

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT

MINI DISSERTATION

**TOPIC: SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY
ALLEVIATION PROJECTS: A CASE STUDY OF THE
APEL AREA, FETAKGOMO MUNICIPALITY OF THE
GREATER SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT IN LIMPOPO
PROVINCE**

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research is my own unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Development at the University of Limpopo (Turfloup Graduate School of Leadership). It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

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30 August 2010

Abstract

This study focuses on the poverty alleviation projects established in Fetakgomo Municipality which forms part of the Sekhukhune District in the Limpopo Province. The aim is to assess whether or not these projects are sustainable. The objectives of the study are: to find out how the projects are designed and implemented; to examine project resources used for sustainability; to establish the extent of the benefits which members derive from the projects and to recommend measures which could improve the manner in which the projects are managed.

Sustainability concept is seeking more attention throughout the world today. Sustainable development is crucial if the world hopes to use the natural resources in a manner that future generations will also have these resources to fulfil their own demands. This study focuses on the assessment of the sustainability of Poverty Alleviation Projects because they play an important role in job creation and provide food security. It is, therefore, imperative to assess the sustainability of these projects. Furthermore it is important to promote awareness and implementation of sustainable development. The consequences of unsustainable development have a social, economical and environmental negative impact. Primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires, and interviews.

The findings in the study indicate that most poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable. Sustainability and sustainable development need skilled and well trained project coordinators. Most projects are managed by unskilled or semi skilled project co-ordinators because there is no proper recruitment of these coordinators.

Furthermore there are no properly trained Financial Officers who can manage the finance and donations of the projects effectively and efficiently. Some of the projects do not have a Financial Officer (treasurer) whereby every project member is responsible for the collection of the money for the sales.

The level of education of most project members is low, some of them are illiterate. Crime is another challenge as most projects do not have security. Some of the agricultural implements and projects properties are stolen.

Water shortage is another challenge faced by most projects in Fetakgomo. Naturally the area is hot and dry. There is not even a single dam, except Flag Boshielo which is in Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

Other findings include poor road infrastructure which makes marketing difficult because of inaccessible roads. Funding for the projects is limited as well as shortage of agricultural extension officers.

In conclusion an integrated developmental strategy is needed if the government hope to promote sustainable development. Sustainability of the Poverty Alleviation Projects remains a challenge in Fetakgomo Municipality.

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DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my wife, Matheba Segopotje Mahlako for encouraging me to pursue post-graduate studies, as well as to my family for their spiritual support. It is a challenge to my daughters, Mologadi, Puseletso, Masechaba and my only son, Ngwachipa to pursue even higher academic heights.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the study

Poverty is an international social problem. According to Everatt (2003), poverty has a spatial dimension: Just less than half of the South African population lives in rural areas, as does 72 per cent of South Africa's poor. Poverty is also gendered which means the poverty rate among female-headed households (60 per cent) is double that of male-headed households.

Over the past decade, the South African government and private sector embarked on a poverty alleviation programme. The main aim of this programme was and still is to address the problem of poverty, unemployment and HIV/AIDS pandemic. These social problems are intertwined and therefore need an integrated approach.

Fetakgomo is one of the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipalities which was earmarked by the former President Thabo Mbeki as a nodal point for development. It is one of the areas that are underdeveloped and densely populated. Most of the residents are unemployed, illiterate and /or migratory black labourers. As a result, most households are child-headed. According to Stats SA (2007), 338 child-headed households were recorded in the Fetakgomo Local Municipality. Of these, 281 were males and 57 were females within the age range of 14 – 19 years old. The roads are not tarred. There is no hospital in Fetakgomo municipality except the health facilities (clinics). Most households do not have income as most household heads are unemployed.

Poverty alleviation projects (such as: Mante, NgwanaMante, Poulos Masha, Mphebatho, Phagamang, Itireleng Bakery, Tjebeng Phafogang, Modulathoko, Bophelong, Baroka Ba Phasha, Mohlaletse Disabled, Mpepu, Mapue and Mphanama Bakery) were initiated in the Fetakgomo Municipality as intervention strategies aimed at reducing unemployment, food insecurity, and poverty. These projects were intended to impact income generation capacity of the poor and improve their living standards. Everatt (2003) acknowledges that there is failure to settle on a clear definition of poverty [by government]. This is despite the priority status given to the fight against poverty by then President Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech. He stated that:

We have at last achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the constraining bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discriminations (Everatt, 2003).

1.1 Significance of the study

As a social research, the study will contribute to the improvement in the livelihoods of the society in Apel area, Fetakgomo in particular and South Africa in general. The study will provide knowledge on how best poverty alleviation projects can be managed in order to achieve sustainability. Moreover, the study will contribute knowledge that will help in formulating policy guidelines regarding poverty alleviation projects for future use. From an academic point of view, new researchers will have more literature around poverty alleviation projects to help them when they conduct research around the issue of sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

1.2 Problem Statement

The people of the Fetakgomo Municipality are faced with the problem of unemployment, food insecurity, and the spread of HIV-AIDS. Currently, there are no specific figures for HIV/AIDS prevalence available per local municipality. A study carried out by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health and Welfare in the Greater Marble Hall Municipality indicated that HIV/AIDS prevalence in the area increased from 7% in 1999 to 11.9% in 2001, this information is assumed to be reflective of HIV/AIDS prevalence for the whole district. Unemployment, which is another serious issue for the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality; currently stands at 69% which is far more than the provincial average of 49%. Of those employed, 91.5% are in the informal sector while 8.5% are engaged in the formal sector (RSA, 2001)

In Apel area, parents leave their homes to search for employment in Gauteng Province and leave their households under the headship of children or grandmothers. This action sacrifices parental control and seems to be one of the leading causes of child pregnancy and the spread of HIV-AIDS. In view of this social reality, a number of poverty alleviation projects were introduced as an intervention strategy. However, it is not known whether these poverty alleviation projects are managed in a sustainable manner in order to benefit the intended beneficiaries. It is in this regard that the present study seeks to assess sustainability of poverty alleviation projects in Fetakgomo Local Municipality, with special focus on the Apel area.

1.3 Motivation for the study

This study was motivated by the researcher's observation of the increasing number of poverty alleviation projects. The researcher developed curiosity to find out whether these projects are managed in a sustainable manner. The interest developed further upon realization of the increasing levels of poverty in spite of the increasing number of the poverty alleviation projects. These factors thus warranted a systematic research enquiry to account for the gaps with the intention to reduce poverty and achieve positive results.

1.4 Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to understand how the current projects are being managed in order to ensure that sustainable benefits accrue to all the members of the projects so as to alleviate poverty.

There are 17 poverty alleviation projects in total but our study will focus on only three, namely:

1. Aganang Nutrition Project;
2. Ikageng Ga-Masha Co-operative Project; and
3. IPopeng Agricultural Project.

The names of the remaining projects are:

- Mante
- NgwanaMante
- Poulos Masha
- Mphebatho
- Phagamang
- Itireleng Bakery
- Tjebeng Phafogang
- Modulathoko
- Bophelong
- Baroka Ba Phasha
- Mohlaletse Disabled
- Mpepu, Mapue

- Mphanama Bakery.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study at Aganang Nutrition, Ikageng Ga-Masha Co-operative and Ipopeng Agricultural Project are:

- To find out how the projects were designed and implemented.
- To examine project resources used for sustainability.
- To establish the extent of the benefits which members derive from the projects.
- To recommend measures which could help to improve the manner in which the projects are managed.

1.6 Research Questions

The following research questions will be addressed in this study:

- Are the poverty alleviation projects managed in an effective and efficient manner that will have sustainable benefits to all projects members?
- To what extent are project members involved in decision making in order to achieve sustainable development?
- What benefits will the community derive from the projects?
- What measures can be introduced to improve the way the projects are managed?

1.7 Definition of Concepts

1.7.1 Sustainability

Sustainability is defined as a programme's ability to continue to deliver services or sustain benefits after the donor's technical, managerial, and financial support has ended (USAID, 1987:02).

1.7.2. Poverty Alleviation

For this study, poverty alleviation means reduction of pains, sufferings, and difficulties caused by poverty or lack of things such as an asset that will bring income.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Bless (2000:155) defines literature review as an integrated summary of all available literature relevant to a particular research question. The purpose of literature review is to give background knowledge about the topic, to sharpen the theoretical understanding of the topic and to clarify the topic.

Poverty is a multidimensional challenge facing the whole world. In order to reduce or eradicate poverty, it needs global strategies and approaches, hence the United Nations (UN) resolved at the United Nations Millennium Declaration to endorse the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Millennium Development Goals consist of eight goals, which basically aim at ending poverty and hunger, and achieve access to education, gender equality, reduce diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and build partnerships for development (Moyo; 2010:10).

Millennium Development Goals which were endorsed by 180 member states at the United Nation General Assembly in 2000 focused on the eight MDG goals. Among the eight goals which must be achieved by 2015, poverty is goal number one, followed by education. This shows that poverty is among the top challenges facing the world.

It is argued that poverty alleviation is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Therefore, the focus of the study will be on sustainable poverty alleviation projects.

In order to achieve sustainable poverty alleviation projects, education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability should be taken into consideration. An educated nation is a responsible nation which will end world poverty.

Most of the millennium Development Goals were already highlighted at other development initiatives, such as Beijing Fourth United Nations (UN) Conference on Women, Cairo UN International Conference On Population and Development 1994, The Rio World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other conferences, UN Conference on Environmental and Development (UNCED) and the United Children's Rights (Economic Commission for Africa, 2004).

2.1.1 Poverty

According to Asadi (2008) the estimated number of people who live below \$1 a day stood at 1, 2 billion. This figure shows how serious the challenge of poverty is in the world and more specifically in sub-Saharan Africa. According to Fasoranti (2008) poverty is multidimensional and needs to be approached in such a way that it must cover economic, social, cultural, gender and age factors. This means that poverty is a relative term whereby some individuals are economically poor whereas others are culturally and socially poor.

Most people who live in poverty are women. It has been estimated that women constitute 70% of the world's 1, 2 billion poor. This shows that gender is one of the factors that contribute to poverty (Fasoranti, 2008). There are many contributory factors which are responsible for the high level of poverty among women - such as low level of education, discrimination, low paid-jobs and their health (Fasoranti, 2008).

According to DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) (2010) 1, 4 billion people in the world lived in extreme poverty in 2005. This shows a slight improvement as compared to 1, 8 billion people who lived in extreme poverty in 1990. The number of children without primary education in the world is 72 million. The gender gap in primary school between boys and girls in 2007 stood at the ratio of 95% and 91% respectively. The goal of realizing Millennium Development Goals in 2015 remains a pipe dream because of the shortfalls in terms of primary education, gender and the child mortality rate as indicated above (Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), 2010).

According to Kwame (2009) poverty remains the most international challenge. Kwame indicates that 420 million people live in abject poverty in the world, which may even increase when considering their dependents. The number may even increase to 900 million (CPRC, 2004).

Todaro (2003) points out that there are many people who live in poverty in Brazil. About 9% of 170 million people in Brazil live on less than \$1 a day. This figure shows that around 16 million people live in extreme poverty in Brazil. Furthermore, Todaro (2003) indicates that more Ghanaians also experience high poverty levels. About 38, 8% of Ghanaians live below \$1 a day in Ghana. This is translated into around 7, 4 million people who live in extreme poverty in Ghana.

According to Todaro (2003) South Africa is one of the developing countries in Africa. According to 2000 census there were around 43 million people with illiteracy rate of 15% at age 15 and life expectancy of 53, 9% in 1999.

'Poverty is manmade' said Mandela (Kalijaran, 2008). Kalijaran (2008) points out the following indicators of poverty: dependency on aid, high rate of infant mortality, low level of literacy, low life expectancy, low nutritional levels and low levels of income, low standard of physical and social infrastructures. Almost all these indicators are manmade as already highlighted by the former president of South Africa Dr Nelson Mandela, in one of his speeches.

Carr (2008) indicates that poverty differs from area to area because of its different causes. The methods and approaches of alleviating poverty differ from one area to another based or informed by the situation on the ground. Poverty is conceived as a singular problem with different causes. Carr (2008) highlights the problem of subjectivity and objectivity in defining poverty. Furthermore there is a need for a clear understanding of the particularizing or universalizing poverty based on the differences of the places.

According to Lelope (2007) poverty alleviation strategies are more effective in addressing poverty in rural areas. Communities should be directly involved in all strategies applied in an attempt to alleviate poverty. People who are directly hardest hit by unemployment reside in rural areas. Poverty alleviation projects play a major role in alleviating poverty. However, there are challenges faced by most of these poverty alleviation projects. Project members who served actively gradually become inactive and this affects the projects negatively.

2.1.2 Causes of poverty

Fourie (2007) indicates that poverty may be caused by both exogenous and endogenous factors. The exogenous factors included colonial exploitation, Anglo-Boer war and cheap imports of maize from South America. These factors contributed to the white South African poverty. On the other hand for Black South Africans poverty today involves both exogenous and endogenous factors,

According to Mtapuri (2010) most people in Zimbabwe (Mashonaland) perceive lack of farming implements, lack of livestock, scavenging for food, poor dwelling and husband and wife enclivity as indicators of poverty. Unlike most countries which use \$1 a day, I think

this perception of poverty is very relevant to most African countries, because African countries still rely on agriculture for survival.

Poverty is a multidimensional problem in the world and therefore, needs different approaches and strategies to eradicate or at least to alleviate it. There are many different factors which contribute to both extreme and absolute poverty. Poverty has both exogenous and endogenous contributory factors. Some of the causes of poverty include the following:

Government Policies

According to Fourie (2007), South African government used apartheid policies which segregated people on the basis of colour. These policies contributed to the high level of poverty in South Africa, especially among blacks.

Education

The level and quality of education in South Africa remains unequal. White people received high quality education whereas “Blacks” received low quality education. The impact of this practice resulted in high illiteracy levels among blacks which affected human capital and resulted in increased unemployed and unemployable people. This led to lower income and lower productivity which affect the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and ultimately economic development of the country.

Fasoranti (2000) identifies the following causes of poverty among the people: Traditional technology, unchanging and inexperienced farmers, laziness, ignorance, stupidity and urban – biased development as well as exploitation of rural population by the urban elites.

Catherine and Park (2007) highlighted the contribution of the World Bank in increasing the level of poverty in the world. The bank’s administration is not managed democratically. The United States is the only country which qualifies to head the World Bank. This is very undemocratic and leads to the increase in the level of poverty in the world as many countries obtain loan money, technical assistance and research with strings attached. Most countries are unable to repay the loans. This leads to the increase in interest rates that exacerbates their economic conditions as more money will be used to repay the loans instead of developing the countries.

On one hand, Kwame (2009) points out the lack of financial assistance, high costs of farming imports, low yields from the farms and low prices of the produce as causes of poverty while

on the other hand, United Nations (2010) identifies deprivation, social exclusion and lack of participation as some of the causes of poverty.

Van Zyl (2006) argues that poverty is relative and therefore has different causes which are dictated by the conditions on the ground. However, there are some common causes of poverty which include the following: infertile land and low crop yield; lack of financial support; mismanagement; theft; poor marriages; lack of jobs; high level of illiteracy; and lack of employable skills.

2.1.3 Consequences of Poverty

According to Fasoranti (2008) poverty has got devastating impact and or consequences. Most people who live in both extreme and absolute poverty suffer economically, socially, physically and emotionally. Poverty results in hunger, diseases, homelessness, informal settlements and social status. Political influence and social recognition also suffers. Poverty leaves the poor helpless, hopeless and psychologically tortured. There is no more personal recognition and their self-esteem and confidence are negatively affected.

Van Zyl (2006) identifies the following effects of poverty: hunger, high child mortality rate, short life expectancy, high crime rate, social instability, and placing a high burden on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Where there is hunger there is no peace and where there is no peace there is war and violence which lead to misery, death and catastrophe.

According to DESA (2010) 12, 5 million children lost their lives in 1990 and 8, 8 million in 2008. These figures are alarmingly high. A loss of one child because of poverty is a great loss and loss of millions of children leave people with little hope.

According to United Nations (2010) failure to achieve Millennium Development Goals would result in the following consequences:

Instability, violence, environmental degradation, epidemic diseases and run away population growth will all be on the increase hence there is a need to accelerate the speed of achieving the eight Millennium Goals if the world hopes to avoid the pending catastrophe.

2.2 Sustainability of Poverty Alleviation Projects

Sustainability is very critical for the survival of human beings as well as living organisms. Without sustainable development practices, mankind is likely to face economic, social, and environmental problems. These problems emanate from the fact that all living organisms rely on the environment for their survival. It is, therefore imperative to practice sustainability in all economic, social, and environmental projects and there is interdependence between environment and mankind (UNCED, 1993).

The use of all resources from the environment should be conducted in a sustainable manner. People should not consume more than what the environment can provide. Overproduction and overconsumption of all different types of products may overstretch the environment. There is a need to strike the balance between the environment use and sustainable development.

Sustainability is the cornerstone of social, economic and environmental development of any country in the world. It does not matter whether the country is underdeveloped, developing or developed. Any nation which hopes to maintain or develop their country, should consider social, economic and environmental sustainability seriously.

This study will focus on the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects in Limpopo and the level of poverty in Sekhukhune. The former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki in one of his speeches has encouraged the need to conduct research in this area. The aim is to find out whether poverty alleviation projects are conducted and managed in a sustainable manner. If poverty alleviation projects are not managed in a sustainable manner, they may have negative environmental, social and economic consequences. These negative consequences include air pollution, water pollution and soil erosion.

2.2.1 Factors which contribute to the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects

According to Makokotele (2005), there are many factors which contribute to the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. Makokotele points out people participation, environment, political, perspectives, rural development initiatives, research on poverty, the role of indigenous knowledge system, strategies to promote sustainable rural development and cluster development and SME (Small Medium Enterprise) networks as very critical to ensure sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

Libenberg and Swart (1997:39) in Makokotlele, (2005) concur with Konten and Klaus in terms of the contribution of people participation, capacity building, environment and management towards sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. Everatt and Zulu (2000) as cited in Mothapo (2003) indicate the importance of including the following in the poverty alleviation projects in order to achieve their sustainability:

- The physical integrity of the assets;
- Appropriate utilization of the assets by the entire target group;
- Avoiding monopolization of one asset by the elite;
- Support after construction phase; and
- Maintenance of the projects.

Mothapo (2003) indicates HIV-AIDS as a direct threat to the sustainability of the projects. There are already thousands of orphans in South Africa as a result of AIDs. This results in child-headed households which undermines what poverty alleviation hopes to achieve. In order for the projects to be sustainable, there is a need for skilled human resources. This skill disappears because some of the workforce becomes victims of and succumb to HIV-AIDS.

The sustainability of poverty alleviation projects depends, to a large extent, on stakeholder involvement (Nkoana, 2002:02). Paul (1983:57) as cited in Mothapo (2003) asserts that programme performance suffers when ignoring that the objectives of government and environment of the programme have an influence on the project strategy formulation. As a general recommendation, Mothapo (2003:69) asserts that the sustainability of projects can be improved by strategic conceptualization.

2.2.2 Bottom-up approach as opposed to top-down

Makokotlele (2005) indicates the importance of bottom-up approach (which refers to decisions that are taken by the ordinary members) as opposed to top-down approach (which refers to decisions that are taken by the leadership) in ensuring the sustainability of the projects.

2.2.3 Decentralization

The locally driven decentralized approach to development is essential for sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. This approach will ensure that it responds to articulated priorities and viable opportunities. Integrated sustainable rural development strategy (ISRD) is a good example practised in South Africa.

2.2.4 Capacity building and empowerment

World Bank (2002) refers to empowerment as expansion of freedom of choice and action to shape one's life. This means poor people who are empowered and capacitated have the power to choose and act according to how their capabilities dictate and they are free to do so. "Nothing for us without us", this is the motto of disabled people of Limpopo province.

2.2.5 Environment

Cook (1993) argues that there are modifications of environment to fit the needs of a particular production system which in actual fact is less likely to be sustainable. In actual fact these factors may cause a threat to sustainability.

2.2.6 Management

Makokotlele (2005) refers to management as a process of getting work done through other people by the use of human resource, materials and time to achieve objectives. Makokotlele (2005) indicates the importance of effective and efficient management in realizing sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. According to Makhudupetje (2007), the careful use of scarce resources and in all probability the move against the direction of high consumption lifestyle will ensure sustainability. United Nations (2010) hope to achieve all 8 Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and top on the agenda is the eradication of poverty by 2015. The Millennium Development Goal no 7 is environmental sustainability. Millennium Development Goal no 1 (MDG) may only be realized if the other goals are achieved.

2.3 Reasons regarding lack of sustainability of projects

According to Cusworth et al (1993) in Makokotlele (2005), lack of sustainability of the projects can be identified at two levels. The first level is the failure to implement the project on time, within the budget time frame and according to the plan. Failure to respond to the time frame may result in the increase of the costs resulting from inflation changes.

The second level involves failure caused by maybe the capacity of the supplier not meeting the demand, whereby poor supply results in less productivity and or poor quality products or produce. These result in completing the project but not meeting the quality standard and the quantity as envisaged.

According to Linkages Development Agency and CSIR (2003) lack of sustainability among other reasons include: lack of effective integrated planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, poor financial management skills, weak management information systems and lack of project feasibility. Furthermore, Linkages Development Agency and CSIR (2003) point out the challenge of no link between the projects and the strategic programs such as ISRDP, IDP and LGDS which lead to un-sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

According to Makokotlele (2005), political will is very important as it contributes to the sustainability of the poverty alleviation projects. Political will creates a conducive environment which is necessary for happiness and progress. Where there is peace there is high productivity and sustainable development.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (2002) indicated the importance of sustainable development. WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002 encouraged the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner. The same message was spread in the Rio de Janeiro summit, Beijing, Cairo and other conferences. These conferences speak one language, which is the importance of sustainable development and the conservation of the environment.

2.3.1 Economic consequences

Daly (1985) argues that sustainability should be guided by the operational principles. These principles include, among other things, to limit the human scale to a level which is within the carrying capacity of land. Daly emphasizes efficiency and sufficiency for sustainable development. Daly (1985) furthermore highlights the importance of technology which promotes efficiency rather than throughput.

Daly (1985) points out the importance of renewable resources. However, Daly indicates how these renewable resources should be exploited. Daly recommends prompt-maximization but in a sustained-yield basis and which must avoid their extinction. He further points out how renewable resources should be exploited and indicates the importance of exploiting non-renewable resources at the rate equal to the creation of renewable substitutes. This will help to balance the equation.

2.3.2 Millennium Development Goals (MGD's) and sustainability

Millennium Development Goals which are to be achieved by 2015 will remain a pipe dream if sustainability is not taken into account. The following development goals will be discussed based on sustainability:

Goal No 1: Eradication of poverty and hunger

- To achieve development goal no 1 there is a need to increase agricultural productivity in most poor countries. There is, however, a high need for imports such as fertilizers, equipment and technical skills in order to boost productivity. There is, therefore, a high need for financial assistance if the United Nations hopes to achieve this. In fact, sustainability should play a major role in addressing the problem of hunger and poverty (UN, 2010).

According to UN (2010) MDG's no 7, which focuses on the sustainability of the environment, there is an international need to agree both in principles and actions. Most countries, especially the developed ones, are the major polluters of the environment (Nwankwo, 2007). World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) indicates the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation in most developing countries.

According to Asadi (2008) poor people use the environment as a source of income, for example, by cutting trees to make fire wood and sell them in order to have income. Others hunt wild animals and sell them. Pearce et al (1990) point out the relationship between economic growth and environmental quality. The relationship implies that economic growth sacrifices the quality of the environment, therefore, there is a need for sustainable growth.

Most environmentalists are pessimistic about the future. They claim that humankind is likely to face impending ecological catastrophes, because of the unsustainable consumption and production decisions of human kind. United Nations (2008) indicates how Sub-Saharan Africa suffers because of the greenhouse emission, which is mostly caused by developed countries' high industrialization.

Conclusion

The sustainability of poverty alleviation projects is of utmost importance in South Africa. This is mainly because South Africa is predominantly rural. This means that many people rely on agriculture or subsistence farming for survival. The level of poverty is very high, about 21.9 million live below national poverty line and income distribution is highly skewed and has deteriorated (SAHDR 2003).

If the poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable, more people will lose their jobs and income. This in turn will mean that the number of people living in poverty will increase. Again it means the Millennium Development Goal number one will not be realized (eradicating poverty and hunger by 2015) and the other remaining seven goals will remain a pipe dream.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

McMillan et al (1997:616) defines research design as the plan that describes the conditions and procedures for collecting information. A qualitative type of research will be conducted in pursuit of the objectives of this study. Bless et al (2000) defines a qualitative research as a research conducted using a range of methods which use qualifying words and descriptions to record and investigate aspects of social reality.

The rationale for this choice is that qualitative approach is appropriate for this study because it allows for in-depth understanding and probing through interviews. This is based on the relevance of the qualitative approach, the feasibility, and time. The in-depth understanding of the problem is also important. Content analysis will be used as a method for data analysis.

3.2 Area Of Study

A case study will be conducted in Apel area under Fetakgomo Local Municipality, which forms part of the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality. Fetakgomo is in the Northern part of the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality. In the Southern part, there is Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and on the eastern part is Tubatse Local Municipality. On the Western part Lepelle River is the boundary between Fetakgomo and Capricorn District Municipality. The two nearest towns, Polokwane and Groblerstal, are more than 100km from the Fetakgomo Local Municipality. It is in the remotest area of the Limpopo Province. Most of the roads in this Municipality are gravel roads.

The area is underdeveloped, with very few households that are electrified. Lack of running water, unemployment and high level of illiteracy are common. The level of crime is increasing. It was earmarked by the then President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki as a nodal point for development.

Fetakgomo Municipality initiated 17 poverty alleviation projects in this Municipality in order to reduce the level of poverty and unemployment. The focus of this study will be on Aganang Nutrition Project, Ikageng Ga-Masha Co-operative Project and Ipopeng Agricultural Project.

3.3 Population

The population, according to Bless (2000:155), refers to the complete set of events, people or things to which the research findings are to be applied. In this study, population includes all registered poverty alleviation projects in Fetakgomo Municipality. The total number of the projects is 17, however the focus of the study will be on Aganang nutrition, Ikageng Ga-Masha Co-operative, and Ipopeng Agricultural. The three projects are made up of 44 members with each project including the following stakeholders:

- 5 members from the project members,
- 4 members from the community,
- 3 from leadership/coordinators,
- 1 extension officer,
- 1 from municipality.

3.4 Sampling Method

Sampling, according to Bless (2000:156), refers to the technique by which a sample is drawn from the population. There are different types of sampling methods. As a qualitative research, non-probability sampling technique will be more appropriate to this study. A purposive sampling method will be used. The sample will comprise 3 projects. An in-depth interview will be conducted with all stakeholders in each project. In total, 40 in-depth interviews will be undertaken.

3.5 Data Collection Methods

While the behaviour of projects members were observed and evaluated during the meetings and interviews, the following techniques were also used:

3.5.1 In-Depth Interview

Individual interviews were conducted with coordinators of projects. Face to face interviews helped to collect first hand data from the project coordinators.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion

FGDs were conducted with the project members in order to understand their views as group and their views on how the projects were being managed.

3.5.3 Observation

Unstructured observations were conducted where the researcher observed the project members executing their work.

3.5.4. Questionnaire Guide

A questionnaire guide was administered to the projects members. The questionnaire guide had both close-ended and open-ended questions.

3.5.5 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher secured appointments with the management of the projects. The projects managers were interviewed, using face-to-face interviews.

Thereafter, permission to conduct a group interview with members of the projects was requested and obtained. Secondary data was collected from annual reports and related government sources.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data analysis involved data being scanned, cleaned, and reorganized into categories. Themes and descriptive narratives were used. In the analysis Microsoft Excel was used to draw the tables, graphs and charts.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

It is imperative for the researcher to observe ethical considerations when collecting data. The following ethical considerations were considered when collecting data for this study:

The rights of the participants

As a researcher, persuasive skill was used in order to persuade the participants to co-operate. The researcher acknowledged that the participants had the right not to participate at any time during the course of the study.

Right to privacy and voluntary participation

Participants have the right to privacy; therefore, the interviewer respected this right. Participation was voluntary. Where the participants felt uncomfortable to divulge certain information, their decision was honoured. Researchers and interviewers obtained consent from the participants.

Anonymity

As a researcher, there is a need to assure participants about anonymity before a questionnaire is administered. This made the participants feel free when filling in the questionnaire. The participants were advised not to write their names on the questionnaire sheets.

Confidentiality

When the researcher conducted an interview he/she assured the participants that the information will remain confidential. This assured the interviewees that the data will only be used for the purpose of research. The researcher avoided biased responses from the participants by assuring them that the information will be treated confidentially.

Honesty

The participants were informed about the importance of honesty. As a researcher, participants were assured of honesty in all that the researcher was doing and in return expected the participants to be honest too.

Limitations of the study

Since the study was conducted using qualitative research approach and non-probability sample, the research will not generalize the results. The interpretation of the results will be limited to the poverty alleviation projects at Apel area in Fetakgomo Local Municipality. As such, no generalisations can be made for the whole Sekhukhune District Municipality or the province as a whole.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis of data collected from the project members was done. Information was collected using the following methods: in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Questionnaires.

4.0 Challenges faced by project members

In order to identify the challenges, in-depth interviews were conducted by the researcher. The researcher interviewed the project coordinator of **project number 1 (Ipopeng)**. In the interview the project coordinator reported that they do not have a treasurer or a financial officer. The project coordinator informed the researcher that all project members sell their produce on their own and take the money for use for themselves. This suggests that there is no management in these projects mainly because it appears as if the leadership does not exist or it is ineffective and inefficient. Furthermore, the project coordinators also mentioned that members lack commitment as they come to the project anytime and sometimes they do not come at all.

Another challenge raised by the project coordinator is lack of security which makes the property exposed to criminals. According to the respondents, the project lost its water pump in 1998 and 2002. It was also reported that in 2009 the water pump was dysfunctional and there was no money for repairs. The project is unable to sustain itself as a result.

In Project 2, Ikagenng Ga-Masha, the interview with the project coordinator was also conducted. (The name of the coordinator will remain anonymous for the purpose of confidentiality). In the interview the project coordinators indicated that the project performs well. For instance, the project managed to supply the community with fresh vegetables. Some of the produce is delivered to the market in the province and nationally. However, the project coordinator indicated the problem of theft as a major challenge.

The project coordinator also mentioned the problem of floods during the rainy season. The floods cause damage to the pipes which results in poor supply of water. As a result the productivity level becomes negatively affected.

Project 3: Aganang: According to the project coordinator of Aganang the project performs very well. The project managed to obtain position one in the district and won a prize.

In the interview, the project manager informed the researcher that the project members are highly skilled but they are not prepared to leave the project. The project manager indicated that they are planning to extend their project. But the coordinator indicated the challenge of theft of the project property. This suggests that security is a serious problem in the area.

It appears that all the projects have the problem of theft. A project needs security if it hopes to sustain itself. Without security the sustainability of the project will remain a pipe dream. Focus Group Discussions play a very important role in gathering data because every member has the opportunity to give his or her views regarding the sustainable of the projects.

One member in the Focus Group Discussion mentioned the problem of irrigation system. The member suggested the sprinkler irrigation system as very effective as compared to the furrow and the pipes they use in the projects. An individual in the Focus Group Discussions complained about the theft of the Agricultural implements. She indicates that Security can help to address this problem. One member indicated the need to have financial assistance from the government. She indicated the need to have a dam that will supply them with water.

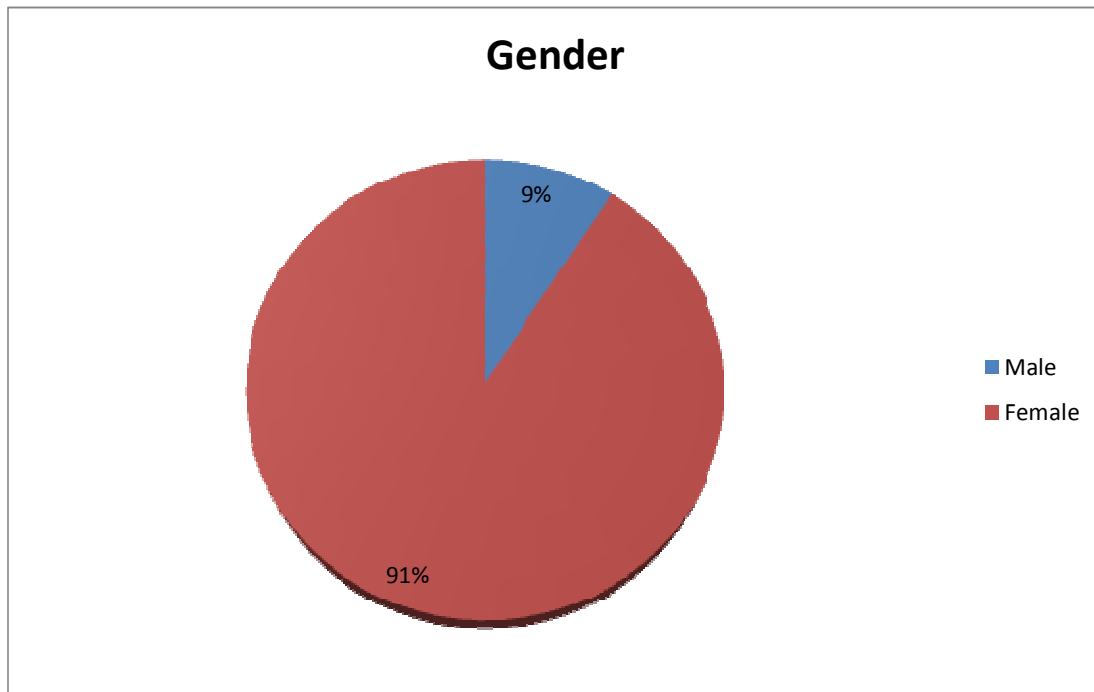
4.1 Gender of respondents

According to data in Table 1 and graphically depicted in figure 1 below, there are many females in the projects. This figure reflects over 91% of females in the projects. There is no balance or equality in terms of gender. Perhaps this figure confirms the fact that most unemployed people in the area are women. This may, therefore, suggest that there is inequality in terms of gender. This may affect productivity and sustainability of the projects.

Table 1: Gender

Gender	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Number	%
Male	2	2	0	4	9
Female	13	13	14	40	91
Total	15	15	14	44	100

Figure 1: Gender



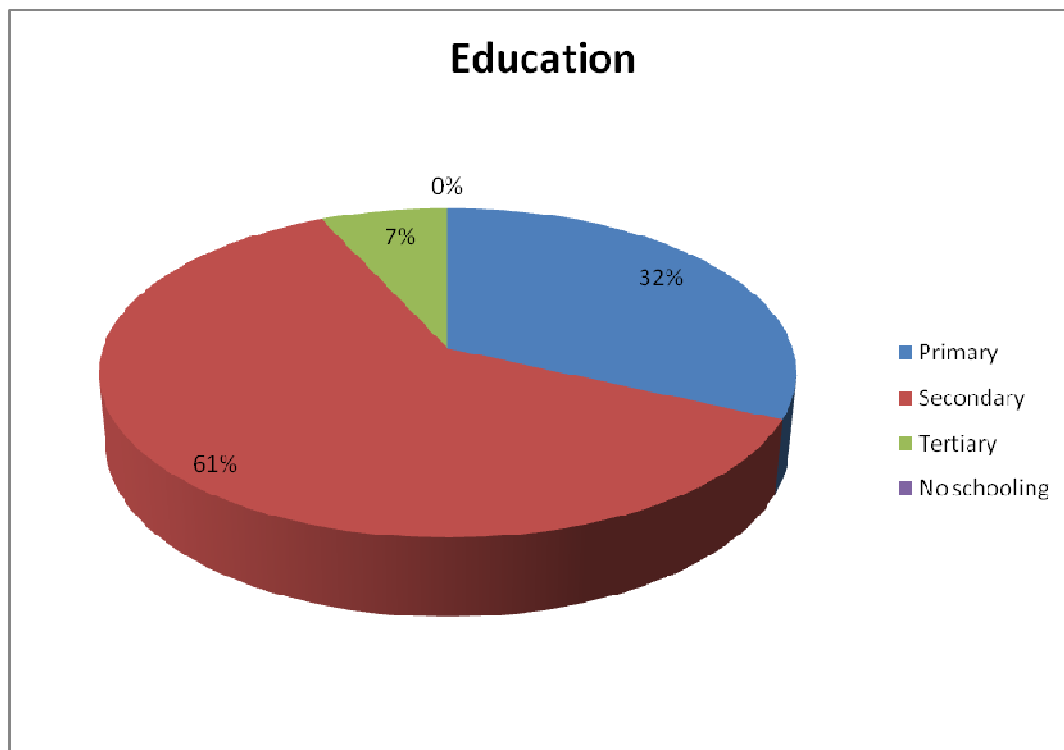
4.2 Educational level of respondents

Education is the key for any organization which hopes to sustain itself. Without education Poverty Alleviation Projects will not be sustainable. As reflected in Table 2 and illustrated Figure 2, most project members have primary and secondary education. This is a big challenge because the level of decision making among project members may not be equal to the challenges.

Table 2: Education level of respondents

Level	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Number	%
Primary	11	3	0	14	32
Secondary	4	12	11	27	61
Tertiary	0	0	3	3	7
No Schooling	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	15	14	44	100

Figure 2: Education



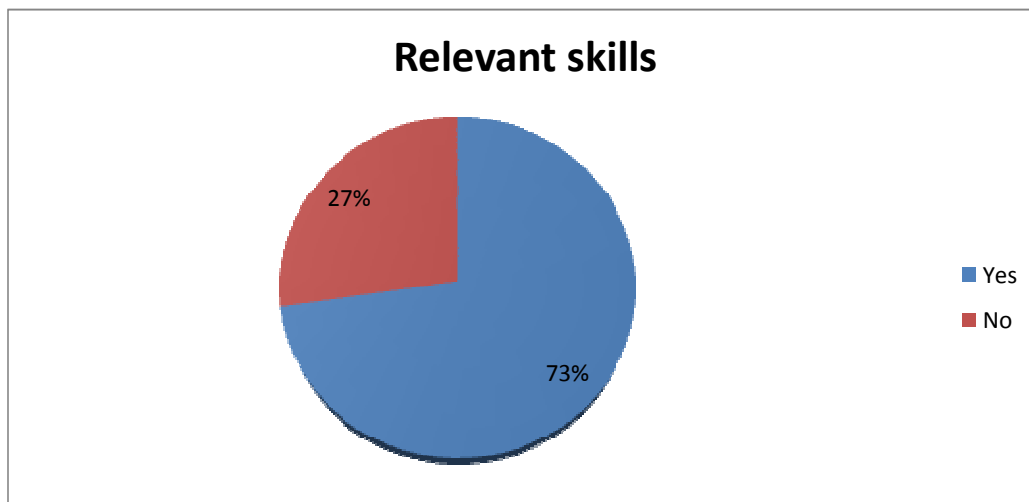
4.3 Relevant Skills for the project

The respondents responded with yes or no to the questions. Those who responded “Yes” indicated that they have relevant skills for the projects. Those who responded “No” means they do not have the relevant skills. According to Table 3, 73% responded “Yes” and 27% responded “No”. This suggests that most members (73%) have relevant skills and therefore will perform better in the project.

Table3: Relevant skills for the project

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	7	15	10	32	73
No	8	0	4	12	27
Total	15	15	14	44	100

Figure 3: Relevant skills



4.4 Existence of an Operational Plan

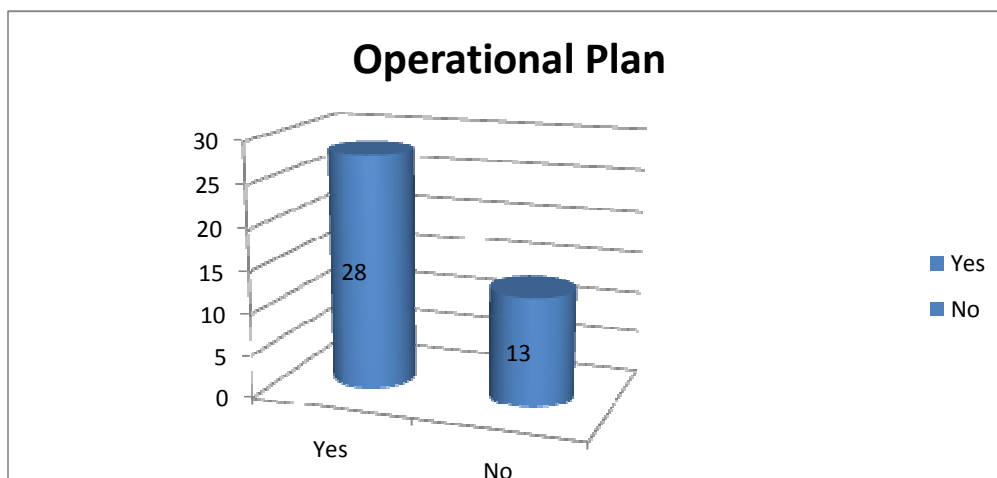
An operational plan is very important for the success of any project. If the operational plan is followed the chance of success is higher. Table 4 indicates 68% “Yes” and 32% “No”. This means 68% of the projects have operational plans as compared to 32%. This also suggests that government should do something to correct this. A project will not flourish without an operational plan.

The role of the extension officers should be utilized in this situation if the government hopes to have sustainable Poverty Alleviation Projects (see Table 4)

Table 4: Operational Plan

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	14	14	28	68
No	13	0	0	13	32
Total	13	14	14	41	100

Figure 4: Operational Plan



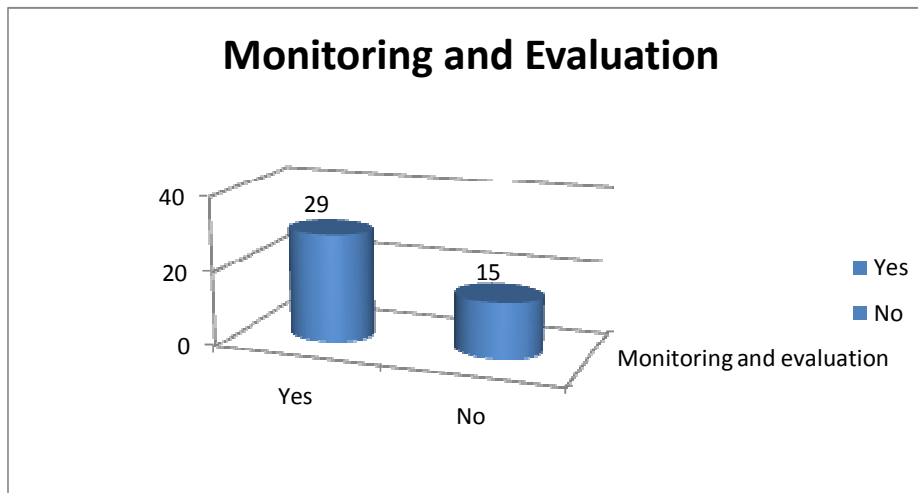
4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

According to Table 5, monitoring and evaluation registered 66% “Yes” and 34% “No”. This table suggests monitoring and evaluation is not satisfactory. There is still 34% which is not evaluated and monitored and thus, there is still room for improvement. In order for the projects to be sustainable, there is a need for effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation to take place (see Table 5 below).

Table 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	14	29	66
No	15	0	0	15	34
Total	15	15	14	44	100

Figure 5: Monitoring and Evaluation



4.6 Financial Skills

Financial skills play a very important role in the success of any project. There is no project that can sustain itself without finance. If the government or any non-governmental organization can finance a project without ensuring that the project has an efficient financial officer that will be tantamount to throwing money away. Table 6 reflects 62% have financial skills. This means 38% of the members have no financial skills. How can these utilize the scarce resources effectively if they do not have the knowledge of finance? This suggests that the likelihood of using the resources in a sustainable manner is very low.

Table 6: Financial Skills

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	8	23	62
No	14	0	0	14	38
Total	14	15	8	37	100

4.7 Market

The market for produce is available and is reflected by the 97% ‘Yes’ response. This is shown in Table 7 below. The problem is whether or not there are competent people in the projects who can attract customers to buy the produce or not.

Table 7: Market

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	14	7	36	97
No	0	0	1	1	3
Total	15	14	8	37	100

4.8 Challenge in accessing the market

According to Table 8, there are considerable challenges in accessing the market. Forty-seven per cent of the respondents indicated that they have a problem in accessing the market as compared to 53% who responded with a “No” to the market challenges.

It is therefore not a healthy environment if the projects hope to sustain themselves against a backdrop of challenges in accessing the market. Again, this suggests that despite the high percentage of the potential market and the existence of a high percentage of relevant skills the projects have, there is still an element of limited market access. Consequently, the skills are probably not utilized efficiently under these circumstances.

Table 8: Challenge in accessing the market

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	0	3	18	47
No	0	15	4	19	53
Total	15	15	7	37	100

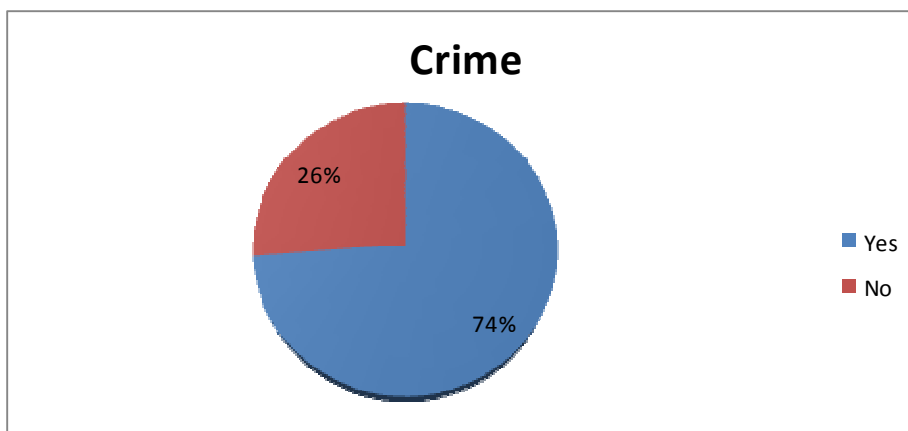
4.9 Crime

According to a majority (74%) of the respondents, crime is prevalent in the area. No project can prosper and sustain itself under such high level of crime. The agricultural implements and other properties necessary for the operation of the projects are at high risk. If, for example, the water pump is stolen, it means the project will collapse. This raises the question whether there is adequate security in the project. (See Table 9).

Table 9: Crime

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	13	0	28	74
No	0	2	8	10	26
Total	15	15	8	38	100

Figure 9: Crime



4.10 Major crime experienced

According to Table 10, 64% of the respondents attest to the commission of major crime in the projects. If one considers the level of crime in Table 9 which is 74% and compares it with 64% of major crime shown in Table 10, it gives the impression that most crimes in the area are mostly of a ‘major/serious’ nature. (See Table 10)

Table 10: Major crime experienced

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	13	0	28	64
No	0	2	14	16	36
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.11 Availability of Security

Table 11 reflects that 56% of the respondents believe security is available in the area. It is in contrast with the level of crime in Tables 9 and 10. This may suggest that the available security is either incompetent or reluctant to execute their duties. In a normal situation where security availability is over 50%, they will reduce the level of crime unless they are colluding with the criminals. (See Table 11).

The success of Poverty Alleviation Projects needs effective and efficient security. If the projects hope to sustain their projects they need well organized security. (See table 11)

Table 11: Availability of Security

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	7	22	56
No	15	0	2	17	44
Total	15	15	9	39	100

4.12 Agricultural Implements used

According to Table 12, the projects have 100% agricultural implements including tractors, hoes. These implements are exposed to criminals because security seems to be ineffective. With 100% of the respondents claiming ownership of agricultural implements it means that they have a better chance of producing high quality produce and generally have the capability to increase the level of productivity.

Table12: Agricultural Implements used

Category	Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Agricultural implements used	Yes	15	15	9	39	100
	No	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	15	15	9	39	100

4.13 Fertilizer Usage

Table 13 indicates that the projects use 100% fertilizers. This suggests that it will improve the productivity level. The use of fertilizer normally increases the level of productivity. (See Table 13).

Table 13: Fertilizer Usage

Category	Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Fertilizer usage	Yes	14	15	14	43	100
	No	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	14	15	14	43	100

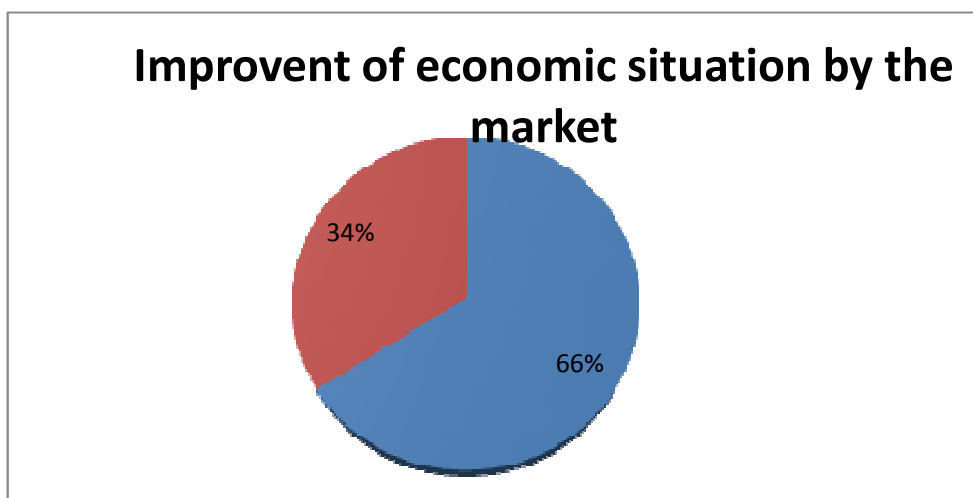
4.14 Improvement of Economic situation by the market

As indicated in Table 7 wherein respondents 97% overwhelmingly claimed that the market exists, the expectation is that the economic situation will improve. But according to Table 14 only 66% believe the market impacted on their economic situation in terms of reducing poverty. This is not convincing especially where 100% of the respondents claimed both agricultural implements and fertilizers were being used as reflected in Table 12 and 13 respectively.

Table 14: Improvement of Economic situation by the market

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	14	29	66
No	15	0	0	15	34
Total	15	15	14	44	100

Figure 9: Improvement of economic situation by the market



4.15 Financial Assistance provided

According to data in Table 15, 93% of the project members were of the opinion that the projects received financial assistance. The huge financial assistance provided raises questions whether the projects can sustain themselves without financial assistance. Ideally financial assistance should not exceed 50% if the projects hope to sustain themselves and if dependency is to be reduced. (See table 15)

Table 15: Financial Assistance provided

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	13	13	41	93
No	0	2	1	3	7
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.16 Donations provided

Donations are acceptable but projects should not rely on donations. The projects should strive to be independent and promote sustainable development. According to data in Table 16, 40% of the respondents believe the projects received donations. This, to some extent, suggests that the focus is more on applying for donations instead of increasing their productivity. It also indicates that projects may not sustain themselves without these donations. (See table 16).

Table 16: Donations provided

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	12	5	17	40
No	15	1	9	25	60
Total	15	13	14	42	100

4.17 Employment of other people in the project

According to data in Table 17, 62% of people are employed in the projects temporarily. This percentage indicates that more people are employed in the projects albeit temporarily. This is very important to the extent that it alleviates poverty. But the question is whether these people are seasonal employees or they should be permanently employed. The challenge of sustainability of the projects remains a question given their limited employment tenure. (See Table 17).

Table: 17: Employment of other people in the project

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	14	13	27	62
No	15	0	0	15	38
Total	15	14	13	42	100

4.18 Job creation capacity

According to the data in Table 18 below, 84% of the respondents believe that the projects are creating job opportunities. This shows that the potential to create jobs exists. There is, however, 14% which is neutral and only 2% which indicated that there is no job creation. The only problem is whether these jobs are permanent or temporary (see Table 18). Considering the fact that these projects rely on financial assistance, they are to be temporary and therefore not sustainable in the long run.

Table: 18: Job creation

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	13	15	9	37	84
No	1	0	0	1	2
Neutral	1	0	5	6	14
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.19 Potential to alleviate poverty

Table 19 reflects that 68% of the projects alleviate poverty because members receive payment or reward which helps to alleviate poverty. The question is whether the alleviation of poverty is sustainable or it depends on other factors such as donations, financial assistance as already indicated in table 15, and 16 respectively.

Table 19: Alleviation of poverty

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	3	15	12	30	68
No	12	0	2	14	32
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.20 Crop rotation

According to Table 20, there is an indication that the projects use crop rotation. Table 20 reflects that 98% said “Yes” to crop rotation. Crop rotation is very important for environmental sustainability. If the projects use crop rotation it may suggest that the productivity level will increase. Table 20 below serves as a clear confirmation that when projects use crop rotation, their productivity level increases.

Table 20: Crop rotation

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	15	15	12	42	98
No	0	0	1	1	2
Total	15	15	13	43	100

4.21 Social sustainability

According to Table 21, 66% of the respondents believe that the projects are impacting positively on social sustainability as measured by the benefits that accrue to the community in terms of jobs, food security and so forth. The data in the table indicate that the projects still need to work harder to improve social sustainability because 34% “No’s” to social sustainability suggest that there is still room for improvement. The projects are accessible to the communities and they produce fresh vegetables which improve the health of the people. The projects also equip people with agricultural skills which are very important. (See Table 21)

Table 21: Social sustainability

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	14	29	64
No	15	0	0	15	36
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.22 Economic sustainability of the projects

According to Table 22, the projects reflect 66% in terms of economic sustainability mirroring the case concerning social sustainability discussed above. This suggests that project members are economically empowered in terms of job creation. These economic benefits form part of economic sustainability. But much still needs to be done if they hope to sustain the project. (See Table 22)

Table 22: Economic sustainability of the projects

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	14	29	66
No	15	0	0	15	34
Total	15	15	14	44	100

4.23 Environmental sustainability of projects

According to Table 23, the project reflects 66% “Yes” to environmental sustainability. However 34% of the respondents indicated “No” to environmental sustainability. If the projects hope to sustain themselves it is of vital importance for them to promote sustainable development.

The use of fertilizers or, crop rotation in table 13, and 20 suggests that the projects have knowledge about the environmental sustainability. But there is a need to work hard in order to address the remaining 34%. (See Table 23)

Table 23: Environmental sustainability of projects

Response	Project1	Project2	Project3	Number	%
Yes	0	15	14	29	66
No	15	0	0	15	34
Total	15	15	14	44	100

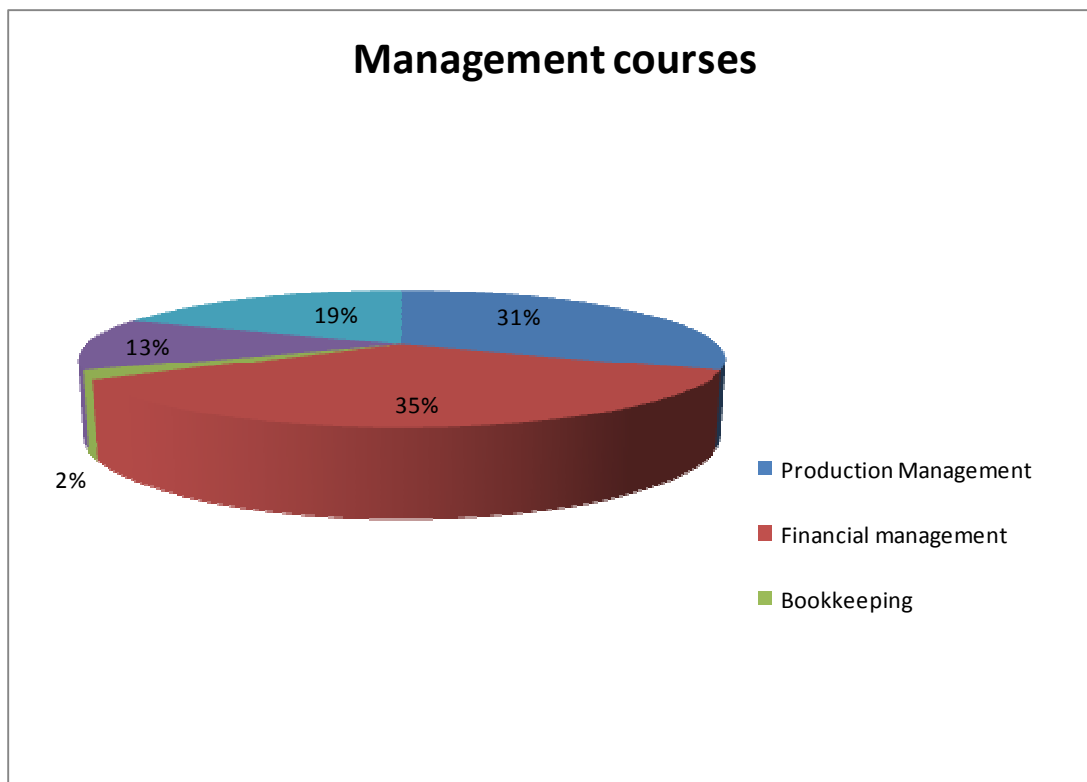
4.24 Management course

Management courses play a very important role in any organization. Poverty Alleviation Projects need members, especially the project coordinators who have good management skills. According to Figure 24 there is an indication that human resource and production management 6 (13%) and 15 (31%) respectively are not satisfactory for such operations given their importance. These figures suggest that there is not sufficient training in management courses.

Table 24: Management Courses

Management Courses	Number	%
Production Management	15	31
Financial Management	17	35
Bookkeeping	1	2
Human Resource Management	6	13
Other	9	19
Total	48	100

Figure 24: Management Courses



4.25 Productivity level

According to data in Table 25 and depicted in Figure 25, there is an indication of average productivity level. If the project productivity level is average, chances of self-reliance and sustainability are very low. This is mainly because the profitability of the projects will be negatively affected. If one considers table 12, and 13 one would expect the productivity level will be very high. This suggests that either the resources are not utilized efficiently or there is lack of effective and efficient management.

Table 25: Productivity level

Productivity Level	Number	%
High	19	44
Average	24	56
Low	0	0
Total	43	100

Figure 25: Productivity level



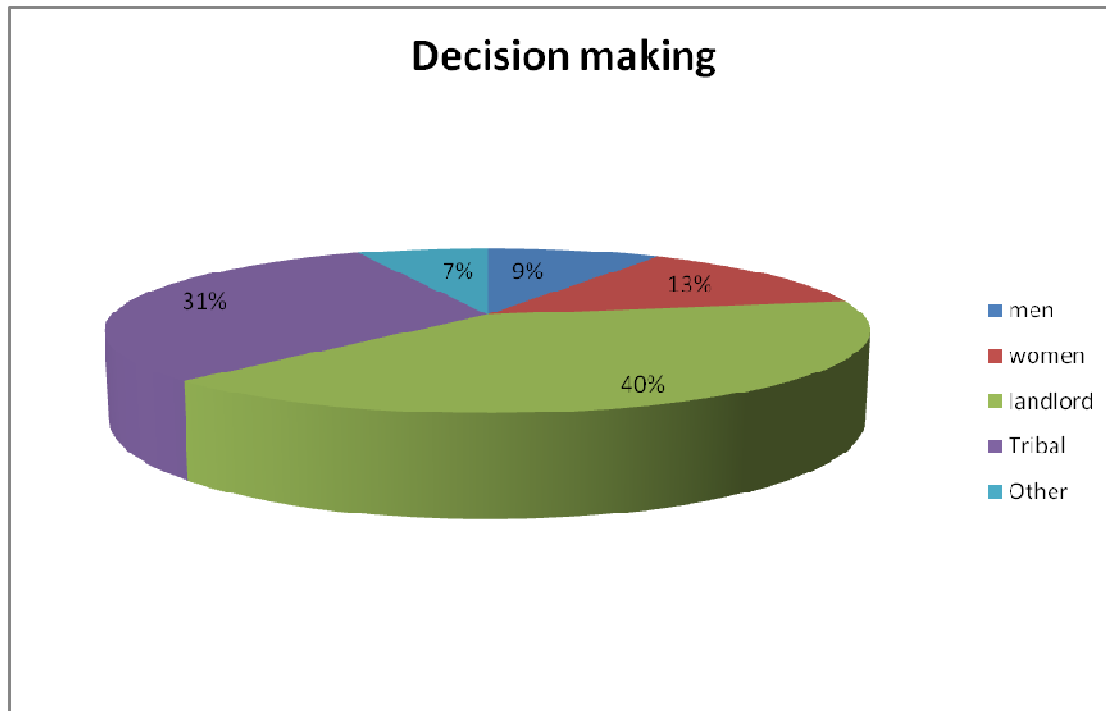
4.26 Decision making

According to data in Table 26 and illustrated graphically in Figure 26, most decisions are taken by the landlord (40%) and Tribal Authority (31%). The question is whether or not the landlord and the Tribal Authority take well informed decisions. Is there proper consultation among all stakeholders? This may suggest that decisions are taken by the landlord and Tribal Authority because of their authority and not because of their capabilities. The chances of taking wrong decisions are very high and they may impact negatively on the sustainability of the projects.

Table 26: Decision Making

Decision Making	Number	%
Men	4	9
Women	6	13
Landlord	18	40
Tribal	14	31
Other	3	7
Total	45	100

Figure 26: Decision Making



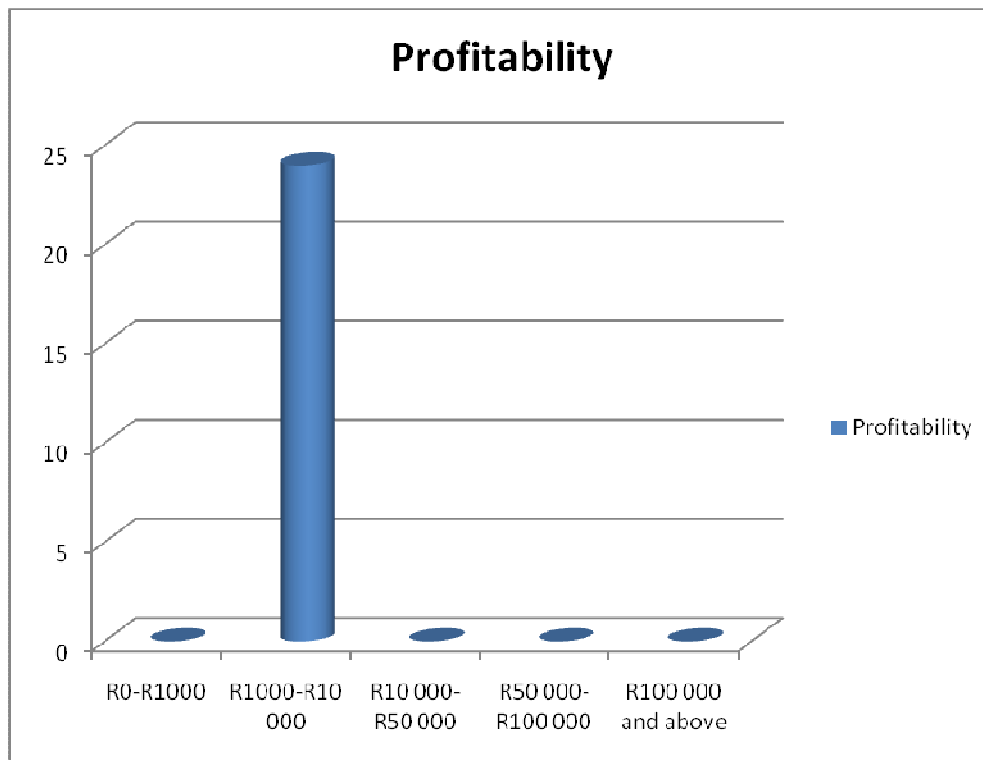
4.27 Profitability

The profitability of Poverty Alleviation Projects is within the range R1, 000-R10, 000 according to 24 respondents who answered this question. Considering the fact that all relevant resources were utilised as indicated on tables 12 (Agricultural implements used), 13 (Fertilizer usage), 14 (Improvement of economic situation by the market), and 16 (Donations provided) one would expect the highest profitability. This suggests that the resources were not utilised effectively and efficiently. This is again, confirmed by the members' payments.

Table 27: Profitability

Profitability	Number	%
R0-R1000	0	0
R1000-R10 000	24	100
R10 000-R50 000	0	0
R50 000-R100 000	0	0
R100 000 and above	0	0
Total	24	100

Figure 27: Profitability



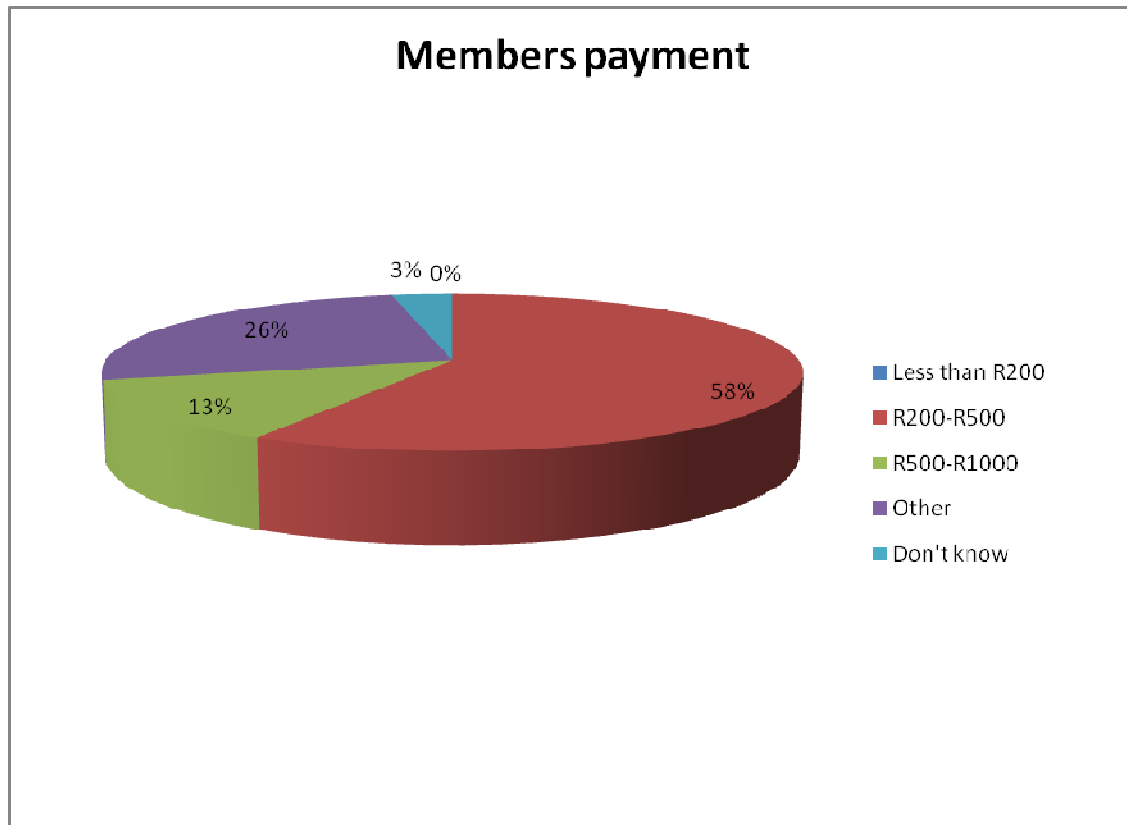
4.28 Members' payment

According to Table 28 and Figure 28, most members earn between R200-R500 per month. The wages or stipend are very low and cannot substantially alleviate poverty. This suggests that projects cannot sustain themselves given the fact that they received more financial assistances and donations as indicated in table 15 and 16 respectively.

Table 28: Members' payment

Members' payment	Number	%
Less than R200	0	0
R200-R500	18	58
R500-R1000	4	3
Other	8	26
Don't Know	1	3
Total	31	100

Figure 28: Members' Payment



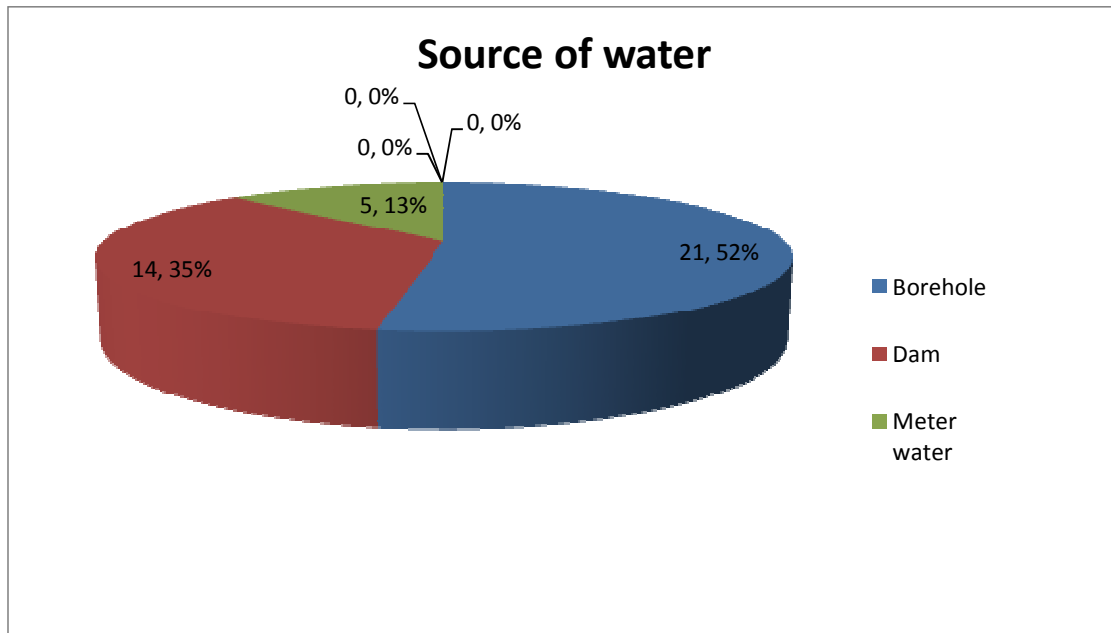
4.29 Source of water

The source of water in the projects is mostly from the borehole (52%) as compared to the dam (35%) and meter water (13%) respectively. These figures suggest that the projects rely on the water from the water table which is only good for hose pipe irrigation and as a result it may affect the productivity level as more labour is needed. This, therefore, suggests that advanced irrigation systems will not be used. It may even affect the sustainability of the project. (See figure 29)

Table 29: Source of water

Source of Water	Number	%
Borehole	21	52
Dam	14	35
Meter water	5	13
Rain	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	40	100

Figure 29: Source of Water



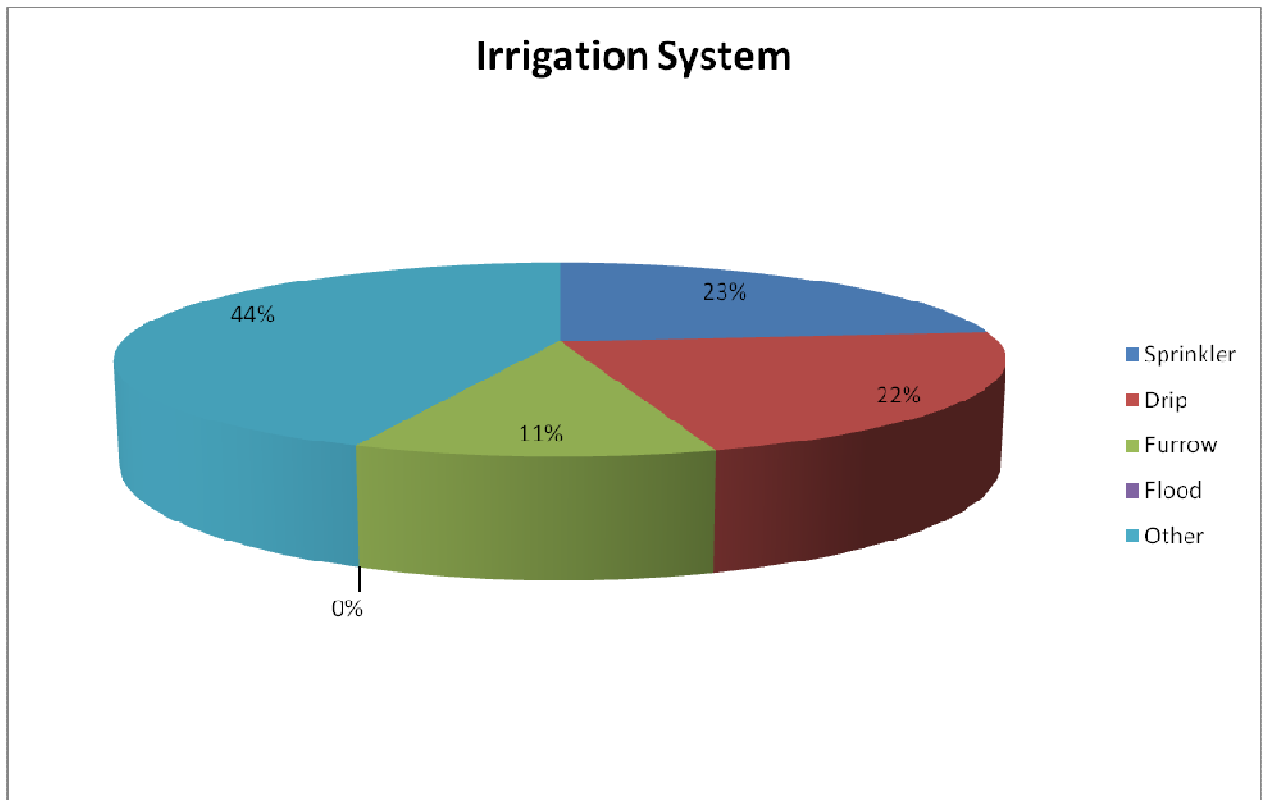
4.30 Irrigation system

The variants irrigation systems indicated in Table 30 and illustrated in Figure 30 indicate that most effective irrigation systems such as sprinkler and drip are not utilized. As a result, water is not used in a sustainable manner and it may even affect the productivity level as well as increasing the costs in terms of labour.

Table 30: Irrigation System

Irrigation System	Number	%
Sprinkler	15	23
Drip	14	22
Furrow	7	11
Flood	0	0
Other	28	44
Total	64	100

Figure 30: Irrigation system



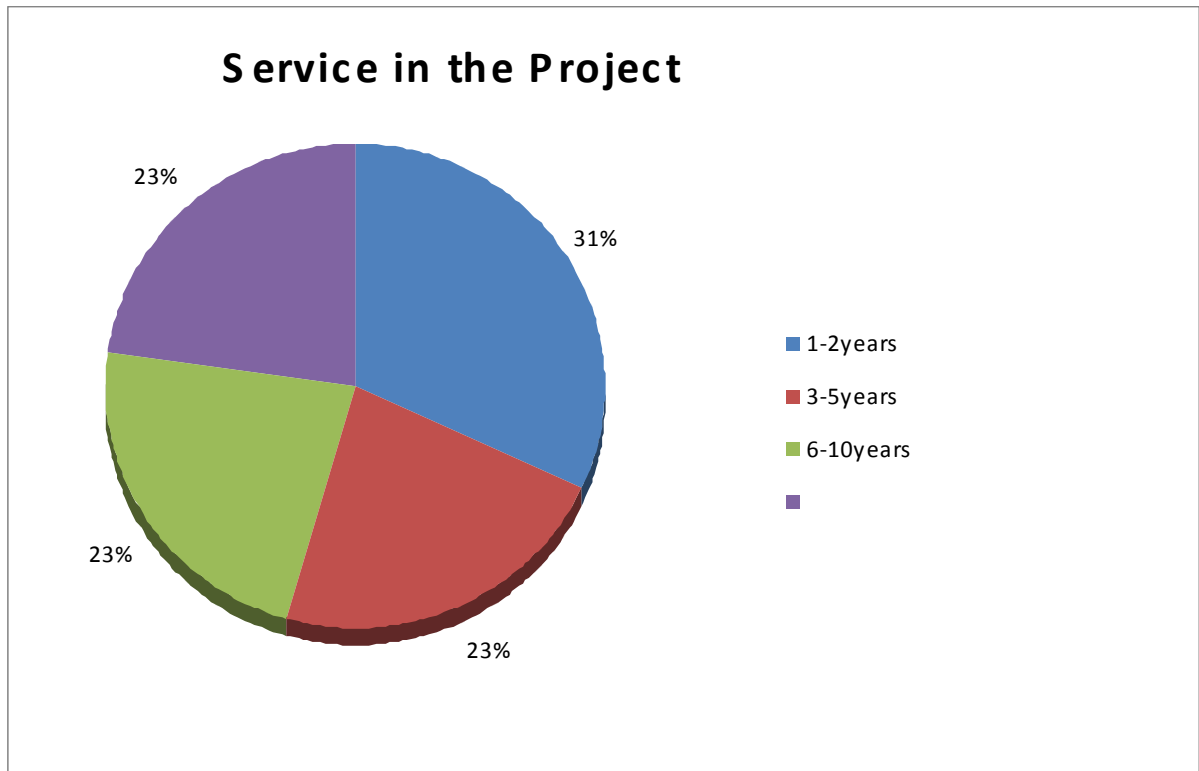
4.31 Service experience in the project

Service is very important in the projects because you gain more experience. According to data Table 31 and reflected graphically in the form of a pie chart (See Figure 31), about ¼ or 25% of the project members have 10 years and above service experience in the project. It shows that 75% have below 10 years service. This may suggest that most members work in the project because they do not have an alternative. Without experienced members in the projects the chances of sustaining the projects are lower.

Table 31: Service Experience in the Project

Service in the Project	Number	%
1-2 Years	14	32
3-5 Years	10	23
6-10 Years	10	23
10 and above	10	22
Total	44	100

Figure 31: Service Experience in the Project



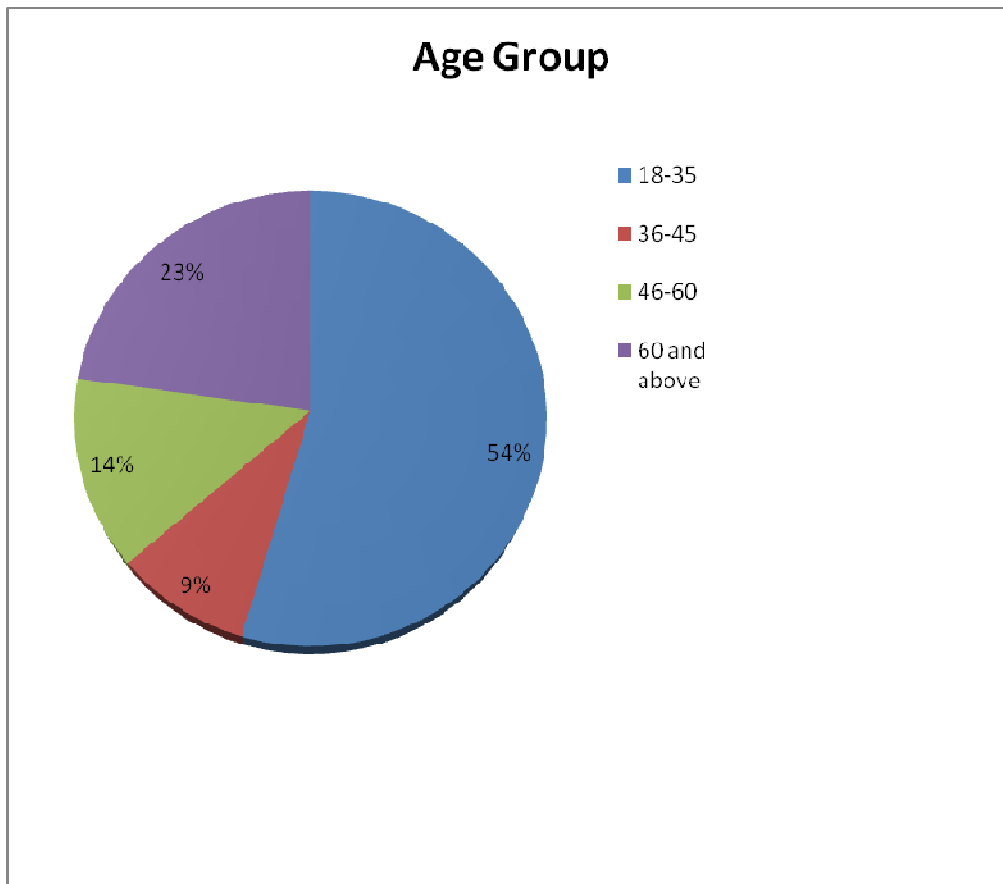
4.32 Age Group

Age and experience go together hence they are analysed in this section. According to Table 32 and Figure 32, most members are between 18 and 35 years old. Most of these members are still young and energetic but do not have experience. Members with good experience are over 60 years old. This figure indicates that the projects will collapse because there will be more inexperienced members who may even leave the projects and join other industries.

Table 32: Age Group

Age Group	Number	%
18-35 Years	24	54
36-45 Years	4	9
46-60 Years	6	14
60 and above	10	23
Total	44	100

Figure 32: Age Group



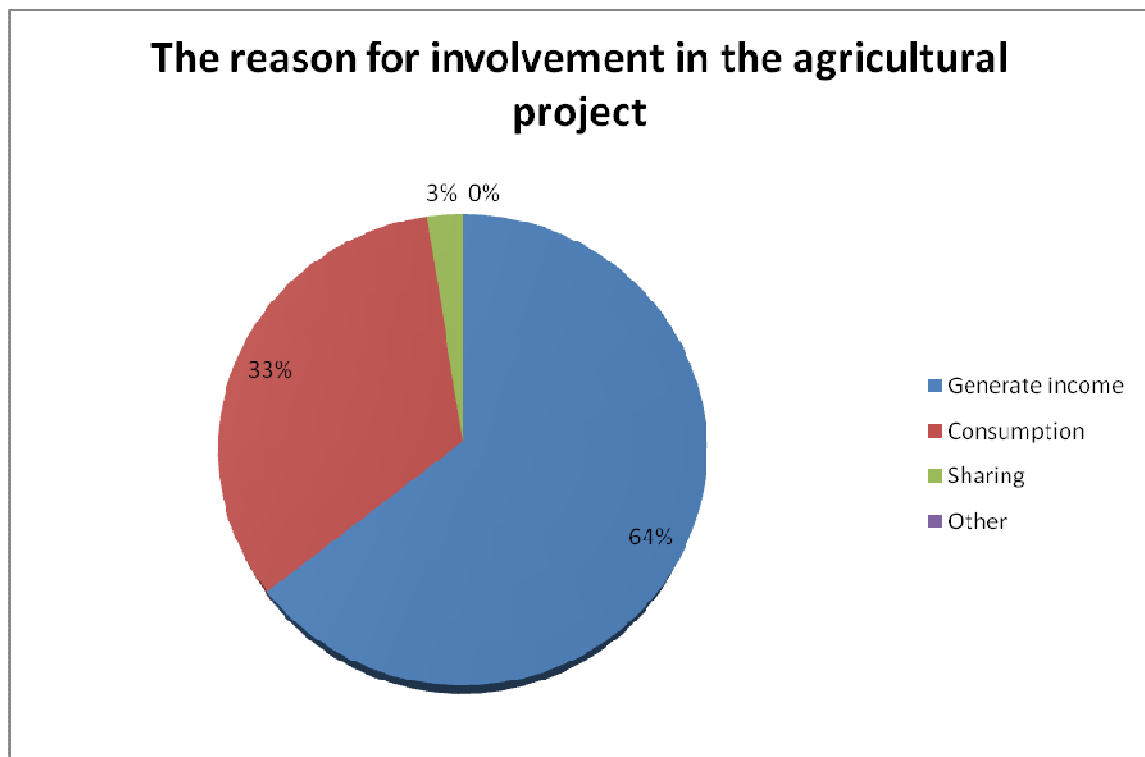
4.33 The Reason for involvement in the agricultural project

The motive of members' involvement in the project is mainly to generate income. This is confirmed by data in Table 33 and Figure 33. Members are not in the projects to sustain them or for future generations. Members only aim to generate income for themselves. Poverty Alleviation Projects will therefore not be in a better position to sustain themselves.

Table 33: The reason for involvement in the agricultural project

Reason for involvement	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Number	%
Generate Income	14	13	0	27	64
Consumption	0	0	14	14	33
Sharing	0	1	0	1	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	14	14	42	100

Figure 33: The reason for involvement in the agricultural project



CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the data collected through questionnaires, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with project coordinators, much still has to be done by all stakeholders, that is, leadership, project members and government, represented by municipalities and agricultural extension officers.

Poverty Alleviation Projects play a critical role in alleviating poverty by creating job opportunities. Poverty alleviation projects contribute to the enhancement of the standard of living in terms of providing vegetables, income and other agricultural products. Most communities in Fetakgomo have access to fresh vegetables. Some of the produce is delivered to both provincial and national markets.

However, the projects create part time jobs which in real terms do not address the problem of unemployment which causes poverty. Again, some of these projects have a tendency of collapsing. This is confirmed by project number 1(Ipopeng) in the tables. As most projects are established in land that is under Landlord or Tribal authority, they are not involved in decision-making. This suggests that most poverty alleviation projects are not sustainable.

The projects rely mostly on financial assistance and donations. The level of crime is high as indicated in Table 7 (also see crime table in the appendix). These suggest that they cannot sustain themselves. In terms of social sustainability, the projects are in the right direction but a lot of work still needs to be done. Economical and environmental sustainability remain a dream. The government needs to review their poverty alleviation policies such as funding and skills development as well as promote sustainable development.

The success of any organization relies mostly on the skills, education level and commitment of the members of the organization. The success of poverty alleviation projects depend therefore, on the skills, education level and the quality of the project coordinators and leadership at large. The level of the relevant skills, education and qualities of project coordinators are not satisfactory. There is a need to improve these categories if the projects hope to sustain themselves.

Financial skills and financial management are very crucial for the sustainability of the poverty alleviation projects. There is lack of financial management in the projects as

indicated by one project which operated without a financial officer or treasurer. The chances of sustainability in such projects are almost zero.

The level of crime in Fetakgomo is very high. This is also confirmed by the crime statistics in the appendix. Crime contributes negatively to the development of any project in municipality and/or country. The collapse of most projects can be caused by crime.

There is lack of security in most projects. The projects need security if they hope to sustain themselves. Lack of security is one of the contributory factors to the collapse of poverty alleviation projects.

Most people, especially women, are unemployed. This is confirmed by the number of women employed in the projects (see figure 1 on Gender). Poverty alleviation projects need to attract males if they hope to sustain themselves.

Monitoring and evaluation is very important for the performance of the projects. This is very important as monitors and evaluators assess the performance of the projects and where necessary come with intervention strategies. It is, therefore, very important to ensure that monitoring and evaluation is carried out in the projects.

Sustainable development is the answer to most developmental challenges. The projects are encouraged to practise sustainable development. Future generations will have a bright future if sustainable development is practised.

Recommendations

According to Brundtland commission sustainability is “our common future”. Brundtland commission defined sustainability as “development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (WCED, 1987). This definition means, in this context, that poverty alleviation projects in this regard should be developed in a sustainable manner.

This study, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

- **Comprehensive planning**

Before establishing any poverty alleviation project, there must be a comprehensive plan. This plan should be drawn by all the stakeholders of the project. The project should address the problem of the community. The feasibility study should be carried out.

- **Training of project coordinators**

The project co-ordinators should be trained on how to manage and co-ordinate all the activities in the project. The project coordinators should have relevant skills. They must have Financial, Production and Human Resource Management skills. This will assist them in executing their duties. Leadership skills workshops should be arranged for the project coordinators.

- **Financial Management Training**

Financial management is very critical in any organization. Without the knowledge of finance, the projects will not sustain themselves. Projects which rely heavily on financial assistance and donations will not sustain themselves. It is, therefore, important to take financial management course as a prerequisite for employment of any project coordinator. The fact that projects are collapsing is an indication that there is lack of financial management in the projects.

- **Motivate project coordinators to practise sustainable development in the projects**

Government should motivate coordinators to practise sustainable development in these poverty alleviation projects. This will benefit all the project members, the community, government and even future generations. Sustainable development has got social, economic and environmental benefits.

- **Introduction of incentives in the projects**

The study recommends the introduction of incentives in the projects which practise sustainability. Incentives are very good for motivation. The incentives may be in the form of money, agricultural implements or even tax rebates

- **Construction of Dams**

The construction of dams will address the problem of water scarcity in Fetakgomo municipality and South Africa at large. The construction of dams will also address the problem of unemployment. If more dams are constructed there will be sufficient water for irrigation. This will also enable the use of sophisticated irrigation systems which will, in turn, improve productivity, income of the project members and boost the economy of Fetakgomo Municipality. This will alleviate poverty and promote sustainability of the projects.

- **Government should combat crime**

The success of poverty alleviation projects and their sustainability depend on the crime-free environment. If the government can promote sustainable development, the level of crime will automatically drop because all people will be working. If people are employed and are paid satisfactorily, they may not think of committing crime. Therefore, the government should finance poverty alleviation projects and promote sustainable development (see the crime statistics in the appendix).

Furthermore, if the government can combat crime, theft of agricultural implements and of farm produce will be eliminated. In return, the projects will increase productivity, which will improve the income of all project members.

- **Promote regular monitoring and evaluation of the projects**

If the projects are under constant monitoring and evaluation, performance and productivity will improve regularly. This is because monitoring and evaluation monitor and assess the level of performance. In cases of poor performance, adjustments are done with a view to correcting the situation.

- **Hire Security companies in the projects**

According to the statistics, the level of crime is very high. The project coordinators should employ additional security personnel. Theft of agricultural implements used in the projects will be minimised.

- **Establishment of Common market**

As some of the projects experience market problems, the establishment of a common market at a strategic place will address the market problem. A common market will also minimize the costs of individual projects in terms of transport, marketing and advertisement.

- **Organize sustainability awareness campaigns**

Organizing sustainability awareness campaigns will spread the message about the importance of sustainability. In order to conscientise communities and project members about the dangers of air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution, indicate the impact of pollution on the environment and the disadvantages of deforestation and greenhouse gases.

- **The government should fund poverty alleviation projects**

The government should finance poverty alleviation projects because they create job opportunities which reduce the unemployment rate and combat both crime and abject poverty.

- **Encourage project coordinators to use crop rotation**

Crop rotation is very critical for environmental sustainability. If all projects can use crop rotation, our natural resources will remain rich and productive. Crop rotation is vital for the sustainability of projects.

In conclusion the government needs to consult with all stakeholders and deliberate on the above-mentioned recommendations and come up with the best possible methods to implement them.

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APPENDICES

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was administered to 44 members in the three projects. The data collected were categorized in the form of tables, charts and graphs as follows:

Sustainability of poverty alleviation project: case study of Fetakgomo municipality in Sekhukhune district, Limpopo province.

Instructions

.Please try to answer questions as honestly as you can

.Please tick X in the appropriate box where possible.

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATION

A1. Respondent Name and Surname	<input type="text"/>
A2. Contact Details	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
A3. Interview Date	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
A3. Questionnaire Number	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

SECTION B: personal Details [DEMOGRAPHY]

1. Gender:	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Age Group	18-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	36-45	<input type="checkbox"/>
	46-60	<input type="checkbox"/>	60 and above	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Highest level of education achieved?				
	Primary Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tertiary	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Schooling	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION C

1. How long have you been part of this project?

1-2yrs

3-5yrs

6-10yrs

10 and more

2.1 Have you been trained for any skill related to this project, since you joined this project?

Yes

Go to Q.3

No

2.2 Answer if “No” in 2.1

Do you have any skill related to this project acquired before you join this project?

Yes

No

3.1 Does your project have an operational plan?

Yes

No

Do not know

3.2 Answer if “Yes” in 3.1

Do you participate in the development of the operational plan?

Yes

No

4. Does your project have a monitoring and evaluation plan?

Yes

No

5.1 Does the municipality/any government department monitor and evaluate your project?

Yes

No

Go to Q.6

5.2 Answer if “Yes” in 5.1

How frequent does the municipality/Government department monitor and evaluate progress of your project?

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Yearly

Others

6. Do you know anyone with financial skills in the project?

Yes

No

Go to Q.7

6.1

Is that person responsible for finances in the project?

Yes

No

Go to Q.7

6.2 Answer if “Yes” in 6.1

How do you rate his/her financial management style?

Excellent

Good

Better

Poor

7. The finances are managed well in the project

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Neutral

Strongly Disagree

8. Do you have market(s)/customers for your projects products?

Yes

No

9. Do you encounter any challenges in accessing the markets(s)/customers?

Yes

No

Yes,
explain.....
.....
.....
.....

10.1 Have you ever experienced any sort of criminal act in your project?

Yes

No

Go to Q.11

10.2 Answer if "Yes" in 10.1

What kind of (major) crime did you experience?

Theft of working instrument

Theft of products/Stock

Robbery

Any corruption act by project member

11. In your opinion, what can be done to keep your project operating:

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

12.1 Do you have security officers in the project?

No

Go to 12.2

12.2 Answer if “yes” in 12

Which grade is the security?

Grade 1

Grade 3

Grade 5

and above

Grade 2

Grade 4

SECTION D -PROJECT RELATED QUESTIONS

1. Which agricultural implements are you using?

1. Tractor

2. Cattle span

3. Hoe

4. Other (specify)

2. Do you use fertilizers?

1. Yes

2. No

3. Which fertilizers do you use mostly?

a. 2:3:2

b. 3:2:1

c. IAN

d. Kraal manure

e. Other (specify)

f. None

4. How is the level of productivity

1. High

2. Average

3. Low
5. What type of irrigation system do you use?
1. Sprinkler
 2. Drip
 3. Furrow
 4. Flood
 5. Other (Specify)
6. Which Agricultural control measures do you practice?
- Pesticides
- Fungi
- Weedcide
- Hang Hoeing
- Other (specify)
7. Which management courses have you attended?
1. Production management
 2. Financial management
 3. Bookkeeping
 4. Human Resource management/none
 5. Other (specify)
8. How do you dispatch your produce to the market?
1. Transport
 2. On land selling
 3. Village selling
 4. Cart

5. Other (specify)

8.2 If your answer is TRANSPORT in question 8.1

How much fuel do you use weekly?

A R100-R500-00

b. R500-1000-00

9. Any technology used by project members?

Indicate

10. Why are you involved in Agricultural project?

1. Generate income

2. Consumption

3. Sharing

4. Other (specify)

11. How do you sell your produce?

1. Market

2. Locally

3. Company

4. Not selling

5. Other (specify)

12. How far is the distance where you obtain fertilizers?

1. 5-10 km

2. 10-20 km

3. 20-30 km

4. 30-40 km

5. Other (specify)

13. Who has access to formal markets?

1. Subsistence farmers

2. Commercial farmers

3. All

4. Other (specify)

14. Did markets improve your economic situation?

Yes

No

Other (specify)

15. Are there any further points you would like to make with regard to accessibility?

Yes

No

16. Financial assistance

Do you get financial assistance? Yes No

If answer "Yes"

1. Land Bank

2. Dept of Agric

3. ARDC

4. Own Savings

5. Other (specify)

17. How do you obtain agricultural imports?

1. Donated/Given

2. Buy

18. How is the price of Agricultural imports?

1. Affordable

2. Expensive

19. Who qualifies for credit?

1. Men

2. Women

3. All

4. Others (specify)

20. Do you employ other people to help in the project?

Yes

No

21. What type of land allocation system has been applied in the land you are using?

1. Lease

2. Tribal

3. Own land

4. Other (specify)

22. Are you satisfied with the land allocation system used?

Yes

No

23. Who qualifies to be granted permission to occupy the land you are using?

1. Men

- 2. Women
- 3. Sons
- 4. Daughters
- 5. Others (specify)

Why?

24. Who is the main decision-maker on the land you are using?

- 1. Men
- 2. Women
- 3. Landlord
- 4. Tribal
- 5. Other (specify)

Indicate

Why?

25. Who are mostly employed to assist in the project?

- 1. Men
- 2. Women
- 3. Others (specify)

Why?

26. Source of Income
- Pension
 - Grant
 - Wage
 - Salary

27. Number of people in the house

28. Income Bracket R500 - R1000
 R1000- R2000
 R2000 - R5000
 R5000 - and above

Information on job creation

29. Do you think this project is creating job opportunities for the people in the area?

- Yes
No
Not sure

30. How much are the project members paid from the project?

- Less than R200
R200 - R500
R500 - R1000
Other
Don't know

Information on Poverty Alleviation

31. Do you think this project is alleviating poverty?

- Yes
No

32. As a member of the community, do you think project members are satisfied with their income?

Yes

No

Do not know

33. Indicate any change that you see in the lines of community members that shows that the project is alleviating poverty.

Information on sustainability of the projects

Water

34. What is the main source of water?

Borehole

Dam

Meter water

Rain

Other (specify)

35. Is crop rotation practised in the projects?

Yes

No

Answer if “Yes” in 35

Which crops do you rotate?

Vegetables and maize

Potatoes and maize

Sweet potatoes and corn

Other (specify)

36. Do you make profit?

Yes

No

Answer if “Yes” in 36

How much profit do you make?

R0-R1000

R1000-R10 000

R10 000-R50 000

R50 000-R100 000

100 000 and above

37. Do you have a treasurer?

Yes

No

38. Is the project environmentally sustainable?

Yes

No

39. Is the project socially sustainable?

Yes

No

40. Is the project economically sustainable?

Yes

No

Thank you for your co-operation