Interview: Tumi

1. : 2021-02-25
2. Time: 08: Am

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| Hello, I am Zakes Hlatshwayo, I am a Ph.D. candidate doing an academic study on: Emerging black farmers’ practices and state support to them: a study of three government Agriparks in South Africa. This study will explore the practices of emerging black farmers and their successes and challenges in three selected areas where Agriparks exist. Thank you for your willingness to participate. We are interested to understand your role and experience. Information will be used only for academic and research purposes. You do not have to give your name if you don’t want to and can decline to answer any question. I appreciate your assistance and request you provide as much information as possible to help me understand your work.  The research study has been approved by the University of Pretoria’s Research Ethics Committee. Your privacy and confidentiality will be secured. No direct reference will be made to you, I will use a pseudonym, codes and categories to keep information about you confidential, and to protect it from unauthorized disclosure, tampering, or damage. You are not required to use your name, do not write your name on any of the documents. The data will be kept for 15 years in a password protected format and used for University of Pretoria research only.  For the purpose of this research I will use semi-structured questions, with your permission I will record the interview and take notes. The interview will not be longer than 50 minutes. Hopefully, the information will help policymakers, practitioners, officials and managers to make informed decisions on such programmes in the future. | | | |
| RQ1: What is your name? Tumi  RQ2: What is your occupation? Deputy Director  RQ3: In what capacity? Economic Development.  RQ4: How long have you been in this position? 5 years  RQ5: What is your highest qualification? Degree  RQ6: Gender: Male  RQ7: Age: 40 | | | |
| RQ8: Are you involved with Agriparks? | | Yes |  |
| RQ9: How are you involved? | |  | In economic development I focus on economic development for poor and rural communities, Agriparks are such projects |
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| RQ10: How did you get involved? | |  | It part of my mandate to see how we can help support Agriparks with resources. |
| RQ11: What is the background of the Agriparks that requires them to support emerging black farmers? | |  | The underrepresentation of black farmers in industrial and commercial agriculture remains an entrenched problem in a country which is still coming to terms with the erasure of its apartheid Brazilian past. As recently as 2020, agriculture was publicly criticised for being predominantly white controlled. |
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| RQ12: What policy changes influenced the establishment of Agriparks? | |  | Since 1994 the country has experimented with different policies, most did not work. The Agripark depart from previous models in that it fosters interdepartmental coordination, the private sector and rural communities. |
| RQ13: What are the present functions of Agriparks? | |  | Agriparks should start a debate on the state and cooperates, on the future relationship between the state and corporate. The dominance of the corporate in agriculture should start a serious debate about the future relationship between development and state. |
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| RQ14: What are the priorities of the Agriparks? | |  | For the state to intervene and support poor and marginalised communities to support and link this with corporate support. The link between state, corporates and communities is best illustrated in Agripark. |
| RQ15: What are Agriparks perceived efficiencies in fulfilling their functions? | |  | Agriparks foster coordination of development efforts within government departments, and promotes collaboration with corporates. Agripark maximise the allocation of resource and is cost effective. |
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| RQ16: What do you believe are the main success of the Agriparks? | Basic access to land, water, infrastructure, facilities and extension officers. All of these interventions are very important in the development of emerging black farmers. | | |
| RQ17: What are the challenges, if any, that you see concerning land ownership, agriculture, and poverty alleviation? | The programme is not fully implemented because of political conflict, lack of government coordination and poor support at the local level. | | |
| RQ18: What processes are put in place to deal with the challenges? | Economic development and the local economic development unit are facilitating discussion to get plans off the ground and resolve ongoing conflict. | | |
| RQ19: How are emerging black farmers identified and recruited to be part of the programs of the Agriparks? | We have farmer associations that are part of the provincial system who help us with identification. We also make the information publicly available through advertisements. | | |
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| RQ20: What are the main farming practices of emerging black farmers? | |  | It is mainly livestock farming and pocket of horticulture, famer use own resources. |
| RQ21: What legislative reform justified the emergence of the Agripark to provide support to emerging black farmers? | |  | Among the issues the CRDP highlighted was the urgent need to support emerging farmers in districts, which are key to economic growth and prosperity. Agripark show a partnership aiming to draw on their countries’ expertise in the specialist agriculture sector. |
| RQ22: Who decides on the type of support and services given to emerging black farmers? | |  | Based on the formal structure a research team held consultative meeting to define and determine the kind of support. The provincial strategy is the outcome of the consultations. |
| RQ23: How are decisions communicated to emerging black farmers? | |  | The economic development unit at local level engages with stakeholder and shares information on developments. |
| RQ24: How do emerging black farmers participate in the decision-making on priorities of Agriparks? | |  | Farmers make their inputs during the formulation of local development plans and in meeting called by the department for that purpose. |
| RQ25: Are emerging black farmers given plans about the priorities of Agriparks? | |  | Agriparks plans are made available in district officers or the economic development units. |
| RQ26: Are women and youth benefitting from Agriparks? If so, how? | |  | Both women and youth are targeted groups. |
| RQ27: What are the challenges of the Agriparks? How are these challenges dealt with? | |  | The state concedes that emerging black farmer needed financial support to stabilise the sector to contain urban flows. Agripark need fund and resources to grow district economies. Discussion are underway within the department and with corporates. |
| RQ28: What are the successes of the Agriparks? How is success determined? | |  | We still have not taken-off. |
| RQ29: What are your recommendations for the future of Agriparks and wider support to emerging black farmers? Are there any other issues that you suggest I should look into? | |  | Agriparks should be located within the economic development department, this will prioritise budget allocation. |
| RQ30: How did you hear about Covid-19? | |  | Radio and tv news |
| RQ31: How did Covid 19 affect you?  RQ32: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | I worked from home.  I did not benefit in any way. |

Notes: