

**ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF THE FETŠA TLALA FOOD INITIATIVE
PROGRAMME ON SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' HOUSEHOLDS AT A SELECTED
VILLAGE IN POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA**

by

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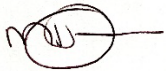
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2024

DECLARATION

I, Moore Kgothatso Desiree Hutamo, declare that the mini-dissertation titled "*Assessing the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households at a selected village in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa*" submitted to the University of Limpopo for the degree of Master of Development in Planning and Management is my own work. I have not plagiarised or copied. All content and sources used in this dissertation have been appropriately referenced. I take full responsibility for the content, analysis, and conclusions presented in the dissertation. I affirm that the work is original and has not been submitted for any other academic qualification at any University.



MS. MKD HUTAMO

10 JUNE 2024

DATE

DEDICATION

A special dedication to my parents Mr & Mrs Ngoako and Masedikwe Hutamo and my grandfather Prof RM Mabitsela for their unwavering love, support, and encouragement throughout my academic journey. Their belief in me and constant guidance have been the driving force behind my success. Last but not least my daughter Zoe Hutamo for being my reason and anchor.

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ABSTRACT

The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme was established by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2013. It is an integrated government framework which aims to increase food security by addressing the causes of food insecurity in rural communities. The objectives of this research were to explore factors that influenced the programme's outputs and its overall effectiveness. This study purposefully selected 23 households of small-scale farmer participants and applied a qualitative, semi-structured interview data collection method followed by a thematic content analysis. The research findings indicate that the programme did facilitate increased access to resources which improved some of the beneficiaries' livelihood opportunities and household food security. However, there were a myriad of challenges that influenced the effectiveness of the programme. Despite these challenges, the beneficiaries were able to build localised resilience to some of the obstacles they encountered. The study recommends increased, regular and consistent support from the programme organisers.

Keywords: Agricultural projects; Household food security; Inequality; Livelihoods; Localised resilience; Poverty eradication; Sustainable Development Goal 2.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NDP	National Development Plan Vision 2030
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
SLF	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
UN	United Nations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GHS	General Household Survey
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
FSP	Farmers Support Programme
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
MAFISA	Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa
SHDRC	School Higher Degree Research Committee
FHDRC	Faculty of Management and Law Higher Degrees Research Committee
TREC	Turfloop Research Ethics Committee

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CHAPTER ONE: ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In the majority of developing countries, including South Africa, rural development is considered to be a driver of economic growth. Rural development contributes to growth in multiple ways including generating foreign exchange, creating jobs and supplying labour, food and raw materials to other associated economic sectors (Takhumova, 2020:6). However, many rural communities remain marginalised despite their contributions to their nation's growth. "Typically, in sub-Saharan Africa, the marginalisation described above is characterised by a lack of access to socio-economic services, poverty, food insecurity, unemployment and inequality" (Dowd-Urbe, 2023:2). In order to provide context for the study, a summary of the agricultural sector in South Africa and the study area is presented below.

1.1.1 The South African Agricultural Sector

The South African agricultural sector continues to be a source of rural economic growth and contributes to food security (Qange & Mdoda, 2020:92). However, the unequal distribution of agricultural growth increases the vulnerability of some marginalised rural households (Geza, Ngidi, Slotow & Mabhaudhi, 2022:2). As a consequence, agricultural development projects are typically designed to facilitate improved marketing, agribusiness, seed capital and research at the local grassroots level. In South Africa, agricultural development projects are also designed to commercialise existing, or new, agricultural products, or processes as a mechanism to contribute to increasing growth of the national agricultural sector which, in turn, is designed to boost the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country (Law Insider 2022:1, Azadi, Ghazali, Ghorbani, Tan & Witlox, 2023:2717; Singbo & Lokossou, 2024:14). According to Woodhill, Hasnain and Griffith (2020:9), "small-scale farmers who rely on farming for their primary source of income have limited financial means and their households are typically on, or below, the poverty line." Small-scale farming is a form of agriculture that contributes to food security and poverty reduction in rural communities (Qange & Mdoda, 2020:92; Woodhill *et al.*, 2020:10). Historically, in

South Africa, support for small-scale farmers was facilitated by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) which was established in 1983. One of the primary objectives of the support provided by the DBSA is to address the constraints that were faced, or experienced, by small-scale farmers at both the commercial and household levels (Qange & Mdoda, 2020:92).

Since South Africa gained its independence in 1994, the nation has been undergoing a process of decolonisation from the previous apartheid decades which were characterised by the suppression of, and discrimination against, the black population including farmers in multiple ways (Oyedemi, 2021:2). “The democratic dispensation introduced transformation policies that were aimed at addressing the imbalances of the socio-economic issues that were historically faced by black South Africans” (Zantsi, Greyling & Vink, 2019:82). Furthermore, the incumbent South African government has long been concerned about food security and has taken numerous steps to address the issue. Examples include, *inter alia* – The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (2004); The War on Poverty Programme (2008) and the South African National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2013). However, these actions have largely taken the form of policy directives or government initiatives rather than acts or laws (Liu & Tan, 2021:202).

Currently, the South African National Development Plan 2030 (NDP) underscores the national focus on increasing food security and boosting employment opportunities in rural areas (Davis & Terblanche, 2016:231). Specifically, one of the goals outlined in the NDP is to improve the capacity of agricultural extension advisors through training is to ensure that small-scale farmers are supported and that there are effective responses to their needs. According to the National Planning Commission (2013), there should also be equal opportunities for rural communities in South Africa to actively participate in the economic, political, and social aspects of the nation.

In addition, Mokgomo (2019:3) summarises that “the national efforts to facilitate agricultural support programmes in South Africa has focused agricultural development towards poverty reduction, improved household food security and to boost agricultural output at national, provincial, and household scales.” Thus, the government's equitable support of the agricultural sector is considered to be

essential because small-scale agriculture sector is considered to be a driver of food security, for equitable employment and job creation in rural areas – as well as contributing to the nation's economic prosperity at multiple scales (Mokgomo, 2019:13).

The focus of this study is the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme which is a nationwide agriculture project that was established by DAFF. This project was formed to facilitate support for numerous small-scale agricultural projects as a contribution to the national effort to reduce poverty and increase food security in rural areas.

1.1.2 The Agricultural Sector in Limpopo Province

The Limpopo Province of South Africa has a significant agricultural sector (Zantsi *et al.*, 2023:3). The region is known for its fertile soil, favourable climate, and abundant water resources, which make it suitable for a variety of agricultural activities. The agricultural sector in Polokwane Local Municipality is diverse, encompassing both crop farming and livestock production. Agriculture plays a significant role in the Polokwane Local Municipality economy by providing employment opportunities and contributing to food security. This socio-economic opportunity is recognised to be a source of income for many small-scale farmers and supports agribusinesses, including processing and packaging facilities (Polokwane Local Municipality, 2019:15-16).

According to Maponya (2021:1404), Polokwane Local Municipality – which is situated within the Limpopo Province – is comprised of 46% small-scale farmers. To support the agricultural sector, the municipality implements various initiatives and strategies with the intention of enhancing productivity, profitability and the overall development of the agricultural sector within the Municipality (Agricultural Development Strategy, 2019:15-16). Further to the local municipality's efforts to support agriculture, the South African Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) offers support for about 78.5% of the livelihoods of the rural households where most small-scale farmers are situated within the Polokwane Local Municipality (Kephe, Ayisi, Petja, Mulaudzi & Mabitsela, 2020:5).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Most small-scale farmers live in communal farming areas and their households are characterised by high levels of poverty with limited employment opportunities (Maponya, 2021:1388-1390). As a consequence of this socio-economic context, many households in rural areas engage in farming activities to supplement their income and increase household food security. For the reasons cited above and the empirical evidence that promoting agriculture is a viable mechanism to reduce poverty and increase food security (Zantsi *et al.*, 2019:83), the South African government continues to provide support for projects such as the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme.

Though the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme was introduced by the South African government to reduce poverty and increase food security among small-scale farmers, there has been limited research about its effectiveness in rural areas such as Ga-Dikgale Village which is situated in the Polokwane Local Municipality. Consequently, this research study assessed the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale Village. This included evaluating the impact of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on food security, income generation, agricultural productivity, and the overall well-being of small-scale farmers in the village. The secondary aim of the research was to provide insights into the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme and identify areas for improvement to better support small-scale farmers in rural communities like Ga- Dikgale Village.

1.3 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

It has already been noted above that small-scale farmers are contributors to the economy and play a role in the fight against poverty and food insecurity. However, they are faced with significant socio-economic challenges that threaten their ability to sustain themselves. As a consequence the South African government designed agriculture support projects which were aimed at supporting small-scale farmers (Maponya, 2021:1388-1390). Prior to this research's commencement, the researcher

identified literature relating to the national Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme (Nkwana 2015:273); the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the Eastern Cape (Boatemma, Drimie & Pereira, 2018) and material relating to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Semaneng Village in Polokwane Local Municipality (Tefu, 2022:44). The research described above represents broad ranging themes relating to national food and security policy in South Africa; the role of the state in rural development in the Eastern Cape; the implementation of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the Eastern Cape and a gendered perspective on the effect of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Semaneng Village, Limpopo Province. However, there was no available literature relating to the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on households in the Polokwane Local Municipality or South Africa.

It is for this reason that this study was designed with the ambition that the findings from the research will contribute to the body of knowledge relating to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme from the perspective of affected households and may fill some knowledge gaps with regard to the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farming households in the community of Ga-Dikgale.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Programmes designed to promote agricultural development continue to be a strategy that have shown to reduce poverty, address food insecurity and boost household agricultural output in emerging nations such as South Africa in variable ways (Takhumova, 2020:6). Therefore, the support of the agricultural sector by the government represents a contribution to the generation of jobs, bolstering household livelihoods and the nation's broader economic prosperity.

This study provides the DARD with a report on how the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has affected the beneficiaries in Ga-Dikgale village from the perspective of the household as a unit of analysis. Additionally, it provides the DARD with

information that fills knowledge gaps which could enable them to improve these types of developmental initiatives. The researcher also independently constructed and recommended strategies that could inform similar projects and associated households.

1.5 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to assess the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale, Polokwane Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa. The section below describes the aim, objectives and research questions relating to the study.

1.5.1 Aim of the Study

The aim of the study was to assess the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale, Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa.

1.5.2 Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the study were:

1. To explore the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale;
2. To assess the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale; and
3. To recommend strategies that may influence future small-scale agricultural projects which are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale and, plausibly, beyond.

1.5.3 Research Questions

The research questions were designed to enable the researcher to achieve the stated aim and objectives. The following were used in the research:

1. What are the effects of Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale?
2. What are the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale?
3. What strategies can be implemented to influence future small-scale agricultural projects that are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale?

1.6 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

In this section, the concepts that were applied in the study are summarised.

Agriculture

Agriculture includes “horticulture, fruit and seed production, dairy farming, livestock breeding and keeping, use of land for market gardens and nursery grounds, use of land for woodlands when that use is incidental to the farming of land for agricultural purposes, and grazing land” (Maponya, 2021:1388) Additionally, it is described as a “purposeful activity in which natural resources are used to create plants and animals that serve human needs” (Jayne & Sanchez, 2021:1046). This broad definition was applied in the study.

Agriculture projects

“The term ‘agricultural project’ refers to any project that promotes agricultural development and includes commercial farming – such as the cultivation of row, field, tree, and nursery crops – and/or animal husbandry, such as the raising of cows, goats, and hogs” (Law Insider, 2022:1). It is also defined as an investment activity that involves the cost and use of resources to develop capital assets that will yield advantages over an extended period of time and that makes sense to plan, finance, and carry out as a whole (Omotayo, Ayodoji & Owoniyi, 2016:4).

Projects

A project is typically an adaptive activity that involves numerous activities and resources which aims to produce a certain outcome while taking into account constraints such as time, cost and quality. It has a clear start and finish and a final product, service or result which must be distinctive (Megh, 2020:1). A project can also be characterised as a short-term activity that is required to generate a special consequence or result at a set time with predetermined resources (Omotayo et al 2016:1).

Small-scale farmers

According to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) (2013:1), small-scale farmers are characterised differently depending on the context, country and even ecological zone. The terms 'small-scale' and 'smallholder', 'resource poor' and occasionally 'peasant farmer' are used interchangeably. In general, the term 'small-scale' merely refers to their scarce resource base in relation to other farmers in the commercial sector. Small-scale farmers are also people who grow limited food crops and one or two cash crops on small plots of land. "Small-scale farmers also rely heavily on family labour" (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. 2012:11).

Household

Household as a unit of study refers to any individual or group of individuals that share a residence and work together to procure food and maybe other necessities of life (Cheteni, Khamfula & Mah, 2019:29). It is also described as a small group of people who live together in the same dwelling, share some or all of their wealth and income, and utilise specific products and services — primarily food and housing — together (Ngcaba & Maroyi, 2021:2).

1.7 OUTLINE OF THE MINI-DISSERTATION

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter includes the introduction and the background of the study. The statement of the research problem, the purpose of the study, the aim, the objectives, and research questions are presented in this chapter. The chapter also includes a brief statement about the significance and motivation of the study. Lastly, the chapter provides descriptive definitions of the key concepts applied in the mini-dissertation.

- **Chapter 2: Literature review**

This chapter reviews the empirical literature from available resources that were aligned with the topic. The chapter explores the contribution of agriculture, the challenges that small-scale farmer face, the agriculture projects implemented to support small-scale farmers and the effects that the Fetša Tlala has on small-scale farmers. The study was influenced by this literature – especially the knowledge gaps identified within the literature.

- **Chapter 3: Research methodology**

This chapter outlines the research methodology, the research design, target population, sample method, data collection method and data analysis techniques. The researcher employed a qualitative method and exploratory design with a purposive sampling method. The data collection method was through in-depth interviews and the research findings were analysed using thematic analysis.

- **Chapter 4: Data analysis, presentation and interpretation of findings**

The research findings that are linked to the study's aim, objective and research were analysed and presented in this chapter.

- **Chapter 5: Summary, conclusion and recommendations**

This chapter includes a summary of the research finding and interpretations of the data collected. It also includes the conclusion of the entire research report, recommendations, areas for future research and limitations of the study.

1.8 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this chapter provided a summary overview of the South African agricultural sector. It discussed the development of agricultural projects supporting small-scale farmers such as the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme. The chapter also presented the research problem, the motivation and significance of the study. Furthermore, the purpose of the study, aims, objectives and research questions that were designed to address the research problem were outlined. This chapter also provided definitions of key concepts that are related to the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Babbie (2020:119) states that a literature review is the analytical evaluation of previous academic works which are associated with the research topic. The aim of the literature review is to use peer-reviewed academic literature and other reputable sources of relevant empirical information to provide the reader a contextual foundation for the proposed study (Nakano & Muniz, 2018:6). A literature review thus enables the author/s to situate their research problem within the existing, relevant knowledge landscape so that the reader is oriented to both the appropriateness of the research design and the subsequent value contained within the research outcomes (Shaffril, Azril, Samsul, Samah & Asnarulkhadi, 2021:1328-1330).

This chapter includes a discussion of the following topics: the theoretical framework; the roles of agricultural projects in developing countries; small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa; constraints experienced by small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, the historical emergence of the agricultural sector in South Africa; agricultural projects implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and an overview of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme with small-scale farmers in South Africa.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A theoretical framework serves as the cornerstone from which research knowledge is generated. A theoretical framework represents a foundational metaphorical 'frame', or boundary, from which a study is both justified and designed (Khoa, Hung & Brahmi, 2023:189). It thus provides the perspective from which the problem statement, motivation and relevance of the research is derived which "delineates the scope and focus of the methodological design, subsequent analysis and the concluding discussion" (Varpio, Paradis, Uijtdehaage & Young, 2020:990). In this research project, the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach was used as the theoretical framework.

2.2.1 The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was chosen as the theoretical framework for this study because it is a comprehensive theory designed to reflect people's livelihood strategies. Typically factors that affect livelihoods are considered to be capabilities, resources, activities and traits of both the people and associated organisations that affect livelihoods within a particular socio-economic context (Muzekenyi, Zuwarimwe & Kilonzo, 2022:3). Alongside the technical factors associated with an SLA the social components are also included because SLAs aim to be human-centered (Natarajan, Newsham, Rigg & Suhardiman, 2022:5).

In addition, Adloff and Neckel (2019:5) claim that to embrace the human-centered aspect of the SLA requires it being inclusive of the changing developmental dynamics of a complex, adaptive living system in order to provision the analysis with a sustainable dimension.. Typically, “this component of an SLA is undertaken by participants co-constructing portfolios of livelihood activities that represent their current realities (assets, capabilities and different forms of capital) and future ambitions in order to devise strategic plans for improving their livelihood opportunities in the future” (Peng, Robinson, Zheng, Li, Wang & Li, 2022:1; Serrat 2017:24). At the level of analysing data, the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) was applied because it primarily focuses on whether a livelihood is sustainable or not – as well as the factors that affect livelihood strategies.

2.2.2 The application of the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework in this research project

Household small-scale farmers are seen as sources of human capital and owners of production factors (Tabares, Londoño-Pineda, Cano & Gómez-Montoya, 2020:147). As a result, small-scale farmers are the source of capital assets because they are the ones who turn resources such as land into productive farming enterprises. An SLF enables an analysis of the primary influences on people's livelihoods and the relationship/s between those influences. As has been described above, undertaking a SLF involves analysing the factors that influence both livelihood opportunities,

constraints, strategies and outputs of a particular, or collective, livelihood (Muzekenyi, Zuwarimwe & Kilonzo 2022:4). Typically, but not exclusively, these factors include financial, human, social, physical and natural capital (Serrat, 2017:25). These influencing factors will be used as the basis for the theme development during the analysis of the collected data and are described in more detail below in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Themes associated with the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

Type of capital	Summary
Financial	Financial capital refers to the resources people utilise to make a living, and it includes the crucial availability of cash or an equivalent that allows people to choose from a variety of livelihood choices.
Human	It changes at the household level depending on factors such as household size, skill levels, leadership potential, health status, etc. and appears to be a deciding factor in order to employ any other sort of assets in addition to being intrinsically valuable.
Social	Social capital refers to the social resources that people use to achieve their livelihood goals, such as social networks and connections that foster cooperation and promote people's confidence in one another, or participation in more formalised groups with their established systems of norms, regulations, and consequences.
Physical	Physical capital includes the essential producer commodities and infrastructure required to support livelihoods, such as accessible transportation, safe housing and buildings, sufficient water supply and sanitation, clean, inexpensive electricity and appropriate water supply and sanitation.
Natural	Natural capital refers to the natural resource stocks from which resource flows and services (such land, water, forests, air quality, erosion protection, biodiversity degree and rate of change).

Adapted from Serrat (2017:25-26)

The SLF was found to be a relevant theoretical framework for this study because it enabled the researcher to undertake a qualitative analysis of the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale from the perspective of the participants' livelihoods including assets, capabilities and different forms of capital.

2.3 REVIEWED LITERATURE

Once the theoretical framework was established, literature that was deemed relevant to the study was reviewed. The following section summarises the literature review:

2.3.1 The roles of agricultural projects in Developing Countries

Prior to the Green Revolution approximately “50% of the population in developing countries were food insecure and living in poverty” (Mokgomo, 2019:12). To reduce the concerns of hunger and poverty in those developing countries, the Green Revolution was implemented in Asia and Latin America in the 1960s. The Green Revolution was based on a number of innovations that were reportedly the main factors in the Green Revolution's success. These innovations included research and extension services, loans from the government, improved infrastructure and government subsidies (Hlophe-Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020:3).

As a consequence of this approach, small-scale farmers were able to adopt a number of new technologies including bio-engineered seeds, chemical fertiliser, pesticides and extensive irrigation (Pingali, 2023:22). This combination of the above resulted in increased yields of essential food crops such as meat, rice and maize as a consequence of improved agronomical practices, supportive policies and strengthening of relevant institutions in developing nations (Mokgomo, 2019).

By the 1970s, the Green Revolution was widely adopted in many developing countries within Asia and Latin America which saw an increase in their overall food production – thus contributing to increased food security and poverty reduction in those countries. Learning from the Green Revolution has prompted other governments in developing nations to adopt increasing food production, food security and rural income as one of their top priorities (Mokgomo, Chagwiza & Tshilowa, 2022:1). Globally, the most disadvantaged communities' earnings are believed to increase more through agricultural expansion in developing countries than through growth in other sectors (World Bank, 2022:1). Moreover, agriculture is now

estimated to account for “4% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and in developing countries it contributes about 25%” (Hlophe-Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020:3). Thus, to this day, agriculture is considered to be one approach for alleviating extreme poverty and promoting shared wealth – as well as feeding the world's estimated 9.7 billion people by 2050 (Dorling 2021). Alongside national commitments to maintaining vibrant agricultural sectors, the United Nations (UN) is also committed. The 2030 United Nation Agenda's most ambitious aim is Sustainable Development Goal 1 which calls for eradicating all forms of poverty from all corners of the globe. Therefore, agricultural development is considered to be an important component of Goal 1 because it has been shown to contribute to the reduction of extreme poverty and increasing household livelihood options (Qange & Mdoda 2020:92; Mncina & Agholor, 2021:125).

2.3.2 Small-scale Farming in Sub-Saharan Africa

Mutengwa, Mnkeni and Kondwakwenda (2023:6) assert that members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) acknowledge that the “agricultural sector continues to play a crucial role in the region's growth, poverty reduction and long-term food security”. Again, nearly “70% of the SADC population rely on the agricultural sector for food security, income generation and sources of both temporary and permanent employment opportunities” (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:2). The majority of Africa's poor also rely on agriculture as their main source of income (Giller, Delaune, Silva, van Wijk, Hammond, Descheemaeker, van de Ven, Schut, Taulya, Chikowo & Andersson, 2021:1432).

Further, it is estimated that small-scale farmers operate 33 million farms which are typically less than 2 hectares in size which accounts for approximately 80% of all farms in sub-Saharan Africa (Giller *et al.*, 2021:1433). It is also estimated that between 60 and 90% of the labour force – including families – are employed in the agricultural sector or operate family farms for subsistence purposes in sub-Saharan Africa (Hlophe-Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020:3). As a consequence, it is argued that the expansion and development of the agricultural sector is crucial for ensuring food security and reducing poverty in many African nations (Mokgomo, 2019:14).

However, it has also been argued that whilst agricultural expansion has a role to play in increasing GDP, the sector is not a silver bullet for reducing poverty and increasing food security (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2019:6). The FAO (2019) cautions especially that reducing extreme poverty may not always benefit from agricultural growth in nations where access to resources like land, inputs and irrigation are unequal. In other words, the agricultural sector holds the potential to increase food security and income generation for household small scale farmers if development strategies are designed in ways that promote equitable growth strategies (Shilomboleni, 2022:262).

Furthermore, as the globe faces increasing pressure from climate variability, the importance of “smart” small-scale farmers in providing food, nutrition security and sustainable rural development in Africa is also considered to be a critical component of strategies that are designed to reducing poverty at the household level whilst simultaneously contributing to both regional and nation growth (Abegunde, Sibanda & Obi, 2019:5). Within the context of global climate variability, it is thus considered imperative that small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa must adopt new technologies in order to boost productivity and, as a result, contribute to poverty reduction and food security (Hlophe-Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020:4). Therefore, increasing agricultural production and expanding the range of agricultural land uses – within the context of climate variability – is now considered to be a logical way to increase food security as well as boost both employment and income generation opportunities on the continent (Pawlak & Kolodziejczak, 2020:1-2).

2.3.3 Constraints Experienced by Small-scale Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa

As it has been noted above that agriculture is recognised to be a contributor to economic growth and food security in rural areas. It was also noted that small-scale farmers are considered to be the principal drivers of global food security (Hlatshwayo, Ngidi, Ojo, Modi, Mabhaudhi & Slotow, 2023). Thus, small-scale farmers comprise a significant portion of the agricultural supply base in most sub-Saharan African nations making them important contributors to the continent's food production (Qange & Mdoda, 2020:92). However, despite the important role they play, they are also the world's poorest and food insecure groups whose opportunities

are undermined by weak, or poorly implemented development policies (Maponya, 2014:197). Small-scale farmers also face challenges such as limited access to productive resources, inadequate funds to cover the costs of inputs such as fertilisers and herbicides, difficulty accessing markets and the expense of transportation to markets (Maponya 2014:197). Small-scale farmers also face institutional constraints which include inadequate access to information, a lack of technical expertise, high marketing and transaction costs and poor output levels (Matlakala, Nyahunda & Makhubele, 2021:185).

This combination means that whilst, on the one hand, small-scale farmers are considered to be contributors to many development priorities, they are also often one of the more vulnerable groups within some nations (Fan & Rue, 2020:13). Furthermore, small-scale farmers also face a number of difficulties such as drought, pests and crop diseases, a lack of agricultural land with water, an unavailability of markets, old age, a low level of education, a lack of good cell phone network connections and restricted access to quality inputs (Matlakala *et al.*, 2021:189).

Though small-scale farming is intended to enhance rural food security, it does face several difficulties. These include low seed quality and limited access to technology or equipment due to a lack of funds. Because they lack the resources to access official agricultural production systems, small-scale farmers are often compelled to rely on indigenous knowledge for the production of their crops (Hlatshwayo, Modi, Hlahla, Gidi & Mabhaudhi, 2021:5). Moreover, in order to combat rural poverty and enhance productivity, small-scale farming must have better access to dependable farmer support services, funding, marketing opportunities, and land tenure security (Ngam, 2021:134; Hlophe-Ginindza & Mpandeli, 2020:4).

2.3.4 The Historical Emergence of the Agricultural Sector in South Africa

In 1994, a dual agricultural sector was left to the democratically elected South African government. On the one hand, there were prosperous commercial farms which were predominantly owned and operated by white owners. There was also an extensive number of subsistence and small-scale farms which were predominantly owned and/or operated by the black population (Sihlobo & Qobo, 2021:1). This

polarisation of ownership has been associated with the legacy of apartheid. A summary is provided below.

2.3.5 Historical agricultural policies in South Africa

South Africa is a reflection of historical segregation laws – such as the 1912 Land Bank Act No. 4; the 1913 Land Act No. 5, the 1926 Agricultural Credit Act and the 1968 Marketing Act No. 6. The persistent consequences of the segregation laws and procedures from the past colonial and apartheid governments contributed to the differences in fortune between different groups of farmers (Sihlobo & Qobo, 2021:). Regulations like the Urban Areas Act of 1923 also prevented workers from improving their wages and using them as capital to establish businesses in urban or rural areas (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:4).

To redress the past injustice of land eviction, household relocation and subsequent enforced segregation, the democratic South African government created extensive land reform legislation and programs. For example, programs such as land tenure, redistribution and restitution were put in place to guarantee that those who had been unfairly evicted as a consequence of the 1913 Land Act had a right to compensation or restitution of their property. However, many redistribution initiatives were financially unsustainable and did not provide an appropriate mechanism to facilitate the transformation of subsistence and small-scale farms into medium or large-scale commercial operations (Mokgomo, 2019:3).

After 1994, the democratically elected government also introduced a suite of land reform programmes with the primary purpose of uplifting small-scale farmers. The land reform programmes comprised three principal categories which included: land tenure, land redistribution and land restitution. The aim of the land tenure programme was to “address the challenges associated with the administration of land in the communal areas of the former homelands” (Sihlobo & Qobo, 2021:6 and Mokgomo, 2019:4). The goal of land restitution was to redress the historical injustices perpetrated through dispossession and the goal of land redistribution “was to provide black South Africans with land for settlement and small-scale farming purposes” (Sihlobo & Qobo, 2021:6).

As a consequence of these reforms, it has been argued that from 1994 to 2018, South Africa experienced a growth in agricultural output (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022). The farmer support programmes were created by government primarily for those who benefited from the land reform and those who did not, realising that not all small-scale farmers were beneficiaries. These included infrastructure for “both on and off farm activities, training and capacity building, technical assistance and advice, marketing and business development, information and knowledge management, funding methods, free inputs and vaccinations and loans for agricultural output were included in the support in variable, context-specific packages” (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:3-4). As a consequence, DAFF suggested that increasing numbers of small-scale farmers in South Africa began to transition to commercial farming since 2014 which, according to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, is in line with the Malabo Declaration's pledge by the South African government to promote farming in rural regions (Muzekenyi, Zuwarimwe, Kilonzo, 2022).

2.3.6 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Auld and Feris (2022:1) report that under the apartheid era South Africa had extensive support systems and subsidies for white farmers. In the mid-1990s, the South African government began implementing small-scale farming support programmes. Some of these initiatives involved the purchase of trust lands and homeland consolidation (Ngam, 2021:134). The 2016 Statistics South Africa's General Household Survey (GHS) reveals that the government, primarily through the mandate of the National Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the private sector, community-based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), all provided multiple forms of support for small-scale farmers' agricultural development (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:4). This mixture of agricultural development support is considered to have been a key strategy which improved the standard of living for previously disadvantaged farmers (Mokgomo, 2019:1; Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:1).

Another support mechanism designed to empower previously disadvantaged farmers was the government subsidised Farmers Support Programme (FSP). The FSP was established to assist household small-scale farmers to increase agricultural production, enhance food security and an increase household income (Mncina *et al.*,

2021:124). The FSP offered small-scale farmers many types of agricultural assistance including finance for production inputs, services for mechanisation, infrastructure for agriculture, services for extension and research, training and marketing. Despite limited market expansion and institutional capacity-building, farmers who took part in the FSP benefited from enhanced access to inputs, extension services, and mechanisation coupled with higher levels of productivity which made the programme successful” (Mncina *et al.*, 2021:122-123).

Despite the fact that numerous initiatives were employed to enhance agricultural development, most funding was allocated to land reform and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) (Mokgomo *et al.*, 2022:2). The CASP was considered to be one of the progressive provisions for agriculture, which was initiated between 2004 and 2005. It is estimated that the CASP received an investment of about R750 million from the National and Provincial Departments of Agriculture during that period “to address the lack of provision of services and lack of access to farmers support services as an improvement in agricultural development” (Mncina *et al.*, 2021:122-123).

Along with CASP, the LIMA-Rural Development Foundation and the Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (MAFISA) have been consistently assisting small-scale commercial farming operations in rural regions (Muzekenyi, Zuwarimwe, Kilonzo, 2022:5). Llima/Letsema is a grant that the National Department of Agriculture awards to provincial agriculture departments in an effort to combat poverty by promoting activities that would boost food production. The provincial agriculture ministries used Llima/Letsema grant funding to provide free inputs to farmers, which meant that the government acquired these inputs and delivered them to farmers, particularly those who are small-scale farmers (Cousins, Alcock, Aliber, Geraci, Losch, Mayson & de Satgé, 2020:13). Other initiatives included “the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security, the Household Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and the Fetša Tlala Integrated Food Production Initiatives which are some of the frameworks that are designed to streamline, harmonize and integrate the various food and nutrition security interventions in South Africa” (Liu & Tan, 2021:202).

2.3.7 From agricultural policies to implementation in South Africa

For many South Africans living in rural areas, the agricultural sector provides a significant source of income and contributes roughly 2.3% to the nation's GDP, 40% of export revenue and employment for 4.6% of the population (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, 37.5% of South African agricultural households' regard agriculture as a secondary source of food, while 43.7% name it as their main source of food (Hlatshwayo *et al.*, 2021:3). In the Limpopo Province agriculture is seen as a large contributor to the province's economy and the provincial government has designated agriculture as one of the economic priority sectors for development in the province (Kephe *et al.*, 2020:5).

Despite the benefits that the agricultural sector provides for South Africans and that the country is considered to be food secure, many impoverished rural households continue to rely on cash assistance and government grants for subsistence and face significant food insecurity issues (Harper, Rothberg, Chirwa, Sambu & Mall, 2023:60; Hlatshwayo *et al.*, 2021:3). These anomalies constitute one of the primary motivations for undertaking research on the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Limpopo Province.

2.4 OVERVIEW OF THE FETŠA TLALA FOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme was established by the South African DAFF in 2013. Fetša Tlala is an integrated government framework which aims to increase food security by addressing the causes of food insecurity which are perpetuated by social exclusion and inequality (DAFF, 2013:1). The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (2017:2) describe the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme as a multi-disciplinary intervention that was initiated by the government to increase food security.

The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme is an initiative that was informed by various legislative frameworks such as the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security designed to empower small-scale farmers (Njara 2018:32-35). The aim of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative

Programme is also designed to end hunger and increase food security by ensuring that all South Africans have access to reliable and consistent food supplies.

Consequently, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme was designed to be a comprehensive framework to maximise the compatibility between the goals and activities of the government and civil society (DAFF 2013:1). The Programme has been credited with enabling farmers in the “communities of Dlamini, Hertfort, Ga-Seleka, Magolego, Mohlake, Moretsele and Moelakgopane in Sekhukhune District to cultivate 430 hectares at a cost of R470 000 using private service providers while 121 hectares ploughed using state tractors making a total 551 hectares. The communities of Moelakgopane, Dlamini, Hooperkranz, Ga-Kobe, Mohlake, Sekele, and Ga-Moela produced 536 tons of maize as a result of this programme, compared to Hertfort's yield of 473 tons” (DAFF, 2013:1).

2.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter provided an overview of the selected theoretical framework. The study is underpinned by the SLA. This chapter also examined relevant literature for the study. The literature review began with an overview of small-scale agriculture in developing nations. It was noted that small-scale agriculture is a significant contributor to reducing both hunger and poverty. This was followed by an overview of small-scale agriculture in sub-Saharan African nations and the significant impact that the agricultural industry has had on development, the alleviation of poverty and food security within those nations. This chapter also explored the challenges confronting small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. This was followed by a brief overview of the agricultural in South Africa, followed by how the DARD initiates agricultural support programmes in South Africa. Lastly, this chapter provided a summary of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme. The next chapter will address the research methodology used in the study.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

A research methodology is a procedure for collecting information for the purpose of the study (Taherdoost, 2022:56). According to Snyder (2019:334), a research methodology is a holistic mechanism designed to ensure a research problem is comprehensively addressed in a bona fide, logical academic manner. Therefore, this chapter outlines the research methods followed to address the objectives of the study. It also provides approaches the researcher has followed to identify/select participants, the process of collecting and analysing data for this study.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design is the practice of using empirical data to address the research problem of the study (Taherdoost, 2022:58). According to Bhandari (2020:7), a correct and planned research design assists with research methods that correlate to the research aim and the subsequent analysis of the collected data.

This study used an evaluative research design. An evaluative research design typically has a qualitative methodological focus which involves collecting data and analysing them to determine whether the programme or intervention has achieved its intended outcomes and to what extent. Evaluative research aims to assess the effectiveness, or impact, of a particular programme, intervention, policy, or practice (Reed & Rudman, 2023:6). The findings can thus be used to inform decision making, improve effectiveness and guide future interventions or policies (Bhandari, 2020:7; Babbie, 2020:354).

3.3 RESEARCH PARADIGM

The interpretivist research paradigm was used in this study. This paradigm emphasises the importance of people's personalities and engagement in social and

cultural surroundings (Babbie, 2020:30). The chosen paradigm enables the study's qualitative components to be interpreted, incorporating human interest into the process. A case study research strategy was chosen for this study because it will also enable the researcher to examine the subject and engage with participants to gather data.

3.4 RESEARCH METHOD

According to Lovino and Tsitsianis (2020:4), a qualitative research method is a flexible research method used by the researcher to determine in detail the development of the study. Further, Mabasa and Themane (2021:2) suggest that “the qualitative research method is an acceptable research methodology for all social sciences.” Based on the above assertions, the proposed study used a qualitative research methodology. This method was chosen because it will assist in exploring the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has on small-scale farmers in the study area. This method further explored the beneficiaries’ experiences, feelings, and views of the focus of the research.

3.5 STUDY AREA

The study area is Ga-Dikgale Village. The Village is situated within Capricorn District Municipality, Polokwane Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province, South Africa. The Village is located approximately 40 kilometres from Polokwane City, the provincial capital with coordinates: Latitude: -23.74452133577607 and Longitude: 29.781374915810204, Figure 3.1.



<https://www.google.com/maps/@-23.8177135,29.6181194,12.18z?entry=ttu>

Figure 3.1. Area map of the research site

The Pedi Kone of Ga-Dikgale is the dominant ethnic group in the region, thus Sepedi is the main language spoken in the area (Rankoana, 2022:201). Poverty is one of the main societal issues that the Ga-Dikgale community faces. It is estimated that between 45% and 70% of the municipality's economically active population — those aged 15 to 64 — are unemployed. More than 80% of the land in the region is said to be used for agriculture. Only 1.9% of the region's GDP comes from agriculture, which also provided 9.4% of job opportunities (Chikosi, Mugambiwa, Tirivangasi & Rankoana, 2019:394-397).

The community is involved in a diverse number of small-scale farming activities. Subsistence farming and urban agriculture are additional farming practices in the area. Maize, beans, melons, and sweet reed are among the most widely grown subsistence crops. Fewer households raise sheep and cattle. The City of Polokwane and Mankweng township are close by, which makes it the ideal location to set up fruitful vegetable ventures with access to adjacent markets.

3.6 POPULATION

The group (generally of individuals) about which a researcher seeks to make conclusions is the population of a study (Babbie, 2020:116). This study focused on households that are engaged in small-scale farming in Ga-Dikgale, which has a total of 23 villages with an estimated 9,000 residents which make up the community. The Ga-Dikgale community was chosen because it is one of many rural South African communities with agricultural prospects and includes beneficiaries of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme (Chikosi *et al.*, 2019). Therefore, the target population of the study was small-scale farmers' households within the 23 villages.

3.7 SAMPLING

Kumar (2019:23) defines sampling as “a process of choosing a small sample from a larger population.” In order to estimate the prevalence of an unknown fact, circumstance, or result, the sampled population serves as a representative focus of the investigation. Sampling can also be defined as a process that assists researchers to select a small unit from a larger group of people or a collection to study and produce generalised findings. It includes “non-probability and probability sampling” (Taherdoost, 2022:57). This study employed a non-probability sampling method using purposive sampling.

According to Campbell, Greenwood, Prior, Shearer, Walkem, Young, Bywaters and Walker (2020:653-657), “purposive sampling is defined as a qualitative sampling method that is subjective and often relies on the researchers to choose variables using their own knowledge or judgement from the sampled population.” Out of the 23 villages in the Ga-Dikgale community, the researcher purposively selected small-scale farmers who were beneficiaries of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in between the years 2021 to 2023. Initially, the researcher had planned to interview 18-25 participants, however saturation was reached at participant number 23. When data saturation was reached after interviewing 23 small-scale farmers the researcher decided not to interview more participants. The reason for not interviewing more

participants is collecting data after saturation has been reached rarely elicit findings of extra value to the research process (Tight, 2023).

3.8 DATA COLLECTION

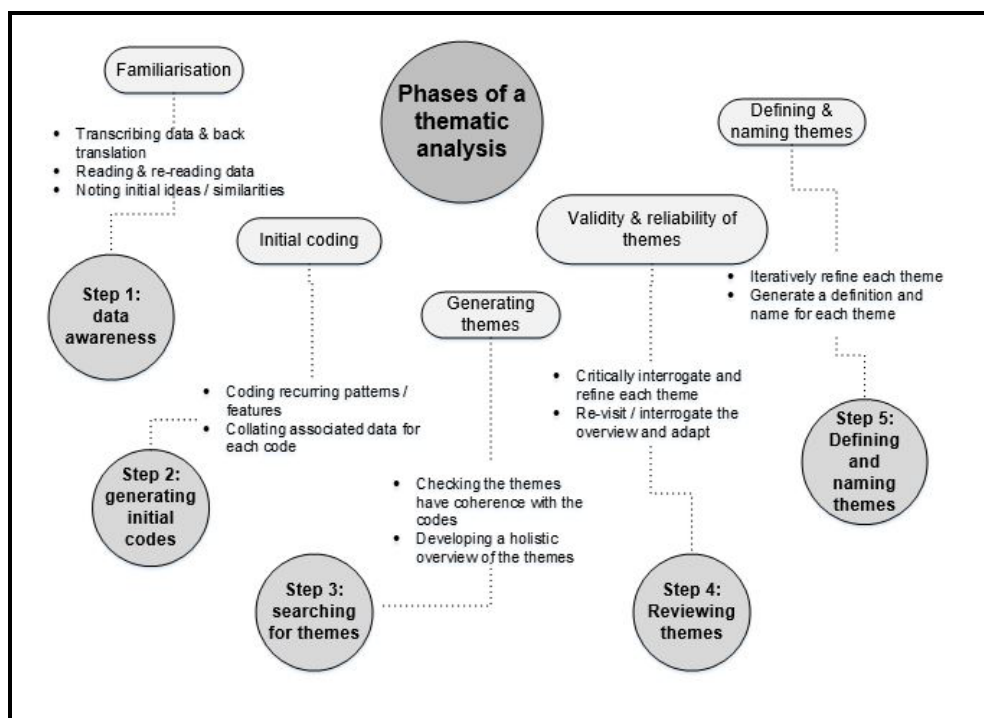
Taherdoost (2021:16) opine that qualitative data collection techniques in research have different approaches which includes interviews that can be structured or unstructured, group discussions, observations that can be participative or non-participative and textual or narrative. The researcher conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews as a data collection method. Semi-structured questions were used to explore the research questions. Further probing into aspects of the responses from a participant that the researcher did not fully understand, or was ambiguous enabled the researcher to obtain more specific information. "The method is typically applied when people in the study population must provide detailed information" (Wagner, Kawulich & Garner, 2019:5). In order to encourage open discussion, the interviews were conducted either in English or Sepedi, depending on the participants' preferred language. Secondary data was later acquired that reflected the responses of the participants.

3.9 DATA ANALYSIS

According to Wagner *et al* (2019:5), "data analysis is a process that a researcher uses to make sense of and / or interpret the collected data." There are two vital approaches of analysing qualitative research method which are the deductive and inductive approaches. A deductive approach includes starting with a theory or hypothesis and then test it with specific data or observation (Okoli, 2023:301). Researchers use deductive approaches to collect data and support or refute a theory or hypothesis. An inductive approach includes beginning with observations or data and develop a theory or hypothesis based on the collected data/observations. "Researchers use an inductive approach to make generalization based on the observations or collected data" (Okoli, 2023:303). Given the above, "researchers can thus systematically organise and analyse large, complicated data sets using the thematic analysis for qualitative research based on either the deductive or inductive

approach” (Dawadi, 2020:63). Thus an inductive approach was adopted using a thematic analysis.

A thematic analysis is a constant-comparison technique that entails regular reading and re-reading of transcripts. “The analysing process includes finding themes that can include the collected information from the data sets” (Dawadi, 2020:63). Therefore, for this study, a deductive approach was used to analyse data using themes that are linked to the research questions and literature review. Figure 3.2 presents a methodological summary of the approach that was adopted.



Researcher's contribution, adapted from Bingham, 2022

Figure 3.2 Summary of the Thematic Analysis that was applied

The researcher translated the responses from the interview, then identified codes during comparative assessment to determine themes, similarities and patterns of data collected from the interview (Neuendorf, 2018; Dawadi, 2020:63). Additionally, following Vears and Gillam (2022:112-114), the researcher applied an inductive approach in order to identify, review, define and name themes that emerged from the data set.

3.10 TRUSTWORTHINESS

Adler (2022:588) argues that in a qualitative study, the key to trustworthiness is transparency which means that both the research techniques and theoretical knowledge should be explained explicitly. “The purpose of qualitative research is to better understand a localised occurrence within a specific environment rather than generalising to a larger population” (Creswell & Creswell, 2018:190). In this study, trustworthiness was measured through the validity of data collected and the reliability of the data collection instrument. Qualitative reliability demonstrate that the methodology of the researcher is consistent across several researchers and studies, and validity in qualitative research verifies how accurate the findings are by using the same processes across different studies (Creswell *et al.*, 2018:190).

3.10.1. Credibility

According to Stahl and King (2020:26), credibility is concerned with how findings relate with reality and it is based on individual judgement of participants. Furthermore, the researcher seeks to understand how the reported findings come together in a way that they should share some relationship with each other. The researcher utilised interviews as data collection and evaluative research design to ensure the quality and trust of the study.

3.10.2 Transferability

Transferability is the generalisation of findings from qualitative research that can be used to different contexts (Adler, 2022:602). Results cannot be established conclusively based on interpretations and external validity, but they can be transferred or generalised into new setups outside the core study focus on cases where they make sense (Mamba, 2019). In order to give the reader the opportunity to determine whether or not the research's conclusions can be applied or transferred to other scenarios, the researcher provided information about the study's methodology and participant characteristics.

3.10.2 Dependability

Dependability is that the consistency of the research can be assessed by repeating the same analyses and obtaining similar results (Adler, 2022:605). Dependability refers to “the idea that information gathered via a research tool should produce consistent results and stay valid despite different participants” (Stahl & King, 2020:27). The audit trail is implemented through data verification and source tracking. The researcher cross-references the analysed and interpreted data with the information that was extracted and summarised. In this research, this was accomplished using the recorded data and the notes that have been transcribed.

3.10.3 Confirmability

Stahl et al (2020:27) state that confirmability is concerned with making sure that the results of the study are clearly confirmed from the data and not from imagination, assumptions or personal bias of the researcher). To ensure confirmability, the researcher confirmed that the interpreted are a result of the collected data, rather than researcher's own preferences and perspectives.

3.10.4 Validity and Reliability

To ensure validity of this study, the researcher examined the final report to ensure correctness, providing a detailed account of the research's results and explaining any potential biases in the study. To ensure reliability of the study, the researcher made sure that during the transcription, transcripts were be cross-checked that they did not contain any errors and that there were no changes in the interpretation of the codes (Creswell *et al.*, 2018:190).

3.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A collection of rules that govern research design and their execution are known as ethical considerations. “Researchers or scientist should ensure they follow the set of principles of conduct when they data from individuals” (Bhandari, 2021:3). Doing

what is morally and legally right in research is known as research ethics. They are codes of conduct that help researchers determine what behaviour is appropriate for research and what is not (Babbie, 2021:66).

The proposed study has been firstly reviewed and approved by the Master of Development in Planning and Management. After approval, it was submitted to the School Higher Degree Research Committee (SHDRC), and then ratified by Faculty of Management and Law Higher Degrees Research Committee (FHDR). Finally, an approval was sought from the Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) for permission to commence with the study and collect data. Upon receipt of the institution's Ethical Clearance Certificate, the researcher further applied for ethical clearance at the Limpopo Premiers Office Research Committee. With both ethical clearance certificates, gatekeeping permission was requested from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Ga-Dikgale Tribal Office. When conducting the study, the researcher followed ethical principles which are described below.

3.11.1 Anonymity and confidentiality

Babbie (2021) is of the view that participants from the targeted population were guaranteed anonymity and the freedom to choose as to whether to participate in the interviews or not. The respondent's names were not used; the study did not place in public domain the subject's identity without their expressed prior consent. To ensure that the questionnaires do not trace back to the respondents, randomised numbers were allocated by the researcher and only known by the researcher. All data pertaining to a named or distinguishable individual were kept secure, and sensitive data were handled with extra caution (Bhandari 2021:4 & Babbie, 2021:67).

3.11.2 Informed consent

Informed consent is important for every study that involves humans, and they should be 18 years and above to consent. Participants should be free to make their own decisions without being forced by research or any fraud, dishonesty, duress, deception, or other ulterior objectives. "Informed consent allows sufficient knowledge

and comprehension of the subjects to enable them to make an understanding and enlightened decision” (Babbie, 2021:71). The participants were made aware of the nature of the study and what was expected from them. Before the interviews commenced, the researcher gave the participants a consent form which outlines the study’s purpose and reasons for conducting the study. Participants were given the freedom to either disagree or agree to participate. Furthermore, “if the respondent has agreed to participate, both the researcher and the participant signed a consent form” (Bhandari, 2021:4).

3.11.3 Respect and dignity

The targeted participants were treated with respect and dignity. The respondents were afforded the right not to answer any questions that could make them feel uncomfortable. The study respected the privacy of participants and protected them against any unwanted interference and exposure. The researcher did not put pressure on participants to answer any questions, as what participants perceive as sensitive information vary from one individual to the next (Bhandari, 2021).

3.11.4 Benefits/risk or harm

It is necessary to keep in mind while evaluating risks that some groups are more vulnerable if private, sensitive information they offer is connected to or tracked back to them. They can be victims, witnesses, or informants. The researcher carefully considered the dangers to both the researcher and research participants while planning research in such a setting (Babbie, 2021:64). There was no monetary or material benefits for participating in this study. The process which was used to collect data was to ensure that no psychological, emotional, or physical harm was caused to the participants and the researcher. The study did not cause any social conflicts or put at risk the participants livelihoods/ source of income (Bhandari, 2021:4).

3.12 CONCLUSION

This chapter described the qualitative research methodology that was utilised in the study. It briefly outlined the research design, which is evaluative and the interpretivist

research paradigm employed. It also outlined the research study site and the population in Ga-Dikgale. This chapter also described the selected sampling process which involved a non-probability method called purposive sampling. Additionally, the chapter specified the in-depth, semi-structured interviews data collection technique that was applied and the thematic content analysis which was used to interpret the narrative data. The chapter also referred to the use of trustworthiness to assess the credibility and reliability of the collected data and the ethical principles that were followed. The next chapter will examine the qualitative data analysis through the presentation and interpretation of the results.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the qualitative results derived from analysing data collected from the 23 participants who were actively involved in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme during the 2021-2023 within the Ga-Dikgale community are presented. The study aimed to evaluate the effect of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on households of small-scale farmers in Ga-Dikgale, Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa. The findings reported on are aligned with the study's objectives and research questions, which are outlined in summary below in Table 4.1. The chapter includes how the data were managed and analysed. It also includes the presentation, analysis and discussion of the research findings.

Table 4.1. Objectives of the study

Item	Research objective	Research question
1	To explore the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale	What are the effects of Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale?
2	To assess the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale	What are the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale?
3	To recommend strategies that may influence future small-scale agricultural projects which are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale and, plausibly, beyond.	What strategies can be implemented to influence future small-scale agricultural projects that are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale?

Researchers' contribution

4.2 DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

The research study used a semi-structured interview guide which was in both English and Sepedi to collect data (see Appendix B for details of the instrument). For

data analysis, the study employed a thematic content analysis to identify, analyse and interpret patterns within the textual data as indicated in Chapter 3. The key steps and processes of analysing included familiarisation of the data set, coding the data, generating and verifying themes before naming each theme.

4.2.1. Familiarisation with the Data Set

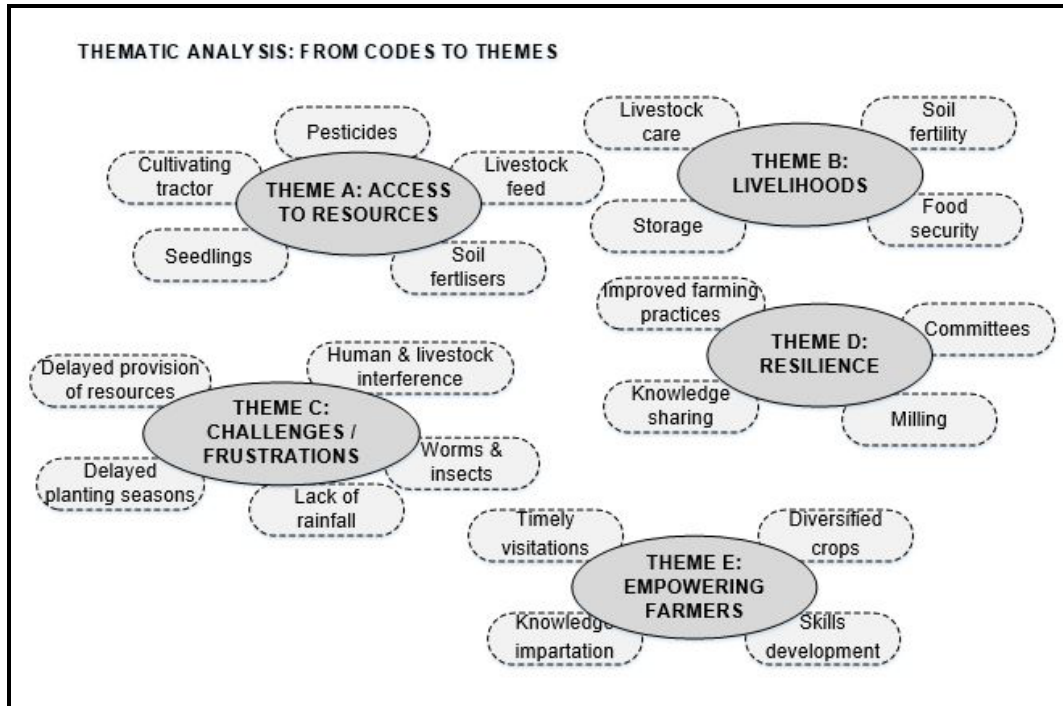
The researcher first transcribed and translated all the participants' responses. During this process, the researcher ensured that there were no misinterpretations any information provided by the participants by requesting a second person to verify the translations from Sepedi into English. The researcher then read and re-read the responses to become more familiar with the content. This process assisted the researcher to have an overall understanding of the data set and to begin to identify responses that were conveying the same, or similar, message.

4.2.2. Coding the Data

After the researcher had read and re-read the responses, it became evident that most participants provided the same and/or similar opinions. Therefore, for data coding, the researcher grouped all the responses under each question in the interview guide and was able to identify and label the responses that were relevant to each of the research objectives and questions. These codes were similar words, phrases or short descriptions that emerged from the participants' responses from each question.

4.2.3. Generating Themes

Once the coding was complete, the researcher grouped similar codes together to form broader themes. These themes represented patterns of recurring ideas that emerged from the data set. The themes were consolidated based on their frequency and their significance to the research aim and objectives. The researcher constantly revisited the original data to confirm the appropriateness of each theme and associated codes, making iterative adjustments as required (see Figure 4.1).



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.3 Summary Analysis: From Codes to Themes

The themes were also reviewed to ensure they accurately reflected the data and respond to the research questions outlined in Table 4.1. The generated themes responded to each research question and included: access to resources, sustainable livelihoods, challenges and frustrations, resilience and empowering farmers.

4.2.4. Writing the Analysis

In the final step, the researcher wrote up the study findings which included a description of the themes with supporting direct quotes from participants and the interpretation of the findings in relation to the research questions. This analysis provided an insight into the meaning of the data from the perspective of the participants.

4.3 RESEARCH RESULTS

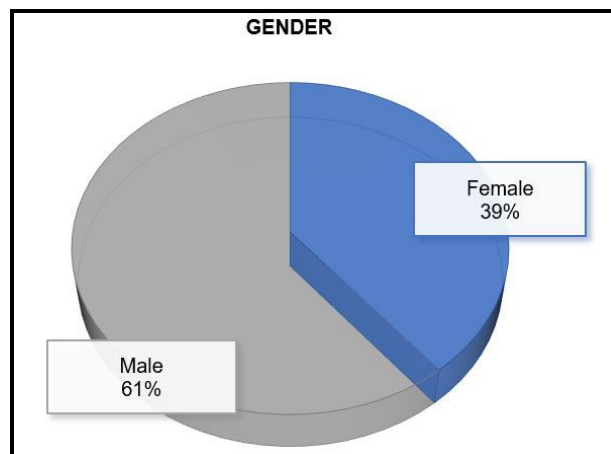
The following section outlines the key findings derived from the study that was conducted in Ga-Dikgale.

4.3.1. Demographic Findings

The study's participants were inclusive of both male and female who reside in Ga-Dikgale who speak Sepedi. The section below presents the demographic findings of the participants which includes their gender, age, educational background and employment status.

4.3.2.1. Participants' gender

The study was representative of both males and females. Figure 4.2 below illustrates the gender representation within the sample.



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.4 Participants' gender

Figure 4.2 indicates that there were more male (61%) participants than female (39%).

4.3.1.2. Participants' age

Table 4.2 demonstrates that only 4.3% of the participants were aged between 45-54 years and 95.7% were aged between 55 or more years which indicates that the small-scale farming community in the area are comprised of mostly elderly people.

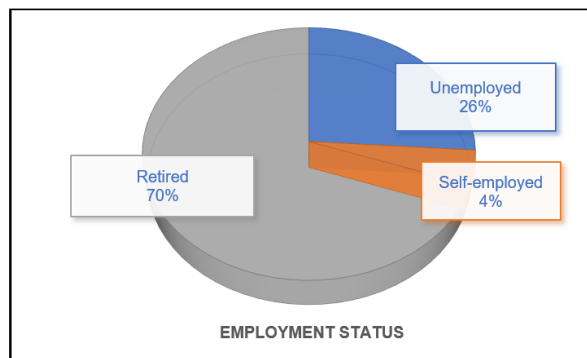
Table 4.2 Participants' Age Category

Age	Frequency (F):	Percentage (%):
45-54	11	4.3%
55 and above	22	95.7%
Total:	23	100%

Researchers' contribution

4.3.1.3. Participants' employment status

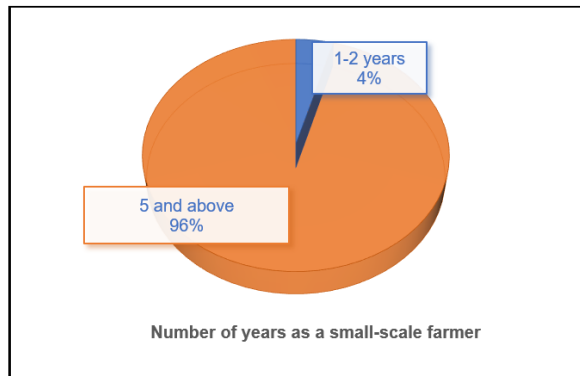
The participants ranged from self-employed, to unemployed and retired. The details are provided in Figure 4.3 below.



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.5 Participants' Employment Status

As indicated in Figure 4.3, a minimum of 26% of the participants were unemployed, while at least 70% were retired with over five years of professional experience. At least 4% of the participants were also retired but were self-employed managing a Spaza Shop for about 1-2years. Furthermore, all of the participants were engaged in small-scale farming. Whilst a small minority, comprising 4% of the participants, have 1-2 years of experience in farming, the vast majority, 96%, had accumulated 5 or more years of experience in small-scale farming (see Figure 4.4).



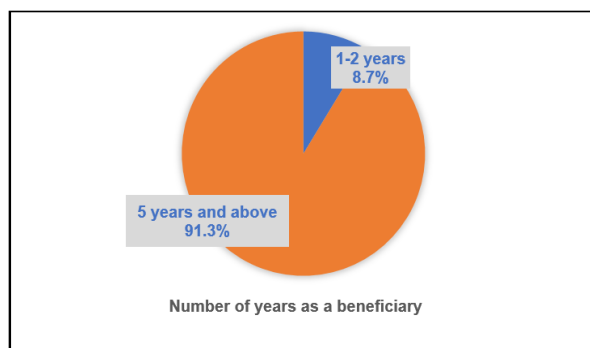
Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.6 Experience of Participants in Small-scale Farming

Figure 4.4 suggests that the sample predominantly consisted of experienced small-scale farmers with a very small proportion being relatively inexperienced. Specifically, 4% of the participants have been small-scale farmers for 1-2 years and 96% for 5 and above years.

4.3.1.4. Prior exposure of the participants to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme

The participants had mostly been exposed to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme for a period of five years or more (see Figure 4.5).



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.7 Participants' Years as a Beneficiary of the Initiative

Figure 4.5 illustrates that among the participants, about 8.7% had been beneficiaries of the Initiative for 1-2 years, while the vast majority of 91.3%, had been beneficiaries for 5 years or more.

4.3.1.5. Participants' educational level

The findings indicate that 44% of the participants had education up to, or below, the primary school level; 39% had completed secondary school and 17% had pursued education at college or university level (see Figure 4.6).

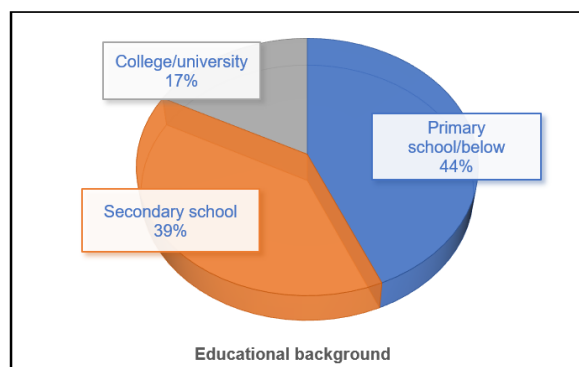


Figure 4.8 Participants' Educational Level

Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.8 suggests that the majority of participants have education up to the secondary school level, with a notable percentage having pursued higher education at the college or university level.

4.4. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

In order to provide context, the participants' understanding of the goals and objectives of the Initiative are presented first. This is followed by findings relating to each research question before a summary synthesis is presented at the end of the chapter.

4.4.1 Contextual Overview from the Perspective of the Participants

According to the participants, their common understanding of the goals and objectives of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme is to end hunger and increase food security. Some of the participants expressed their understanding of the project in the quotes below.

“I think that the programmes’ objective is to help small-scale farmers to raise food production in order to combat hunger.”

Participant 7

“My understanding is assisting the small-scale farmers about the know-how, the skills and practices in agriculture in order to enable the farmers to develop and feed themselves.”

Participant 15

“I believe that the programme’s goal is to encourage small-scale farmers to grow food for their own consumption and where possible to sell for income.”

Participant 12

According to the above quotes, there is a common understanding that the Initiative plays a part in empowering small-scale farmers by offering support to them to end hunger. It also indicates a general perception among the farmers that the Initiative exists to provide much-needed assistance to them. Although there are some participants that expressed their lack of understanding of the programme, such as participant 21, who said:

“I do not full understanding what Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme is all about, however I still want to fully understand the goals and objectives of the programme.”

Nonetheless, the participants mostly shared a similar understanding about the programme and expressed their willingness to learn more about the programme. This suggests that they view the programme as a means to address the basic needs of households by providing assistance and resources to help farmers to improve their agricultural practices and to improve their food security. The responses suggest that the programme’s goals are aligned with goal two (2) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by encouraging farmers to become self-sufficient and economically empowered in order to end hunger.

4.4.2 Research Question One

Two themes emerged in relations to question one: Access to Resources and Livelihoods. Both themes are discussed in the sections below and evidence is provided that these two themes did contribute to multiple benefits for some of the beneficiaries who participated in the research.

4.4.2.1 Theme A: Access to resources

As indicated in Table 4.1, the objective that is aligned with the research question one (1) was to explore the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households. In order to understand the effectiveness of the programme, the theme aims to outline the resources that were made available to facilitate the participants' agricultural activities.

Though the participants may share different or similar views and understanding, they all share common knowledge of the resources that are provided by the programme. Therefore, in the hopes of achieving SDG 2, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme provided various resources to its beneficiaries such as, seeds, cultivation tractor, livestock feeds, soil fertilisers, manure and pesticides. By supplying these resources, the participants have some confidence that the programme will support small-scale farmers to initiate and assist in their agricultural activities. This is reinforced by the participants in the quotes below.

“I have received manure and livestock feed. The tractor has also assisted me with farming. I now can assist those that are in need and I can also feed my children.”

Participant 13

“I was supplied with fertilisers, seeds and a maize threading machine. A tractor was assigned to assist me with ploughing.”

Participant 23

The resources and assistance provided by the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme encompassed a wide range of inputs and machinery essential for agricultural output. The primary objectives of this assistance were to strengthen food

security and boost farm productivity among the small-scale farmers involved in the project.

4.4.2.2 Theme B: Livelihoods

The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme was described by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a multi-disciplinary intervention that was initiated by the government to increase food security. In order to assess the effectiveness of the programme, it is important to understand how the programme has improved the farmers' household livelihoods in efforts to improve food security. Table 4.3 below illustrates how the participants' livelihoods were improved.

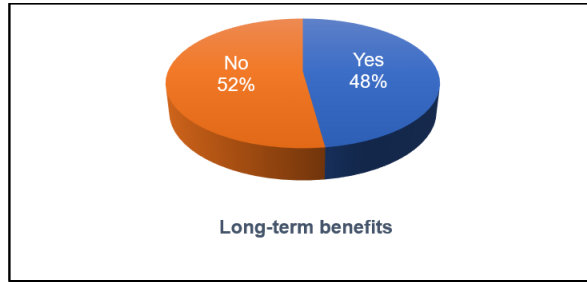
Table 4.3 Enhanced Livelihoods

Livelihoods	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Increased income	6	26.1%
Improved food security	16	69.6%
Enhanced social status within the community	15	65.2%
Enhanced decision-making power	10	43.5%
Other (please specify below)	7	30.4%

Researchers' contribution

The results in the above table indicate various ways in which the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has impacted the livelihoods of the participants. The results in the table illustrate that at least 26.1% of the participants reported that the programme has contributed to an increase in their income. As a consequence of their increased agricultural productivity and sales of produce. It also shows that 69.6% participants experienced improvements in food security. The programme has helped participants produce more food for their households and are able to feed their families.

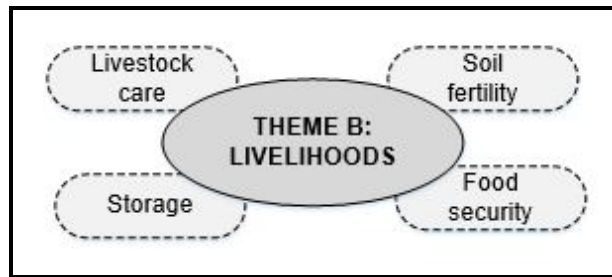
Despite the 30.4% of the participants that are new participants, it is evident that at least 69.6% of participants have benefited from the programme. However, based on the survey results presented below in Figure 4.7, it appears that the long-term sustainability of the benefits gained from the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme is relatively split with 48% of participants indicating 'yes' and 52% indicating 'no'.



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.9 Long-Term Benefits of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme

Despite this division, several long-term benefits of the programme were highlighted by the participants. In order to highlight these findings, an extract from Figure 4.8 is presented below.



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.10 Theme B: Livelihoods and Associated Codes

The codes are used in the section below to highlight the livelihood benefits that emerged from the programme.

4.4.2.3 Livelihoods and associated codes summarised

During the interviews, 48 percent of the participants reported long term benefits were associated with the programme and these benefits were all linked to Theme B, Livelihoods. A summary of the details associated with Theme B is presented below.

Improved food production, security and thus storage

Some participants reported an increase in food production, including staple crops such as mealie meal, groundnut, beans and watermelon during the harvesting season.

“When the tractor came, I managed to plough. During the harvesting season I was able to harvest mealie meal, groundnut, beans and watermelon.”

Participant 11

This increased production has contributed to their food availability which in turn had beneficial impacts on their household food security. For example, some participants mentioned that they are able to feed their children and access additional food staples that they previously did not have.

“It has enabled me to feed my family and help the poor in one of the foundations and other community members with mealie meal.”

Participant 16

This shows that there has been an improvement in household food security for some of the participants, which is essential for overall well-being. The household food security was also boosted because the increased production of maize enabled some participants to make use of the local milling facility to grind and store the harvest.

“I store my maize meal at milling company nearby, where my name is registered in a credit book detailing the quantity of maize meal I've stored. Each time I retrieve some, they deduct the corresponding kilograms from my account. This has increased household access to food.”

Participant 14

The storage code that was referred to by some participants primarily reflects access to the local milling facility, which is discussed below, section 4.4.2.4 *Theme C: resilience*.

Livestock care and health

Some participants indicated that the programme has assisted them by providing treatments such as injections for their livestock to treat various diseases. They also indicated that these treatments contributed to the overall health and productivity of their livestock, which is crucial for livelihoods in agricultural communities which, in turn, contributes to household income and overall small-scale agricultural sustainability.

Soil fertility

The participants also asserted that the provision of fertilisers by the programme helped improve soil fertility which is essential for sustainable agricultural practices.

“The fertilisers were not enough to cover entire field, but where we have managed to sprinkle the soil was fertile and we managed to harvest enough.”

Participant 9

Improved soil health also contributes to improved crop yields and long-term productivity.

In summary, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has had positive effects in terms of food security, agricultural production, and livestock management for 48% of the participants. However, the 52% that had no long-term benefits also indicates areas where improvements may be needed to ensure continued success and impact of the programme.

4.4.3 Research Question Two

Research question two focused on the challenges relating to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme experienced by the participants in the study area. Their responses did provide insights into the experienced challenges and frustrations. Their responses also provided some insights into the resilience strategies that emerged as a consequence of the challenges and frustrations. Both are discussed below.

4.4.3.1 Theme C: Challenges and frustrations

Despite the benefits that are associated with the programme, there are underlying challenges that had an impact on the effectiveness of the programme. In order to understand these challenges, Theme C emerged. This theme is aligned with objective 2 that seeks to assess the factors that influence the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme had on small-scale farmers in the study area.

Based on the responses from the participants, it is evident that the majority of farmers faced similar challenges with the programme. Some of the key points relating to the challenges and frustrations they encountered include delayed

provision of inputs, insufficient mentorship and guidance and unbalanced distribution of services which are indicated by participant 8 below.

“This year, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has not taken care of me by providing me with anything for example, seeds and a tractor. Our fields were dry, and we did not come back with anything.”

Participants 18 and 22 reinforce the statement made by participant 8.

“I have not received any resources such as, seedlings, fertilizers and nor have they sent a tractor to plough for me.”

Participant 18

“They do not give us enough fertilisers to cover the whole field. They have also not assisted us with cultivation and we have not received any seeds yet.”

Participant 22

Participants provided other exemplars of their challenges and frustrations with the Initiative which are provided below.

“They have not provided me with enough fertilisers to cover the entire field. They have only assisted me cultivating twice and however due the discrepancies of the fertilisers, I was unable to harvest enough.”

Participant 23

Furthermore, the lack of rain, livestock and human interference, cattle theft, access to equipment such as adequate fencing exacerbated these challenges. These broader challenges which reflect the localised vulnerabilities of small-scale farmers in the study area are discussed below in section *4.4.3.3 Localised vulnerabilities*.

These responses suggest that the delay in receiving seeds, fertilisers and a tractor hindered the timely planting and cultivation of crops, leading to reduced harvests or even crop failure. Furthermore, the lack of rainfall and the presence of pests such as worms (insects and caterpillars) also posed significant challenges to the participants because they adversely affected crop production which subsequently resulted in poor harvests.

“I have a challenge of worms (insects and caterpillars) that eat my corns and I can't harvest anything because they would have been destroyed.”

Participant 7

There are also disparities in the distribution of services among beneficiaries, with some receiving more assistance than others. This inequality has led to resentment and dissatisfaction among small-scale farmers within the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme. As a result, farming activities and productivity were disrupted, which affected the ability of the farmers to store enough maize meal and undermined the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme's effectiveness. That being said, the general concern of all the participants is the lack of assistance since 2019. The participants reported that this lack of support dates back before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My concern is that it has been long since they have sent the tractor, given me seeds and fertilisers to assist. I only received assistance before COVID-19."

Participant 5

"Since I have joined the programme which is before COVID-19, I had not received any assistance till date. it is a concern because I have not benefited yet."

Participant 17

4.4.3.2 Theme D: Resilience

Small-scale farmers often struggle to be resilient due to the challenges that have been outlined under Theme B. These challenges significantly affect their ability to sustain and improve their farming activities. In order to go some way to build resilience to the challenges, the participants formed a committee to organise themselves and share knowledge and experiences.

"As beneficiaries of the programme in Mantheding Village, we saw it fit that we have a committee that will be representatives of the entire group. I am also one of the committee members and also attend other community meetings."

Participant 1

The knowledge sharing was also mentioned by some of the participants.

"The programme managers should give us guidance on the type of crops to be planted in different seasons. *As they did not provide guidance, we advised each other.*"

emphasis added, Participant 12

The combination of a self-organised committee and knowledge sharing may have contributed to the 43.5% of participants, Table 4.3, who reported their decision-making power was enhanced as a result of being part of the Fetša Tlala Food

Initiative Programme. This suggests that the programme has empowered participants to make informed decisions within their households and community.

Another form of resilience was the use of the local milling facility that some of the small-scale farmers utilised to prepare and store their maize harvest.

“I help those that are also lacking in the community and be recognised as the beneficiaries of the programme. Also, when I harvest mealie meal, I can take it to one of the milling companies around the area to be turned into maize meals which can also be sold to the community at large.”

Participant 19

The use of the milling facility contributed to their longer term, post-harvest food security. Despite the resilience that emerged through the agency of the participants, there were a number of issues that rendered them vulnerable to broader, localised shocks.

4.4.3.3 Localised vulnerabilities

Though there has been a significant number of participants who reported that the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has positively affected their lives, there are some participants who do not share the same sentiments. About 30.4% of the participants are new beneficiaries of the programme and have mentioned that they have not directly benefited from the programme. Their responses are quoted below.

“Since I joined the programme, I have not benefited from it yet. I hope I will benefit too soon.”

Participant 15

Whilst it is uncertain why the new members of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme did not benefit, it does provide an indication that the newer members were more vulnerable than the experienced members.

Another localised vulnerability was the lack of access to support services and, in one instance, the unreliable service provided by the service provider.

“I have sent seedlings to a nearby laboratory for testing however I have not yet received feedback or help even after enquiring several times. The purpose was to determine whether the seedling will do good in the market and to learn more about it.”

Participant 21

Another localised vulnerability is the inadequate fencing to prevent livestock from entering the fields, lack of rainfall and human interference.

“The arable fields are not fenced, the roaming domestic animals such as goats, sheep and cattle are giving us a nightmare by destroying our crops. The owners of those animals should take responsibility because they failed to take care of them. We also have people that destroy our crops.”

Participant 12

“The challenges that we face as farmers are lack of rain and the fence is not adequate enough for the whole field, which leads to cattle thefts.”

Participant 16

“This year we have not been lucky due to the lack of rain, which has had a negative impact on the mealie meals. We currently have nothing and Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has not yet provided us with form of assistance.”

Participants 5

Whilst most of the issues that the participants discussed are largely outside the remit of the programme, they do provide indicators of the vulnerabilities that the small-scale farmers experience.

4.4.4 Research question three

The final research question related to recommending strategies that may influence future small-scale agricultural projects which are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale and, plausibly, beyond. As a consequence of seeking advice and guidance from the participants during the interviews about strategies that they could recommend to improve the way in which the programme supports them, Theme E: empowering small-scale farmers, emerged. The findings are discussed below.

4.4.4.1 Theme E: Empowering small-scale farmers

The participants suggested that for improvements for Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme there should be timely provision of support. Their specific focus areas included tractors, appropriate seeds, manure and fertilisers which should be provided promptly and consistently for all small-scale farmers in the programme, especially for those that have recently joined the programme.

“The fertilisers that I have received could only cover a certain portion of land. I had planted the whole field but where there were no fertilisers, most of the crops were dry or spoiled and I could not harvest enough as expected.”

Participant 6

“I request that after we have joined the programme, they should provide us with seeds and send a tractor after the raining season to assist us.”

Participant 22

“The programme should not take time to provide new beneficiaries with resources. They should give offer support immediately after we have joined the programme.”

Participant 14

The participants made an emphasis that this timely assistance would enable farmers to start farming early in the season, thus maximising the agricultural season and improving harvests. Further to the infrastructural support, some participants suggested that there should be regular visitation and support to the farmers. They should make regular visits to farmers a prerequisite to ensure ongoing assistance and support and to ensure that there is adequate resources to help through their agricultural activities.

“I only have little knowledge on how to farm because it is not long since I have started farming, I would like the programme to assist and guide me. I believe with such information; I will be able to plant and harvest more.”

Participant 12

Additionally, the farmers identified the types of support and/or resources which they believe can assist with combating the challenges they are currently facing. Due to the lack of rainfall, water supply infrastructure such as the installation of boreholes or water tanks would improve the water supply in the area.

“I hope they could assist us with water tanks and give us carrots and spinach seeds.”

Participant 20

“The programme should give us a variety of crops that can survive dry lands. They should also install water tanks for us to have access to water in case it doesn’t rain.”

emphasis added, Participant 16

Some also requested access to land and diversification of crops.

“I currently do not have land. I would appreciate it they offer land to plant my vegetables on a large scale and to provide us with different crops that can be harvested in at least three months during the year, and trees such as pecan nuts, macadamia nuts, almond and fruits.”

Participant 3

The participants suggest that the programme should offer land to those who do not have access to land to plant vegetables on a larger scale and provide a variety of crops that can be harvested throughout the year such as nut trees and fruits. They should also supply a wider range of crops including beans, carrots, tomatoes, beetroots, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and spinach to promote crop diversity to improve food security.

“The programme should also consider providing us with seeds for beans, carrots, tomatoes, beetroots, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and spinach. This will help us have different variety of crops to plant.”

Participant 17

The participants also suggested that there should be guidance on the selecting crops that are suitable for different seasons and lands, as well as best farming practices to optimise harvests.

“The programme managers should give us guidance on the type of crops to be planted in different seasons. As they did not provide guidance, we advised each other.”

emphasis added, Participant 12

There should also be crop and livestock protection measures by erecting fences around fields to prevent crop damage by predators and provide chemicals to control pesticides. Furthermore, to provide those that have cattle with cattle force pens to facilitate livestock management and to prevent damage to crops. Below are some of the responses from the participants.

“I think they should assist us with erecting fences to avoid intrusion of stray animals and people, which makes us fight as fellow villagers. They should also give us cattle

force pens to avoid them straying around and ruining my crops and other peoples in nearby farms.”

Participant 20

The insights gathered from participants underscore the relevance of timely and consistent support from the operational managers of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme, including the provision of resources such as seeds, fertilisers and tractors and robust mentorship and/or training programme.

Participants also emphasised the importance of including unemployed youth into the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme as a strategy to reduce unemployment and nurture a new generation of farmers.

“I suggest that the agricultural programmes must also consider engaging unemployed youth in agricultural activities to address unemployment rates and potentially cultivate future commercial farmers.”

Participant 12

The provision of protective measures such as fencing and pest control, along with facilities for livestock management, were highlighted as key components to safeguard crops and improve livestock management.

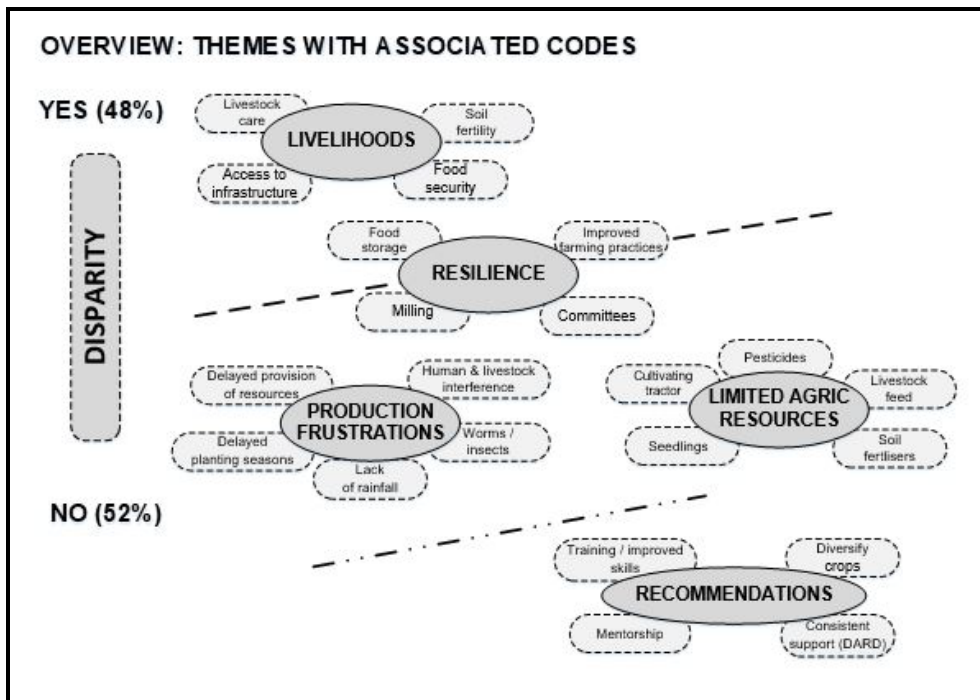
“This programme should erect a fence around our fields, to prevent predators disturbing our crops in our fields. Once they do that, I would appreciate it.”

Participant 15

These recommendations are rooted within the experiences and needs of the small-scale farmer participants. By implementing these strategies, the programme could better support small-scale farmers, leading to more sustainable and productive agricultural practices in Ga-Dikgale and may offer learning opportunities for similar projects further afield.

4.5. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The findings, when considered holistically, display a reflection of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme with some gains, some frustrations and a definitive set of recommendations which were provided by the participants. Figure 4.11 provides an overview.



Researchers' contribution

Figure 4.11 Overview: Themes with Associated Codes

According to figure 4.11 48% of participants indicated 'yes' and 52% indicated 'no' to receiving long-term sustainable benefits from the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme. The findings indicate some inequality and mixed perceptions of the programme's long-term benefits among farmers, with a slight majority feeling that the programme has not yet achieved sustainable impacts. However, the positive aspects highlighted in terms of enhanced livelihoods and resilience are relevant. Enhanced livelihoods has led to the improvements in livestock care, infrastructure, soil fertility and food security for some participants.

Moreover, all of these factors are critical for the overall development of farming communities. The small-scale farmers' resilience also improved their ability to withstand and recover from adverse conditions through the use of a local milling and storage facility for maize meal, improved farming practices through the adoption of better farming techniques and forming a committee designed by, and managed by, local small-scale farmers.

However, the farmers also face challenges and other recurring issues such as limited resources and production frustrations which leads to systemic problems that need to

be addressed for the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to be more effective. Examples of the limited provision of resources included a cultivating tractor, seeds, soil fertilisers and livestock feeds. The challenges are exacerbated by other frustrations that include the lack of rainfall, human and livestock interference, delayed provision of resources and planting seasons and infestations by worms/insects that hinder productivity couple with limited resilience strategies.

Nevertheless, to address the challenges and improve the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme's impact the participating small-scale farmers offered several recommendations, such as training and improved farming skills through ongoing education and skills development for farmers and have diversified crops. Furthermore, they suggested there should be the establishment of mentorship programmes to guide and support small-scale farmers to ensure reliable and continuous assistance from the DARD. The small-scale farmers' suggestions thus highlighted demand for a more structured and supportive framework. Addressing these recommendations could lead to better adoption of new practices and technologies, ultimately improving long-term and sustainable outcomes. Despite some challenges and areas for improvement identified in the feedback from farmers, there is a high percentage of participants (91.3%) that would recommend the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to other farmers or individuals that interested in small-scale farming. This is particularly from farmers that have seen the positive impact the programme has had.

Therefore, the programme is perceived as valuable and beneficial by those directly involved and it has the potential to positively impact other farmers or individuals interested in small-scale farming endeavours. However, it is important to acknowledge the concerns raised by the minority of participants who did not recommend the programme due the lack of service or support rendered to them. Their concerns should be considered in order to address the shortcomings, or areas requiring improvement, in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme's implementation and delivery. Nevertheless, the overwhelmingly positive recommendations from participants indicate that the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has had a positive impact on the participating small-scale farmers and is

viewed favourably as a support mechanism for small-scale farming activities in the area.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a summary and overview of the study. The study focused on assessing the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' Ga-Dikgale. The interpretation of the research findings and the research design and method will be discussed. The chapter will also explore the recommendations identified during the research study and the limitations of the study.

5.2. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The study was designed with the purpose to contribute to the body of knowledge relating to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme from the perspective of affected /households and fill some knowledge gaps with regard to the effectiveness of the programme on small-scale farming households in the community of Ga-Dikgale.

In order to gain insights into the effectiveness of the programme, the study's aim was to assess the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale, Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa. The objectives to analyse the study included: to explore the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale; to assess the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Ga-Dikgale and to recommend strategies that may influence future small-scale agricultural projects which are similar to the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale and, plausibly, beyond. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was chosen as the theoretical framework for this study in order to provide holistic insights into the factors that affect the livelihoods of the participants.

The study employed an evaluative research design using a qualitative method to assess the effectiveness of the programme. An interpretivist research paradigm was

utilised in order to gain insights into the socio-cultural factors that affected the effectiveness of the programme from the perspective of the beneficiaries. In order to operationalise the data collection process, purposive sampling was used to select small-scale farmers from Ga-Dikgale who were participating in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme between 2021 and 2023. Initially, 25 participants were selected but data saturation was achieved after 23 interviews.

A qualitative in-depth semi-structured interview technique was employed to gather detailed information from participants. The interview guide was augmented by further probing questions during the interviews which was used to explore specific aspects of the research topic, thereby facilitating a deeper understanding into the topic being discussed by the participants.

The choice of language for conducting the interviews was determined by the preferences of the participants which was either in English or Sepedi. This approach enabled the researcher to facilitate open and meaningful discussions. Primarily, a deductive approach to analyse the data was applied alongside limited inductive theorising which was used to analyse the data that emerged from the probing. The analytical process was built upon the research questions and literature review, translating and coding the interview responses to identify themes, similarities, and patterns using a thematic content analysis. The study's trustworthiness was evaluated through the validity and reliability of data collection methods.

5.3. INTERPRETATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The biographical results of the study included the participants' gender, age, employment status, prior exposure to the initiative and educational level. The findings revealed that the majority of participants were male (61%) and females represented 39% of the sample who were 45 years and above. The biographical information further revealed that 70% of the participants were retired, 26% were unemployed and 4% were self-employed. The biographical information also indicated that 4% of the participants had been small-scale farmers for 1-2 years and 96% for 5 years or more. The biographical information demonstrated that the

majority of the participants were beneficiaries of the programme for 5 years or more and that the majority of participants have education up to the secondary school level – with only a few that had higher education qualifications.

Prior to asking about the details of the participants' experiences with the programme, the researcher asked about their overall understanding of the purpose of the programme. Most participants responded with similar views about the purpose of the programme which included ending hunger and increasing food security. The participants also noted that the programme was designed to empower small-scale farmers by providing them with support. Despite a few participants expressing a lack of understanding about the purpose of the programme, most participants shared a similar understanding.

These insights demonstrate that from the perspective of the participants, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has synergies with Sustainable Development Goal 2 which is to end hunger by encouraging farmers to become self-sufficient and economically empowered. Specific insights into the effectiveness of the programme are provided below.

5.3.1. Objective 1

In response to objective 1, the research findings highlighted two main themes that emerged which are: access to resources and livelihoods. These themes were found to bring multiple benefits to the participants.

Theme A: Access to Resources focused on the resources that were provided by the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to support small-scale agricultural activities in the study area. The participants indicated that the programme provided various resources to the beneficiaries including seeds, a cultivation tractor, livestock feeds, soil fertilisers, manure and pesticides. Participants acknowledged the importance of these resources in enhancing food security and farm productivity.

Theme B: Livelihoods represented how the programme improved participants' household incomes and food security. Results showed that 26.1% reported increased household income and 69.6% experienced improved household food

security. Despite 30.4% being new participants, the majority reported that they benefitted from the programme.

The participants in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Program also highlighted several long-term benefits, particularly in livelihood-related areas. Some 48% of the participants reported experiencing improved food production, including staple crops like mealie meal, groundnut, beans, and watermelon during the harvesting season. This increase in production led to greater food availability, enhancing household food security and allowing participants to feed their families and access additional food staples. Some participants were also able to utilise a local milling facility for grinding and storing maize which further boosted their household food security beyond the immediate post-harvest period. In some cases, livestock care and health was also improved, with participants receiving treatments and injections for their animals, leading to increased health and productivity.

As such, the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the study area can be viewed as a multi-disciplinary effort to boost food security and livelihoods. The programme's impact on participants' lives was evident through increased income, household food security, agricultural production and livestock management for 48% of participants. However, frustrations and areas for improvement were identified, especially by the 52% who did not experience long-term benefits.

5.3.2. Objective 2

As a consequence of Objective two which aimed to interrogate the challenges faced by participants in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the study area, *Theme C: Challenges and Frustrations* emerged. Participants shared their frustrations with delayed provision of inputs, lack of mentorship and an unbalanced distribution of services. They especially noted the disparities in service distribution, delays in receiving essential resources like seeds and fertilisers which culminated in disrupted productivity and ultimately, sub-optimal harvests. Participants also faced external challenges, vulnerabilities, such as a lack of rainfall, livestock interference and unequal access to equipment which further impacted negatively on their planned farming activities. The combination of the above hindered effective programme implementation. In response to these challenges and vulnerabilities, the participants

did construct localised, community-driven responses which are represented by *Theme D: Resilience*. One example of a resilience strategy developed by the community to address these issues included beneficiaries of the programme forming a committee to share knowledge and support each other. The committee has contributed to the 43.5% of participants who reported their decision-making power was enhanced as a result of being part of the programme. This suggests that in the face of adversity, the programme has empowered participants to make informed decisions within their households and community. Another resilience strategy that was applied was the utilisation of a local milling facility to improve post-harvest food security. Despite some resilience strategies being developed, participants faced local vulnerabilities such as inadequate fencing and lack of rainfall. These vulnerabilities suggest the need for additional support services and interventions to address these issues.

Although the programme has positively impacted many participants, there are still areas for improvement to strengthen the resilience of the community in the face of broader, local shocks that threaten their livelihoods. This emphasises the importance of ongoing support and adaptive strategies to assist small-scale farmers to navigate the various challenges they face in their agricultural practices.

5.3.3. Objective 3

Objective three focused on recommending strategies for small-scale agricultural projects like the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale and possibly beyond, based on the participants' views. *Theme E: Empowering Small-Scale Farmers* emerged from this research objective.

To increase the level of empowerment experienced by the beneficiaries of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the study area, participants made several suggestions. These suggestions included the timely provision of support, including tractors, seeds, manure, and fertilisers, to maximise the agricultural season and improve harvests. They also emphasised the need for regular visitation and ongoing support for farmers, along with infrastructural improvements like water supply infrastructure and access to land for crop diversification.

Some of the suggestions included installing boreholes or water tanks to address water supply challenges, offering land for larger vegetable production and providing a variety of crops such as beans, tomatoes and spinach to enhance food security through crop diversity. The participants also highlighted that the programme should ensure that they offer farmers with crop management and livestock protection measures, such as erecting fences, providing pesticides and cattle force pens.

Furthermore, they suggested that there should be guidance on selecting suitable crops for different seasons and lands, along with best farming practices through mentorship and training. Additionally, they emphasised the importance of involving unemployed youth to reduce unemployment and develop future farmers.

5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme did provide benefits to some of the beneficiaries in the study area, there were constraints. The participants highlighted the need for improved programme implementation and support for small-scale farmers to enhance their resilience and productivity.

- The DARD should reflect internally about the way in which they implement such programmes because it is purposeless to supply inputs late in the growing season.
- Consider providing farmers with the necessary resources and support systems to help them build resilience to challenges which affect their operations.
- Include monitoring and evaluating the programmes progress and agricultural training and mentorship programmes about sustainable farming practices.

5.5. AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

There was evidently some disparity with regard to the 48% of participants who indicated 'yes' and the 52% who indicated 'no' to receiving long-term sustainable benefits from the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the study area (see Figure 4.9). This study did not entirely uncover the reasons for this inequality. Consequently, it would be of value to initiate further research into why the disparity

was so pronounced in the study area. This research focus could address the shortcomings and identify areas for improvement for future Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programmes' implementation in the Capricorn District of Limpopo Province, and plausibly beyond.

5.6. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme has been implemented across the country. However, the researcher only focused on one community in the Limpopo Province. Consequently, the research findings cannot be generalised to other geographical regions because it is only representative of the study area.

Another limitation was that the researcher had to request an ethical clearance certificate from the Office of the Premier in the Limpopo Province before obtaining gatekeeping permission from the DARD to assist with locating the beneficiaries. This process took much longer than expected and did hinder the project progress which were ultimately overcome.

Another limitation was that the participants were initially nervous that they would remain anonymous. There were some participants that were not comfortable with being part of the study and may have not been entirely honest because they feared they might be excluded from future projects due to grievances or dissatisfactions. However, despite the limitations outlined above, the researcher ensured that the participants were assured that their information will remain confidential and anonymous.

The final limitation is that representatives from DARD and DAFF unavailable to comment and their contribution would have added value to the study.

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APPENDICES

The sections below provide supporting evidence for the study.

Appendix A: Ethical clearance certificates

The study required ethical clearance certificates from the Turfloop Research and Ethics Committee (TREC) and the Limpopo Office of the Premier. Copies of both are provided below.

Appendix A1: Ethical clearance certificate (TREC)



University of Limpopo
Department of Research Administration and Development
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 3935, Fax: (015) 268 2306, Email: tukiso.sewapa@ul.ac.za

TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
ETHICS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

MEETING: 04 December 2023
PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/1728/2023: PG
PROJECT:

Title: Assessing the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households at a selected village in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa
Researcher: MKD Hutamo
Supervisor: Prof C Burman
Co-Supervisor/s: Ms MH Mbulaheni
School: Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership
Degree: Master of Development in Planning and Management

PROF D MAPOSA
CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is registered with the National Health Research Ethics Council, Registration Number REC-0310111-031

Note:

- This Ethics Clearance Certificate will be valid for one (1) year, as from the abovementioned date. Application for annual renewal (or annual review) need to be received by TREC one month before lapse of this period.
- Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee, together with the Application for Amendment form.
- PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

Appendix A2: Ethical clearance certificate (Office of the Premier)

CONFIDENTIAL



TO: DR R RAPHULU

FROM: PROF I SWARTS

CHAIRPERSON: LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (LPREC)

REVIEW DATE: 27 MARCH 2024

SUBJECT: ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF THE FETŠA TLALA FOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAMME ON SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' HOUSEHOLDS AT A SELECTED VILLAGE IN POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA

RESEARCHER: HUTAMO MKD

Dear Colleague

The above researcher's research proposal served at the Limpopo Provincial Research Ethics Committee (LPREC). The committee is satisfied with the methodological and ethical soundness of the proposed study.

Decision: The proposal is granted full approval.

Regards

Chairperson: Prof I Swarts

Handwritten signature of Prof I Swarts in blue ink.

Secretariat: Ms J Mokabi

Handwritten signature of Ms J Mokabi in blue ink.

Date: 28/03/2024

CONFIDENTIAL



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

Office of the Premier
Research and Development Directorate
Private Bag X9483, Polokwane, 0700, South Africa
Tel: (015) 230 9910, Email: mokobi@premier.limpopo.gov.za

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

Review Date: 27 March 2024

Project Number: LPREC/174/2023: PG

Subject: **Assessing The Effects Of The Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme On Small Scale Farmers' Households at a Selected Village in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa**

Researcher: Hutamo MKD

Chairperson: Prof I Swarts

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'I Swarts'.

Chairperson: Limpopo Provincial Research Ethics Committee

The Limpopo Provincial Research Ethics Committee (LPREC) is registered with National Health Research Council (NHREC) Registration Number REC-111513-038.

Note:

- i. This study is categorized as a Low Risk Level in accordance with risk level descriptors as enshrined in LPREC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- ii. Should there be any amendment to the approved research proposal; the researcher(s) must re-submit the proposal to the ethics committee for review prior data collection.
- iii. **The researcher(s) must provide annual reporting to the committee as well as the relevant department and also provide the department with the final report/thesis.**
- iv. The ethical clearance certificate is valid for 12 months. Should the need to extend the period for data collection arise then the researcher should renew the certificate through LPREC secretariat. PLEASE QUOTE THE PROJECT NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

Appendix B: Informed consent

Appendices B1 and B2 contain the English and Sepedi versions of the informed consent form that was signed prior to interviewing candidates.

Appendix B1: English version



Participant Consent Form

Researcher: Moore KD Hutamo

Contact Information: 071 898 2884 and desireehutamo@gmail.com / 201415571@keyaka.ul.ac.za

Title of Study: Assessing the Effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme On Small-Scale Farmers' Households At A Selected Village In Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa.

Dear: Participant

I am a Master of Development Planning and Management (MDEV) student at the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo and you are being invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of this study is to assess the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers in Ga-Dikgale Village. The research will involve collecting data through a questionnaire. Your participation will involve voluntarily completing the questionnaire, which will take approximately 15 – 20 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will include questions about your demographic information, involvement in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme, and the impact and effects it has had on your farming practices and livelihood.

Confidentiality and Data Protection: All information collected during the study will be kept confidential and stored securely. Your responses will be anonymized, meaning that individual participants will not be identified in any publications or reports resulting from this study.

Potential Risks and Benefits: Participating in this study does not involve any known physical or psychological risks. However, there may be potential discomfort or inconvenience associated with answering certain questions and therefore, have the right to not answer. The benefits of participating include contributing to the understanding of the effects of agricultural project on small-scale farmers, which may help inform future project design and support.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal: Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You have the right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences. If you choose to withdraw, any data you have provided up to that point will be excluded from the analysis/study.

Consent: By signing below, you confirm that you have read and understood the information provided in this consent form. You voluntarily agree to participate and provide the necessary information for the research study.

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, you can contact me at desireehutamo@gmail.com / 201415571@keyaka.ul.ac.za and on 071 898 2884.

Please retain a copy of this consent form for your records.

Participant's Name: _____
Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: _____
Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you to Appendix E: Participant consent forms

Appendix B2: Sepedi version



Foromo ya Tumelelo ya Motšeakarolo

Monyakišiši: Moore KD Hutamo

Tshedimošo ya go Ikgokaganya: 071 898 2684 le desireehutamo@gmail.com / 201415571@keyaka.ul.ac.za

Thaetlele ya Thuto: *Go Lekola Ditlamorago tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala Malapeng a Balemirui ba Balemirui ba Bagolo Motseng wo o Kgethilwego Ka Mmasepaleng wa Selegae wa Polokwane, Afrika Borwa.*

Moratiwa: Motšeakarolo

Ke moithuti wa Master of Development Planning and Management (MDEV) Sekolong sa Dialoga sa Turfloop sa Boetapele, Yunibesithing ya Limpopo gomme le laletšwa go tšea karolo nyakišišong ya nyakišišo. Maikemišetšo a nyakišišo ye ke go sekaseka ditlamorago tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go balemirui ba bannyane ka Motseng wa Ga-Dikgale. Nyakišišo e tla akaretša go kgoboketša datha ka lenaneopotšišo. Go tšea karolo ga lena go tla akaretša go tlatša lenaneopotšišo ka boithaopo, leo le tlogo tšea metsotso ye e ka bago ye 15 – 20 go tlatša. Lenaneopotšišo le tla akaretša dipotšišo mabapi le tshedimošo ya gago ya palo ya batho, go kgatha tema mo Lenaneong la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala, le khuetšo le ditlamorago tšeo le bilego le tšona mekgweng ya gago ya bolemirui le go iphediša.

Sephiri le Tšhireletšo ya Datha: Tshedimošo ka moka yeo e kgobokeditšwego nakong ya nyakišišo e tla bolokwa e le sephiri gomme ya bolokwa ka polokego.

Dikotsi tšeo di ka bago gona le Mehola: Go tšea karolo nyakišišong ye ga go akaretše dikotsi le ge e le dife tše di tsebjago tša mmele goba tša monagano. Le ge go le bjalo, go ka ba le go se iketle goba go se loke mo go ka bago gona mo go sepedišanago le go araba dipotšišo tše itšego gomme ka fao, le na le tokelo ya go se arabe. Mehola ya go tšea karolo e akaretša go tsenya letsogo go kwešišo

ya sephetho sa protšeke ya temo go balemirui ba bannyane, yeo e ka thušago go tsebiša tlhamo ya protšeke ya ka moso le thekgo.

Go tšea karolo ka boithatelo le go gogela morago: Go tšea ga lena karolo thutong ye ke ga boithatelo ka mo go feletšego. Le na le tokelo ya go gana go tšea karolo goba go ikgogela morago thutong nako efe goba efe ntle le ditlamorago tše mpe. Ge le kgetha go gogela morago, karabo efe goba efe yeo le e filego go fihla ntlheng yeo e tla kgapelwa ka ntle tshekatshekong/thutong.

Tumelelo: Ka go saena ka mo tlase, o tiišetša gore le badile le go kwešiša tshedimošo yeo e filwego ka gare ga foromo ye ya tumelelo. Le dumela ka boithaopo go tšea karolo le go fa tshedimošo ye e nyakegago bakeng sa nyakišišo ye.

Ge le na le dipotšišo goba matshwenyego ka thuto ye, le ka ikgokaganya le nna go desireehutamo@gmail.com / 201415571@keyaka.ul.ac.za le go 071 898 2684.

Le ka boloka khopi ya foromo ye ya tumelelo bakeng sa direkhoto tša gago.

Leina la Motšeakarolo: _____

Mosaeno wa Motšeakarolo: _____ **Letšatšikgwe:** _____

Leina la Monyakišiši: _____

Mosaeno _____ **wa** _____ **Monyakišiši:** _____
_____ **Letšatšikgwe** _____

Ke leboga go tšea karolo ga gago!

Appendix C: Letter of permission (DARD)



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ref: 12R

Enquiries: Dr T. Raphulu

04 April 2024

Hutamo M.K.D. (201415571)
University of Limpopo

RE: APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT: POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY, GA-DIKGALE VILLAGE.

1. Kindly take note that your request to conduct research titled "ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF THE FETŠA TLALA FOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAMME ON SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' HOUSEHOLDS AT A SELECTED VILLAGE IN POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA" has been granted. The permission to conduct research in the department is valid from 8th April 2024 to 29th November 2024.
2. The permission entails interviewing 18-25 small-scale farmers that are beneficiaries of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale community between the years 2021 to 2023.
3. You are required to contact the office of the Deputy Director: Capricorn South to brief them on the study, to request up-to-date database of small scale farmers Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme beneficiaries and assistance.
4. Kindly take note that you will be expected to hand over a copy of your final report to the Department for record purposes. You may also be invited to share your findings in the Departmental Research Forum.
5. Hoping that you will find this in order.

Kind regards

Dr. T. Raphulu
Chairperson: Research Committee

04/04/2024

Date

67/69 Biccard Street, POLOKWANE, 0700, Private Bag, R9487, Polokwane, 0700

Tel: (015) 294 3135 Fax: (015) 294 4512 Website: <http://www.lda.gov.za>

The heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

Appendix D: Semi-structured interview guide

Appendices E1 and E2 contain the English and Sepedi versions of the semi-structured interview guide that was used during the data collection phase of the study.

Appendix D1: Semi-structured interview guide (English version)

Semi-structured Questionnaire for Participants

Topic: Assessing the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households at a selected village in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa

SECTION A: Demographic profile of participants

1. Gender

Male:		Female:		Prefer not to say:	
-------	--	---------	--	--------------------	--

2. Age of participants

18-24 years	
25-34 years	
35-44 years	
45-54 years	
55 and above	
Prefer not to say	

3. Educational background:

Primary School or below	
Secondary School	
College/University degree	
Other, specify below	

4. Are you employed?

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

If yes, state occupation:

5. Number of working experience (if applicable):

0 years/less than a year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
3-4 years	
5 years and above	

6. Are you a small-scale farmer?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If yes, how many years have you been involved in farming?

Less than 1 year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
3-4 years	
5 years and above	

Section 2: Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme Information

1. Are you familiar with the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale Village?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If yes, how did you become aware of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

2. Are you currently participating in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If yes, how long have you been participating in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

Less than 1 year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
4. years	
5 years and above	

3. What is your understanding of the goals and objectives of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

4. What type of support or resources has the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme provided you with? List below.

5. Does the programme get support from the community?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

Section 3: Assessment

1. How has your participation in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme affected your farming practices? (Select all that apply)

Improved agricultural techniques	
Increased crop yield	
Diversification of crops	
Improved soil fertility	
Reduced post-harvest losses	
Increased income	
Other (please specify below)	

2. How has the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme contributed to improving your livelihood? (Select all that apply)

Increased income	
Improved food security	
Enhanced social status within the community	
Improved access to education and healthcare	
Enhanced decision-making power	
Other (please specify below)	

3. What are the challenges or limitations in implementing the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on your farm?

4. Have you been able to sustain the benefits gained from the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the long term?

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

5. What are the benefits of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the long term?

6. How do you rate the overall impact of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers in your community?

Poor	
Average	
Good	

Excellent	
-----------	--

7. What are the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in your community?

Section 4: Recommendations and Future Support

1. What improvements would you suggest for the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to enhance its impact?
2. What additional support or resources would you like to see provided by small scale agricultural projects like Fetša Tlala?
3. Would you recommend the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to other farmers or individuals interested in small scale farming?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

4. Any additional comments or suggestions you would like to provide?

Thank you for your participation! Your responses will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only.

Appendix D2: Semi-structured interview guide (Sepedi version)

Lenaneopotšišo leo le Rulagantšwego la Batšeakarolo

Topic: Go Lekola Ditlamorago tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala Malapeng a Balemirui ba Balemirui ba Bagolo Motseng wo o Kgethilwego Ka Mmasepaleng wa Selegae wa Polokwane, Afrika Borwa.

KAROLO YA A: Profaele ya palo ya batho ya batšwasehlabele

1. Bong

Monna		Mosadi		Kgetha go se bolele	
-------	--	--------	--	---------------------	--

2. Mengwaga ya motšeakarolo

Mengwaga ye 18-24	
Mengwaga ye 25-34	
Mengwaga ye 35-44	
Mengwaga ye 45-54	
55 le go feta	
Kgetha go se bolele:	

3. Semelo sa thuto:

Sekolo sa Praemari goba ka tlase	
Sekolo sa Sekontari	
Legoro la Kholetšhe/Yunibesithi	
Tše dingwe, hlalosa ka tlase	

4. Na wa šoma?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

Ge e ba ee, o šoma go dirang:

5. Palo ya maitemogelo a mošomo (ge e le gore o a šoma):

0 mengwaga/ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

6. Na o molemi wa tekanyo ye nyenyane?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

Ge e le gore ee, ke mengwaga ye mekae yeo o bilego le karolo go bolemirui?

Ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

Karolo 2: Tshedimošo ya Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo bja Fetša Tlala

1. Na o wa e tseba Lenaneo la Fetša Tlala ka Motseng wa Ga-Dikgale?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

Ge eba ee, o ile wa lemoga bjang Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala?

2. Na ga bjale o tšea karolo Lenaneong la Fetša Tlala Food Initiative?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

Ge e le gore ee, ke nako ye kaakang o tšea karolo mo Lenaneong la Fetša Tlala Food Initiative?

Ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

3. Naa kwešišo ya gago ke efe ka ga maikemišetšo a Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala?

4. Ke mohuta ofe wa thekgo goba methopo yeo Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala le go filego yona?

5. Na lenaneo le hwetša thekgo go tšwa setšhabeng?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

Karolo ya 3: Tekolo

1. Go kgatha tema ga gago mo lenaneong la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go amile bjang mekgwa ya gago ya bolemirui? (Kgetha tšohle tšeo di lego maleba)

Dithekhniki tša temo tše di kaonafetšego	
Poelo ye e oketšegilego ya dibjalo	
Go fapafapana ga dibjalo	
Monono wa mmu wo o kaonafetšego	
Ditahlegelo tše di fokotšegilego tša ka morago ga puno	
Letseno le le oketšegilego	
Tše dingwe (ka kgopelo laetša ka fase)	

2. Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala le bile le seabe bjang go kaonafatša maphelo a gago?

Koketšego ya letseno	
Tšhireletšo ya dijo ye e kaonafetšego	
Maemo a leago ao a kaonafetšego ka gare ga setšhaba	
Phihlelelo ye e kaonafetšego ya thuto le tlhokomelo ya maphelo	
Matla a go tšea diphetho a go oketša	
Tše dingwe (ka kgopelo laetša ka fase)	

3. Ke ditlhohlo goba mafokodi afe a go phethagatša lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala mo polaseng ya gago?

4. Naa o kgonne go tšwetša pele mehola yeo e hweditšwego go tšwa go lenaneo la Boithomelo bja dijo la Fetša Tlala ka nako ye telele?

Ee		Aowa	
----	--	------	--

5. Ke mehola efe ya lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala ka nako ye telele?

6. Naa o lekanyetša bjang khuetšo ka kakaretšo ya lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go balemirui ba bannyane mo setšhabeng sa geno?

A go botse	
Gare	
Gabotse	
Gabotse Kudu	

7. Ke ditlamorago dife tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala mo setšhabeng sa geno?

Karolo ya 4: Ditšhišinyo le Thekgo ya Bokamoso

1. Ke dikaonafatšo dife tšeo o ka šišinyago gore Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala e godiše khuetšo ya yona?

2. Ke thekgo efe ya tlaleletšo goba methopo yeo o ratago go e bona e fiwa ke diprotšeke tše nnyane tša temo go swana le Fetša Tlala?

3. Naa o ka kgothaletša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go balemirui ba bangwe goba batho bao ba nago le kgahlego ka temothuo ye nnyane?

Ee	Aowa	
----	------	--

4. Na go na le ditshwayotshwayo goba ditšhišinyo tše dingwe tšeo o ratago go di fa?

Ke leboga go tšea karolo ga gago! Dikarabo tša gago di tla bolokwa e le sephiri gomme tša šomišetšwa merero ya nyakišišo fela.