIF mobilised 28 communities and profiled 13 694 households. The profiling results are captured on the National Integrated Social Information System. During 2010/11, more than 960 youths were trained in participatory rural appraisal and social survey methods. The youths were assigned as field workers in community and household profiling.

Councils of stakeholders (CoS) were established in 25 CDRP sites in 2010/11. The World Bank Technical Programme is assisting with the capacitation of the CoS. STRIF also supported the Alice Agri-Park Project, which can be regarded as a best-practice joint venture between a university (University of Fort Hare), government and communities.

The RID Branch has succeeded in improving access to services in rural areas by facilitating the construction and renovation of schools, houses, sanitation systems, water infrastructure, energy infrastructure, fencing and roads.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

The CRDP is a strategic priority in government's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF). The design of the programme is predicated on lessons learnt from pilot sites selected through socio-economic profiling, community participatory processes and intergovernmental cooperation. A great deal of baseline data has emerged from the

The second phase of Mpumalanga's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) was launched in April 2011. The CRDP is an integrated programme that focuses on the provision of, among other things, water, electricity, housing, agrarian projects and job creation in rural areas.

The roll-out of the programme to additional municipalities follows a pilot phase that was launched in the Mkhondo Local Municipality in Piet Retief in 2009.

first two pilot engagements in Riemvasmaak in the Northern Cape, and Muyexe Village in Giyani in Limpopo.

The CRDP is different from past government strategies in rural areas because it is premised on a proactive participatory community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development.

It is aimed at being an effective response to poverty and food insecurity by maximising the use and management of natural resources to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities.

The CRDP must improve the standards of living and welfare and rectify past injustices through rights-based interventions and by addressing skewed patterns of distribution and ownership of wealth and assets.

The strategic objective of the CRDP is therefore to facilitate integrated development and social cohesion through participatory approaches in partnership with all sectors of society.

This will be done by:

- contributing to the redistribution of 30% of the country's agricultural land
- improving food security of the rural poor
- creating business opportunities
- decongesting and rehabilitating overcrowded former homeland areas
- expanding opportunities for rural women, youth, people with disabilities and older persons.

The CRDP is premised on three phases: Phase One, which has meeting basic human needs as its driver; Phase Two, which has large-scale infrastructure development as its driver; and Phase Three, with the emergence of rural industrial and credit financial sectors, which is driven by small, medium and macro-enterprises and village markets.

By October 2011, the CRDP was being implemented at 65 sites across the country. Some 33 560 hectares (ha) of agricultural land had been acquired to provide emerging farmers with access to land. Some 116 farms had been recapitalised by providing funds for, among other things, infrastructure, mechanisation, seeds, livestock and the transfer of skills by commercial farmers to enhance the productivity of transferred farms.

In areas where the CRDP is being implemented, a new vibrancy has been created around working together, involving communities, the three spheres of government and the private

sector. This has enabled communities to mobilise resources from all sectors of government to enhance delivery.

An inclusive CRDP stakeholder participation model has been developed in the form of the CoS, which functions as partners in planning, implementation and monitoring. Through these inclusive bodies, communities themselves have become central to their own development.

Through the work undertaken at the CRDP sites, and in conjunction with fellow departments at national, provincial and local government level, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform erected infrastructure such as housing, water, sanitation, pack-sheds, community halls, multipurpose centres, fencing, early childhood development centres, satellite police stations and renovated schools and clinics.

The department initiated a new youth skills-development and employment programme, the National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec).

The objectives of Narysec are to:

- train youth through specifically developed programmes linked to community needs in rural areas
- develop youth with multidisciplinary skills through civic education
- capacitate youth in retaining knowledge and technical skills acquired during training
- increase the number of rural communities receiving support in their self-development through the CRDP.

Narysec participants are contracted for 24 months following their recruitment from rural communities.

Recruitment is done through advertisements and selection by community structures.

The first part of the two-year programme is a foundational phase, which consists of an orientation programme followed by training in conducting household profiling. Next, household profiling is done in rural areas in conjunction with the Department of Social Development. The youths thereafter undergo a seven-week non-military training programme in the South African National Defence Force.

The programme has been specifically designed as part of the National Youth Service and focuses on aspects of discipline, patriotism and service delivery in rural communities.

The foundational phase is followed by a skills-development phase. The skills-development programmes presented to Narysec participants

are related to the activities of the CRDP, which are identified by conducting household profiling. The skills-development programmes therefore vary according to the needs of the various rural communities.

Construction in rural areas has been identified as an immediate focus area of skills development.

The skills-development phase will be followed by the community-service phase, where the youth will apply their newly acquired skills in rural communities under the leadership/mentorship of the responsible department.

The final phase or exit strategy of the Narysec will be linked to the maintenance and operations activities of local and district municipalities. The strategic outcomes of the programme in the long term are expected to be:

- a decline in the level of youth unemployment in rural areas
- an increase in literacy and skills
- an increase in disposable income of youth in rural areas as a result of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities
- decreased dependence on transfers from family members working in urban areas.

In its initial phase, it enlisted 7 958 young people between 18 and 35 years of age, with a minimum educational standard of Grade 10. They were drawn from rural wards across the country, including farms, small rural towns and some peri-urban areas.

These young people, 50% of whom are women and at least every fourth one a person with some form of disability, have been enlisted on a continuous 24-month contract.

Of these, 600 have gone through 10 days of training in self-orientation and life skills through Further Education and Training colleges and 500 have gone through two-months of non-military training, mainly character development, personal discipline and patriotism. Each one receives a stipend of R60 a day, which will be increased as they receive high-level skills training.

War on Poverty (WoP) Programme

The WoP and rural development programmes are concerned with human development. The methods they use are similar, such as helping people to get identity documents for social grants or for work-related matters and creating job opportunities. Rural development is a short-term strategy while the WoP Programme is long term.

One of the long-term solutions is to ensure that people become self-sufficient. The department is specifically concentrating on rural communities.

Poverty in rural areas is rife and more vicious than in urban areas. In rural areas there is a lack of basic services such as clinics, police stations, schools and recreational facilities.

The objective of the WoP Programme is to have a positive impact on people's lives, address poverty and hunger and ensure that people take control of their destiny.

As part of the WoP Programme, the department had conducted 26 935 household and 594 community profiles by August 2011. These are necessary to ensure proper and targeted interventions in areas where there is a need for services.

Improving the quality of life for rural communities remains a priority for government. As part of the zero-hunger programme, more than one million beneficiaries are accessing food through the existing food-distribution programmes.

Land reform

In 2010/11, the department transferred 322 844, 9931 ha, equalling 288 projects, and provided access to land to 3 089 beneficiaries through its land-reform programme. The *Green Paper on Land Reform 2011* was published for public comment. The thrust of the Green Paper is based on the view that:

- separate rural development and land reform be aligned at policy programme and institutional levels to ensure coordinated service delivery
- in pursuit of agrarian transformation there is a link between the land question and agriculture

In 2011, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, working with partners from the public and private sectors, intervened in areas, which had been hit by natural disasters – lightning, flash floods and thunderstorms – by providing emergency houses using steel and sandbag technologies, as well as accessories such as gel stoves, solar lights, solar radios and lightning conductors.

These interventions go a long way in assisting affected households to recover and give government an opportunity to pilot new ways to help vulnerable households.

Another challenge is access to clean, piped water for rural communities. The department has revived existing boreholes and drilled eight new ones in Limpopo. Elsewhere in the country, the department, working with its national, provincial and local counterparts, facilitated the installation of 400 rainwater harvesting tanks, constructed a water reservoir in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal; drilled and equipped boreholes; had a water reservoir under construction in Disake, North West; and, a 37-km water pipeline, from the Orange River to Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape, was nearing completion.

as the basis for the search for an economic rationale and a vision of a post-reform agrarian structure.

The demand for land may be for other productive but non-agricultural uses as well.

The change agenda pursued in the Green Paper is to create a new trajectory for land reform. A set of proposals is put forward, which attempts to break from the past without significantly disrupting agricultural production and food security, and to avoid redistributions that do not generate livelihoods, employment and incomes.

The Green Paper focuses on seven key areas, namely:

- programme a vision for land reform
- principles underlying land reform
- current challenges and weaknesses: rationale for change
- an improved trajectory for land reform (including institutions to support land reform)
- the strategic thrust for land reform
- land-reform experiences elsewhere
- challenges and constraints.

The department is working on a number of policy initiatives over the medium term.

It is proposing a three-tiered system of land ownership in South Africa. The three tiers will be:

- state land, which will be under leasehold
- private land, which will be held under freehold with limited extent
- foreign ownership, with precarious tenure linked to productivity and partnership models with South African citizens.

The policy on precarious tenure for foreign nationals will be developed to determine the basis on which foreigners can own or use South African land around which there are sensitivities. The Land Protection Bill, which will make formal provision for this, was submitted to Cabinet in 2011.

Key role players in the land-reform sector have set a goal that all land-reform farms should be 100% productive and sustainable during the next three years.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has set aside R3,3 billion for land reform, excluding the restitution programme.

Of that amount, R2 billion has been earmarked for strategic land acquisition of about 303 612 ha and R1,3 billion for making all land-reform farms fully functional and 100% productive through the Recapitalisation and Development Programme. This is expected to cover an additional 387 farms, and revitalise 27 irrigation schemes, which have already been identified across the country.

The policy for developing the Land Management Commission to support the implementation of the three-tiered land tenure system was expected to be developed by 2012.

The policy for establishing a valuation system, including the Valuer General's Office that would manage standards and guidelines for land valuations, is expected to be developed by 2012, giving the State a proactive role in valuation to consider land acquisitions within the proposed three-tiered land tenure system as part of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy.

A land tax policy will be developed in 2013. The policy will propose the development of a land tax regime that would increase the cost of holding underused and unused land.

Recapitalisation and development

The Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RADP) is aimed at resuscitating all distressed land-reform projects implemented since 1994. In 2010/11, the department had planned to develop 504 farms under distress. It advertised 852 projects and 411 farms were selected for recapitalisation and development. Irrigation systems were installed in Boschhoek, Igalelo and at Nxamalala in Msinga in KwaZulu-Natal.

The department worked with its stakeholders towards revitalising seven defunct irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of R370 million. This project was expected to be implemented in 2011/12. It is envisaged that this programme will contribute a great deal to improving food security in the country.

By the end of September 2011, 595 farms under the RADP were at various stages of development. Good progress recorded under recapitalisation includes sugar cane in KwaZulu-Natal; red meat in the Free State, North West and Northern Cape; poultry in North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga; and citrus in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Western Cape.

A cumulative figure of 823 300 ha had been acquired and redistributed since 2009. Of these, 7 000 ha had been allocated to provide the core estate for the Cradock Bio-Ethanol Project in the Eastern Cape.

Within a short period of time, this programme has improved the productivity of land-reform projects. The success of this programme will go a long way towards providing food security.

Geospatial and cadastral services

National Geospatial Information is responsible for the national control survey network, the national mapping and aerial imagery programmes and the provision of geospatial information services.

In an effort to provide access to geospatial information (maps) to visually impaired persons, the National Geospatial Information component will produce a Braille atlas for each province over the next three years. Limpopo will be prioritised.

This component will continue its map literacy and map awareness training for adults and support to educators and school learners to promote the use of geospatial information. Priority will be given to rural communities.

Aerial imagery is a significant source of geospatial information and a record of the land at that time. It is necessary to “refresh” the aerial imagery regularly basis to record the changes taking place.

National Geospatial Information acquires aerial imagery annually. The CRDP sites have been prioritised.

The branch will also assist in creating orderly and sustainable rural settlements by ensuring alignment and harmonisation of rural development plans to existing planning frameworks, including provincial growth and development strategies and integrated development plans.

The department has considered the adverse impact that disasters have on rural areas and the lives of rural people, and included in its strategy a disaster-management component, which, together with other sector departments, will co-ordinate responses to rural disasters.

Cadastral surveys management

The Cadastral Surveys Management Branch aims to provide efficient cadastral survey-management services and cadastral information services in support of land delivery and development.

The programme is responsible for:

- regulating the Surveyor-General’s (SG) offices
- examining and approving all surveys for the registration of land and real rights
- maintaining cadastral survey records
- archiving all cadastral surveys
- compiling, maintaining and revising maps of property boundaries
- providing cadastral advisory and spatial information services.

During 2011, one of the flagship rural development programmes in the Eastern Cape was the Wild Coast Development Zone initiative. The Eastern Cape partnered with United Nations’ agencies, national government, local government and the private sector to start off sustainable growth and development on the Wild Coast. A technical team was deployed to package and fast-track the implementation of projects in areas such as agriculture, forestry, agroprocessing and tourism, as well as infrastructure projects to revitalise small towns such as Port St Johns. It is expected that the initiative will leverage significant public and private investment in the region and create jobs.

SG offices have been decentralised to seven of the nine provinces. They are responsible for the examination and approval of all land surveyed in the country as depicted on diagrams, general plans and sectional plans prior to registration at the Deeds Registration Office.

The branch is also the sole custodian of cadastral information.

Cadastral information preserved and maintained at the offices of the SG assists the department in its analysis and planning of rural development initiatives. The officers also facilitate state land surveys and identify unsurveyed and unalienated state land.

Cadastral Surveys, together with Deeds Registration, deals with the land administration system by improving access of SG offices to the majority of the population in all the provinces, as well as improving the multimedia lodgement facility that was implemented in 2008.

Through its training unit, professional land surveyors, survey technicians and pupil survey officers will continue receiving training and development.

About 88% of the National Spatial Data Set was completed in 2010/11. The examined and approved diagrams, general plans and sectional plans, which have been archived, assisted in the updating of the National Spatial Data Set.

Deeds registration

The core functions of the Chief Directorate: Deeds Registration and the 10 deeds registries are to:

- register real rights in land
- maintain a public land register
- provide registration information
- maintain an archive of registration records.

The deeds registries are in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein,

A self-empowerment project initiated five years ago is improving the lives of 600 women in Swayimane, a disadvantaged rural community in KwaZulu-Natal. Through the Zimele (meaning "I am self-reliant" in isiZulu) Self Help and Savings Programme, a non-profit organisation that seeks to improve the quality of life in KwaZulu-Natal's rural areas, the women were able to start small businesses. The women were able to save more than R170 000 over the five years of the scheme's existence. Together with loans amounting to R292 932, the savings fund bankrolled the women's enterprises such as businesses in agriculture, crafts, retail and catering. It is also the driving force behind emerging cultural guest houses in the area.

In 2011, the group sold craft products to the value of R300 000 at an international trade market.

The participating women have empowered themselves with financial, business and social skills that saw them get out of the cycle of poverty.

Zimele Self Help and Savings has also started two early education centres in the area, where they offer quality education and day care to at least 45 children.

Zimele is encouraging women to enrol at their nearest adult basic education and training programme to eradicate illiteracy and empower themselves.

Kimberley, King William's Town, Vryburg, Mthatha and Nelspruit. These offices register deeds and documents relating to real rights in more than eight million registered land parcels consisting of township erven, farms, agricultural holdings, sectional title units and sectional title exclusive-use areas in terms of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act 47 of 1937), and the Sectional Titles Act, 1986 (Act 95 of 1986).

To take deeds-registry services to the people, the department aims to establish a deeds registry in every province. This project entails establishing a deeds registry in Polokwane, Limpopo.

The Deeds Registry is open to any member of the public to access information with regard to the following:

- the registered owner of a property
- the conditions affecting such property
- interdicts and contracts in respect of the property
- the purchase price of the property
- rules of a sectional title scheme
- a copy of an antenuptial contract, deeds of servitude and mortgage bonds
- a copy of a sectional title plan
- township-establishment conditions
- information relating to a property or deed.

Deeds registration has progressively introduced e-Cadastre, which is aimed at improving cadastral surveys management and deeds registration as well as the consolidation of data stores.

By 31 March 2011, a total of 904 928 deeds and documents had been registered in the 10 deeds registries countrywide.

As far as the e-Cadastre Project is concerned, the enterprise architecture investigation, which is aimed at consolidating cadastral surveys and deeds registration data stores, has been concluded. Digital scanning of the microfilm records has commenced.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR)

The purpose of the restitution programme is to provide equitable redress to victims of racially motivated land dispossession, in line with the provisions of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act 22 of 1994).

The aim of this commission is to resolve restitution claims within the target period through negotiated settlements that restore land rights or award alternative forms of equitable redress to claimants.

The intentions of the CRLR are to:

- facilitate access to land by victims of racially motivated land dispossessions that took place under the previous government
- alleviate poverty through sustainable development on restored land and improved livelihoods

One major socio-economic infrastructure development project, which commenced in 2011, is the Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Legacy Bridge on the Mbashe River, in the Eastern Cape. It joins two districts, OR Tambo to the east and Amathole to the west, and will cut the travel time between Mvezo Village, former President Mandela's birthplace, and its closest town, Duthwa, by at least 50 minutes.

This project, which will cost about R100 million and create some 100 jobs over a two-year period, is a partnership between the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works. The overall project includes the construction of one additional low-water bridge along the road leading to the main bridge. The department is going to construct four other low-water bridges, two each in Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Two other major socio-economic projects are underway in Nkandla and Skame (Vryheid) in KwaZulu-Natal. The Nkandla Project is the brainchild of the community's Hlalazi Smart Growth Development, together with the Masibambisane Trust. The department, working with other departments, both nationally and provincially, is supporting the community with technical skills, such as design and planning.

By June 2011, the project was at a feasibility and design phase. At Skame, the department has laid out bulk infrastructure for water and sanitation for 900 housing units. This project is a joint effort between the department and Abaqulusi District Municipality.

Indigenous people in South Africa have sustained their unique world views and associated knowledge systems for millennia, even while undergoing major social upheavals. Many of the core values, beliefs and practices associated with those world views have survived and are beginning to be recognised as having an adaptive integrity that is as valid for today's generations as it was for the past generations.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, through the Chief Directorate: Technology, Research and Development, embarked on an awareness campaign on indigenous knowledge at Comprehensive Rural Development Programme sites countrywide.

The awareness campaign project primarily seeks to recognise, collect, document, restore and exhibit indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) to protect, preserve and promote their existence. The project also intends to empower rural communities on ways through which they can improve their socio-economic status using IKS, such as patenting and commercialising their IKS products and instil pride in the use of IKS. The awareness workshops consist of traditional activities such as music, dance, poetry and African cuisine.

- foster the rights of vulnerable groups in terms of ownership and participation in economic activities
- foster national reconciliation and stability.

People dispossessed of land rights after 19 June 1913, in terms of racially discriminatory laws and practices, are entitled to restitution of that right or equitable redress.

All claims are against the State, and no one may be deprived of property except in terms of law of general application.

The restitution process is implemented in line with the provisions of Section 25 of the Constitution, which emphasises equitable redress.

The commission is committed to facilitating negotiations among all interested parties to settle the claims administratively.

The CRLR is led by the Chief Land Claims Commissioner and has nine regional offices headed by regional land claims commissioners.

The CRLR settled 457 claims between April 2010 and March 2011, benefiting 13 310 households. Consequently, 124 507 260 ha were restored and the cost of land paid amounted to over R800 million. The financial compensation paid to beneficiaries was over R460 million.

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